

FERINI DAYAL – KENSINGTON SOUTH, JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

Name: Ferini Dayal

Region: Kensington South, Johannesburg, Gauteng.

Age: 26 (September 13, 1994)

Occupation:

I attained my bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences, majoring in physiology in 2014 and via the Graduate Entry Medical Programme entered my third year of medicine and graduated in 2018 with a MBBCh (Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery), both degrees from the University of Witwatersrand. I completed two years of internship at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and I am now a community service doctor in Voslorus at Thelle Mogoerane Hospital.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered:

Winner of Miss Reddam 2009; Miss Eastgate 2017, finalist

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

I have been at the forefront for the last 10 years of my life, dealing with poverty, hunger, sickness, assault, abuse, rape, and death. I have experienced pain and triumph and have sacrificed my life, time and intention to bettering these conditions as I progress in my journey. My title is not solely for me, but for the people of South Africa and in doing so I bring a fresh perspective to the title.

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

In 2011, I was denied a place in medicine. I naturally fought this and in my meeting with the Dean, I was told Indian females are a waste of a medical degree. Being the woman I am, no was not an answer. I spent the next three years excelling in a biomedical sciences degree, was top 10 on a multitude of occasions, passed a WAPT exam out of thousands of applicants and was finally accepted into my third year of medicine in 2015. In 2018 I graduated as one of the youngest graduate entries in medicine. Now I am proudly Dr F Dayal.

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

Our Generation Z are conditioned to think in one ideology, one mindset, based on the ability to tally likes and followers. Technocracy plays a huge role in who we are moulding as our future representation to be. I want to encourage our youth to have lateral thinking, challenge ideas, and not accept the norm as defined by people of empowerment.

Who are your role models?

Socrates, Leonardo Da Vinci, Nikola Tesla, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, David Icke, Dr Carol-Ann Benn and Dr Fiona Wood. Each of the above-mentioned names have represented a stage in my life as a woman, they have influenced my growth spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

I was initially part of a family of five, but now excitedly an extended family of 10 with one more on the way. My dad (Nubs, 67), is a freelance broadcasting engineer. My mom

(Karima, 55), is a retired preschool teacher and my biggest pillar of support. I have two older brothers who are both married, Ramiez (35), an attorney and managing director, who blessed me with my adorable niece and nephew (Hakan and Hannah) and Kamil, an IT genius, who is my partner in sibling crime, has a daughter, my beautiful godchild Leyah, and an additional one on the way. Part of my family are my beautiful dogs, Diesel and Hugo.

What do you do in your spare time?

There is nothing medicine made me realise more than how precious time is, I've dedicated my spare time largely to spending it with my family, loved ones, dogs, at the gym and reading.

What is your single biggest achievement?

Besides the fact that I've accomplished my degree, and furthermore reached my point of having the opportunity to represent this prestigious title, amongst all the obstacles, I've remained true to who I am. I've maintained my humility, love for my people, remained grounded, and never derailed from my purpose, and if there's something to celebrate in the world of today, it's being authentic and true to yourself.

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

Pageantry is a global avenue for women to speak and open the public's eyes to current matters in the world. Our women in empowerment through these platforms are catalysts for imperative issues that are being objectified as lesser. Violence, sexual assault, rape, political war, our women are speaking out and being heard, and that's why we need the platform to continue.

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

To value independence. Independence in learning, in thinking, in choice and in self-love. Use the advancements in technology to grow, generations before us were not provided with this opportunity, enrich your knowledge, bloom in society, create an impact and don't apologise for who you are in your independence.

What do you love about South Africa?

We are God's paradise, mountains, hills, cliffs, reserves, oceans.

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

South Africa has given me so many opportunities especially in my field of work. Unfortunately, there are glitches in our system in terms of transparency on important matters that run this country and this has huge impacts on our future. For those women lost in the system to assault and rape cases, the children who are drowned in our poverty-stricken society to a vicious circle of abuse, they need to be acknowledged, to improve on the economic, financial, employment and political stance of our country.

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?

It has revealed people's true hearts and intentions. I have seen so much love, compassion and kindness from unexpected places, to help those in need and often it's from people who have nothing who are the most willing to share. I have witnessed communities rally behind the local restaurant or delivering groceries to a family who have lost everything. In my community drive for Baragwanath Hospital for paediatrics, I was overwhelmed with support, love and donations, mostly from strangers who did not have much.

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

Imitiaz Sooliman, founder of Gift of the Givers, South Africa. He was guided by a prophecy he received in Turkey at the age of 30, where he heeded the calling and has successfully converted a business and public image to assist communities in building a billion-rand charity. What doctor can say they did that? His work is unparalleled. This is the same level of success I'd like to achieve in my reign and my legacy.

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

I played video games and foosball professionally. I was the only female to make it to the knockout stages in a FIFA competition at the age of 13. I was also the youngest female to be elected to join the foosball international representation to play in Nantes, France in 2009.

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

I'd tell her never to operate from a space of fear but only faith.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself in three words:

Wonder woman magic

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

Only fear God, darling

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Michelle Howel. She has made my design dreams come true for the past five years, and it comes with great coffee and a beautiful friendship.

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

Handbags! You can't save lives barefoot.

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

According to my mom, people would never know I'm a doctor because she says I look dumb. There's a contentious lie that's been created about beautiful woman and intelligence, but I think I've cleared that up.

What would be your dream holiday?

A trip around the world!

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

A healing power that would massively aid my cause and allow me less sleep deprivation.

What are you reading?

Flowers on the Moon by Billy Chapata; *The Biggest Secret* by David Icke; *Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, Surgical Review for Primaries*.

What music are you listening to?

Give a Little by Ash; *Anywhere* by Prima

What are your favourite TV shows?

Bridgerton; *Air Crash Investigations*; *Bear Grylls*; *Navy Street*; *Grey's Anatomy*

What is your favourite meal?

Anything my mom makes and definitely sushi.

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Local is Lalla Hirayama and international is Chris Hemsworth.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Afternoon naps and vanilla ice cream with my dogs Hugo and Diesel.

Social media tags:

- Facebook: Ferini Dayal
- Instagram: @Drf_dayal
- Twitter: @DrFDayal