



## Shannon Esra

Actor | Voice Over Artist

Growing up in Johannesburg, Shannon Esra was cast in her first professional acting role at 16, playing Siri in the feature film *I Dreamed of Africa*, alongside Kim Basinger and Daniel Craig.

In 2003, Shannon graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand and found herself debuting in her first professional theatre production at Pieter Torien's Monte Casino Theatre that same year. It may come as a surprise that the theatre is where she first cut her teeth; but it was her portrayal of Neets in Dorothy Ann Gould's 2004 theatre production "*Japes*", which garnered Shannon The Naledi Award for Best Performance by a Newcomer/Breakthrough (Female), as well as a Fleur du Cup nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

In 2007, Shannon made Bollywood history by being the first Caucasian female in a starring role, which saw her in a star-studded cast, as one of the six heroines in the Bollywood film *Salaam-E-Ishq*.

Shannon's TV credits include an array of colourful characters. From the misguided, cult-following, self-mutilating girlfriend of Kyle Ortlepp, Yvette Meyer in *Isidingo*; the lead role of Caz O'Donough in MNET's drama series *Snitch*; to the main credited cast member in the second and third seasons of the SABC3 drama series *Hard Copy*, playing hard-edged journalist Kim Smollen; as well as the dynamic, whip smart Samantha Mazur in *The Lab*. Shannon starred alongside Eric Stoltz, playing his estranged and embittered ex-wife, in the International Sci-Fi mini-series *The Triangle*; and she also played the romantic lead, Katie, in Darryl James Roodt's rugby feature film *Number Ten*.

In 2015, Shannon returned to *Isidingo* where she played Angelique Scott (Indeed, she's played two different characters on the same show!). Shannon also starred alongside Daniel Radcliffe in BBC 2's highly anticipated, *The Game Changers* in late 2015, and midway through 2016, Shannon was on set with Lawrence Fishburne, in the BET Biopic, *Madiba*.

In 2020, Shannon made unprecedented South African television history with her character Sandra Stein, the ruthless and sought-after criminal attorney. This character is so popular that writers and producers have supported her character crossing over to various shows on the Mzansi Magic platform – a first for South African TV! Sandra Stein has crossed over between *The Queen*, *The River*, *The Throne* and most recently, the latest Mzansi offering, *Gomora*.

Currently, Shannon can be seen on MNET's *Still Breathing*, the gripping and deeply moving drama series about a group of old friends who have drifted apart but are suddenly brought together when tragedy strikes. Shannon is almost unrecognisable in her vulnerable, empathic and poignant portrayal of Candice Burton.

Effusive, dynamic, charming and wildly passionate about her craft, Shannon is not merely an actress who can portray a wide array of characters; she is also an outstanding public speaker, and voice artist, making her an asset to any event, production or commercial.

## Performance Resume

# Shannon Esra

### TRAINING:

2000 - 2003 Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts Witwatersrand University  
Classical Theatre Training, On Camera, Physical Theatre

### THEATRE:

2012	How I learned to Drive	Chorus	(Santa Monica Rep. L.A)
2003	Japes	Neets	(Dir. Dorothy Ann Gould)
2003	Medea	Chorus	(Dir. Brett Bailey)
2003	Glengarry Glen Ross	Roma	(Sasha McDonald)
2002	Six Characters in Search of an Author	Various	(Sarah Roberts)
2002	Twelfth Night	Viola	(Malcolm Purkey)
2002	Cleansed	Grace	(Jess Van Onselen)
2002	Shattered	Woman	(Steven Feinstein)
2002	Twelfth Night	Viola	(Malcolm Purkey)
2002	Cleansed	Grace	(Jess Van Onselen)
2001	Edmond	The Wife/Glenna	(Sasha McDonald)
2000-2002	Venus	Mother Showman/Variou	(Aja Marneweck)
2000	My Left Breast	Susan	(Na'ama Oren)

