



BONGI MVUYANA  
BIO & PRESS KIT



Bongi Mvuyana is a Pietermaritzburg-born Alternative Soul singer/songwriter whose debut album “Dopamine” released in August 2014.

Her debut single, “I Wonder” introduced her fresh sound to the South African and African music scene and went on to chart on Metro FM’s Top 30 Countdown as well as on four Nigerian radio stations.

The release of “I Wonder” was followed by two more single releases; an emotive ballad, “Gold” which charted on Durban’s Vuma FM and the upbeat, Maskandi-influenced “Sweet Love” that playlisted on radio stations across Africa, including Nigeria and Malawi.

Bongi Mvuyana’s strong sense of musicianship and songwriting has also gained her an international audience online, with listeners from the UK, US and even Japan taking a keen interest in her music.

Her latest single “Sizwile” aims to demonstrate what she calls her “pro-human” side; a side of her that is conscious of the world’s beauty, suffering and how “Ubuntu” is a crucial part of society. The single has been playlist in 23 radio stations across SA.

BONGI MVUYANA

- Described as *“The most interesting sound locally since The Arrows”* by Gavin Green (Universal Music)
- *“Wow Wow Wow! I Love her!! She’s like a black Lana Del Rey!!”* - Morgan Ross (Manager of G Music Management and Electromode Records)
- *“She’s a good singer and destined to become a star!”* - Collin Mokgaotsi (Mi Casa Manager)
- *“Bongi’s music is impressive, fresh, sophisticated, adventurous, intelligent, African soul and International”* - Therese Owen (Tonight National Music Writer)
- *“Wow! Am sold!”* - Ismail Abrahams (Metro FM)





# Glamour Women Of The Year Readers Choice top 5 Nominee 2014



# ELLE Magazine

## Hot List: People to Watch in 2014





# Grazia Magazine

## Cool List: Women to Watch in 2014



BONGI MVUYANA

# Destiny Magazine Music Radar 2014



## Radar

Your guide to an inspiring and stimulating month

### 2. REWARD AND PLEASURE

With her debut album *Dopamine* due for release this month, rising star Bongzi Mvuyana (26) chats to DESTINY

**How did you get into music?**  
I studied it and performed spoken word in high school. Thereafter I continued writing and collaborating with various musicians until I was discovered by my manager during a performance with a band I used to be in.

**What can we expect from your album?** It's very musical, with an interesting approach to songwriting. I've put together a sound with a very South African feel, while having a global outlook.

**How would you describe your sound?** I call it

"alternative soul". It's soul, but there are many influences that make it difficult to box into a particular genre.

**How involved were you in the album's creative process?** I was very involved, from selecting the melodies to the arrangements. All the songs were written by me from a very personal point of view.

**Who are your musical influences?** I have a myriad influences, but Maxwell, Little Dragon, Bonobo, Quadron, Rhye, Thandiswa and 340ml come to mind first.



### 3. SINNFULLY GOOD

Rustic Austrian food with a twist is the latest from chef Thomas Sinn (you might remember him from the Buitenverwachting and Blue Danube restaurants). Sinns

on Long will be serving fare like bratwurst and eisbein, with desserts like hot chocolate dumplings. From Thursday to Saturday, a DJ will crank up the tunes for the late-night crowd. Pop in for a cocktail. Tel: 021 422 1155 or visit: [www.sinnsonlong.co.za](http://www.sinnsonlong.co.za) (FD)



# Blaque Magazine 2014: Best Next Thing & Phenomenal Voice of Our Generation



## BONGI MVUYANA: PHENOMENAL VOICE OF OUR GENERATION

By Lebogang Mphahlele

Dopamine is actually a hormone that you have in your body that hormone is in charge of your happy feeling, wherever there is pleasure in your body, dopamine is there. It is responsible for how happy you feel. The lack of dopamine causes depression, sadness. For me how dopamine works is kind of like how love works. When you are in love, you are very happy and nobody can get you down. When you don't have love in your life then it's a sad existence, when you are heartbroken you go through a lot of sad emotions and that is why I called it dopamine.

How involved are you in this album?

I am much involved. I am hands-on everything. Composition is done by my producer and my band but I will have a say on it, the direction of what the song will take. I write every song. One of the band members gets involved with the lyrics.

How was it like opening for one of the most successful hip-hop artist in S.A, AKA at SkyRoom.La?

It was a very interesting show but it had its own ups and downs in preparation for it. I met him when for the first time at the venue where we were doing sound check and you always read the news and hearing stories about what kind of a person one is and you meet the person only to find out that they are completely different to what they said or portrayed out there. He was an amazing person, a cool dude actually. I think it was an honour for me and it was really an awesome opportunity.

How was your childhood like?

My childhood was good. I was born and bred in Pietermaritzburg in KZN. I grew up in a township called eMkhak. It was great. I got to be a child and did everything that a child would normally do. My mother was very strict with me. I am a girl-child so she couldn't just let me roam around the streets randomly.

