



Chi Mhende

Actress | Voice Over Artist | MC

Chi Mhende is a Zimbabwean born performer and voice over artist.

She has worked extensively in the theatre performing leading roles, in both Shakespearean and Original works, on renowned Joburg and Cape Town stages. She has a background in Art Therapy having worked as a drama practitioner for the Zakheni Arts Foundation and as an Improv artist with the Bonfire Theatre Company. Woven into this freelancer's game are appearances on international television shows namely; Mad Dogs, Homeland and Dominion.

In 2014 Chi received the Best Actress Award at the Durban International Film Festival for her lead role in the feature film Love The One You Love, directed by Jenna Bass. This role also led to an African Movie Academy Award nomination for Promising Young Artist.

In July 2015, Chi accepted the role of Wandile Radebe on SABC 1's Generations: The Legacy, a role that came with much controversy and chatter, questioning the producers' casting of a female performer in a male role. In November 2016 the character was revealed as Transgender. The actress, who describes herself as a "full on method performer" underwent a gruelling transformation which involved the strapping of her breasts and forgoing months of grooming rituals in order to deliver a body unlike her own, and create what Mzansi came to know as a very "pretty, yet sexually confused young MAN". An advocate and die-hard soldier for human rights, Chi was delighted to portray this ground-breaking role (the first of its kind on African television), an opportunity she defines as "any artist's dream come true and the absolute point and purpose of our existence as storytellers."

In February 2017 Chi was named the SA Ambassador of the charity organisation Dramatic Need, a centre that provides an artistic outlet for children in the village of Rammulotsi, Freestate. Art based workshops and stories from the young people have delivered the internationally celebrated show The Children's Monologues. Previously performed at The Royal Court by international stars such as Nicole Kidman and Benedict Cumberbatch, as well as at the Market Theatre in a magical 2016 concert opened by the late great Hugh Masekela. In November 2017 the children's stories were again honoured at the Market Theatre, both having been directed by James Ngcobo with the 2017 show being staged by an all female cast. Thembisa Mdoda, Mmabatho Montsho, Cindy Swanepoel, Natasha Sutherland, Fiona Ramsay and other noteworthy artists where amongst this star studdedcast. Chi having performed with both the 2016 and 2017 players. In an international display, staged only hours later, the exact same script went up on the Carnegie Hall stage, directed by the charity's long-time friend, trustee and sole international director of the Monologues, Academy Award Winner Danny Boyle.

Chi made her return to the theatre in the July of 2017 restaging of Sue Pam-Grant's comedy drama Chasing Chairs, opposite Theo Landey. Later that year, celebrating the Panto season's 30th anniversary, Chi made her Joburg Theatre debut Janice Honeyman's Pinocchio, as the villainous Pussy Galore The Cat.

In March 2019, Chi left Generations as an actor and began training as a multicam director on the show, under mentor and Principal Director, Ronnie Lennox. In May 2019 she joined the cast of Africa 's first ever Netflix Original Queen Sono as SOG Director General, Miriro Dube.

With more than a decade long voice-over career, having voiced numerous local and international documentaries, TV and Radio campaigns, Chi has been the station voice for 702, Cape Talk and Fine Music Radio.

Performance Resume

Chi Mhende

TRAINING:

2009 AFDA – BA Live Performance
2011 – 2012 Zakheni Art Therapist/Drama Practitioner

THEATRE EXPERIENCE:

2022 Fordsburg's Finest Role: Thandi
2017 Pinocchio (musical) Role: Pussy Galore
2017 Children's Monologues Role: "Palesa"
2017 Chasing Chairs Role: Kat (Lead)
2016 Children's Monologues Role: "Loss"
2014 Slowly Role: Calf
2014 Richard III Role: Catesby & Brackenbury
2013 Nothing But The Truth Role: Mandisa
2013 Special Thanks to the Guests From Afar Role: Thabisa
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2012 Waiting for the Barbarians Role:
2012 A Midsummer Night's Dream Role: Titania/Hippolyta
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2012 The Comedy of Errors Role: Solinus & Nel
2011 The Taming of the Shrew Role: Phyllippa
2011 Othello Role: Emilia
2011 The 3 Little Pigs (musical) Role: Aunty Joan
2010 The Quiet Violence of Dreams Role: Mmabatho
2010 Romeo & Juliet Role: Lady Capulet
2010 Armageddon Role: Abilene (Lead)
2006 Private Lives Role: Amanda
2005 Who Are You? (Sketch Piece)
2005 Aladdin Role: Princess Jasmin
2004 Volpone Role: Her, Aphrodite

