

Anarzade Omar - Crown Gardens, Johannesburg

Name:

Anarzade Omar

Region:

Crown Gardens, Johannesburg

Age:

21 (Born August 20, 1998)

Occupation:

Graduated last year in BA Strategic Communication in Marketing from the University of Johannesburg. This year I started working in marketing at a large corporation in Sandton.



Why do you want to be Miss South Africa and what do you think you will be able to bring to the role?

I want my voice to be heard so that I can create change and inspiration to every woman I come across. I believe that through my courage, compassion and responsibility, I can take on the role to work towards building a better place for our generation.

How have you handled the lockdown due to the Covid 19?

I am taking one day at a time and have stopped stressing about what is going to happen. I am keeping productive and busy so the idea of being on lockdown does not get to my head.

What has this time taught you?

To be patient, but most importantly that we need to be selfless and empathetic. To help wherever we can even if it is in the smallest gestures like buying groceries for someone in need or checking up on friends and family on how they keeping up.

2020 has been a tough year globally. Do you see any positives in what has happened in the past months and weeks?

Like with everything in life, I do believe that there is always some positives and lessons to be learnt. This unprecedented time has allowed us all to slow down and practice gratitude for the little things around us, such as spending time with our loved ones and our health, we are even helping out the planet; by not travelling we are reducing our ecological footprint. Ultimately, to take things easy and practice activities that make you feel good like exercise or reading.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love the unity we have when things get tough, but I also love how we handle situations. We know when it is time to act serious and make a noise demanding justice but we also know how to take things lightly and be humorous.

What is one thing you would like to change about South Africa?

I think far too many people still do not have food security and access to quality education and not enough is being done for them, so I would focus on providing more resources and opportunities.

Who is a previous Miss South Africa who has inspired you?

Marilyn Ramos - because when she was crowned in 2012, that was the exact moment I decided I would one day enter and win. Her charisma, beauty and hard work is inspiring and she was the personality behind me making the firm decision of one day entering the pageant.

Who are your role models?

Although it is such a cliché answer, my mother has instilled the most important values and beliefs in me. She has taught me to be bold and follow my dreams simply by watching her and following in her footsteps towards becoming a strong and independent woman.

Someone else who inspires me to chase my dreams, be passionate and thrive for greatness is Beyoncé. Her music has always played a big role in my life because it is what I play on a good or a bad day. Her story, perseverance and achievements are also something I admire and I hope to one day be as influential as her in my own way.

Tell us a bit more about your family

I am the youngest of three. My sister (28) is a qualified Chartered Accountant, followed by my brother who is 22. My brother and I grew up as virtual twins because of the small age gap and my fondest childhood memories are with him. My parents are originally from Mozambique, so we speak Portuguese at home. My mother is an accountant and also our personal masterchef. My father, a retired engineer, is very wise and reserved. At first he seems like a tough nut to crack but he is actually a real softie on the inside!

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy cooking! I love learning new recipes and I recently taught myself how to make sushi because the craving was real during stage 1 lockdown. I also enjoy binge watching series and creating content.

Do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?

Beauty pageants have become so much more than just about the outer beauty and physical appearance. They empower woman and provide them with a powerful platform to make a difference, not just in their community or country but also across the world. Winners raise awareness around many issues and provide opportunities towards solving the issue. Furthermore, woman empower one another and create a positive sisterhood of encouragement and positivity. Miss South Africa is the epitome of Woman Power.

Name two of your female role models?

Firstly, Beyoncé for all the reasons mentioned above. And also Oprah Winfrey. I remember growing up watching the Oprah show and I always admired the way she carries herself and her work ethic. She is a legend in what she does and I admire that.

What is your message to young girls and young women in South Africa?

You are beautiful, and you are capable and worth every single dream you have. The world is your oyster. Be strong and work hard, because hard work pays off. And always, always fix each other's crowns!

If you won the Miss South Africa crown and was able to meet one person, who would it be and why?

I would want to meet Trevor Noah. I dream of being with him on The Daily Show. As much as I find him hilarious, I also find him very educated, experienced and with a lot of knowledge to share. I feel that a conversation with him would be both fun and informative. Not just about current affairs, but mostly about real-life experiences.

What is the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I speak fluent Portuguese.

What is the No 1 piece of advice that you would give your younger self?

Stop doubting and being so hard on yourself - you are capable of it all. Enjoy the journey and take in all the lessons and grow from them.

Describe yourself in three words:

Optimistic, fun and ambitious.

What are you reading?

Still Me by Jojo Moyes

What music are you listening to?

The Weekend

What are your favourite TV shows?

Korean dramas, Money Heist and Jane the Virgin

Your favourite meal?

Sushi

Who's your local and international celeb crush?

Local - Thabang Molaba and international - Zac Efron

What's your guilty pleasure?

Finishing a tub of chocolate mousse from Woolworths.

Your social media tags:

- Facebook: Anarzade Omar
- Instagram: anarzadeomar
- Twitter: anarzadeomar