What's your single? Wonder has been receiving a lot of airplay, what is the song about and what was going through your mind when you were writing it?

It has received a really good response, the single did well then I had anticipated. The song is about two people who love each other and because of what they've been through previously, they can't open up to each other anymore, and they don't trust each other enough to love again. So that was basically what was going through my mind at the time of writing the song. I always write from a personal perspective. I write mostly about things that my friends went through and that I can empathise with. My album is about love, so that is another aspect of love that I was just addressing.

Do you normally write about your personal experiences?

I don't like to be general because the truth gets lost during the writing process when you try hard to generalise something. I love to be as honest as I can so that people can relate to what I am writing. The more personal you get, the more reliable it becomes.

Don't you feel like you are being stripped naked when you put your own feelings out there for everyone to criticise?

I don't feel like I'm being stripped because I control what I write. It is stuff that I am willing to share. It is like writing a book, the things that you publish are the stuff that you want to share and you keep the ones you don't want to share to yourself and that is the same thing for me. There are certain things that I did not share and I will not share them on this album or wherever and that is just the way it is. If I didn't want to share anything, it wasn't going to be on the album.

How many times did you work with this album?

I worked with my band, my Producer Tiggs from 340ml. I also worked with the lead singer of 340ml and we collaborated on a song. I worked with really good people even behind the scenes side of things, it's just been an amazing journey.

What made you fall in love with music?

My dad used to play me music all the time, we used to sit outside with the door opened and he would play all sorts of music. He never had a particular genre of music that he listened to. From blues to jazz, reggae, classical music, you name it.

Are there any artists you would like to work with?

Rakhele Toure, Sam from The Fringe, Thandiswa Marvel. There are so many people, even producers that I would like to work with. But I don't wanna work with Thandiswa anytime soon, as in like collaborate on a song together, the reason being, I think she is at an incredible level to a point where I would freeze in studio because I wouldn't know what to do. I have such respect for her as a musician. I would get a studio fright if I were in the same studio. It also were to mentor me, then definitely, I'd never say no. I mean that would be an honour.

Who inspires you musically?

I am inspired by so many people but locally it's 340ml. Thandiswa Marvel, Busi Tshibani, bands like The Fringe

and luckily I work close with two of the members and are part of my band as well. Internationally I would like to work with Maxwell, Little Dragon and I've just to mention a few. I listen to so much music and it all inspires me.

The music industry can be challenging at times, what kind of challenges do you come across as a young female artist?

Getting things done. I think one of the biggest problems that I have encountered in my musical journey is getting things done. It is so difficult and I think that also stems from my corporate side. You have an idea, you all make the decision now and actually get it done, there is no procrastination. I think that the biggest challenge that I've come across is the lack of urgency and decisiveness, lack of drive towards musicians.

Some musicians will have more drive than others, some musicians will expect things to just fall on their lap and it doesn't work like that at all. I think as musicians we need to adapt to a more professional mentality. You need to be like say I'm meant

to be at a meeting at 1pm and you arrive on time. I am blessed to have a hardworking team, sometimes they make me feel like I am slackling. I have learnt a lot from them too. So, I haven't slacked because they are also working hard.

What attracts you to a man?

He has to be very smart and funny. But people are different, you fall in love with different things. I can't give you a list of what a person man should have. You can't choose who you fall in love with, I just know I can't deal if a guy is not smart.

What turns you off in a man?

Dishonesty.

What are your plans for this year?

I've got so many plans. I am releasing my album and I want to definitely tour. I want to collaborate with a couple of musicians and keep performing and making more beautiful music.

**"I WANT TO COLLABORATE WITH A COUPLE OF MUSICIANS THAT I HAVE IN MIND AND TO KEEP PERFORMING AND MAKING MORE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC"**



# Grazia Magazine

## 10 Questions



GRAZIA INTERVIEW

### 10 QUESTIONS

Apparently, these are the questions you ask to really get to know someone. Let's see if they work on soul songbird Bongi Mvuyana...

#### WHOM ARE YOU CLOSEST TO?

My mother. We have a very open, honest relationship. We've supported each other through the toughest times.

#### WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?

I was probably four years old, in a puffy marshmallow-pink party dress, singing Brenda Fassie's *Mama* in the passage at home. I just kept singing "Maaa-maaaa" over and over and making up my own words.

#### ...AND BIGGEST FEAR?

Looking back when I'm older and feeling like I haven't lived life to the fullest. I don't like wasting time or spending it in a way that isn't fruitful.

#### RELAXATION IS...

Being at home in my room or at the spa. I prefer quiet, comfortable surroundings filled with candles and lovely scents – always therapeutic.

#### WHAT ARE YOU BEST AT?

Writing. A friend of mine says she enjoys my "language". I started writing poetry in junior school. After one of my poems was published when I was 12, I was motivated to keep writing.

#### WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN A PARTNER?

Honesty and loyalty. When you know exactly where you stand with someone, that

they are devoted to you, it is so much easier to give that person your heart freely.

