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DIGITAL MAGAZINE

WOMEN'S
MONTH
EDITION

ONKGOPOTSE
MASHIKA

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WHEN WOMEN ARE
SEEN, HEARD, AND
CELEBRATED, ENTIRE
COMMUNITIES
FLOURISH.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Tribe,

As we step into a new season, we're reminded that visibility is more than being seen, it's about showing up authentically, embracing your purpose, and creating a legacy that speaks long after you've left the room. Our July/August issue, **Modern Luxe: Style, Refinement & Visibility**, celebrates women who are doing exactly that.

Our cover star, **Onkgopotse Mashika**, Founder and Creative Director of **Angalia Apparel**, embodies this theme beautifully. Through creativity, vision, and intentional leadership, she reminds us that success isn't just about making an entrance, it's about making an impact.

This issue also marks an exciting milestone for Chic-Tribe as we officially step into our next chapter as a **digital media house**. As we continue to grow, we look forward to partnering with brands, organisations, and changemakers who believe in the power of authentic storytelling. We also proudly welcomed **the third cohort of the EmpowHer Creators Lab**, and we're excited to watch these incredible creatives flourish over the coming months.

As we usher in Women's Month, we celebrate the women whose stories continue to inspire, challenge, and uplift us. We're also looking forward to **The Femme Frontier Fest** this August and the many opportunities ahead to connect, collaborate, and continue amplifying women's voices.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to embracing our visibility, refining our purpose, and confidently taking up space.

With gratitude,

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THE HIBISCUS ACID SCALP RITUAL



- Shampoo & Braid + Scalp Spray
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BEYOND THE RUNWAY: BUILDING AN AFRICAN FASHION LEGACY

There is something powerful about women who don't simply follow industry trends, they reshape them. For Onkgopotse Mashika, fashion has never been just about beautiful garments. It has become a language for African identity, a vehicle for entrepreneurship, and a blueprint for sustainable growth.

As the Founder and Creative Director of Angalia Apparel, she has spent nearly a decade proving that creativity and commercial success are not opposing forces. Through intentional leadership, local manufacturing, and a clear vision for the future of African fashion, she is building more than a brand, she is contributing to an industry that is increasingly finding its voice on the global stage.

In this edition of Chic-Tribe Digital, we step beyond the runway to explore the woman behind the vision, the decisions that shaped her journey, and the legacy she hopes will inspire the next generation of African entrepreneurs.



Angalia Apparel has become a recognised name in contemporary African fashion. Looking back, what belief have you held onto since 2016 that has remained unchanged, even as your business has evolved?

The one belief that has never changed is that African fashion deserves to stand confidently on the global stage without compromising its identity. When I founded Angalia Apparel in 2016, I wasn't simply creating clothing, I was building a brand that celebrates African women, our culture and our craftsmanship through contemporary design.

Today, Angalia has grown beyond what I imagined in those early years. We've built strong retail partnerships, shared our story on international fashion platforms and continue to create garments that resonate with women across different backgrounds. Yet the mission remains exactly the same: to create timeless African fashion with intention, quality and purpose.

For me, success has never been about making clothes. It's about changing the narrative of what African fashion can become and proving that we can build globally respected brands while remaining proudly rooted in Africa.

Many people see the finished collection, but not the difficult decisions behind it. Can you share a moment when choosing long-term sustainability meant saying no to a short-term opportunity?

One of the biggest decisions I've consistently made is choosing local manufacturing, even when it isn't the most profitable option. There have been opportunities to reduce production costs by manufacturing elsewhere, but that has never aligned with the vision I have for Angalia.

I believe African fashion should create opportunities for Africans. Every garment we produce locally supports skilled artisans, creates employment and contributes to strengthening our own fashion ecosystem.

On the cover



Those decisions aren't always easy, especially in an industry where margins can be tight, but they've taught me that sustainable businesses are built by staying true to your values. Short term gains may solve immediate challenges, but long-term impact comes from making decisions you'll still be proud of years later.

Your work balances creativity with commercial strategy. How do you know when to follow your artistic instincts, and when to let business logic lead the way?

I've learned that creativity and business aren't opposing forces, they're partners.

Every collection starts with a creative vision. That's where I allow myself to dream, explore and tell stories through design. But once that vision is established, business takes its place. I look at customer behaviour, sales data and what our community is responding to.

The goal has never been to create art that sits on a runway. It's to create beautiful clothing that women genuinely want to wear and feel confident in.

Finding that balance has allowed Angalia to grow sustainably while staying true to its creative identity.

You've spoken about strengthening Africa's fashion ecosystem. If you could redesign one part of the African fashion industry from the ground up, what would it be, and why?

Without hesitation, I would strengthen manufacturing and distribution across the continent. Africa has extraordinary creative talent, but too many designers struggle to scale because they don't have access to reliable manufacturing, efficient distribution networks or investment. Creativity isn't our challenge, building sustainable businesses is.



I'd love to see stronger collaboration between governments, educational institutions, manufacturers and private investors to rebuild Africa's textile and apparel industry.

When we invest in manufacturing, we're not just producing clothing, we're creating jobs, developing skills and building an industry that can compete globally. Fashion has the potential to become a significant economic contributor across Africa, and I believe we're only scratching the surface.

Success often changes how people see you. In what ways has success challenged your own understanding of leadership, and what has it taught you about carrying responsibility?

Success has taught me that leadership is far less about recognition and far more about responsibility. As Angalia has grown, I've realised that every decision I make affects the people who work alongside me, the families they support and the future we're trying to build together. That has made me more intentional as a leader.



I've also learned that resilience is one of the most important leadership qualities. This year, I've had the privilege of sharing insights alongside industry leaders on international fashion panels, but those moments are built on years of perseverance, difficult decisions and lessons learned behind the scenes.

Leadership isn't about appearing strong all the time. It's about staying committed to your vision, even when the journey is challenging, and creating opportunities for others along the way.

