

PEARL NTSHEHI – CENTURION, TSHWANE, GAUTENG

Name: Pearl Ntshehi

Region: I was born and raised in Mamelodi and currently live in Centurion.

Age: 24 (December 12, 1996)

Occupation:

I am a BCom Law (Pearson Institute of Higher Education) and an LLB graduate (UNISA), currently doing my BCom honours at Regent Business School with the hopes of becoming an admitted legal practitioner and successful business person. I have mentees under my NPC Project 31 and I offer pageantry workshops and virtual sessions with my company, Crowned Africa.



Previous beauty competitions:

I was the first princess of Miss Mamelodi Sundowns 2019/2020.

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

Firstly, to practise one of the things I tell the young women I train which is “to go after what your heart desires, set goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them.” I want to take the baton from the beautiful queens that came before me and continue building with the foundation they – along with the Miss South Africa team – have created, showing that being your authentic self is enough. I also entered so my voice can be amplified and echoed on the matters close to my heart - youth empowerment and development. I have the heart to serve and inspire; I’m relatable; I’m the girl next door. That’s what a Miss South Africa representative should be.

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

Being in debt at the age of 21 because a car accident led to my car being written off and I was unemployed for a few months after. I had my ups and downs with how I handled the situation emotionally but I bounced back. Three months later I got a new job and was able to pay-off a new car.

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

Comparison and instant gratification. The youth often use other people’s blueprints of their lives and don’t realise that we are all on a different path and on different journeys. The youth want things “now” and forget that hard work pays off in the long run.

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

I have different role models for certain areas in my life: My mom, I strive to be as kind and resilient as she is; Nomzamo Mbatha, I love her philanthropy work all over Africa and how she carries herself by just being her; Bonang Matheba, I live for her worth ethic; Michelle Obama, I love how she’s relatable, her journey to being an attorney and to where she is now; the fictional character of Oliva Pope in the TV series *The Fixer/Scandal*.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

I come from a household of love where we are all close, from my two aunts to my cousins and in-laws and grandmother who is currently 95 and still going strong. I have two sets of parents. My dads (Daniel Mothlauthi and stepdad Semela Tseka) are retired whilst both

moms work. My mom (Mary Tseka) works at the Department of Education and my stepmom (Lulu Mothlauthi) is also in the education field. I have a step-brother (Katlego) who is 21.

What do you do in your spare time?

If I'm not working on my personal brand, I go home to spend time with my family and I watch documentaries and read.

What is your single biggest achievement?

Being the first female president at my Varsity, which moulded me to being the young woman I am today. I believe I have paved a way to show the young woman who have followed me that it's possible.

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

They have evolved to having women define what being beautiful is in their own view and sharing it with the world, unapologetically, on a great platform. It has given women the platform to advocate for the causes they believe in. If someone were to say that pageantry degrades women, I would tell them to look again; not through a critical eye but at the evidence that is our former queens and how they are making strides in their respective fields after their reigns. We have access to them and their stories because of platforms like Miss South Africa.

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

Now is the time to break boundaries, believe in ourselves and put our dreams into actions. Set our five-year goals; break them down to the current year, months, weeks and days and have habits that will enable us to achieve our dreams. Let's actively work towards our dreams and be unapologetic about them and who we are. It's time we continue to break the boundaries set for us and show the world that we can do it all.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love the diversity we have and how each day I go to bed knowing that we might not be perfect as a country but we are making great strides and making our mark in the world, especially with the talents that we have: Nomzamo Mbatha, Thuso Mbedu, Trevor Noah, Charlize Theron and Bonang Matheba to name a few.

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

I would change our mindsets to challenges posed, instead of being confined to the status quo, judging others from being different and opting to see the negative side of things; we should encourage each other to come up with tangible solutions and hold each other accountable, especially when it comes to hate crimes and GBV.

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?

Yes, I think we all needed a moment to pause and reflect. Being in isolation can be hard on a person, especially on one's mental health, but we came together as nations around the world and we educated ourselves and each other on matters. We came up with solutions that helped us as individuals and shared them with the hope that it will help another. We also took this opportunity to see the world differently and we saw new businesses starting up during the hard lock down.

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

I would love to meet Michelle Obama. Just from reading her book and following her journey I know I would have a wonderful one-on-one conversation with her.

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

I'm afraid of butterflies.

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

It's okay to be misunderstood; not everyone is going to understand your vision and journey; you learn more in your bad days than good so keep your head up. Keep at it kiddo, you're on the right path.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself:

Relatable, old soul, hard worker.

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

Being yourself is enough.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

I equally love Orapeleng Modutle and Neville Masondo.

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

Handbags, I hardly carry one. The boy in me wants to fit everything in my pockets or in my hand. The moment I realise I can't do that is when I grab a handbag.

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

I tend to be an introvert and only come out my shell when I'm comfortable.

What would be your dream holiday?

The Maldives or travelling through Africa in 100 days.

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

Reading minds and telling if a person is lying. I tend to be an overthinker so it would allow me to have that clarity.

What are you reading?

Say Yes to Your Potential by Ross Carlson

What music are you listening to?

Gospel and old school RNB

What are your favourite TV shows?

The Fixer/Scandal, The People vs OJ, Modern Family, Rick and Morty, POSE

What is your favourite meal?

Anything seafood.

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Surprisingly I don't have any.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Popcorn and a glass of good red wine

Your social media tags:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pearl.rebone>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/pearlntshehi?igshid=1e1xunumng8jn>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pearlntshehi>