#### TELL US SOMETHING THAT WILL SHOCK US...

When I was 11, I was playing in the garden and accidentally drove a garden fork through my right foot. I still have a scar on the top and bottom of my foot to show for it.

#### WHEN DID YOU LAST FEEL REALLY HAPPY?

In early March, after the recording of the title track of my album, *Dopamine*. It was the very last recording for the project, and it finally felt real that my album was going to be released. It marked the end of a two-year journey that started in 2012.

#### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST REGRET?

Not continuing to play the piano! I'd be very good by now if I continued, but I guess I focused on singing and song-writing, so there is a bright side.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF OR YOUR LIFE?

Myself? I'd want to be less pedantic, about my work especially. My life? I'd have my mom live in the same city as me. Being apart is tough in challenging times. See the video for the *Dopamine* (Universal) track 1 Wonder on [Graziadaily.co.za](http://Graziadaily.co.za)

# Grazia Magazine Game Changers



## *The entertainer*

She may have started the year on the "ones to watch" lists, but 26-year-old Bongeli Mvuyana is already a big name beyond South Africa's borders. The urban soul singer caused waves with her debut single, *I Wonder*, which got massive airplay not only here in South Africa but also in Nigeria. Now the diva has been shortlisted in the final top eight of the Hennessy Talent Quest to perform at the 2014 Festival Cognac Blues Passion in France, alongside Lily Allen, George Benson and Steven Seagal (yes, he has a jazz band).



## *The social activist*

Catherine Peter, 30, is the African director of One Young World, the not-for-profit organisation giving young people opportunities to join in a global network of socially committed individuals with leadership potential. Her main aim? To make the entire country realise the impact the youth have in South Africa and get them represented at the annual global One Young World movement. Oh, and she's also a professional Brazilian samba dancer.



## *The entrepreneur*

Twenty-nine-year-old Rapelang Rabana is the CEO of both ReKindle Learning and Yeigo Communications. While Yeigo has been hailed as a "trailblazer", coming up with awesome apps and services that have made communication less costly, it was ReKindle Learning that made the world sit up and take notice. The education company aims to turn cellphones into learning tools for students, through its interactive ReKindle app.



## *The teacher*

Mmabatho Mokoti has a passion for maths. The 29-year-old from Boksburg has made it her life's mission to teach young learners maths and science, so they can go forth and prosper. She started a company called Mathemantics, which offers one-on-one maths, science and accounting tutoring – plus teacher training – to school and university students. Mmabatho is also the director of a non-profit organisation that provides bursaries to university students.



## *The artist*

This year, the name to know in the field of performing arts is Nicola Elliot. The 30-year-old dancer is this year's National Arts Festival's 2014 Standard Bank Young Artist for Dance winner, with a string of notable works to her name. Nicola is also a choreographer, director, performer, dance lecturer and facilitator who knows how to grip an audience with her performances. Catch her latest – and much-anticipated – work, *Bruising*, when it makes its premiere at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival from 11 to 13 July.

Words: Morganl Sebati. Pictures: Supplint.



# Bona Magazine

CHILLAZ ●

By Amanda Ndlangwe Photos Supplied



**NAME: BONGI MVUYANA**  
**CLAIM TO FAME: SOUL SINGER/SONGWRITER**

**FAST FACTS**

- The Pietermaritzburg-born singer grew up writing and performing poetry while she studied music and drama in high school.
- With an already growing fan base, Bongi's listed on the 2014 Hotlist of People to Watch, by popular entertainment blogs.
- The newcomer credits life and the work of other entertainers as inspiration for her music.
- Touring Africa and Europe, and collaborating with the likes of Thandiswa Mazwai, while songwriting for other artists, are Bongi's plans for the rest of the year.
- Catch her single, *I Wander*, playing on all major radio stations.

## Soapie Alert

More lies, secrets and drama on your favourite soaps...



### GENERATIONS' NGAMLA (MENZI NGUBANE)

Ngamla is determined to keep the truth a secret. He shows no mercy to an old comrade and the attraction between him and Mawande is still there.



### ISIDINGO'S SECHABA (MOTLATSI MAFATSHE)

Sechaba does his best to solve things with Lerato, but jealousy gets the better of him and he decides to teach Lerato a lesson. The couple continue to torture each other – although each claims to be resistant to the pain.



### ISIBAYA'S MPIYAKHE (SIYABONGA TWALA)

As Mpiyakhe re-establishes control, the noose tightens for all who have wronged him. He comes home to find the last person he had in mind, waiting for him.



### RHYTHM CITY'S PULENG (TEBOGO KHALO)

Suffocate and Puleng finally get to an intimate place in their relationship. But Puleng is determined to get her business relationship sorted before investing in what they have.

## READ



### Timothy Maurice Webster: Soul to Sole

"The book explores the notion of an 'authentic self' – that is, one's real self, the core of each person and who they really are when no one is looking", explains Maurice of his release.

## WATCH



### Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

This movie follows Nelson Mandela's life journey from his childhood in a rural village through to his inauguration as the first democratically elected president of our country.