When future generations look back at your contribution to African fashion, what conversation do you hope your work has started that extends far beyond clothing?

I hope people see that African fashion is more than an expression of culture, it's a powerful economic opportunity.

I want the conversation to shift from simply celebrating beautiful garments to recognising the value of building African-owned brands, manufacturing locally and creating sustainable businesses that generate employment.

If my journey encourages more designers to think beyond collections and build businesses that create lasting impact, then I'll feel I've contributed something meaningful.

Ultimately, I hope my legacy is one of possibility, that the next generation believes they can build globally respected brands without leaving behind their identity or their roots.

Imagine meeting a young African girl sketching her first fashion designs today. Instead of giving her advice, what truth about building a meaningful career would you want her to discover for herself?

I would want her to discover that her greatest strength is her authenticity.

The world will always encourage comparison, but meaningful careers are built by people who have the courage to create something that is uniquely their own. Trends will come and go, but purpose and consistency will always outlast them.

I also hope she discovers that success rarely happens overnight. Behind every milestone are years of persistence, learning and quiet determination that most people never see.

Most importantly, I want her to believe that her dreams are valid, regardless of where she comes from. Africa doesn't need more copies, it needs more original voices willing to tell our stories with confidence and excellence.

STYLIST-APPROVED WINTER STAPLES

Winter has a funny way of exposing our wardrobes. The linen sets that carried us through summer are suddenly nowhere to be found, and somehow, we're standing in front of a cupboard full of clothes with absolutely "nothing to wear."

Here's the thing though: modern luxury isn't about owning the most expensive coat in Sandton or splurging on every trend your favorite influencer posts. It's about dressing with intention. It's about choosing pieces that work harder, last longer, and make you feel like that girl every time you leave the house.

South African winter may not call for snow boots and puffer jackets worthy of New York, but they do demand smart layering, rich textures, and timeless silhouettes. Whether you're grabbing coffee in Melville, heading to a client meeting, enjoying date night in Cape Town, or simply trying to survive another icy Joburg morning, these are the investment pieces every woman should have on her winter radar.



Written By:
Oratile Mokgatle



Pinterest: Qunex - Nail Style Hub

1. THE TAILORED WOOL COAT

Every stylish woman has one piece she throws over absolutely everything.

Meet the tailored wool coat. It doesn't matter if you're wearing leggings, a tracksuit or a satin dress underneath. A structured coat instantly elevates your entire look.

Ursula Coat - Plum
Photo: BabyBoo Pinterest



This season, think:

- Chocolate brown
- Charcoal grey
- Deep olive
- Cream
- White

Instead of chasing bold prints, invest in clean lines and quality fabric. It's the kind of purchase you'll thank yourself for every winter.

2. A PAIR OF WIDE-LEG TROUSERS

Skinny jeans had their moment, but we're past those, sweetie.

Today's luxury is all about movement, comfort, and effortless sophistication. Wide-leg tailored trousers instantly create a polished silhouette while giving you endless styling options. Pair them with sneakers for casual Fridays or pointed heels to create that chic look.

Neutral colors like black, gray, and espresso brown will work overtime in your wardrobe.



Pinterest: Atlantic-Pacific / Blair Eadie

3. A KNIT THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN AFTERTHOUGHT

Not all jerseys are created equal. Modern luxe is moving away from oversized, shapeless knitwear and embracing elevated basics that feel intentional.

Look for:

- Ribbed textures
- Mock necks
- Soft cashmere-inspired finishes
- Relaxed but structured fits

Whether layered over a leather skirt or tucked into tailored trousers, a beautiful knit instantly feels expensive.



4. KNEE-HIGH BOOTS THAT MEAN BUSINESS

There's something about knee-high boots that changes your entire posture; it's giving sexy!

Maybe it's confidence.

Maybe it's the main character energy.

Either way, they're a winter essential.

This season, suede and leather-look finishes are dominating, particularly in chocolate brown and black. Pair them with midi dresses, knitted co-ords, or oversized blazers for an effortlessly refined look.

One good pair will outlast countless fast-fashion shoe trends.



Pinterest: Loveley Alexandre

5. THE ELEVATED EVERYDAY BAG

Holding your hand as I say this, luxury isn't always loud.

Sometimes it's a structured handbag that quietly pulls everything together.

Forget oversized logos.

Instead, look for timeless shapes with clean finishes and minimal designs.

Think:

- Rich burgundy
- Deep forest green
- White
- Black
- Cream

A beautiful handbag should complement your outfit, not compete with it.



6. STATEMENT GOLD JEWELLERY

► The girls get it.

A simple outfit can become unforgettable with the right accessories.

- Chunky gold hoops.
- Layered necklaces.
- Bold cuffs.
- Sculptural earrings.
-

This winter, jewellery is doing the heavy lifting. It's the quickest way to make basics feel considered without overcomplicating your outfit. Sometimes all your knitwear needs is one standout accessory.



Pinterest: Simulaicra

7. A MATCHING KNIT SET

There is something undeniably luxurious about looking coordinated without trying too hard. Matching knit sets have quietly become the unofficial uniform of women who always seem effortlessly put together.

Whether it's a ribbed skirt and sweater combination or knitted trousers with a matching top, co-ords remove the stress of styling while still looking incredibly polished.

Perfect for:

- Coffee dates
- Airport looks
- Creative meetings
- Weekend brunches

Because who doesn't love looking expensive while feeling like they're wrapped in a blanket?

8. A SATIN OR SILK MIDI SKIRT



Pinterest: Simulaicra

Now understand this, winter doesn't mean hiding every feminine piece in your wardrobe.

A satin midi skirt layered with boots, a cardigan and a tailored coat create one of the most balanced silhouettes of the season.

It's soft.

Elegant.

Modern.

And surprisingly versatile.