### TELEVISION:

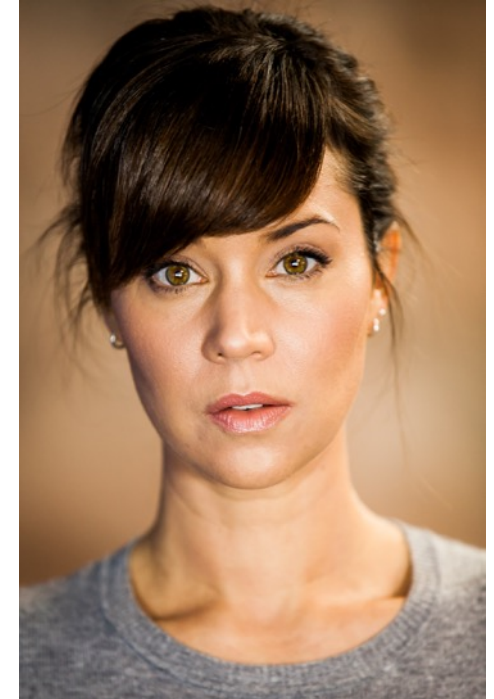
2020	Gomora (S1)	Role: Sandra Stein	RSA / Seriti Films
2019 - 2020	The Queen (S4)	Role: Sandra Stein	RSA / Ferguson Films
2019	Still Breathing	Role: Candice Burton	RSA / Bbzee Films
2019	The Professionals	Role: Zora's Mother	Saint Moon Hill Productions
2019	The Republic (S1)	Role: Marleze van Rensburg	RSA
2019	The Throne (S1)	Role: Sandra Stein	RSA
2018 - 2019	The River (S1 & 2)	Role: Sandra Stein	RSA / Msanzi Magic
2017 - 2019	The Queen (S2 & 3)	Role: Sandra Stein	RSA / Ferguson Films
2016	Madiba	Role: Journalist	USA / BET / dir. Kevin Hooks
2015 - 2017	Isidingo	Role: Angelique	RSA / Endemol / dir. Various
2010	Misbehave	Role: Rachel	GER / All in All Productions / dir. Peter Ladkani
2008	The Lab (S2)	Role: Samantha Mazur	RSA / Curious Pictures / dir. Various
2008	Wild at Heart (S3)	Role: Angie	UK / ITV / dir. Various
2007 - 2008	Life is Wild (S1)	Role: Lauren	USA / The CW / dir. Various
2006 - 2007	Hard Copy (S2 & 3)	Role: Kim Smollen	RSA / Quizzical Pictures / dir. Various
2005	The Triangle (Mini Series)	Role: Sally Thomas	USA / Sci-Fi Channel
2004	Snitch (S1)	Role: Caz O'Donogh	RSA / Mnet / dir. Various
2004	Isidingo (S1)	Role: Yette Meyer	RSA / Endemol / dir. Various
2003	Yizo Yizo (S3)	Role: Robbery Daughter	RSA / Bomb / dir. Various

### FILM:

2015	Gamechangers	Role: Jen Kolbe	UK / BBC / dir. Owen Harris
2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Take	Role: 'Movie' Lindsey	USA / Ubiquitous Fil Prod / dir. John Suits
2007	Salaam-E-Ishq	Role: Stephanie	Indian / Orion Pictures / dir. Nikhil Advani

# OSM

OWEN S. MANAGEMENT



Hair : Brunette  
Height : 1,70m  
Eyes : Dark Green  
Language : English

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### FILM CONTINUED:

2006	Number 10	Role: Katie	RSA / Ster-Kinekor Pics / dir. Darrel J. Roodt
2000	I Dreamed of Africa	Role: Siri	USA / Sony Pictures / dir. Hugh Hudson

### COMMERCIALS:

2019	Capitec
2019	NBC Universal TV
2018	DotSure
2018	DSTV
2018	SupaQuick – Internet only Campaign (1 <sup>st</sup> renewal until Dec 2019)

### SPECIAL TALENTS:

ACCENTS: American (Various dialects), British (Various dialects), Irish, Russian, Scottish, French, Israeli

SINGING: Mezzo Alto

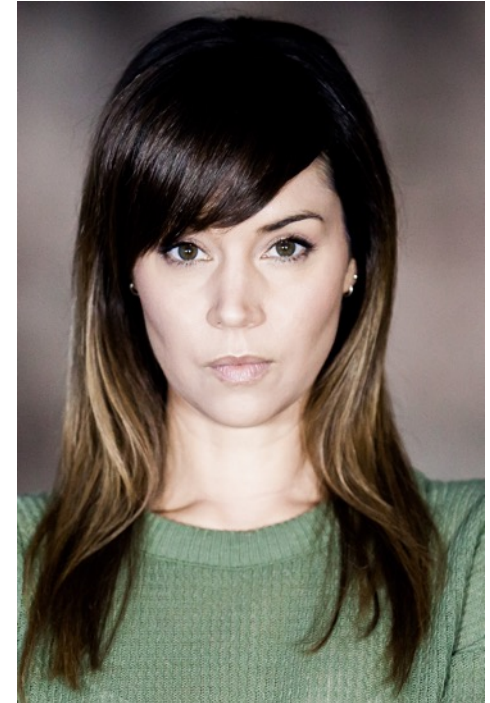
SPORTS: Fencing (Stage Combat), Advanced Scuba Diving, Horse Riding, Karate, Boxing, Swimming, Cycling, Rowing

### AWARDS:

2006	The Awesome Women of 2006 Cosmopolitan – Celebrating Outstanding Young Achievers
2004	Naledi Winner for <b>Best Performance by a Newcomer</b> in <i>Japes</i>
2004	Fleur Du Cap Nomination for <b>Best Supporting Actress</b> in <i>Japes</i>
2003	Leotine Sagan Award

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