## LISTEN



### Pharrell (GIRL)

The album is a great comeback after Pharrell's eight-year break. He's taken a funky approach with all 10 songs on the CD. His hit single, Happy, has already reached number one status globally.

# Sunday Tribune Newspaper

## The Next Big Thing in Local Soul Music 2014

**SM** SundayMagazine  
 LOCAL TALENT  
 COVER STORY  
 MARCH 23, 2014

6

whole lot of soul

**Buhle Mbonambi meets Bongzi Mvuyana, who is the next big thing in local soul music**

**T**HERE'S something about soul music that makes you reflect on life and things that you do. Sometimes soul music just makes you stop to allow it to fill all the voids in your life. I guess that's why it's called soul music.

That's how I felt when I first heard Bongzi Mvuyana's single, *I Wonder*. It is stripped back, pure, no gimmick music.

I meet Bongzi at the Klagen Hotel pool deck. She is in Durban for the Metro FM Awards. When she comes down from her hotel room, I don't realise it's her. She's statuesque and looks like Ethiopian supermodel Liza Lebede. I tell her this and she laughs.

Heads turn when she walks past. You know when you're in the presence of someone who makes you check your clothes, to see if you are clean and don't have some sauce on your shirt. Well, that was the way I felt. Plus, I decided not to order anything to eat, choosing to rather order wait for it. No.

Bongzi orders a bunny chow, because when in Durban... I tell her I know better bunny spots and we can go there, but she says she loves the view.

See, that's the thing about Durban that I love. The view, the food and the people. So friendly and they go out of their way to greet you. You don't get that in Ashbur. That's the one thing I miss about Durban.

It turns out she lived in the city for a couple of years.

I used to go out with my friends on Florida Road and we'd go to Starline House of Curries before it was the popular spot it is now. Anyway, I'm from Petermaritzburg, so I can handle spicy food.

While the conversation is about food, she reveals she makes a mean lamb curry.

"You can't touch me when it comes to lamb curry. I had a part time job as a waitress at a restaurant in Durban North and I'd peck the chef to teach me a few tricks. I love food," she says, tucking into her bunny.

"I'm not a salad girl. Those are always easy because they are hungry," she says, laughing.

I can't let the mood thing go, so I ask her about it. Turns out she was a model, but decided to quit because it was just too much for her.

"The pressure was just too crazy. Plus I didn't like my work. I loved doing editorials more and the competition there is even tougher."

Which then leads us to what she's modelling for: music.

"I've always wanted to be a musician. I studied extensively about jazz and alternative music. It was important for me to have a solid ground in music. To understand it. So from a young age I was exposed to

very good music. I listened to Macwell a lot growing up and two soul had such a huge influence on me."

Her two singles, *I Wonder* and *Gold* are on high rotation on music radio stations, including radio charts and she's excited that the response has been great.

"I get people telling me they love my music, and it's great when it's people who are from my generation. There's this weird misconception that young people don't like soul music and I'm so happy that it's proven that it's not true. We love soul."

But that being said, she's not just about soul. "I'm aware that some people find soul music boring, so to avoid being boxed into one genre, I've had to change it up."

"My sound is different from traditional soul, in that the music is still simple. I call my sound alternative soul – a mixture of jazz, soul and alternative music."

There has been a resurgence of soul music in South Africa, with artists like Kaboom, Afrotraxion, The Muffins and Vusi Nova leading the trail.

"It's an exciting time for music. There was a time in the mid 2000s when we had artists like Pebbles, 30ml, and H2O and they were virtually ignored. We lost a lot by not embracing them and music is all the poorer. I'm so happy the industry is getting back to appreciating great soul."

"With guys like Kaboom, Nothing and Vusi Nova, I think we are in an interesting time in music and I love that I have joined during this great time."

Her album is called *Agumise* and will be released in April.

"*Agumise* is a hormone that makes you feel good and that's what I want with this album. To make people happy when they listen to the music."

"I used it as a metaphor for my music. The album explores the ups and downs of love, from the great times to the not so great. Oh and there's some up tempo music before people think it's all sad," she says.

She worked with Jimmy's Tseng, who produced the album; Adebayo Amadele and Mkhosi Thum from The Fringe, who were on drums, percussion and guitar.

"I also worked with my old hand, Stereo Night School, who actually wrote *I Wonder*. When I was discovered at a music festival, I was playing with them, so when I went solo, they were ecstatic for me and they offered the song, which is so great since it was so well received. It's like their gift to me."

She still plans on playing with them when the opportunity arises. "I tried to get the label Vusi Nova, which also has rapper AKA on its artist list to sign the whole band, but it wasn't possible. We are still on good terms, hence them offering *I Wonder* for my album."

Bongzi is surprised at how well she's been received in other African countries. "I wasn't expecting that. But Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana are playing my music and I just wasn't expecting the feedback. I've been getting."

"It's amazing. I think more of us should be aiming for our music to be heard in other African countries. Conquer the country and the continent at the same time."