TELEVISION EXPERIENCE:

2022 Blood & Water S3 Role: Thato
2020 Queen Sono Role: Miriro Dube
2015/9 Generations: The Legacy Role: Wandi Radebe (Principal)
2015 Dominion Role: Colonel Blake
2015/6 Jamillah & Aladdin Role: Physician
2014 Homeland Role: CIA Staffer/Aide to Martha Boyd
2012 Mad Dogs Role: Bar Manager
2009 Stokvel VI Role: Bodyguard

Theatre on the Bay & Montecasino
Joburg Theatre
Market Theatre
Market Theatre
Market Theatre
Artscape/NAF 2014
Artscape Theatre
Artscape Theatre
Grahamstown Arts Fest.
Grahamstown Arts Fest.
Baxter Theatre
Grahamstown Arts Fest
Artscape Theatre
Maynardville Theatre
Maynardville Theatre
Cape Heart Theatre Co.
Baxter Theatre
Artscape Theatre
Artscape Theatre

Harare International Festival of the Arts
Reps Theatre (Zimbabwe)

Dir. Bobby Heaney
Dir. Janice Honeyman
Dir. James Ngcobo
Dir. Sue Pam-Grant
Dir. James Ngcobo
Dir. Geoff Hyland
Dir. Lara Bye
Dir. Fatima Dik
Dir. Matthew Wild
Dir. Matthew Wild
Dir. Alexandre Marine
Dir: Fred Abrahamse
Dir. Matthew Wild
Dir. Roy Sargeant
Dir. Mary Dreyer
Dir. Elton John Duffy
Dir. Fatima Dike
Dir. Roy Sargeant
Dir. Karl Dorn & T.Taute
Dir. Simon De Swardt

Dir. Adrian Stanley
Dir. John Dennison

Dir. Various
Dir. Kagiso Lediga
MMSV / MFUNDI VUNDLA
Dir. Millicent Shelton
Dir. Catherine Cooke
Dir. Carl Franklin
Dir: Adrian Shergold
Penguin Films/SABC

OSM

OWEN S. MANAGEMENT



Hair: Dark Brown
Eyes: Dark Brown
Height: 1.74m / 5.9ft
Languages: English, Shona, French
(Intermediate)

Performance Resume

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FILM EXPERIENCE:

2021 Hello	Role: Sonya	Feature Film	
2015 The Generation of Consequence	Role: Abused Mother	Short Film/Music Video	Dir. Paul Speirs for Spoek Mathambo's "Damn" video
2015 Detour	Role: Receptionist	Feature Film	Dir. Christopher Smith
2014 Lazy Susan	Role: Susan (Lead)	24 min short	Dir. Stephen Abbott
2014 Scribblings	Role: Viva	24 min Short	Dir. Oscar Barby
2013 Love The One You Love	Role: Terri (Lead)*	Feature Film	Dir. Jenna Bass
2009 The Tunnel	Role: Monica	Short Film	Dir. Jenna Bass
2009 My Living Memory	Role: Betty	Short Film	
2005 Evil in Our Midst	Role: Cynthia Mate	Feature Film	Dir. Anopa Makaka
2006 – 2008	Performed in a variety of Short Films as part of her Film Training		

CORPORATE EXPERIENCE:

2018 Altron	Role: Director and performer	4 part presentation for Altron division - BYTES	
2014 The Hypatiad	Role: Hypatia	LIASA Conference 2014	Dir. Celia Musikanth
2012 Capitec Bank	Corporate Training	Platsak Produksies	
2010/11 Bonfire Theatre Company	Improv Theatre Skits/Drama Therapy		
2009 Service Excellence	10 Episode Corporate Series		Dir. Steve Hoffman

COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE:

2019 Downy Fabric Softener	East Africa
2013 Malta Guinness	Sub Sahara- Africa
2011 Pick n Pay	South Africa
2010 Pepsi	USA, Canada & Mexico
1992 Bonita Maragrine	Zimbabwe
1990 Stork Margarine	Zimbabwe

MC EXPERIENCE:

