

## **KEASHEL VAN DER MERWE – ROODEPOORT, GAUTENG**

**Name:** Keashel van der Merwe

**Region:** Discovery, Roodepoort, Gauteng.

**Age:** 22 (October 14, 1998)

**Occupation:**

I am an independent make-up artist. I had experience in the promotion business as well as a corporate background before I ventured into make-up artistry.



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

I entered Miss South Africa 2021 to not only empower women but to step into my power and future. I believe that I deserve this title because not only am I relatable but I also never give up. I believe a Miss South Africa should be resilient, kind and patient as well as a woman who reclaims her strength, not only for societal reasons, but to be a shining beacon of hope for women and young girls who wouldn't deem achieving the greatness tied to this title as possible.

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

I grew up in the modelling industry at a tender age and fell deeply in love with everything it had to offer. I temporarily left the industry due to unfair treatment which demotivated me. The more I dabbled in opposite avenues from the industry, the more unpleasantness it brought into my life. I conquered my doubt and fear and made the decision to try again.

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

I believe that the lack of opportunity is the biggest problem facing young people. If more opportunities were given to our young people, it would advance their livelihood, career paths and desired studies.

**Who are your role models?**

My role model has to be my mother. It is known that a mother sets the tone for her daughter. She has laid the foundation for the woman that I have chosen to grow into.

**Tell us a bit more about your family?**

My father, Jerome, is an immigration practitioner and my mother, Charmain, is studying to become an ordained minister. I have an elder brother who is in the banking industry.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

I love reading books aimed at strengthening one's mind and emotional maturity as well as inspirational material. I also enjoy perfecting my make-up artistry craft.

**What is your single biggest achievement?**

My single biggest achievement to date has been entering Miss South Africa 2021. I believe that the rest is yet to come.

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

The Miss South Africa pageant has broken the stigma of what people believe beauty pageants to be. The organisation has created a platform built around empowering woman.

Giving all woman the hope and the enlightenment that they can achieve anything they desire.

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

Your self-doubt is nothing but false evidence appearing to be real. Drop it because none of your fears can go towards the greatness you are headed for.

**What do you love about South Africa?**

I love the nature of our people along with our diversity as a nation. Our culture, food and art definitely set us apart from the rest of the world.

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

I would love to change our financial status as a country as I believe that there is so much more potential for our beautiful land. The people of South Africa deserve a comfortable life where resources are abundant and available to every South African as a basic human right.

**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?**

One of the Covid 19 positives is that it has helped our environment. Secondly it has forced us to cherish our loved ones more, as well as spending more quality time together. Thirdly, it has encouraged more entrepreneurship and opened more doors for those who were afraid to start their own business.

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

Nelson Mandela because I would have loved to interact with him to understand how he kept steadfast in the lonely walk he faced in achieving freedom and democracy for South Africa.

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

I can pick up languages easily.

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

I would advise my younger self to be more confident in my failures because it will equip me with a stronger character as well as a stronger life path. It will strengthen you to face any and everything thrown at you. Your self-belief will carry you through.

**QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS**

**Describe yourself in three words:**

Humble. Honourable. Patient.

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

Your purpose is divine.

**Who's your favourite designer and why?**

Coco Chanel. Gabrielle Chanel came from nothing but her legacy lives on and what she built stands as one of the biggest fashion houses globally today.

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

Handbags.

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

I have a dry sense of humour.

**What would be your dream holiday?**

Anywhere beach side.

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

To make people tell the truth.

**What are you reading?**

*Think Like A Monk* by Jay Shetty.

**What music are you listening to?**

Beyonce

**What is your favourite TV show?**

*Suits*

**What is your favourite meal?**

Butter chicken and roti with a side of pumpkin.

**Who is your local and international celeb crush?**

Lira and Jennifer Lopez

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Ice cream

**Social media tags:**

- Facebook: Keashel Carlin
- Instagram: keashel