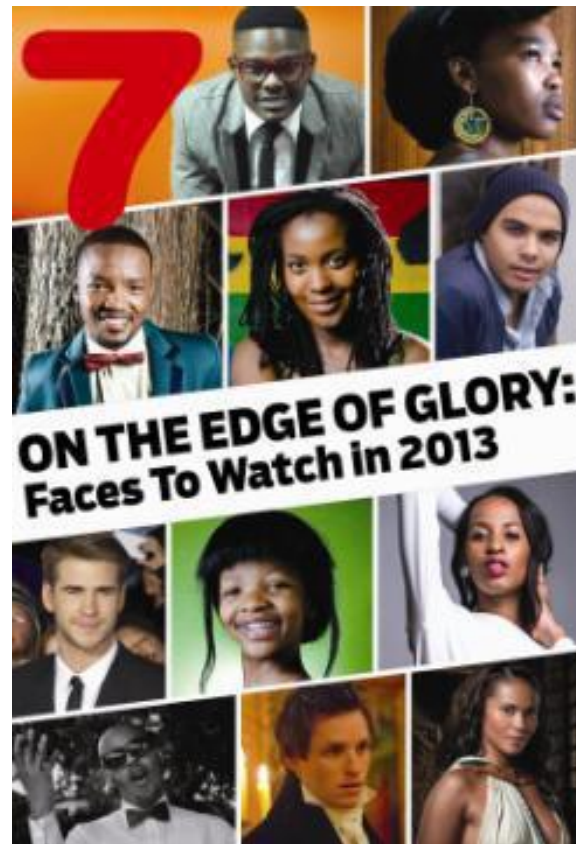
"I loved that Mafikizolo did that and it's working out so well for them. I want the same and I'm going to work hard to make sure it happens."

BONGI MVUYANA



# “Faces to Watch” 2013

## City Press Newspaper - Print and Online



<http://www.news24.com/Archives/City-Press/Faces-of-2013-Making-music-that-stands-alone-20150429>

# The Star Newspaper - Tonight





# Sunday Times Lifestyle Newspaper 2014

Sunday Times Combined Metros 11 - 26/03/2014 05:10:47 PM - Plate:

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MUSIC

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Rising singer's debut 'Dopamine' has great chemistry, writes **Shanthini Naidoo**

**B**ONGI Mvuyana is standing at the edge of a precipice. On the fringe of fame, about to take a leap of faith, at the brink of acclaim. But last week, she stood alone in a sound booth.

Calm on her own shutting out the world, jamming to the Afro-bass beat of the title track of her album, Dopamine, she was having the time of her life.

If her two singles, *I Wonder* and *Gold*, are anything to go by, it will all take off for the lithe and lanky 29-year-old from Matziburg when

her album is released in April. The early-release tracks had critics tooting her as the artist to watch this year, and she was featured on the US R&B music site Singanews.

The soulful but upbeat love songs were also given great airplay on local radio stations and in Lagos, where a fan base is forming.

"I have not thought about fame. I just want to get this album out, it has been a year in the making already. Oh my gosh! My album is finally coming out!" Smaller-eyes glow as she flings her silky arms in

the air, registering the fact. Last week her sultry music video aired on Channel O and Vuna. Think swimming pool, frothy white dress, attractive partner and a strangely placed teddy bear. Keeper. AKA plays her lover.

Their connection is a shared record label, Vth Season, which manages a small group of artists who have all fared well.

A little over a year ago, Mvuyana was with a garage band, Three Night School, a sideline to her marketing job. She sent a shout out on BBM about an inner-city gig, one

Saturday. Raphael Ikenna, head of Vth Season, went along and signed her up.

More than 100 studio hours later, we are at the Randburg recording facility Figure 8, where the last of 11 tracks is nearly ready to go. She calls it an overture for the album. The track is mostly instrumental, Afro-bass sounds produced by Tego Corneil Paulo of Jarent. It is interesting, rhythmic, her husky, sweet voice could seem an odd match, but it works.

"My eyes have turned so green/ My passions have given life to streams of emerald deep/ Dreams of evergreen."

She stops to mimic a motorbike. "Reverence reverence! Have to get the cobwebs out," she says, signing from her ready cup of tea. "Going to before a performance, I can't live without it." She keeps tea in her handbag, too.

The other thing she can't do without is dining out. She once wrote restaurant reviews part time. At her favourite spot, Licoth in Bryanston, she sips a watermelon martini.

"I love to cook. Curries, mostly. I love blending spices from down town Matziburg. But I love the tasting places at this place. They do a protein in three ways, very experimental." She orders lamb, in a spring roll, grilled and slow-braised.

There is something similarly mixed up about her music style. "People say it is great to listen to, but aren't sure where to put it. I find it alternative soul. It is soul influenced by jazz, classical, lounge music."

Mvuyana believes she is creating

an image — sultry, not sexy; interesting, not outlandish, and conservative, rather than controversial. She performs at intimate venues rather than her comedy. She wears evening dresses by local designers — no glitz tags.

