

BIANCA BEZUIDENHOUT - STRAND, CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE

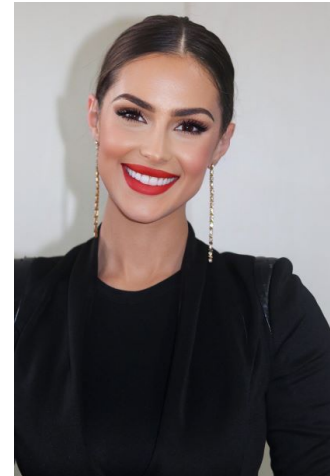
Name: Bianca Bezuidenhout

Region: Strand, Cape Town, Western Cape.

Age: 22 (March 19, 1999)

Occupation:

I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing Communications from AAA School of Advertising. I am currently completing my honours in media studies at Unisa. I am a dance instructor as well as a business owner of my own swimwear company called *She Succeeds*.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered:

Winner of Miss Hollywood Top Model South Africa 2014; Miss Roxy 2015; Miss Lizzy Diaz 2015; Miss Billabong 2015 and WBFF Commercial Model 2017.

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

This year, I came to the realisation "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?" It was never my lack of preparation that kept me from entering before, but my lack of belief in myself so this year I decided to face my power and embrace my future. I also understand my duty and responsibility to speak up, stand up and show up for the next generation. I am ready to step forward as a leader who will inspire other young South Africans to fulfil their potential, recognise their self-worth and empower them to realise that they too, can step deeper into their destinies as great men and women of our nation. All they need, is a leader who believes in them, loves them and sets good examples for them to follow, and that is exactly who I am.

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

When I was in high school. I was in a physical abusive relationship which had a significant effect on my self-worth, identity and overall mental health. God's love restored and transformed my life completely and reminded me that I am worthy of a purposeful life.

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

Although it seems at this point that Covid-19 has a less severe impact on the youth, it is equally true that their lives are nonetheless being changed in profound ways. Young people of all ages and in all countries are being affected. As the rate of suicidal behaviour, education disruptions and mental health issues among them has shown a significant rise since Covid-19, there is an urgent need for all of us to show up for our youth.

Who are your role models?

My mother has always been one of my biggest role models. She is the kindest and most loving woman I know. She always taught me to live to express not to impress, and to work for a cause not for applause. Those were words that I lived by as a young girl and those are words that I live by today. Those are the words I will live by as Miss South Africa.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

My father, Martin, is a chemical engineer and my mother, Sharon, studied microbiology and currently works as a self-employed consultant.

What do you do in your spare time?

When I'm not working or studying, I love to cook, read, dance and write. Through my love for hospitality, I also enjoy bringing friends and family together with good food and fun board games.

What in your opinion is your single biggest achievement?

I never felt qualified enough to be a leader. It all changed when someone once told me "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called." I then became the leader of my own home cell in Strand where I lead and minister to people in my community to live a more purposeful life.

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

If I can just speak from my own experience in the pageant industry, we celebrate great women everywhere; past, present and future and the many achievements of women who have broken through to lead and succeed in extraordinary ways.

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

There's so much I can say, but one thing God pressed strongly on my heart, is a prayer for our young girls and women. A prayer of hope, peace and a brighter future. We declare it. We speak it. We believe it.

What do you love about South Africa?

The first thing that came to my mind was our dancing. South African dance is unique in its vitality and energy. It doesn't matter what we go through, even when we face a global pandemic, we always have something more joyful in common: a hit song and a dance with deeply South African roots.

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

To prompt the department of education to provide learners the opportunity to learn and study more South African languages. I think it would contribute to our understanding of one another and enhance unity.

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?

We've all learned to adapt, work together and embrace change when we face difficult times. That just shows that no matter what storm we face, together we stand, together we grow, together we overcome.

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

Definitely Zozibini Tunzi. I remember sitting in the crowd the night she was crowned, thinking I would love to be her friend one day.

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

I love to sing.

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

I would encourage my younger self to embrace who God created me to be. I grew up extremely insecure and never felt good enough. If only I knew that my authenticity is my

power. And by facing my power, it leads to embracing the future God has for me. If we pretend to be someone else, we devalue the great men and women God created us to be.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself in three words:

Faithful, compassionate, purposeful.

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

Worry less, dance more.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Casper Bosman is not only my favourite designer, but also a very close friend of mine. I love his elegant, bold and classy designs.

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

Shoes are essential! You know what they say, "Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world."

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

I sometimes enjoy playing video games like PUBG.

What would be your dream holiday?

Witnessing the northern lights is a bucket-list holiday.

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

The ability to get glammed up in five minutes.

What are you reading?

Planted with a Purpose: God Turns Pressure into Power by T.D. Jakes.

What music are you listening to?

Latin, Gospel and Afrobeats.

What are your favourite TV shows?

The Chosen, *The Queen's Gambit* and *Friends*.

What is your favourite meal?

Nutella sandwiches.

Who is your international celeb crush?

Enrique Iglesias. Enrique Iglesias. And did I mention Enrique Iglesias?

What's your guilty pleasure?

Sour worms.

Social media tags:

- Facebook: Bianca Bezuidenhout
- Instagram: @bianca_bezuidenhout
- Twitter: @BiancaBezouthout