

TIFFANY FRANCIS – MULBARTON, JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

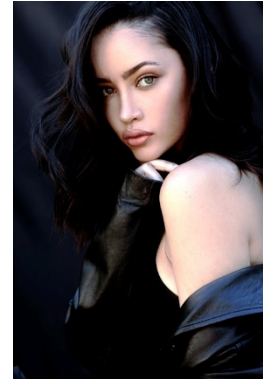
Name: Tiffany Francis

Region: Mulbarton, Johannesburg, Gauteng.

Age: 22 (March 22, 1999)

Occupation:

I am the owner of Tiffany K Models as well as a professional model with ICE Models (JHB) and ICE Genetics (CPT) as well as a fashion design student.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered and either placed or won:

International Model & Talent Association 2017, placed first runner up in all five categories (runway, still/print, swimwear, denim and commercial)

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

Miss South Africa is a woman of impact. She stands as representation for all South Africans, making those around her knowledgeable about the realities of our country whilst actively pursuing paths of change. I aim to be representation for our young women and men facing adversity. In an environment that requires conformity, I want to urge South Africans to transform.

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

Having to put my studies on hold due to my father's unemployment. I found it difficult to find strength and confidence amidst the uncertainty of my future. When I started my business, I was able to give myself the mental and financial security to go forward with my aspirations as well as encourage others to do the same.

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

The perception of having to have your life so well put together. Being a part of the roughly 67% population that accounts for the youth of South Africa, I understand the effect that this standard has on our millennials. Due to the filtered lives we see on social media, society's idea of success has been skewed. There is no room for failure in our digital world. We forget that failure is key to success.

Who are your role models?

My mom and late aunt. Both important figures in my life who taught me the value of having resilience and empathy.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

My mom is an office administrator, whilst my father is recently started his own business consulting company. I have two younger brothers, Cole (19), who wants to be a mechanical engineer and Liam (4), who is the biggest Peppa Pig fan!

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy catching up on my favourite Netflix series/documentaries and listening to new music while performing like a Grammy-award winning artist! Not a sweet sound!

What is your single biggest achievement?

Starting my own business at the age of 19. Owning a company focused on a purpose I am so passionate about, has not only served me in my personal and professional life but has done so for every individual I've had the pleasure of encountering throughout this journey. It has allowed me to re-introduce me to myself! Entrepreneurship is a rollercoaster ride filled with self-exploration, I've unlocked several parts of my potential through the experience and have a deeper sense of self and independence. All while learning that your circumstances do not decide your future, you do.

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

Pageantry gives women a platform to empower. It allows us to embrace our purpose and open the door for other women to the same.

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

The plans you have for your life have no limit.

What do you love about South Africa?

Our people, our humour and our warmth. The beauty of South Africa lies in her people.

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

The status of unemployment, specifically within our younger demographic. With the youth unemployment rate sitting at 74%, we now more than ever have to empower those around us to have confidence in the unique traits and skills they possess. We must create a future where life is not the cards you are dealt but rather the opportunities you've made available to yourself and others. We are the authors of our stories; we need to have confidence in this.

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, the Covid pandemic has forced us into a journey of growth and transition. Leaving us with the ability to adapt to and be flexible in the circumstances we find ourselves in. This has not only a positive impact on the future of the economy but also on us as individuals.

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

Although I've gotten a bit rusty, I play guitar!

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

There is power in your vulnerability. Have faith in your journey and know that your story serves great purpose.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS**Describe yourself in three words:**

Courageous. Independent. Strong-willed.

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

Don't follow the crowd.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Gert-Johan Coetzee. I'm in awe of his work ethic and the incredible body of work he continues to create. He is a true representation of the talent of our country.

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

It would have to be shoes; this girl carries around way too many things to ever not need a handbag!

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

I'm quite good at imitating accents – especially an American one.

What would be your dream holiday?

A week in Italy. Frank Sinatra playlists, beaches and only eating pizza for days on end!

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

Definitely superspeed!

What are you reading?

The Secret by Rhonda Byrne

What music are you listening to?

'90s/early 2000s pop and R'n'B remains a constant in my selection.

What are your favourite TV shows?

Fresh Prince of Bel-Air for the comedy and *Gossip Girl* for the fashion!

What is your favourite meal?

Oxtail potjie or any Italian, Greek or Mexican dish because who doesn't love pizza, pitas or tacos?

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Maps Maponyane and Ian Somerhalder

What's your guilty pleasure?

Dessert! Hand me a slice of cheesecake and I'm the happiest girl in the world!

Social media tags:

- Facebook: Tiffany Francis
- Instagram: @tiffanykfrancis_
- Twitter: @tiffanykfrancis