One of her recent performance was hosted by high-end tea atelier, Yvonne, scented candles, champagne and rose petals. "I have thought about the image that goes with my music. I can dress sexy if I want to, but I won't trade in my underwear. For me, it is not about getting asked or using sex to sell my song. I have always tried to keep the music authentic."

She wrote most of the love-centric album. "My favourite song is from which features Pedro Puma from Jarent, and *Secret Love*, about how my world wouldn't work without my love."

She laughs. "Yes, I've had a great love already. But I am not seeing anyone right now. There is just too much going on."

Her confidence stems from good grounding. Her mother, a single-parent nursing nurse, advised her not to study music immediately, but to do a marketing diploma as a fall-back plan.

"My mum encouraged me to do something which would allow me to stand on my own two feet. She said life is tough enough as a woman, and it is harder to be a dependent woman. It made me very independent. If my time and life were in someone else's hands I would not have been able to pursue everything that I have."

Bongi Mvuyana's stage is it, the album is out and the *Flames* single is up. All it will take is a leap.

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# BONGI MVUYANA

# The Citizen Newspaper Print and Online



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## Bongi Mvuyana – a sensational soul

Nandipha Pantsi



ALTERNATIVE. Musician Bongi Mvuyana performing with her previous band, Stereo Night School. Picture: Karabo Ngoatle.

Bongi Mvuyana has been hailed as one of South Africa's rising stars, with music critics describing her sound as "impressive", "fresh" and "intelligent".

She calls it "alternative soul" – a fusion of soul and jazz that translates into a contemporary African sound with an international outlook.

But Mvuyana admits that convincing the world to listen to her interesting blend of music has been a challenge. However, once

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BONGI MVUYANA



# Sunday Sun Newspaper

22 **SUNBUZZ** Sunday 10 November 2013

## BONGI SINGS ABOUT MATTERS OF THE HEART ...

### CD explores why love feels so damn good

By **SUCHULE MQALO**  
BONGI Mvuyana has released her debut single, *I wonder!*

The 25-year-old from Pietermaritzburg, in KwaZulu-Natal told *SunBuzz* that she wants her music to mean something to people!

She wants people to relate to her stories and find something authentic in her lyrics and chords.

"My earliest memory of music is of my dad playing records while I curled up on his belly on the veranda at home. Those are my fondest memories and from then on I had a connection with music," said Bongi.

"Like any other kid, I used to sing in front of the mirror with a hairbrush. But for me it felt real, like one day it really would happen."

"When I discovered Maxwell (an American singer-songwriter) I was sure about what I wanted to do," she said.

When asked about her highly-anticipated album, *Dopamine*, Bongi said: "It's about the pleasure of love, the pain it brings when our security within love gets compromised."

"And how, without that pain, it wouldn't feel so damn good."

"That satisfaction love brings, the rewarding feeling that one gets when love works out after the low points, the calamity when it falls apart and the stronger one gets when one finds all the pieces of one's broken heart."

She went on to say: "Love is the cure and the cause, like a drug and endorphin, the rush and the destruction."

"It's like dopamine, your body produces it when you feel good."

"Our addictions act on the dopamine system," she said.

When asked if she studied music, Bongi explained: "I was in the school choir in primary school and when I got to high school I had the option to study music, which I did for two years before taking up speech and drama."

She added: "I've always taken special interest in the arts and creative writing. I took note of my writing though when a poem I wrote was published when I was only 12 years old."

Her album will be released in February next year.

It features tracks like, *I Don't Know Why*, *The Pearl*, *Gold* and *Good Morning Dear* to name a few.

Bongi will also be the opening act for AKA on the SABC1 live show, *SkyRoomLive*, on Saturday at 10pm.

Bongi Mvuyana's new album, *Dopamine*, will be out next year.




# Singers Room (UK)

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**Bongi Mvuyana - I Wonder**  
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BONGI MVUYANA

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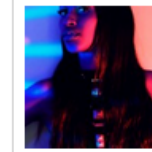
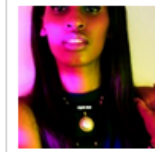
December 5, 2013, Thu

## Monster Spotlight: Bongi Mvuyana



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A native of South Africa, this young songstress wows with her vocal ability as well as the diversity of her music. Formerly a member of Stereo Night School, she said in an interview with City Press of South Africa that she could not categorize the music that she performs but she hopes that it will "challenge ideas and resonate with people".

The story of how she first became interested in music is very touching. She tells of how she would curl up on her father's belly on the verandah of their home while he played records. This sentimental start seems to have had a lasting positive effect that allows her to emote beautifully when she sings.

Her release on Sound Cloud titled "I Wonder" has quite a jazzy feel to it. The vocals as well as the instruments lend to this feeling. However, towards the end of the song, the vocals lean more towards a pop feeling. This is a prime example of why the singer cannot be stuffed into any single genre of music. She transitions seamlessly from one to the next not only from track to track, but also within the same song.