The contrast between flowing satin and textured knitwear is exactly what makes the outfit work.



9. A TIMELESS SCARF

Scarves are everywhere in fashion; they are statement pieces that genuinely keep you so rugged up. They could be draped over a coat, wrapped around the neck, tied over the shoulders, or even styled around your handbag.

Choose oversized scarves in neutral shades that feel soft and luxurious without overpowering your outfit. Texture is doing more talking than colour this season.

10. CONFIDENCE: THE PIECE YOU CAN'T BUY



Yes, it's cliché.

No, we're not apologizing.

The most luxurious thing you can wear this winter isn't hanging in your wardrobe. It's confidence.

Modern luxury isn't about chasing trends or trying to dress like everyone on your Pinterest board. It's about understanding what works for your body, your lifestyle, and your personality.

Wear the coat.

Buy the boots you'll actually wear.

Repeat outfits unapologetically.

Style what you already own in new ways.

Because the most fashionable women aren't necessarily the ones buying the most; they're the ones wearing every piece with intention.

LUXURY LOOKS DIFFERENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

South African women have always understood that style isn't measured by price tags alone. From Johannesburg's polished city dressing to Cape Town's effortless layering and Durban's relaxed sophistication, our fashion identity is built on individuality, creativity and making every outfit count.

This winter, let your wardrobe reflect that mama. Choose fewer, better pieces. Mix textures instead of trends. Invest in quality where you can and remember that refinement isn't about excess, it's about knowing your style and wearing it with confidence.

After all, looking expensive has never been about spending more. Around here, it's about making what you wear look like it was chosen with purpose.

And that's the real definition of modern luxe.

When did beauty stop being personal and start feeling like part of our careers?

It's a question we've been thinking about a lot lately. Not because women suddenly care more about how they look, but because the spaces we work in have changed. We're no longer just showing up to offices. We're showing up on LinkedIn, on Zoom, on Instagram Stories, in podcast interviews, at networking events and in content that lives online forever.

Before someone reads your CV, they've probably seen your profile picture. Before a client books your services, they've likely scrolled through your Instagram. Before a brand decides whether you're the right fit, they're looking at how you present yourself online.

THE FACE ECONOMY: HOW BEAUTY BECAME A CAREER ASSET.

Our faces have become part of our first impression long before we ever introduce ourselves.

This is the face economy, a world where appearance has become another form of social and professional currency.

Let's be clear. This isn't about telling women they need to wear makeup, have perfect skin or spend thousands on beauty treatments to be successful. It's about acknowledging something many of us have experienced but rarely talk about. Looking polished has quietly become another expectation women are expected to manage alongside building careers, businesses and families.





The Beauty Bill Nobody Talks About

Success has always come with costs. For women, one of those costs is often appearance.

Think about everything that goes into looking "put together." Hair appointments. Skincare. Makeup. Nails. Brows. Clothes that fit well. Professional headshots. Even something as simple as maintaining a consistent look online takes time and money.

Individually, these things might seem small. Collectively, they become another line item in the budget.

The irony is that much of this work is invisible. A woman who walks into a meeting looking polished is often described as naturally confident or effortlessly stylish. What people don't see are the hours, planning and expense behind that image.

We've normalised beauty maintenance to the point where we barely recognise it as work.

Your Personal Brand Starts Before You Speak

For entrepreneurs and creators, the line between personal image and professional identity has almost disappeared.

You are the face of your business.

People aren't only buying your product or service. They're buying into you. They want to know who you are, what you stand for and whether they trust you.

That doesn't mean your appearance is more important than your expertise. It means your appearance often creates the opportunity for your expertise to be seen.

That's a difficult truth because confidence and credibility shouldn't be measured by someone's hairstyle or whether they've mastered the latest makeup trend. Yet first impressions are human nature, and in a digital world they're increasingly visual.

The Pressure to Always Be Camera Ready

There was a time when getting dressed for work happened once a day.

Now we're expected to be ready at any moment.

An unexpected video call. A conference selfie. A behind-the-scenes Instagram Story. A networking event after work. A content opportunity you didn't plan for.

Somewhere along the way, many women began feeling like they had to be "on" all the time.

Not because anyone explicitly told us to, but because visibility has become part of success.

Silk bonnets, overnight oils, scalp serums, braid protection, and leave-in masks are becoming essentials for maintaining healthy hair while sleeping.

Instead of focusing only on styling, people are investing more in hair repair and moisture retention especially textured hair communities prioritising protective care during colder weather.

For women building personal brands, this pressure can be exhausting. It's no longer enough to do great work. You're also expected to package that work in a way that's visually appealing.

That expectation deserves more conversation than it gets.

Are We Chasing Polish or Confidence?

The beauty industry has spent years convincing us that confidence comes in a bottle.

Buy the serum.
Book the treatment.
Try the trend.
Perfect the routine

The women who leave the biggest impression aren't always the ones with the most expensive wardrobes or flawless makeup. They're the ones who know who they are.

Style feels different when it's rooted in identity instead of insecurity.

Beauty feels different when it's an extension of self-expression instead of a performance.

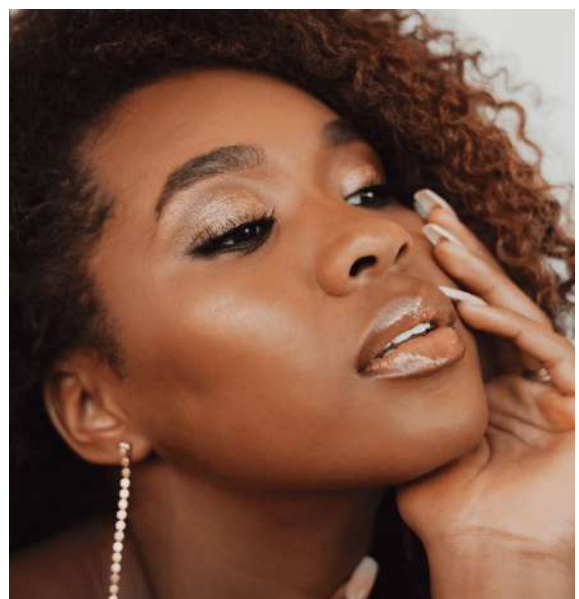
Maybe that's why we're seeing more women step away from chasing every viral aesthetic and start building a look that actually feels like them.

