

Jordan van der Vyver - Greenpoint, Cape Town, Western Cape



FACE YOUR POWER. EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE.

Name:

Jordan van der Vyver

Region:

Greenpoint, Cape Town, Western Cape.

Age:

24 (Born September 13, 1995)

Occupation:

I am an international model. I usually spend half the year working in America. I have lived and worked in all the major cities such as Paris, London, Milan and New York among others. One day I hope to be a part of bridging the gap between South Africa and the international modelling market, making us a major player in fashion throughout the world.



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 to inspire the young women of South Africa to chase their dreams and not let anyone tell them they cannot achieve something because they are a woman. I want to build value in them so that they believe in themselves. I want to show young girls that it's not the crown that makes you a Miss South Africa but rather what is in your heart and what you stand for. I have overcome these obstacles, and moreover, I come into this pageant fully experienced in brand and business management having managed myself as a business and a brand for the past six years.

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

I have kept myself busy with work, exercise and cooking. This lockdown has given me time to invest in myself without any distractions and I've come out grateful for this time of reflection.

What has this time taught you?

To pause more often and appreciate the meaningful things in life that I'd otherwise take for granted such as coffee with a friend or family get togethers. Without a schedule, I have also learned better time management and how to get the most out of my day.

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

I definitely see the positives. Businessmen and women are finally able to have quality time with their families. Husbands have been able to take an extended paternity leave and help their wives and bond with their newborns. The world is healing and people are appreciating little pleasures. Perspective has been brought back into what we want to do with our lives and what is truly important.



What do you love about South Africa?

The diversity of the people, plants and wildlife. We have seven biomes, we have 11 official languages all considered of equal importance to each other; we are rich in many cultures, all accepted and widely celebrated. Whenever I'm overseas I am proud to tell everyone how beautiful and rich in diversity my country is.

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

In an ideal world, I would bridge the rich/poor gap. I would love to give everyone a real home and a purpose.

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

Jo-Ann Strauss. She came to my school in grade 3 or 4, I got her signature and I'll never forget her elegance and beauty that captivated the entire school hall. I could not help but want to emulate her.

Who are your role models?

My mom. I have never met a woman stronger than my mother. She has persevered, she has overcome, she always knows what to say and she embodies love. She is fair and just. She is compassionate and long-suffering to a fault and, just by being, she inspired me to be naturally and authentically myself.

Tell us a bit more about your family:

I come from a very humble background; my parents raised me in a working-class home. Love was always at the centre of our family. My mom is currently finishing her honours in psychology and my dad is a project manager. I have an older sister (by 13 months) who has a degree in directing and animation and is currently pursuing a career in acting.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love to be outdoors and I love to go to cafés with friends. I am artsy, and being creative fulfills me. I recently finished two eight-week courses in calligraphy. I hope to get back into studying soon.

Do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?

Beauty pageants have stayed relevant by using the platform to address real and current social issues. Gone are the days of crowning the most beautiful woman by society's standards. Pageants have adapted with the times by becoming more inclusive and showcasing beauty from the inside not just the outside. South Africa, especially, encourages (by example) qualified and bright young women to enter the pageant and represent the country.

Name two of your female role models?

Audrey Hepburn, because she stood up against inequality from a young age. Along with her beauty and sophisticated elegance, she was an impressive actress and her humanitarianism is something to be greatly admired. And Maya Angelou. You only need to Google her to see why. She was highly accomplished despite her dire circumstances and she proved that you can become great with determination, hard work and by standing up for what is right.



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

You are valuable far beyond your looks or accomplishments. Know your value and you will achieve greatness.

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

Jo-Ann Strauss because she is the reason I wanted to become Miss South Africa.

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

I have a great sense of humour and, although I'm shy, once you get me talking I can't stop!

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

Stop taking other people's opinions of you so seriously. Everyone is going to have an opinion about how you're running your race but only you can get you across the finished line.

Describe yourself in three words:

Compassionate, determined, generous.

What are you reading?

12 Traits of the Greats by Dr Dave Martin.

What music are you listening to?

Gospel and pop.

What's your favourite TV shows?

New Girl, The Blacklist, Grace and Frankie.

What's your favourite meal?

My mom's lasagne or a good braai.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Croissants and vetkoek.

Social media tags:

- Facebook: Jordan van der Vyver
- Instagram: _vandervyver
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