

COSMOPOLITAN *Awesome* WOMEN

Meet 2013's
standout
achievers.
Not only
are they
trailblazers
in their
respective
fields, they
embody the
attributes we
most admire

FROM LEFT
Dr Vanessa Naidoo,
Juliet Harding, Kitty
Phetla, Toya Delazy,
Dr Daniella Mark,
Nonjabulo Prudence
Gule, Tracey Lange,
Kamini Pather, Anne
Hirsch, Kissmea Naude

ANNE HIRSCH

Stand-up comic, and Internet and radio host

Hirsch has a master's degree in theatre and performance and is part of improv troupe ImproGuise (the players of TheatreSports), but comedy has made her a cult star. She hosts *The Anne Hirsch Show* and *FOBLO* (a satirical news bulletin) on YouTube, and *The Anne Hirsch Radio Show* on Jacaranda FM and East Coast Radio. She writes sketches for ZANews and produces comedy shows at Beefcakes restaurant. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** 'I love COSMO, so being an Awesome Woman is the best thing ever for me!'



TOYA DELAZY

Musician

In the two years Durban-born Latoya Buthelezi, aka Toya Delazy, has been on the music scene, she's shared the stage with Habib Koité and the Mahotella Queens, and opened for international stars such as Ne-Yo, Adam Lambert and Daniel Bedingfield. She's won three SAMAs, and been nominated for a BET award and an MTV EMA (among others). 'There is no secret to success,' she says. 'Success is agnostic; it's available to everyone. You have to take the first step and trust that what you want is possible.' **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** 'The 2013 BET nomination was an incredible achievement for me.'

DR DANIELLA MARK

Executive director of Paediatric Aids Treatment for Africa

Mark has a degree in neuropsychology but an internship in the public health system exposed her to the realities of our country. 'I applied for a post at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation – a far cry from my training, but I knew I'd love it.' Later she joined PATA, which facilitates improved healthcare for HIV-infected children and their families across Africa. **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** 'Every time I meet a healthcare worker we've impacted or see pictures of patients we've helped – that's the gold.'



KISSMEA NAUDE

Managing director of Bluedot Facilities, professional consultant, and founder/CEO of POWER

After being fired from her job for a minor incident, Naude started her own pest-control business, providing personal service and earning client loyalty. Today she also runs POWER, an organisation that assists women and aspiring entrepreneurs. She was nominated for a Shoprite Checkers Woman of the Year award last year. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** 'Becoming a shareholder in Nomtsetlane Cleaning Services, a Bidvest subsidiary.'



KITTY PHETLA

Senior soloist with Joburg Ballet, choreographer, Radio 2000 presenter and model

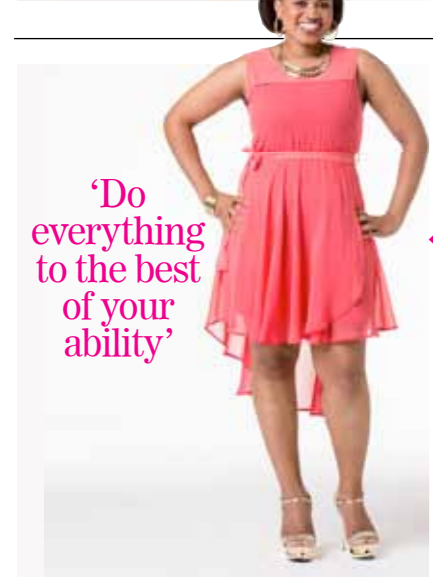
Phetla has danced the lead in classics from *Giselle* to *Les Sylphides*. Last year, she performed *The Dying Swan* in Russia. She is also passionate about her radio work. 'I love the constant challenge of brain and body,' she says. 'I approach everything in an organic manner, which makes it look effortless, but this can only be achieved through constant discipline.' **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** 'Performing for Nelson Mandela and the Dutch royal family in Amsterdam.'



JULIET HARDING

Singer

Harding started writing music at the age of 12, and by 16 had recorded her first CD. She studied copywriting after school, all the while performing with her first band, JacSharp. She formed Goodluck with Ben Peters in 2009, and the electro-swing duo have since played 550 gigs in SA and overseas, and had nine radio singles. 'My career can be exhausting but it doesn't feel like work. It's just fun!' **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** 'Playing at the Battersea Power Station in London to 15 000 people, and hearing my first song on the radio for the first time.'



NONJABULO PRUDENCE GULE

Post-doctoral research fellow at Stellenbosch University

Gule has an MSc in chemistry with an emphasis on mine-water remediation. During her studies she decided she wanted to do more for her community. 'While working on my master's

project, I noticed the poor quality of water around mining towns,' she says. 'This was the start of my interest in water-treatment research.' She now works with the nanotechnology of water purification. 'Through the research I do, I can help people get access to safe water supplies.' **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** Being voted one of 2013's 200 Young South Africans by the *Mail & Guardian*.



