

Savannah Schutzler – Rondebosch, Cape Town, Western Cape

Name: Savannah Schutzler

Region: Rondebosch, Cape Town. I was born in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal but my family moved to Swaziland when I was five.

Age: 24 (Born January 10, 1996)

Occupation:

I am an actress. I studied at Stellenbosch University graduating with a BA Degree in Drama and Theatre Studies specialising in acting and directing. I then went to AFDA and graduated with an Honours in Live Performance. I have also completed a diploma in media makeup and styling at Smudge Academy in Diep River.



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 create brave spaces by initiating hard conversations revolving around mental health issues that women in South Africa face, encouraging them to speak out and not feel silenced by shame. To help women take back authority over their lives by breaking negative stereotypes surrounding mental health. I want to change the shape of people's souls by creating equal representation in circles of influence. I know what it's like to have your power taken away from you and to fight for yourself, by yourself and sometimes against yourself. My depth of understanding could open up conversations and encourage women to be unshakable in their own skins and to be courageous.

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

The most prominent issue I had to deal with was having to adjust my life to the new norms. Not being able to work and try earn my stripes as an actress. Not having the chance to audition and try progress in an already difficult profession. I've taken this time to rest, reflect and practice my craft, preparing for future opportunities.

What has this time taught you?

How to walk by faith and not by sight in a time where everything is uncertain.

2020 has been a tough year globally. Do you see any positives in what has happened?

The environment, for one, has improved so much without having human intervention; it seems that nature has been given a chance to regenerate. I believe this time has also made sure that we realise what truly matters to us in our lives and what distracts us from the important things.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love our food – no one can braai like South Africans can!

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

There are negative stereotypes attached to being diagnosed with anxiety or depression. People feel ashamed, they deny or silence their emotions and they feel crazy because of negative stigmas attached to mental health issues. There needs to be more treatment available for patients with mental health issues. Brave conversations need to take place where people can be vulnerable.

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

Melinda Bam. She spoke of how women should work together not against each other in society. She encouraged us that we were righteously and fiercely made and that has been ingrained in me ever since she came to speak at my school.

Who are your role models/who has inspired you and why?

My grandfather, who didn't have to raise his voice to be heard, his words held that much weight in people's lives. He was an accomplished anaesthetist but lived so unassumingly you would never have known it. He inspired me to live humbly, kindly and to be gentle.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

My mom (Seona) and my dad (Barry) live in Swaziland. We left South Africa when I was five moving from Durban to Swaziland (Eswatini). My dad works for Standard Bank and my mom was a teacher. She retired to spend more time with my brother and I. My brother Carl (21) is studying architecture in Port Elizabeth.

What do you do in your spare time?

I am an equestrian. I have been riding horses since I was seven.

Do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?

A nation comes together to celebrate its people and I feel that Miss South Africa does just that. There is such honour attached to the title. For our country to be represented internationally in any respect, whether it be sports or pageants, is a proud moment. So yes pageants are relevant, even more so now in this time, to bring people together with hope for the future led by strong women.

Name two of your female role models?

My mother, who is a resilient woman and the kindest person I know. Robyn Scott- she has taken me under her wing and guided me through the entertainment industry always making sure I know my worth as a woman within it.

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

Realise your power and authority. You are enough. Be brave in the face of fear, courageous and never give up!

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

I would love to meet Jay Shetty. I listen to his podcast and he has really opened my eyes to healthy living, mental awareness and how powerful the mind is.

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

I don't have a coccyx. I was involved in a horse-riding accident, one of many and it dislocated. After three years of operating and trying to manipulate it back the surgeon had to remove it.

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

Be patient.

Describe yourself in three words:

Courageous, goofy, expressive

What are you reading?

Boundaries by Dr Henry Cloud and Dr John Townsend

What music are you listening to?

Hillsongs' Peace, Bobby Darin Dream Lover and Kygo.

What are your favourite TV shows?

Friends, The Office, YOU, Stranger Things, Final Space.

What is your favourite meal?

Ribs and coleslaw .

Who's your local and international celeb crush?

Locally would be Eden Classens and internationally Harry Styles. I'm a One Directioner at heart.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Watching the Kardashians.

Anything else you would like to add?

I want women to never abandon themselves, people will disappoint you in life. If you can make sure you love yourself enough to never abandon yourself you've won so many silent battles. And these are the ones that count.

Social media:

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