Her upcoming album is titled "Dopamine". She has said that this name is based on love and the various feelings that it evokes. We can't but agree with her that love does feel rather like dopamine. Some of the titles in her album include "I Don't Know Why", "The Peel", and the

<http://www.themonsterradio.com/monster-spotlight-bongi-mvuyana/>


BONGI MVUYANA







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## Hennessy Talent Quest


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**Hennessy gives SA artists a chance to shine:**


Three South African acts have been selected by a panel of judges for the final top 8 of the Hennessy Talent Quest. Now, they need the support of their fans to get them to Cognac. The artist with the most votes will win the opportunity to perform at the 2014 Blues Passions festival taking place in Cognac, France from the 30<sup>th</sup> June to the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The three finalists, Bongzi Mvuyana, Tresor Riziki and Muzart, stand a chance to perform at the 2014 Blues Passion Festival alongside artists Lily Allen, Robert Plant & The Sensational Space Shifters, George Benson and Steven Seagal.




Bongzi Mvuyana is a South African alternative singer who is causing quite the stir in


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BONGI MVUYANA

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## Local song bird Bongi Mvuyana releases her debut album

© 2014-08-27 09:00

Bongi Mvuyana has been on the music radar for some time now, but finally her fans have something to get really excited about: her debut album has finally dropped.

The album, entitled Dopamine, was released Monday on iTunes after a wait of more than two years. "I think a lot of people take listeners for granted. There were a lot of things I had to fight for in this album," she told *Times Live*, promising her fans a real journey when they listen to the album. "It's a celebration of love, but also a lament for when you're heart-broken," she says.

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<http://www.channel24.co.za/The-Juice/Local-song-bird-Bongi-Mvuyana-releases-her-debut-album-20150330>

BONGI MVUYANA

# Sowetan Live - Online

The screenshot shows the Sowetan Live website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEWS, BUSINESS, SPORT, ENTERTAINMENT, GOODLIFE, YOUTH TUBE, HELP LINE, SHWASHWI, and JOBS. Below this is a search bar and a section for 'MZANSI'S SEXIEST' and 'DOWNLOAD CALENDARS'. The main headline is 'A TRAGEDY THAT GRIPPED A NATION, A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.' with a sub-headline 'Talented newcomer Bongi Mvuyana gets AKA's attention'. The article text describes Bongi Mvuyana as a newcomer in the entertainment industry who has just launched her debut single 'I Wonder' and is already growing a fan base. It mentions that she will be opening act for AKA's live performance show on SABC 1's SkyRoomLive. A photo of Bongi Mvuyana is shown. To the right of the article is a sidebar with a 'CAR INSURANCE' advertisement and a 'MOST POPULAR' section. The bottom of the page features a URL for the article.

**Sowetan LIVE**

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MZANSI'S SEXIEST DOWNLOAD CALENDARS

**A TRAGEDY THAT GRIPPED A NATION, A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.**

**Talented newcomer Bongi Mvuyana gets AKA's attention**

NOV 1, 2013 | SOWETAN LIVE | 18 COMMENTS

Bongi Mvuyana, mzansi's newcomer in the entertainment industry just recently launched her debut single 'I Wonder' and is already growing quite a fan base.

The singer and songwriter will be opening act for Africa's rap prince, AKA, on SABC 1's live performance show, SkyRoomLive on Saturday, 16 November 2013 at 22h00.

AKA has recently become a fan, taking to social media to express his interest in working with Bongi Mvuyana and expressing her sound as "gawdly".

"Opening up for AKA and performing on SkyRoomLive is an incredible opportunity. I have respect for both AKA as an artist and SkyRoomLive as a platform that continuously brings South African talent to the masses" says Bongi Mvuyana.

The talented songstress has performed on platforms such as the prestigious Moenito Music Conference and Katzy's Up and Coming.

South Africa's new songbird has received great reception to her music not only locally, but in West Africa as well. 'I Wonder', off Bongi Mvuyana's upcoming debut album, Dopamine, has recently been play listed on Ghana's YFM and Nigeria's The Beat 97.9 FM (debuting on the African Top 10 Chart at #10).

Locally, 'I Wonder' is playing on stations such as Metro FM, Power FM, YFM, KwaZulu FM, UCT Radio, Kaya FM, Heart FM, Radio 2000 and East Coast Radio.

Listen to the music here - <http://bongimvuyana.com/new-music-i-wonder/>

Bongi Mvuyana's performance will be streamed live to her Facebook fan page (<https://www.facebook.com/RonniMvuyanaMusic/>) and will air on SABC 1 on

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BONGI MVUYANA



# Sunday Times - Online

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## My Kind of Holiday: Bongi Mvuyana

Travel Weekly | 24 November, 2013 00:11



**Bongi Mvuyana is a singer-songwriter**

Where did you spend your last holiday?

Cape Town.

What was the best thing you did while there?

Gate-crashed a private party on a luxury yacht. How we pulled that off still amazes me.

