

CHENEIL HARTZENBERG –MEREDALE, JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

Name: Cheneil Hartzenberg

Region: Meredale, Johannesburg, Gauteng

Age: 24 (March 10, 1997)

Occupation:

I am a commercial pilot and work as a senior flight instructor in a managerial role at a flight school. I also completed a digital marketing course, with UCT online last year. I am currently studying towards my airline transport pilot licence.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered:

Winner of Miss Remarkable Women, 2018

Why did you decide to enter Miss South Africa 2021 and why do you deserve to win this title?

In my lifetime I have been afforded great opportunities and the Miss South Africa Organisation is the perfect platform on which I can do my best to help pay forward those same opportunities to the disadvantaged youth of our country. Being someone who has benefited from youth development programmes and sponsorships, I want to let the youth know that their background does not determine their future. I want to tell my story and spread a message of hope to those who need it, and I want to use this platform to create a positive change for the future leaders of South Africa.

Tell us about your biggest disappointment and how you bounced back from it.

Not being confident in myself as a teenager. I have consistently worked at this and made a conscious effort to motivate myself to do better by putting myself out there.

What do you think is the biggest problem facing young people today?

The lack of opportunities available for the disadvantaged youth and the youth unemployment rate in our country.

Who are your role models?

My parents. Despite having full time jobs, my parents have dedicated their time to helping those in need and this display of compassion throughout my life has ignited the same desire in me.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

My father Neil is a full-time pastor and my mother Cheryl is an HR consultant. I have no siblings.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy having one-on-one time with aspiring pilots by showing them airplanes, giving more information about pilot training, assisting with passing some of the more challenging exams, or sharing my past experiences and being the mentor that I wish I had. I am also always expressing myself artistically - either singing and doing covers of my favourite songs, sketching, painting or crocheting.

What is your single biggest achievement?

Becoming a commercial pilot, working in the industry that I have always admired and being able to purchase my own car at the age of 23.

In what way do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?

Beauty pageants are definitely relevant today as pageantry uplifts women and enforces the importance of giving back to communities. Being given a platform creates a ripple effect. If a woman is empowered, she empowers her community, and if her community is empowered, provinces become empowered and if provinces become empowered, the country becomes empowered.

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

To the women and young girls of our country; you are more capable than you think, each and every one of you have greatness inside of you. It is up to you to unlock that potential, go in search of and grab hold of each opportunity. Fight for what rightfully belongs to you, fight for your future.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love our diversity, in every aspect. Just as the diversity varies from face to beautiful face, so do our landscapes which are breath-taking in every way. Having visited every province in South Africa, I have been able to witness the rich cultural heritage that comes with each region.

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

The statistics around gender-based violence and child abuse. In order for our society to progress, we need to ensure that the abused receive the therapy they need, and that abusers are rehabilitated.

2020 and 2021 have been extraordinary years and difficult for people around the globe. Do you see any positives in what has happened in the past 18 months?

The two years in which our entire world came to a standstill. Locally, because of the loss of jobs and income, people have been forced to revert to their passions and open small businesses. It is unfortunate that stable incomes were lost, however more people are becoming financially independent and this is something I view as a positive. Globally, government organisations have been both negatively and positively exposed for how they have handled the threat of a pandemic, and I believe that this pandemic has readjusted the focus of global world leaders back onto their people, and ensuring the safety of their citizens.

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

Malala Yousafzai. Being the youngest recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize, and being one of the greatest voices of our generation, she has inspired me stand up for what I believe in, which is giving our youth a fair chance. The prosperity of a nation lies in ensuring that basic needs (such as education) are available to *all* children and youth.

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

I am left-handed but only write with my left hand, in everything else my right hand is my dominant hand.

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

Be more confident in who you are, do not be afraid of what others may say. You have the potential to make a great impact in the lives of others.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself in three words:

Compassionate, resilient, diligent.

What's the best advice you can give in exactly four words?

Your dreams are valid.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Birgit Gibbs because I loved the way each of the designs accentuated Zozibini Tunzi and Natasha Joubert's features at the respective Miss Universe pageants. Her designs are timeless and elegant.

You have to give up one of these? Handbags or shoes?

Everyone who knows me, knows that I am *obsessed* with handbags so I would have to give up shoes, even though that in itself would be extremely difficult to do.

What is one thing that we would not know about you just by looking at you?

My name is a mixture of my parents' names.

What would be your dream holiday?

A trip to any island destination. I love the warm weather.

If you could have any superhuman power, what would it be?

Invincibility. I would use this superhuman power to end all war.

What are you reading?

One Night with the King by Tommy Tenney with Mark Andrew Olsen.

What music are you listening to?

For the past three months I have been listening to my father's favourite gospel artist – Fred Hammond. One of my favourite songs is entitled *I'm Not Afraid*, and this has been my motto since deciding to enter Miss South Africa 2021.

What are your favourite TV shows?

Bridgerton, *Selena the Series*, *The Rookie*, *Air Crash Investigation*.

What is your favourite meal?

Biryani

Who is your celeb crush?

Regé-Jean Page from *Bridgerton*.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Online window shopping and deal hunting, as well as reading up on conspiracy theories and not believing any of them.

Social media tags:

- Facebook: Cheneil Breanne Hartzenberg

- Instagram: @cheneilhart
- Twitter: @Cheneil_Hart