KAMINI PATHER

Food blogger, freelance writer, photographer and radio host

After getting bitten by the TV bug while cooking for the morning show *Expresso*, Pather needed more. She also wanted to prove she could cook – and with a *MasterChef South Africa* title, she knows she definitely can!

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS 'I've met Gordon Ramsay, cooked for George Calombaris of *MasterChef Australia*, and got career advice from Gary Mehigan (also a *MasterChef Australia* judge) and UK celebrity chef Paul Hollywood. I've cooked for chef Luke Dale Roberts, who is my local food hero, and for Olympic gold medallist Haile Gebrselassie. My dreams seem to be coming true...' ▶

ANNE WEARS TRENEY AT WOOLWORTHS, WOOLWORTHS AND STUTTAFORDS
TOYA WEARS WOOLWORTHS KITTY WEARS WOOLWORTHS AND LUELLA
NONJABULO WEARS TRUWORTHS AND STUTTAFORDS
DANIELLA WEARS STUTTAFORDS KISSMEA WEARS STUTTAFORDS AND FOSCHINI
JULIET WEARS WOOLWORTHS AND FOSCHINI KAMINI WEARS STUTTAFORDS
FOSCHINI AND WOOLWORTHS



STANDING, FROM LEFT
Tasmin Pepper, Tebogo Mashego, Emma Sadleir, Felicity Spies

SEATED, FROM LEFT
Lejeanne Marais, Candice Potgieter, Boity Thulo, Cecilia Haak, Trishna Chetty

DR VANESSA NAIDOO

Emergency medical doctor and anaesthetist

With Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Naidoo has worked in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Syria, treating everything from malaria and malnutrition to hepatitis. Between missions she serves in emergency departments around Cape Town, and is working on a master's in philosophy. 'I love what I do because it never feels like a job. It's a way of life,' she says.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT 'Working for MSF – little can compete with a successful resuscitation in the field.'



'It is possible to change the world'

TRACEY LANGE

Radio and TV presenter

Within nine months of being introduced as an ad hoc news reader at Good Hope FM, Lange joined the station's afternoon drive team. She then became the breakfast show's news anchor and, six years later, has her own show on Smile 90.4FM. 'I tend to do the things that scare me,' she says. 'Also, even when times are really tough, I put on a big smile and keep going.'

CAREER HIGHLIGHT 'Running after Francois Pienaar at the airport to get his details for an interview. I got the details ... then couldn't find my luggage!'



'Today will be better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today'

CECILIA HAAK

MeerKAT infrastructure engineer

Many years ago, when she first discovered it had only been men who'd landed on the moon, Haak decided to work towards getting more females into space. This led her to study at MIT in the US, but her love for South Africa brought her back. 'South Africa was in the process of establishing its own space industry, so I applied for a job at the Square Kilometre Array South Africa project office (SKA SA),' she says.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT 'The announcement in 2012 that South Africa would be getting the lion's share of the SKA was a definite career high.'



'There's no such thing as a stupid question'



'The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is from the knees to the floor. One who kneels to God can stand up to anything'

BOITY THULO

Actress and TV presenter

In 2010, Thulo took part in a fast-food franchise commercial; soon afterwards, other commercial roles poured in and she became a familiar face on our TV screens. After an appearance on *4Play: Sex Tips For Girls* she was offered a presenting gig on educational show *Crib Notes*. She is now not only a TV personality but also a model, and was named number 72 in *FHM's* 100 Sexiest Women in the World in 2012.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT 'Holding on to a dream and working to achieve it, and believing in my ability to turn it into a reality.'

CANDICE POTGIETER

CEO of the KZN Science Centre

With a postgrad degree in applied physics and maths, and after a stint on the National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme, Potgieter joined an NPO that provides public science-awareness programmes to local communities and schools. Rising from education officer to CEO, she's seen the centre grow to benefit more than 150 000 people.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS 'The expansion of our programmes, and ensuring rural and disadvantaged schools are included free of charge.'



'With education, the sky's the limit'



'Shared joy is a double joy. Shared sorrow is half a sorrow'

EMMA SADLEIR

Social-media law expert

After working in the media-litigation department of a high-profile law firm for five years, Sadleir started her own law consultancy specialising in social-media law in April 2013. 'I educate people (especially children) about the legal consequences of using social media, online safety and personal-reputation management, and help victims of cyber-bullying.'

CAREER HIGHLIGHT 'After I lectured at the University of the Free State, Professor Jonathan Jansen (one of my heroes) tweeted that I was the "best professor" he "never had"!''



'If you can't find opportunities, make them'

TEBOGO MASHEGO

Managing director of Diep K Steel & Aluminium

Working in the male-dominated industry of metal fabrication and manufacturing isn't easy, but Mashego thrives on being challenged. She graduated with a national diploma in HR management but fell in love

with entrepreneurship. 'Running a business is my passion – I'm a hard worker,' she says. This attitude helped her build her business to the point where it exports products to Malawi, Zambia and Kenya.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS 'Winning SAB's Kickstart competition for young entrepreneurs in 2009 and qualifying as a finalist in IBA Global's 2013 Young Entrepreneurs Program.'