Your favourite city abroad and why?

It's not a city, but I love Inhambane in Mozambique. It's so relaxed and natural and the people are so humble and welcoming.

What must a first-time visitor see there?

Get on a boat and see the incredible expanses of clear water, massive sand dunes and sea life.

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 **My Kind of Holiday: Bothwell Matewe**



Also, have a conversation with the locals - they made a lasting impression on me.

What should they not bother with?

Leave your heels and make-up at home.

And your worst to date? What happened?

On a farm near Richmond. We had to sleep in a barn, where odd-looking ticks decided I was a snack.

What is the best thing you have been given on holiday . or pinched from a hotel?

The Flamingo Bay Water Lodge made me a birthday cake and got one of their local guitarists in for a private show on one of their terraces, overlooking the sea. It was a great birthday present.

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BONGI MVUYANA

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**Music & Gadgets**



**Bongi Mvuyana debuts her first music video**

Posted: 25 March 2014 Time: 03:10 pm [Print this article](#)

The talented soul singer and songwriter's first music video debuted exclusively on Channel O and is now available to watch online.

The music video features Mvuyana's debut single, *I Wonder*, taken off her upcoming album, *Dopamine*, which is due for release in April 2014. *I Wonder*, which was shot by Call Back Dreams, has received rave reviews from media and industry taste makers who have described her as a complete package with her elegance, sophistication and beauty coupled with a strong stage presence.

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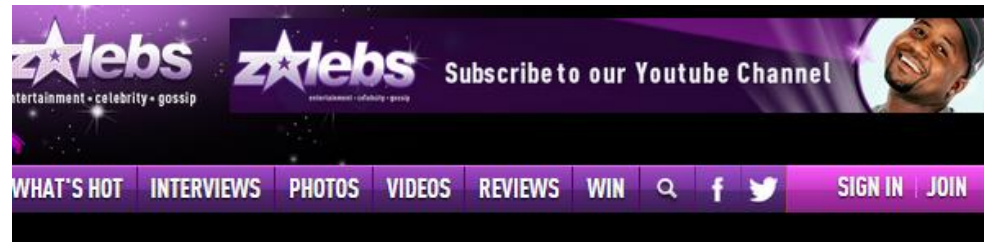
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BONGI MVUYANA

# ZAlebs



## 'I WONDER' STAR, BONGI MVUYANA REVEALS DELIGHT AT SINGLE

By Tinashe Venge on 05 March 2014 at 14:08 · 0Comments

ZAlebs spoke to the talented Bongi Mvuyana this week. The soulful songbird has been making waves with her new single, 'I Wonder' in recent months and she's well on track to making a big impact.



ZAlebs spoke to the talented Bongi Mvuyana this week. The soulful songbird has been making waves with her new single, 'I Wonder' in recent months and with her album set to release this month, she is primed to make a big impact in South African music. Let's see what Bongi has to say about her music and her live showcases.

Hi Bongi, welcome to ZAlebs. Your new single 'I wonder', is doing quite well and your name is getting a lot more mention since the last time that we spoke. How happy are you with the way things are going?




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BONGI MVUYANA



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
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## Bongi Mvuyana To Rock SkyroomLive With AKA


Author: Guest Contributor  Print  Email  Comment [ 0 ]  Share


The talented local singer and songwriter Bongi Mvuyana will perform her exceptional music next week Saturday, November 16th, 2013 at 22:00 as part of the SkyroomLive performances, alongside fellow stable mate and hip hop artist AKA.

Tickets to this intimate concert presented by SkyroomLive, are available online, and the concert will also be streamed live via the [SkyroomLive website](#).

Bongi Mvuyana, who started singing at a very young age, offers a breath of soul that is set to revitalize the local music scene. The singer and songwriter is currently working on her debut album titled *Dopamine*, which will be released next year.




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Rising star, Bongi Mvuyana

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BONGI MVUYANA

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**Bongi Mvuyana releases her debut single, *I Wonder***  
Published: 9 October 2013

Bongi Mvuyana, a South African singer and song writer, has debuted her first single, *I Wonder*, which is taken off her debut album, *Dopamine*. It has already been playlisted on stations such as *Metro FM*, *Power FM*, *YFM*, *Kovsie FM*, *UCT Radio*, *Kaya FM*, *Heart FM* and *Radio 2000 FM* to name a few.

Mvuyana brings a lot of character to her music which can be experienced both visually and audibly. She has a strong personality and vocals which are softened by her warm heart and packaged sensually with her style and gentle demeanor.

"I want my music to mean something to people when they listen to it. I want people to relate to the stories, find something authentic in the words, in the chords," says Mvuyana.

Mvuyana's performance highlights in 2013 include Katzy's Up and Coming and the *Moshito Music Conference*. She grew up with music around her and discovered at a very young age that music was her passion. However, it wasn't until a year ago when she signed to the Vth Season Audio label, which also manages the likes of AKA, Da LES and DJ Violante, that she and her manager

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BONGI MVUYANA



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