Not because trends have disappeared, but because constantly reinventing yourself is exhausting.

What If We Redefined What Looking Professional Means?

For decades, professionalism has been tied to a very specific image. Sleek hair. Neutral makeup. Understated clothing. A polished look that often left little room for individuality.

Thankfully, that picture is beginning to change.





We're seeing more women wear their natural hair proudly in corporate spaces. We're seeing founders embrace personal style instead of dressing like someone else's version of a CEO. We're seeing creators show up with textured skin, freckles and features that haven't been edited beyond recognition.

Perhaps the future of professional beauty isn't about looking the same.

Perhaps it's about looking like yourself with intention.

Because there is a difference between looking polished and looking performative.

One builds confidence.

The other builds pressure.

The Chic-Tribe Perspective

Beauty has always been about more than lipstick, skincare or the latest trend. It's about how we move through the world and how we choose to be seen.

The face economy isn't something we created, but it is something we have to navigate. The answer isn't to reject beauty altogether, nor is it to let it define our worth.

The answer is to make beauty work for us, not the other way around.

Wear the lipstick if it makes you feel powerful.

Invest in skincare because it makes you feel good.

Build a signature style that reflects who you are, not what the algorithm says you should be.

Because the most powerful thing you can bring into any room, boardroom or browser window isn't perfection.

It's a clear sense of self.

And that's something no trend can ever replace.





MOTHERHOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR: REFLECTING, RESETTING, AND RECONNECTING

The middle of the year often arrives before we even realize it. The energy that came with setting New Year's goals has settled, school schedules are busier than ever, work commitments continue to demand our attention, and family life shows no signs of slowing down. Amid juggling it all, many of us pause and wonder, "Where has the time gone?"

For many mothers, this time of year can feel particularly overwhelming. We become so focused on caring for everyone around us that we seldom pause to ask ourselves how we're really doing. Between school lunches, never-ending responsibilities, bedtime routines, and the quiet emotional work that often goes unrecognized, our own needs can easily slip to the bottom of the list.

BY PORTIA DIETA

But what if the middle of the year was more than just another season to push through? What if it was an opportunity to slow down, take a breath, and gently reconnect with what truly matters? Maybe this is the perfect time to pause and appreciate how much you've grown, make space for the changes you need, and rediscover the woman who exists beyond the role of "Mom."

Motherhood isn't defined solely by birthdays, school achievements, or the big milestones we celebrate. More often, motherhood's true beauty is found in the everyday acts of love, the reassuring embrace after a tough day, reading one more bedtime story despite your fatigue, or making quiet sacrifices simply because your family comes first. These moments may seem ordinary, but they are the foundation of a mother's love and the memories that shape a family.

Rather than dwelling on everything still left to do, pause to recognize how far you've come. Perhaps you've developed greater patience, embraced life's imperfections, overcome unexpected obstacles, or continued to love and support your family through every challenge. Not every achievement is loud or visible. Sometimes, the most meaningful growth happens in the quiet moments, and those victories deserve to be celebrated too.

Many mothers have become so accustomed to putting everyone else's needs first that exhaustion can begin to feel like part of the job. We often celebrate being busy and constantly on the go, but living in a state of overwhelm shouldn't be the measure of a successful mother.

A mid-year reset isn't about adding more responsibilities or chasing new goals. Instead, it's an opportunity to make thoughtful choices that nurture your well-being and restore your sense of balance. That could mean setting healthy boundaries without feeling guilty, accepting support from those around you, simplifying your daily routine, or giving yourself permission to pause and rest without feeling the need to justify it.

Choosing to reset isn't a sign that you're giving up or falling behind. It's a reminder that caring for yourself is essential, allowing you to show up for your family with renewed strength, energy, and intention.



This is also a time when you are to take some time and reconnect with yourself. Before motherhood became one of your greatest roles, you were already a woman with your own dreams, passions, talents, and ambitions. While raising a family may have shifted your priorities, it doesn't mean you've lost who you are.

Make time to reconnect with the parts of yourself that bring you joy and fulfillment. Whether it's reading a good book, writing in a journal, taking a peaceful walk, praying, meditating, revisiting a favorite hobby, or simply savoring a quiet cup of coffee before the day begins, these moments of self-care matter.

Motherhood doesn't erase your identity; it adds new layers to it. Caring for your own heart and well-being isn't an act of selfishness; it's an essential part of becoming the best version of yourself for both you and your family.



We also get an opportunity to reconnect with our loved ones and give each other time to check how the first half of the year has been treating us, because in the busyness of everyday life, it's easy to become so consumed with responsibilities that we overlook the importance of simply spending quality time together.

Creating meaningful memories doesn't have to involve costly activities or carefully planned events. Some of the most treasured moments come from simple experiences like playing games as a family, chatting before bedtime, preparing meals together, sharing stories around the dinner table, or enjoying a peaceful evening stroll.

More than gifts or material things, children remember the warmth, attention, and love they received. Strong families are built through everyday moments of connection, where being fully present with one another matters most.

The months ahead don't need to be flawless to be meaningful. There will still be hectic schedules, unexpected obstacles, and moments when life feels uncertain. Yet within those moments are countless chances to learn, grow, share joy, strengthen relationships, and create lasting memories with your family. Step into this new season with kindness toward yourself instead of unrealistic expectations. Focus on how far you've come rather than chasing perfection.