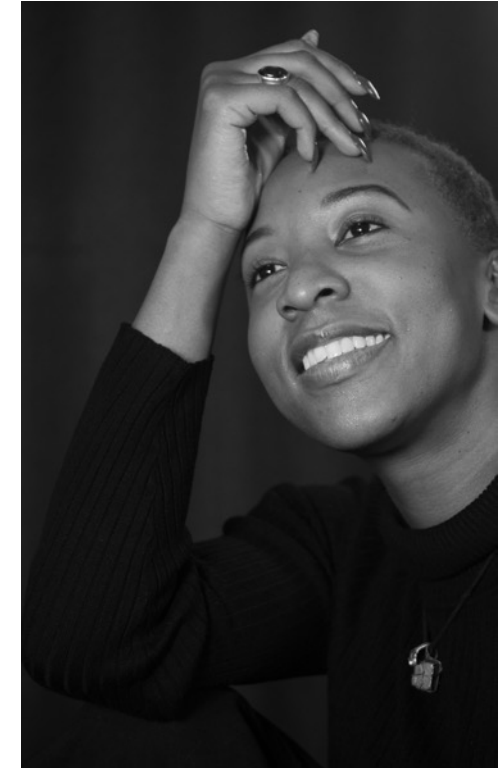
2015 LoveLIFE	Leadership Academy Breakfast Launch
2015 TEDx	Table Mountain: <i>Journeys of Excellence</i>

OTHER EXPERIENCE:

2018	Guest Presenter: 2018 Zimbabwe Achiever Awards
2017 – present	*Dramatic Need Charity Ambassador* and Masterclass Facilitator
2017	Presenter and Acting Workshop Facilitator ZIFFT FILM FEST 2017
2016	Guest Presenter : Mbokodo Women's Awards
2016	Guest Presenter : Chevrolet Feathers Awards
2014 – present	Board Director for Rutima Services (Zimbabwe)

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OTHER EXPERIENCE CONTINUED:

2013	Djembe drum Instructor/Storyteller for Rhythm Rascals (ages 3- 8)
2012	Producer/Director/Actor of "Past Meets Present", a drama production for the Dominican Convent's 120 years anniversary/celebratory event (Zimbabwe)
2012	Eisteddfod drama tutor (Zimbabwe)
2011	Drama Practitioner/Writer for a 20 week drama-therapy project run in the Cape Flats by The Zakheni Arts Therapy Foundation
2009-11	Performer – Bonfire Improv Theatre Company

AWARDS:

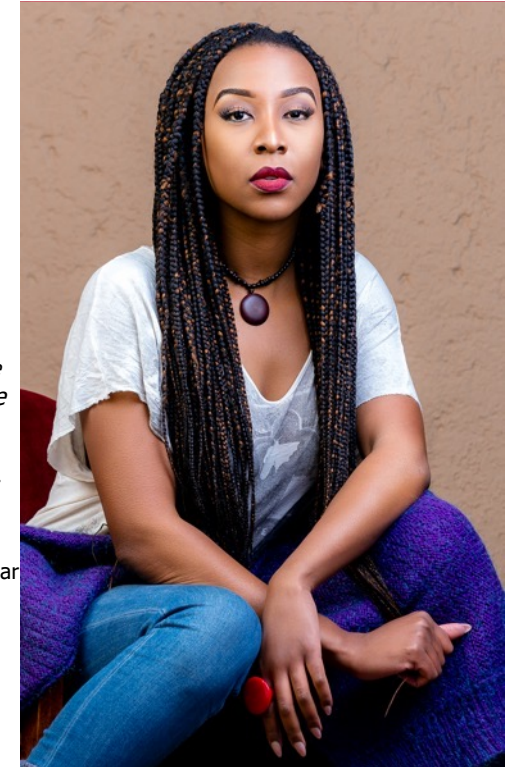
2017	Intombie Young Women in Business Awards	Recipient of the <i>Woman In Film</i> Award
2016	Zimbabwe Achievers Award	Recipient of the Simba Mhere <i>Media Personality of the Year</i>
2016	You Spectacular Awards	Nominee – <i>Favourite Actress</i>
2015	African Academy Awards	Nominee - <i>Best Young/Promising Actor – Love The One You Love</i>
2014	Durban International Film Festival	<i>Best Actress</i> (International Category) - <i>Love The One You Love</i>
2008	AFDA	<i>Best Actress</i> of the year
Nominated for Best Supporting Actress for role in Aladdin (REPS THEATRE – HARARE)		
2004	Dominican Convent's	Awarded the Lady Wallensky Trophy - Best Actress of the Year
2004	Dominican Convent's	Awarded the Sister Georgina Cup - <i>Speech & Drama</i>
2004	Dominican Convent's	Awarded Full Colours for Drama
2003 & 2004	Harare National Allied Arts Festival	Awarded the Wallbridge Award for Best Shakespearean Item of the Year

Skills:

Singing (Alto)
Dance: Ballroom
Swimming (Competitive)
Basketball, Tennis, Horseback Riding, Painting, Photography, Drum/Djembe Storytelling, Fire Poi

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