



## 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*.

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.

Shannon's role as the lead, Samantha, in *Lioness* a gripping drama series for MNET aired in January 2021, MNET renewed the show for a second season which aired in early 2023. You can catch the full season on Showmax.

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

### 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/Various
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

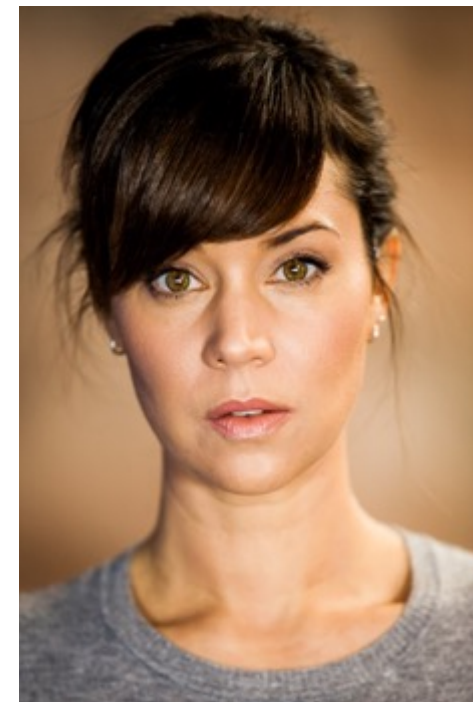
Classical Theatre Training, On Camera, Physical Theatre

(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 / Tshedza 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

## Performance Resume

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### FILM EXPERIENCE:

2022 Do Your Worst  
2015 Gamechangers  
2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Take  
2007 Salaam-E-Ishq  
2006 Number 10  
2000 I Dreamed of Africa

Role: Sondra  
Role: Jen Kolbe  
Role: 'Movie' Lindsey  
Role: Stephanie  
Role: Katie  
Role: Siri

Netflix / Bingola Media / dir. Samantha Nell  
UK / BBC / dir. Owen Harris  
USA / Ubiquitous Fil Prod / dir. John Suits  
Indian / Orion Pictures / dir. Nikhil Advani  
RSA / Ster-Kinekor Pics / dir. Darrel J. Roodt  
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<sup>st</sup> renewal until Dec 2019)

### SPECIAL TALENTS:

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

SINGING: Mezzo Alto

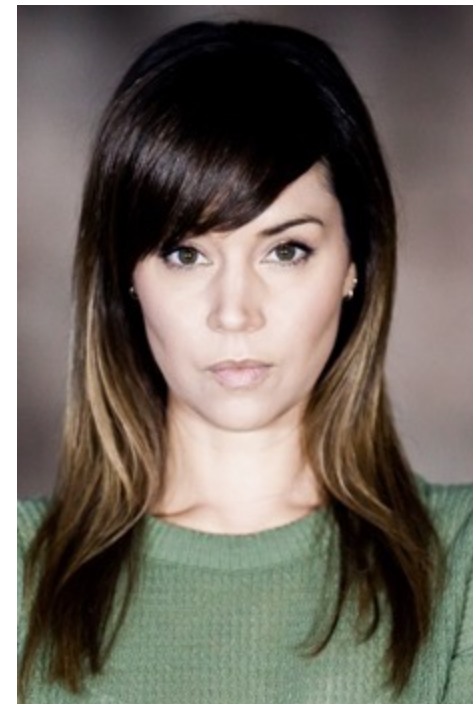
SPORTS: Fencing (Stage Combat), Advanced Scuba Diving, Horse Riding, Karate, Boxing, Swimming, Cycling, Rowing

### AWARDS:

2006 The Awesome Women of 2006 Cosmopolitan – Celebrating Outstanding Young Achievers  
2004 Naledi Winner for **Best Performance by a Newcomer** in *Japes*  
2004 Fleur Du Cap Nomination for **Best Supporting Actress** in *Japes*  
2003 Leotie Sagan Award

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