Every loving gesture, every word of encouragement, every comforting embrace, and every sacrifice you make is leaving a lasting imprint on your child's life, even when you can't immediately see the results. Motherhood is not defined by perfection but by unwavering love, commitment, and the care you pour into your family each day. As you embrace the rest of the year, take time to appreciate how far you've come, make intentional choices for the future, and reconnect with the people who bring meaning to your life, including yourself.

Motherhood isn't about reaching a finish line; it's a lifelong journey of learning, adapting, and loving with intention. Every season brings new lessons, fresh opportunities, and another chance to become the mother you aspire to be.

Always remember that the best is not behind you. The first half of the year may not have gone as planned, but that's okay because there's still time to create new traditions, strengthen relationships, and to rest. So as you step into the second half of the year, don't focus on everything left undone. Instead, honor the woman you've become, celebrate the love you've already poured into your family, and move forward with grace.

Motherhood was never meant to be perfect. It was always meant to be present. At its heart, motherhood isn't about trying to do it all. It's about showing up with love, being present in the moments that matter, and cherishing the journey one day at a time.

HOW SHONISANI MASUTHA IS REWRITING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WOMAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT.



Article: Sarah Banda, Photos Supplied

Some women perform for an audience. Others perform with purpose. Shonisani Masutha has built a career that moves effortlessly between stage, screen and the digital world, proving that creativity doesn't have to exist in just one space. Whether she's embodying compelling characters or shaping meaningful brand conversations online, she continues to redefine what it means to be a modern storyteller. Chic-Tribe Digital sits down with a woman whose greatest role may simply be showing others that they never have to choose between artistry and ambition.

You've learned how to turn creativity into business without losing your authenticity. What's something you refuse to monetise, no matter how good the opportunity looks?

I have always believed that not everything needs to become a business opportunity.

My integrity and my values will always come first. If I do not genuinely believe in a product or if it does not align with who I am, I would rather walk away. Trust takes years to build and only a moment to lose. I never want people to wonder whether I am recommending something because I love it or simply because I was paid to.

Some people build a personal brand. You've built a brand around your name. What's something you've had to protect fiercely so that Shonisani never became just another product?

I have had to protect my authenticity. Shonisani is not just a business name or a social media profile. It is my identity, my family name and my reputation. I want people to see a real person behind everything I create. Whether I am acting, writing, running a business or creating content, I want it to feel honest. I never want to become someone who is chasing trends at the expense of who I really am.

Shonisani Braids isn't just about hair, it's part of a larger story you're telling. What conversation did you hope to start that had nothing to do with hairstyles?

For me, Shonisani Braid has always been about confidence and representation.



I wanted young women, especially Black women, to see a brand that celebrates them and reminds them that our beauty deserves to be seen, valued and invested in. It is also about showing that we can build businesses that create opportunities, employ people and leave a legacy. Hair is the product, but empowerment has always been the purpose.

The internet rewards people for constantly sharing themselves. How do you decide what belongs to your audience and what still belongs only to you?

I share what has purpose. If my story can encourage someone, teach them something or make them feel less alone, I am happy to share it. But I have also learnt that protecting your peace is important. Not every milestone, challenge or personal moment needs to be online. Some moments are more meaningful when they are shared with the people closest to you instead of the entire internet.

Women's Month often celebrates women who inspire others. Whose definition of success have you consciously decided not to live by?

I have stopped chasing the idea that success has to look loud or happen overnight. Social media can make you feel like you are behind if you are not constantly going viral or showing off achievements. I have learnt that success is deeply personal. For me, it is building a meaningful career, creating opportunities for others, having a business that makes an impact and still being able to sleep peacefully knowing I stayed true to myself.



Imagine a young woman comes across your work ten years from now, without knowing anything about your career. What do you hope she understands about possibility just by looking at what you've built?

I hope she sees that she never has to choose just one dream. You can be creative and entrepreneurial. You can be an actress, a writer, a businesswoman and whatever else you are called to be. I want her to see that your background does not determine your future and that consistency can take you places that talent alone cannot. Most of all, I hope she understands that there is power in believing in yourself long before the world does.



THE REINVENTION GENERATION

Why So Many Women Are Starting Over Before 35

We've all heard of the midlife crisis.

The sports car. The dramatic haircut. The impulsive career change. The existential question of "Is this all there is?" It's a life stage we've been told to expect somewhere around our forties or fifties.

But what if that identity shift is happening decades earlier?

Spend enough time talking to women in their late twenties and early thirties, and you'll notice a pattern. They're leaving careers they worked years to build. Moving to cities they once only dreamed about. Ending relationships that no longer feel like home. Going back to university. Starting businesses. Picking up creative hobbies they abandoned in childhood. Travelling solo. Choosing slower lives. Saying no to timelines that once felt non-negotiable.

From the outside, it can look impulsive. Like everyone has suddenly decided to blow up their lives.

But I don't think that's what's happening.

I think we're witnessing a generation of women asking a question previous generations often didn't have the space, or permission, to ask.

What if the life I've built isn't the life I actually want?

For many women, this isn't a crisis. It's a reckoning.

We've spent our twenties trying to become the person we thought we needed to be. Build the career. Get the promotion. Find the partner. Tick the boxes. Be productive. Be ambitious. Be grateful. Keep going.

Then one day, somewhere between another Monday morning meeting and another conversation about five-year plans, a quieter question begins to surface.

What brings me joy?

Not success. Not validation. Joy.

Maybe that's why so many women are talking about "getting their whimsy back." On the surface, it sounds playful, even unserious. But underneath it is something much deeper. It's about remembering the parts of yourself that existed before life became a series of deadlines and responsibilities. It's about reconnecting with curiosity, creativity and delight, not because they're productive, but because they're part of what makes us feel alive.

Perhaps reinvention isn't about becoming someone new.

Perhaps it's about returning to someone you've been too busy to be.