LEJEANNE MARAIS

Figure skater

The five-time (and current) national figure-skating champion has represented South Africa in several international events. Her goal now is the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. A self-motivated optimist, Marais succeeds by breaking up



'Take time to think about your ultimate goal. Write it down and place it where you will see it every day'

VANESSA WEARS FOSCHINI, TRACEY WEARS WOOLWORTHS AND FOSCHINI, EMMA WEARS NICCI BOUTIQUE, LOVISA AND CALL IT SPRING, TEBOGO WEARS STUTTFORDS, BLINK & CO, TESA DESIGN AND SOCRATI

CECILIA WEARS MANGO, BLINK & CO, ACCESSORIZE AND STUTTFORDS, CANDICE WEARS FOSCHINI, LOVISA, BLINK & CO AND SOCRATI, BOITY WEARS STUTTFORDS, EQUALITY AND CALL IT SPRING, LEJEANNE WEARS STUTTFORDS, ACCESSORIZE, LOVISA AND FOSCHINI

‘Don’t settle for average when you can be the best’



TRISHA CHETTY
Cricketer

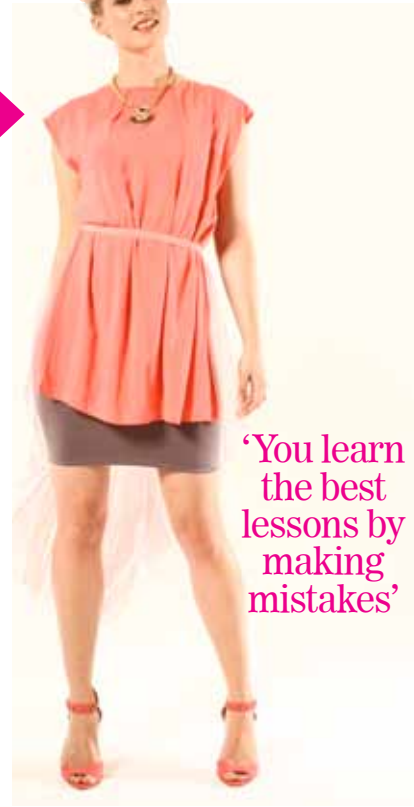
Chetty started playing cricket at the age of seven, was selected for the South African U19 squad at 16, and made her senior international debut at 18. She plays wicketkeeper, opens the batting and is the vice captain of the team, and is ranked 17th top female cricketer in the world. In September, she became one of the first six women ever to be awarded a semi-professional contract. ‘I love that I don’t have a typical office job behind a desk,’ she says. ‘With cricket I keep fit, meet new people and travel the world. I also give back in my community as a coach. I’m living my dream!’

CAREER HIGHLIGHT ‘Receiving the Cricket SA Women’s Cricketer of the Year award in 2009.’

FELICITY SPIES
Boutique owner

After working as a strategy advisor for Burberry in London and then for Edcon back in South Africa, Spies launched Equality, a pop-up designer boutique that features local and selected international brands, in 2011. It’s now a permanent, thriving shop on Parkhurst’s 4th Avenue. ‘Career-wise, I’m always pushing forward, innovating and looking for the next big opportunity, never accepting the status quo,’ she says. Her best tips for success? ‘Pick a project you would do for free. Dream big, and strive for that goal constantly.’

CAREER HIGHLIGHT ‘Judging the 2012 Africa Fashion Awards with Michael Roberts of *Vanity Fair*.’



‘You learn the best lessons by making mistakes’

‘Never give up. Keep on until you’ve achieved your goals’



TASMIN PEPPER
Racing driver

Pepper started racing when she was five years old, and won her first regional championship in the junior category of karting at the age of eight. She is the first woman in South Africa to have won a saloon car race, and took part in the Engen Volkswagen Cup single-make championship this year. Pepper admits that her job is a tough one, especially because she is one of very few female racing drivers. Her secret is to ‘keep calm and never let the pressure get the best of me’.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS ‘Receiving my Protea colours, and racing in front of thousands at a Formula One event.’

PHOTOGRAPHY CRAIG MARAIS/THE SHOOTING COMPANY, ANDY LUND, COMPILED BY LERATO BOKAKO, GLYNIS HORNING, MOLEBOGENG SEEMELA AND LISA WITPEFSKI, STYLING CARLA UYS, TARYN AZIZ, JESS LUPTON/INFIDELS, LYAL SEBA/SIX LOVE ARTIST MANAGEMENT, HAIR AND MAKEUP KELLY FUCHS/INFIDELS, ALEX BOTHA, MARILYN DU PREEZ/HUNTER MANAGEMENT, RENE ROSSOUW, MARLI NEWMAN/INFIDELS, TRISHA WEARS STUTTFORDS AND LOVISA, FELICITY WEARS EQUALITY, LOVISA AND RAGE, TASMIN WEARS STUTTFORDS, LOVISA AND CALL IT SPRING STOCKISTS ON PAGE XXX