



Shannon Esra

Actress | Voice Over Artist



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.

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 2021, Shannon made unprecedented South African television history with her character Sandra Stein, the ruthless and most sought-after criminal attorney, who represents various characters across the Mzansi Magic platform. Sandra Stein has crossed over between *The Queen*, *The River*, *The Throne*, *Gomora*, as well as MNET's *Legacy*.

Shannon also headlined MNET's hit show *Lioness*, a family thriller about a woman who loses her children, her lover and her freedom when she is framed for fraud committed by her husband before his death; only to discover, eight years later (after serving half her jail sentence), while trying to reunite with her son and daughters that he is still alive. She fights to prove her innocence, set the record straight and get her children back. Shannon's portrayal of Samantha Hugo (*Lioness*) earned her a SAFTA NOMINATION for Best Actress in a TV Drama.

In March of 2023, Shannon starred in the hilarious and off-beat dramedy romance alongside Kate Liquorish, Wayne van Rooyen and Rea Rangaka on Netflix.

In 2020, Shannon starred alongside an all-star cast in 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, causing forgotten wounds to break open, old flames of passion to rekindle and buried secrets to finally be uncovered. Shannon is almost unrecognisable in her vulnerable portrayal of Candice Burton.

Shannon's other TV credits include 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*; she was a 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 Samantha Mazur in *The Lab*. Shannon returned to *Isidingo* in 2015 where she played Angelique Scott (yup, she's played two different characters on the same show!); 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 2007, Esra 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 also starred alongside Daniel Radcliffe in BBC 2's highly anticipated, *The Game Changers* in late 2015. Midway through 2016, Shannon was on set with Lawrence Fishburne, in the BET Biopic, *Madiba*.

Performance Resume

Shannon Esra

TRAINING:

2000 - 2003 Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts Witwatersrand University

THEATRE:

2023	Air France Industrial Theatre	Multiple
2012	How I learned to Drive	Chorus
2003	Japes	Neets
2003	Medea	Chorus
2003	Glengarry Glen Ross	Roma
2002	Six Characters in Search of an Author	Various
2002	Twelfth Night	Viola
2002	Cleansed	Grace
2002	Shattered	Woman
2002	Twelfth Night	Viola
2002	Cleansed	Grace
2001	Edmond	The Wife/Glenna
2000-2002	Venus	Mother Showman/Variou
2000	My Left Breast	Susan

TELEVISION:

2023	The River (S6)	Role: Sandra Stein
2022	Lioness (S2)	Role: Samantha
2020 - 2022	The River (S3 - S5)	Role: Sandra Stein
2021	Gomora (S2)	Role: Sandra Stein
2021	Legacy (S1 & 2)	Role: Sandra Stein
2020	Lioness (S1)	Role: Samantha
2020	Gomora (S1)	Role: Sandra Stein
2019 - 2022	The Queen (S4 - S6)	Role: Sandra Stein
2019	Still Breathing	Role: Candice Burton
2019	The Professionals	Role: Zora's Mother
2019	The Republic (S1)	Role: Marleze van Rensburg
2019	The Throne (S1)	Role: Sandra Stein
2018 - 2019	The River (S1 & 2)	Role: Sandra Stein
2017 - 2019	The Queen (S2 & 3)	Role: Sandra Stein
2016	Madiba	Role: Journalist
2015 - 2017	Isidingo	Role: Angelique
2010	Misbehave	Role: Rachel
2008	The Lab (S2)	Role: Samantha Mazur
2008	Wild at Heart (S3)	Role: Angie
2007 - 2008	Life is Wild (S1)	Role: Lauren
2006 - 2007	Hard Copy (S2 & 3)	Role: Kim Smollen
2005	The Triangle (Mini Series)	Role: Sally Thomas
2004	Snitch (S1)	Role: Caz O'Donough
2004	Isidingo (S1)	Role: Yette Meyer
2003	Yizo Yizo (S3)	Role: Robbery Daughter

Classical Theatre Training, On Camera, Physical Theatre

(Steven Feinstein)
(Santa Monica Rep. L.A)
(Dir. Dorothy Ann Gould)
(Dir. Brett Bailey)
(Sasha McDonald)
(Sarah Roberts)
(Malcolm Purkey)
(Jess Van Onselen)
(Steven Feinstein)
(Malcolm Purkey)
(Jess Van Onselen)
(Sasha McDonald)
(Aja Marneweck)
(Na'ama Oren)

RSA / Msanzi Magic
RSA / Ochre Moving Pictures / dir. Various
RSA / Msanzi Magic
RSA / Seriti Films
RSA / Tshedja Pictures
RSA / Ochre Moving Pictures / dir. Jozua Malherbe
RSA / Seriti Films
RSA / Ferguson Films
RSA / Bbzee Films / dir. Johnny Barbuzano
Saint Moon Hill Productions
RSA
RSA
RSA / Msanzi Magic
RSA / Ferguson Films
USA / BET / dir. Kevin Hooks
RSA / Endemol / dir. Various
GER / All in All Productions / dir. Peter Ladkani
RSA / Curious Pictures / dir. Various
UK / ITV / dir. Various
USA / The CW / dir. Various
RSA / Quizzical Pictures / dir. Various
USA / Sci-Fi Channel
RSA / Mnet / dir. Various
RSA / Endemol / dir. Various
RSA / Bomb / dir. Various

OSM

OWEN S. MANAGEMENT



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

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FILM EXPERIENCE:

2022	Do Your Worst	Role: Sondra	Netflix / Bingola Media / dir. Samantha Nell
2015	Gamechangers	Role: Jen Kolbe	UK / BBC / dir. Owen Harris
2011	2 nd Take	Role: 'Movie' Lindsey	USA / Ubiquitous Fil Prod / dir. John Suits
2007	Salaam-E-Ishq	Role: Stephanie	Indian / Orion Pictures / dir. Nikhil Advani
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:

2020 & 2021	Dotsure
2019	Capitec
2019	NBC Universal TV
2018	DotSure
2018	DSTV
2018	SupaQuick – Internet only Campaign (1 st renewal until Dec 2019)

SPECIAL TALENTS:

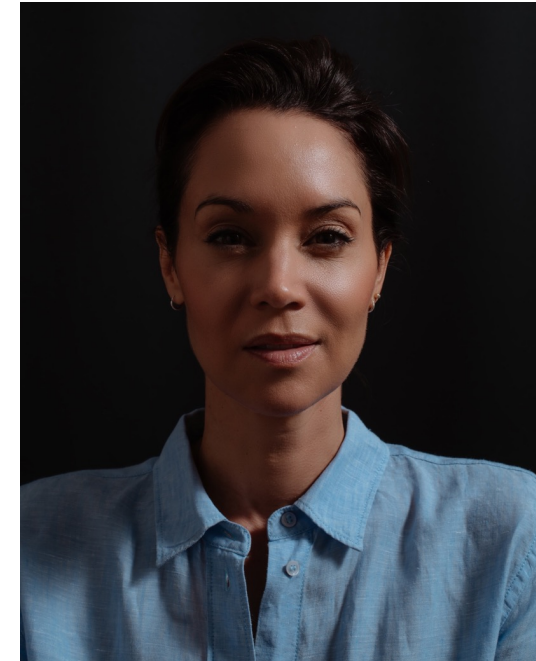
ACCENTS: American (Various dialects), British (Various dialects), Irish, Russian, Scottish, French, Israeli

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 Best Performance by a Newcomer in <i>Japes</i>
2004	Fleur Du Cap Nomination for Best Supporting Actress in <i>Japes</i>
2003	Leotine Sagan Award



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