That's what makes this moment so fascinating. Women aren't simply changing jobs or updating their wardrobes. They're rewriting the stories they've been telling themselves about success, adulthood and what it means to build a meaningful life.

And maybe that's the real story of our generation. Not that we're lost.

That we're finally giving ourselves permission to choose again.



One day, we'll probably look back on this period and give it a name, much like we did with the midlife crisis. But I hope we don't remember it as a time when women were lost, confused or falling behind. I hope we remember it as the moment we stopped confusing stability with fulfilment. The moment we realised it was okay to outgrow old dreams, rewrite the plan and choose ourselves without apologising for it.

Because perhaps the most defining characteristic of the Reinvention Generation isn't that we're starting over. It's that we're finally brave enough to build lives that feel as good on the inside as they look on the outside.

HOW RIVONINGO NKUNA IS COMPOSING TOMORROW WITHOUT LEAVING HER ROOTS BEHIND.



There are artists who make music, and then there are artists who build worlds. Rivoningo Nkuna belongs firmly in the latter. As an Afrofuturistic musician, storyteller and creative entrepreneur, she isn't chasing trends, she's expanding the possibilities of African storytelling. By weaving together Xitsonga heritage, jazz, neo-soul and forward-thinking soundscapes, she reminds us that culture isn't something to preserve behind glass; it's something to evolve. In this Women's Month spotlight, Chic-Tribe Digital sits down with a visionary who proves that honouring your roots and imagining the future can happen in the very same breath.



WRITTEN BY
SARAH BANDA

WHEN PEOPLE LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC, WHAT DO YOU HOPE THEY DISCOVER ABOUT THEMSELVES RATHER THAN ABOUT YOU?

I hope they discover the importance of showing up as authentically as possible, flaws and all, because that's how you gracefully access purpose, spaces and opportunities that are meant for you.

Use what you have. There is enough within you to begin.

WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATES WOMEN WHO BREAK BARRIERS, BUT WHAT STEREOTYPE ABOUT WOMEN IN CREATIVE SPACES DO YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE RETIRE FOR GOOD?

The idea that women are only meant to support the vision instead of leading it. Women belong in spaces where big decisions are made within the creative sector and across every industry.

Patriarchal systems and ways of thinking will always be incomplete if they don't make room for women of sound mind, vision and direction.

Women are deeply connected to life, community and creation. Constantly disregarding their perspectives only contributes to societal imbalance.

YOU DON'T JUST CREATE MUSIC, YOU CREATE EXPERIENCES THROUGH SOUND, STORYTELLING AND CULTURE. WHAT KIND OF CONVERSATIONS DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE ARE STILL HAVING LONG AFTER THEY'VE LEFT ONE OF YOUR PERFORMANCES?

The relationship between sound, storytelling and culture is what I will always stand for. The ability to use sound to tell stories while preserving our culture and heritage is what I define as Afrofuturism.

For me, it is about building a bridge between where we come from, what has shaped us, and where we are today, allowing our cultural identity to evolve without losing its roots. My roots are an important reference point for who I am, where I come from, and where I am going. They continue to shape how I create, how I tell stories and how I imagine the future.



YOU'VE PERFORMED ON REMARKABLE STAGES THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER. WHICH EXPERIENCE HAS TRANSFORMED YOU THE MOST, NOT AS AN ARTIST, BUT AS A WOMAN?

Coordinating my first Concerts SA showcase was one of the most transformative experiences of my career.

Receiving the grant exposed me to every aspect of producing a successful show, from the creative vision to the technical execution. It also showed me that I am capable of leading, making decisions and carrying responsibility beyond the stage.

I'll always be grateful for that opportunity because it gave me a deeper understanding of what it truly means to build a sustainable career as an artist





IF YOUR YOUNGER SELF COULD WITNESS THE WOMAN YOU'VE BECOME TODAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD SURPRISE HER THE MOST?

Firstly, I think I would be a woman my younger self would feel safe around.

She would also be surprised that I pursued a career in the arts and built a life around the very thing that has always made me feel most alive.

IMAGINE YOUR LEGACY ISN'T WRITTEN IN AWARDS OR STREAMING NUMBERS BUT IN THE LIVES YOU'VE TOUCHED. WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE WILL SAY RIVONINGO NKUNA MADE POSSIBLE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN AND AFRICAN CREATIVITY?

I hope people will say that I allowed myself to be a vessel and an advocate for culture and creative expression

That I fearlessly advocated and constantly innovated. That I created space for Afrofuturistic expression to flourish, for the benefit of African identity and women. African creativity and future generations.

If my work encourages even one person to embrace who they are, honour where they come from and imagine new possibilities for where we can go, then I would have fulfilled my purpose.

STOP CALLING WOMEN RESILIENT

This Women's Month, perhaps the most radical thing we can do is stop celebrating women's ability to endure and start questioning why they're expected to.

"You touch a woman, you touch a rock."

It's one of the most powerful phrases in South Africa's history. Born out of courage and resistance, it honours the women who stood against injustice and refused to be broken. Their resilience changed the course of history.

But somewhere along the way, that powerful declaration took on another life.

It stopped describing women who rose in extraordinary circumstances and quietly became an expectation for ordinary women.

Today, we call women resilient for surviving impossible workloads, raising children with little support, holding families together through financial hardship, navigating unequal workplaces and carrying emotional burdens that often go unseen.

Resilience has become one of the highest compliments a woman can receive.



Written By: Sarah Banda

This Women's Month, I think it's time we ask a difficult question.

Why are we so comfortable celebrating women's resilience instead of asking why they have to be resilient in the first place?

The expectation begins long before adulthood.

Many of us remember sitting between our mother's knees while our hair was braided so tightly our eyes watered. We'd squirm, cry or ask for a break, only to hear, "Beauty is pain." We learned, without anyone explicitly teaching us, that discomfort was simply part of being a girl.

