



## Bonnie Mbuli

Actress | Presenter | MC | Voice Artist | Author

Bonnie Mbuli was born in Soweto, South Africa.

She was discovered by an actor's agent when she was just thirteen years old. Her first job - shortly thereafter - was in a television series titled **Viva Families**. This was followed by cameo roles in various international productions: **Born Free 2** and **Cave Girls**. Bonnie went on to present several magazine programs for television including **Teleschool**, **Zapmag**, **Technics Heart of the Beat** and **Limits Unlimited**.

In 2001, Bonnie was cast as the lead role in the hit television soap opera, **Backstage** aimed at the South African youth market. She was later given the role of Portia in the series **Gazlam** and afterward as a detective in the series **Zero Tolerance**.

Bonnie hosted a talk show in South Africa on SABC 1 entitled **True-Life**, won a role in the mini-series **Homecoming**, and appeared in two Canadian television series: **Charlie Jade** (a sci-fi epic) and **Scouts Safari** (an adventure series set in the African wild). She had a starring role in **Home Affairs** for Penguin Films: a popular thirteen-part series about the lives of five very different women. Bonnie went on to appear in television series **Soul City** and **Hillside** (for SABC 1 and SABC 2); she played the lead in both. She was then cast in the ground-breaking series, **The Philanthropist** for NBC (later on SABC 3), a prime time American action drama TV series.

She has played the role of singer Dolly Radebe in the film **Drum**; the lead role in the Danish film **Blinded Angels**, directed by the acclaimed Jon Bang Carlsen; and she starred opposite Tim Robbins and Derek Luke in the Phillip Noyce Universal Pictures blockbuster **Catch a Fire**. The Washington Post had this to say about Bonnie's performance in **Catch a Fire**: "*South Africa's Henna Is 'On Fire'*". She also played Zindzi Mandela in Clint Eastwood's film **Invictus** about Nelson Mandela's involvement in the 2010 rugby World Cup which also starred Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon.

Bonnie is more than just a household name in South Africa: she was a child star who won the hearts of South Africans across the country and continues to blaze trails as an inspiring role model. Her influence reaches beyond South Africa: she is said to possess a *'talent reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn'* by the New York Times. Well-travelled, highly articulate and possessed of an agile mind, Bonnie carries herself with an elegance, grace and élan evident to all. She is frequently on the cover of South Africa's glossiest magazines and continues to feature on the many current and popular radio and television shows.

This multi-talented performer is also a skilled MC for high-profile events, and her voice – a velvety alto – is much in demand as a voice-over artist.

Bonnie has starred in e.tv's **Rhythm City** in a recurring role, playing the intriguing, powerful and sometimes crazy Nozipho; on Mzansi Magic's drama series **Rockville** as the feisty Dudu and on ETV's ground-breaking crime investigation series **Traffic**: the first of its kind to star a female on South African television.

In 2015, Bonnie starred opposite Sir Kenneth Charles Branagh as police woman Grace Mthembu in the popular British series **Wallander**.

Bonnie came third on M-Net's popular television show, **Survivor Maldives - "Celebs vs Plebs"**. On **Survivor**, this beloved star came across as a positive and nurturing soul and with a strong mental spiritual and physical backbone.

After a three year stint as host on the South African lifestyle show **Afternoon Express** which has one of the largest viewerships in South African television, Bonnie returned to the small screen with a bang starring in Season 1 and 2 of BBC One's **Noughts and Crosses** where she plays the formidable Jasmine. On South African television, she currently stars in Season 2 of Mzansi Magic's riveting political drama, **The Republic**.

Bonnie is also a published author: her memoir **Eyebags and Dimples** is a best seller in South Africa and is available in most major bookstores nationwide.

Community and social development are passions very close to Bonnie's heart. Her has done extensive work with abandoned children and in South African orphanages has been influential in her has become a spokesperson for **Adoption Voice S.A.**

Bonnie is one of the best-loved and most appealing stars in South African. She has an undisputedly august and professional reputation as one of the most multi-talented celebrities in the South African entertainment industry.

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### TELEVISION EXPERIENCE:

2021	Noughts & Crosses S2	Role: Jasmine Hardley	Mammoth Screen   BBC
2019	Vagrant Queen (Eps 1, 3, 9, 10)	Role: Xevelyn	Blue Ice Pictures   Syfy
2019	Noughts & Crosses S1	Role: Jasmine Hardley	BBC One
2019	Secrets	Role: Michelle Soto	dir. Sherry Hormann
2015	Wallander	Role: Det. Grace Mthembu	BBC
2014	Traffic	Role: Lungi (Lead)	Etv
2013 – 2014	Rockville	Role: Dudu (Lead)	Mzansi Magic
2011 – 2012	Rhythm City	Role: Guest Starring	Etv
2009	The Philanthropist	Role: Guest Starring	NBC (USA TV)
2009	Soul City	Role: Zanele (Lead)	SABC 1
2006	Hillside	Role: Bontle (Lead)	SABC 2
2005	Home Affairs	Role: Ntombi (Lead)	SABC 3
2004	Zero tolerance	Role: Grace	Cop Series
2004	Charlie Jade	Role: Papa Louis	Canadian sci-fi series
2003	Gazlam 2	Role: Portia (Lead)	Drama Series
2003	Scout's Safari	Role: Young Bride	Canadian TV Series
2002	Cave Girl	Role: Warrior	BBC
2001 – 2002	Backstage	Role: Zandi (Lead)	Etv
1998	Addicted to Life	Role: Lead	Youth Drama Series
1994	Viva Families 2	Role: Lead	Educational Drama
1994	African Skies	Role: -	Canadian Drama

### FILM EXPERIENCE:

2020	Barakat	Role: Gwen	dir. Amy Jephtha
2009	Invictus	Role: Zindzi Mandela	dir. Clint Eastwood
2005	Catch a Fire	Role: Precious (Female Lead)	dir. Phillip Noyce
2005	Blinded Angels	Role: Elizabeth (Lead)	dir. Jon Bang Carlsen
2004	Drum*	Role: Dara	dir. Zola Maseko
2004	Homecoming**	Role: Nana	dir. Norman Maake
1996	Born Free 2	Role: Young African Girl	

### PRESENTING EXPERIENCE:

2016 – 2019	Afternoon Express
2003 – 2004	True Life (Women's Magazine Programme)
1997 – 2001	Technics Heart of the Beat (Music Show)
1996 – 1997	Limits Unlimited (Youth - Magazine Programme)
1994 – 1996	Zap Mag (Youth - Magazine Programme)
1992 – 1994	Teleschool (Edutainment)

### SPECIAL SKILLS:

Accents: South African, British, Standard American

Sport: Hockey & Running

Other: Singing



Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 1.75m  
Languages: English, Zulu (1st Lang)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lang - Afrikaans and Sotho