



Swankie Mafoko

Actress | Presenter | Voice Artist | Facilitator | Cultural story teller

Swankie Lerato Mafoko is a celebrated South African actress, facilitator, and cultural storyteller whose work spans television, theatre, film, radio, and community engagement. Born in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and trained in Johannesburg at the National School of the Arts (NSA) and the University of the Witwatersrand (Honours in Dramatic Arts), Swankie brings both rigorous craft and lived sensitivity to her work.

Audiences widely recognise her for her standout role as Lydia Twala in the hit Netflix Original series *How to Ruin Christmas*, where she starred alongside industry legends Nandi Nyembe and Desmond Dube. Her screen credits also include *Isono* (BET Africa), *uMbalu* (eVOD), the SAFTA-nominated film *Tiro*, SABC 2's *Muvhango* (2025), and numerous other SABC productions such as *Keeping Score*, *Single Galz*, *Rented Family*, and *Shreds & Dreams*.

With over 13 years of theatre experience, Swankie has performed in and contributed to powerful productions that interrogate youth identity, gender-based violence, mental health, and women's empowerment—many of which were commissioned by the NFVF. She was part of the internationally acclaimed production *For Colored Girls* by Ntozake Shange, which premiered at the Joburg Theatre and later toured internationally, including performances in Moscow, Russia, where it deeply resonated with non-English-speaking audiences.

In 2024, Swankie joined Mzansi Magic's *Our Perfect Wedding* as the Season 14 presenter, taking over the reins after Laconco. Travelling across South Africa, she led the series through diverse celebrations of love, tradition, and cultural expression, bringing warmth, elegance, and narrative depth to one of the channel's most beloved franchises. Her love for language and voice also extends into voice work: on the Netflix Original *Meet the Kumalos*, Swankie served as the lead voice dubbing artist for Khanyi Mbau's character, showcasing her vocal precision and her ability to embody character across languages and performance forms.

Beyond the screen and stage, Swankie is a trusted facilitator and moderator. She has worked with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leading meaningful conversations in both rural and urban communities across South Africa. She is also a sought-after MC, having hosted and moderated platforms such as AfroPunk, Jozi Book Fair, Turbine Art Fair, and culinary panels alongside Chef Lentswe Bhengu.

Swankie's artistry is deeply intertwined with her advocacy. A passionate voice for mental health, gender equality, and youth empowerment, she uses storytelling as a tool for healing, education, and social change. Whether acting, facilitating dialogue, moderating live conversations, or coaching voices in public speaking, she brings warmth, intelligence, and an unwavering commitment to truth, people, and purpose.

Performance Resume

Swankie Mafoko

TRAINING:

National School of the Arts (2012) Johannesburg
Honors in Applied Drama in Theatre University of Witwatersrand (2017) Johannesburg

TELEVISION EXPERIENCE:

2025	Muvhango	Role: Supporting lead	Word of Mouth/SABC2
2023	uMkhwenyana	Role: Lead	Mzansi Magic
2023	Isono	Role: Lead	Netflix & BET
2023	Roomies	Role: Lead	1Magic
2017	Rented Family	Role: Lead	SABC 1
2017	Single Galz	Role: Lead	SABC1
2016	Keeping Score	Role: Supporting ead	SABC 2

FILM EXPERIENCE:

2022	How To Ruin Christmas	Role: Lead	Netflix
2022	uMbali	Role: Supporting lead	Evod
2021	Victim	Role: Lead	
2021	How To Ruin Christmas	Role: Lead	Netflix
2020	How To Ruin Christmas	Role: Lead	Netflix
2018	Hope	Role: Supporting	Moja Love

THEATRE EXPERIENCE:

2024	Night with the Stars	Role: Lead	Soweto Theatre
2024	For Coloured Girls	Role: Lead	Joburg Theatre & Russian
2016	And, The Girls in their Sunday dresses	Role: Lead	So Solo Festival
2025	Nine to the Fivers Anthem	Role: One woman show	So Solo Festival
2015	Last Supper Disciple	Role: Supporting lead dancer	Turbine Art Fair
2014	Fallen Angel Siobhan	Role: Lead	POP Art Theatre

SKILLS:

- Accents: American, African-Nigerian, African- Congolese, British, South African Coloured accent , Kenyan
- Singing
- Ballet training
- Movement & contemporary dance training
- Writing

OSM

OWEN S. MANAGEMENT



Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 1.70cm
Languages: English, Isizulu (kzn dialect),
Sesotho, Setswana, Afrikaans