As we grew older, the lessons changed, but the message stayed the same.

Be patient.

Be understanding.

Keep the peace.

Don't complain.

Hold everything together.

You'll get through it.

By the time we become women, endurance no longer feels like a choice. It feels like our job.

And that's the problem.

Resilience is a remarkable human quality. It helps us survive grief, rebuild after disappointment and keep moving through life's most difficult seasons.

But somewhere along the way, resilience stopped being something women reached for in moments of crisis and became something society expected from us every single day.

We've become so accustomed to stories of women overcoming impossible odds that we've stopped asking why those odds exist at all.

When a woman is praised for doing the work of three people, why aren't we asking why she has to?

When she sacrifices her health to care for everyone else, why do we applaud her selflessness instead of questioning why support is so scarce?

When she burns out but still shows up, why is the headline about her strength instead of the system that pushed her there?

Perhaps our obsession with resilient women has distracted us from building lives where resilience isn't constantly required.





Imagine if, instead of raising girls to be strong enough to withstand anything, we raised them to know they don't have to tolerate everything.

Imagine if success wasn't measured by how much a woman could carry before she broke.

Imagine if rest wasn't something she had to earn.

Imagine if asking for help wasn't seen as weakness.

Imagine if softness wasn't treated as the opposite of strength.

This Women's Month, my hope isn't that women become more resilient.

My hope is that we become less impressed by unnecessary suffering.

Let's celebrate women for their brilliance, creativity, leadership, humour, tenderness, innovation and ambition. Let's admire their joy as much as we admire their perseverance.

And when a woman tells us she's tired, overwhelmed or struggling, let's resist the urge to remind her how strong she is.

Maybe the most compassionate response isn't, "You'll get through it."

Maybe it's, "You shouldn't have had to carry this alone." The women who marched in 1956 were called to be rocks because history demanded extraordinary courage of them. Their resilience deserves to be honoured, never diluted.

But honouring their resilience should never mean expecting every generation of women to carry the same weight in silence.

The women of 2026 deserve workplaces that don't reward burnout. Partnerships built on shared responsibility. Communities that don't mistake self-sacrifice for strength. They deserve the freedom to rest without guilt, to ask for help without shame and to be seen as whole human beings, not superheroes.

At the end of the day, as Gen Z so perfectly puts it, we're simply **"just girls."**

Not because we're weak or incapable, but because we're human.

We get tired. We change our minds. We need support. We deserve softness. We deserve joy. We deserve lives that don't constantly test how much we can endure before someone finally calls us resilient.

This Women's Month, let's honour the women who came before us by fighting for a future where resilience is no longer the expectation placed on every woman.

Modern Luxe in Motion: An Interview with Qulee

By Oratile Mokgatle

In an era where loud often overshadows lasting, Qulee is choosing a different path.

The South African neo-soul vocalist and songwriter is carving out a space where refinement meets authenticity, creating music that is intimate, timeless and deeply felt.

Rooted in soul and jazz with contemporary R&B influences, her warm, understated sound reflects an artist who values depth over noise.

As she steps into a new chapter of visibility, we sit down with Qulee to talk about artistry, creative evolution, and what modern luxury truly means in music.

YOUR MUSIC FEELS INTIMATE, RESTRAINED, AND DEEPLY INTENTIONAL. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THE SOUND THAT NOW DEFINES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

It was less of a discovery and more of an acceptance. I had to accept the fact that I carry a deep soul that requires me to feel in real time. Meaning everything I do is slow and intentional, which holds space, and that translates into the music.

HAVING PERFORMED FOR AUDIENCES ACROSS DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, HOW HAS INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE SHAPED THE WAY YOU WRITE AND PERFORM MUSIC TODAY?

The diversity was something I definitely needed, and it came at the right time in my career. One thing it taught me about myself is that vulnerability is my superpower, and it's what makes people lean in instead of turning the volume up. It also made me comfortable enough to lean toward a global sound.

SOUTH AFRICA HAS A RICH LEGACY OF SOUL AND JAZZ MUSICIANS. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE GENRE STANDS TODAY, AND WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT ITS FUTURE?

Seeing that we've witnessed an era where it seemed like the genre had ceased to exist, it's slowly coming alive like a slow burner, exactly where we need it. Artists coming up and rising to embrace it is exactly what's needed. The fact that this process isn't rushed but carefully crafted makes me feel like we're journeying toward a real takeover in the near future.



MANY BELIEVE SOULFUL MUSIC ISN'T AS COMMERCIALY CELEBRATED AS GENRES LIKE AMAPIANO. DO YOU THINK SOUL AND JAZZ ARTISTS ARE RECEIVING THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE?

Not at all. Jazz and soul artists exist as hidden gems, and maybe that's exactly what keeps the quality of the music rich.

YOUR MUSIC LEANS INTO SUBTLETY RATHER THAN SPECTACLE. IN AN INDUSTRY THAT OFTEN REWARDS LOUDER MOMENTS, WHAT KEEPS YOU COMMITTED TO CREATING MUSIC THAT FEELS TRUE TO YOU?

It was never about the numbers for me. It has always been about the impact.





YOU ALSO DIRECT MUCH OF YOUR OWN VISUAL WORK. HOW IMPORTANT IS VISUAL STORYTELLING IN HELPING AUDIENCES FULLY EXPERIENCE YOUR MUSIC?

As someone who has always struggled with communication, I sometimes feel like my music isn't expressive enough. The visual world helps me breathe life into the message.

WHAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BIGGEST LESSONS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY HAS TAUGHT YOU ABOUT PATIENCE, VISIBILITY, AND STAYING AUTHENTIC?

The main lesson is to be prepared to be treated like a nobody. It's a world of streams, follows, and numbers, not much about talent.

AS AN INDEPENDENT ARTIST, WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU THINK EMERGING SOUTH AFRICAN MUSICIANS FACE TODAY THAT DESERVE MORE ATTENTION?

Being seen and appreciated for the actual art. The industry always expects the finished product because of the nature of the business. There's nothing we can change about that, unfortunately.

This conversation needs to be had within the independent community. There are certain business decisions and dynamics we'll never understand, especially about the mechanics of the industry.

And honestly, we're just artists, and that should be our main focus. I know, I just want to sing, and having to worry about everything else is quite challenging. In a world where everything is a quick fix, we find ourselves racing against people with half the talent, only because their online footprint looks more promising.

YOU'RE ENTERING A NEW RELEASE ERA AFTER YEARS OF ARTISTIC GROWTH. WHAT CAN LISTENERS EXPECT FROM THIS NEXT BODY OF WORK, AND HOW DOES IT REFLECT THE WOMAN YOU'VE BECOME?

A reckoning with self. The sound has evolved to what it eventually would have sounded like. More storytelling, and this time I'm not shy about it. Expect a deeper dive into emotion, feeling, and truth.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT CREATING OR PERFORMING, WHAT INSPIRES YOU CREATIVELY, AND WHAT DOES A LIFE OF "MODERN LUXURY" LOOK LIKE FOR YOU OUTSIDE OF MUSIC?

I drink tea religiously, so I create in the kitchen too. Health and wellness are my biggest priorities and form a big part of my lifestyle. From whipping up some healthy, delicious recipes to daily, intentional movement, that's the only form of luxury I ever need.

Written By:

Portia Dieta

Is your hair *Getting the Care It Needs?*

As we reach the midpoint of the year, many of us take time to evaluate our goals, celebrate our achievements, and rethink the plans that haven't quite unfolded as expected. We reflect on our health, careers, finances, and personal growth, yet one area often left out of the conversation is the well-being of our hair.



Pause for a moment and ask yourself: Has your hair been receiving the care and attention it truly deserves? With demanding work schedules, family responsibilities, and the fast pace of everyday life, it's easy for healthy hair habits to slip through the cracks. Wash days are delayed, deep-conditioning sessions are skipped, and protective styles stay in longer than intended. Over time, our hair begins to show the effects of being placed on the back burner. The encouraging news is that every new season offers a fresh opportunity to start again.

A mid-year hair check-in isn't about striving for flawless hair or measuring your progress against someone else's. Instead, it's about becoming more intentional with your routine and making small, sustainable changes that promote healthier, stronger strands. Whether it's staying hydrated, moisturising regularly, trimming away damaged ends, protecting your hair while you sleep, or finding a routine that suits your lifestyle, every positive habit contributes to long-term results.

Healthy hair is the product of consistency rather than quick fixes. It requires patience, care, and a willingness to understand your hair's unique needs. Some seasons will bring noticeable growth and strength, while others may present challenges. Rather than viewing setbacks as failures, see them as valuable lessons that help you build a better relationship with your hair.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to look beyond your haircare routine and consider your overall well-being. Are you eating nourishing foods? Managing stress effectively? Making time to rest and recharge? Healthy hair often reflects a healthy body and mind, reminding us that true beauty begins from within. Celebrating your hair as far more than an accessory is important. It represents identity, confidence, heritage, and self-expression. Every texture, every curl pattern, and every strand tells a unique story that deserves to be honored with care and intention.

As you embrace the second half of the year, don't dwell on the routines you missed or the goals you haven't yet achieved. Instead, focus on the choices you can make starting today. Be patient with your progress, remain committed to your hair journey, and celebrate every milestone along the way. Lasting results come from the small acts of care repeated consistently over time.

A few mindful adjustments to your routine can have a lasting impact on the health and appearance of your hair. Here are some simple yet effective ways to help your crown thrive during the second half of the year.



- **Focus on Scalp Health**

Strong, healthy hair starts with a well-cared-for scalp. Make cleansing a regular part of your routine to remove dirt, excess oil, and product build-up while maintaining your scalp's natural balance. Adding a gentle scalp exfoliation every now and then can also encourage a healthier environment for hair growth.

- **Keep Your Hair Well Hydrated**

Moisture is essential for maintaining soft, resilient hair. Incorporate hydrating shampoos, nourishing conditioners, and regular deep-conditioning treatments into your regimen. Finish by sealing in moisture with products suited to your hair type, and remember that drinking enough water supports healthy hair from the inside out.



- **Protect Your Strands Every Day**

Protective styles can be beneficial when they're installed and maintained correctly. Avoid excessive tension on your hairline, allow your hair to rest between styles, and reduce friction while you sleep by using a satin or silk bonnet, scarf, or pillowcase.

- **Don't Skip Regularly Trims**

Removing damaged or split ends helps maintain healthier-looking hair and prevents further breakage. Scheduling trims every few months can improve your hair's overall condition and make length retention much easier.

- **Nourish Your Body**

Beautiful hair begins with good nutrition. A balanced diet rich in protein, healthy fats, iron, vitamins, and minerals provides the nutrients your hair needs to grow stronger and healthier. Caring for your overall wellbeing is one of the best investments you can make for your hair.

- **Build a Routine That Works for Your Hair**

Every hair journey is unique. Rather than following every new trend, take time to understand your hair's texture, porosity, and individual needs. Choosing products and techniques that complement your hair will produce far better results in the long run.

- **Enjoy the Process**

Healthy hair doesn't happen overnight. Celebrate every improvement, whether it's better moisture retention, reduced breakage, increased strength, or visible growth. Every small step you take today brings you closer to achieving the healthy hair you envision.

As you move into the second half of the year, let caring for your hair become a meaningful part of your self-care routine. Every intentional choice you make is an investment in healthier, stronger hair and the confidence that comes from embracing your crown with pride. By year's end, you'll thank yourself for every intentional decision you made to invest in healthier hair and, in the process, a more confident you.



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