

WOMEN ACROSS BOARDERS

Karin and Maskandi Music

On this issue we don't want to stick to South African women who are doing extraordinary things. We introduce you to Karin Kadeem, a woman who different hats that range from being a mother to performing with South Africa's Maskandi Music artist, Jaiva Zimnike. She has decided to give Mzansi Youth readers a sneak peak into her life.

When people meet me for the first time, the foremost questions asked are how did I meet Jaiva Zimnike? Why does Jaiva sing with an umlungu wase Jalimane? And what about this strange language she is singing in? "Wissen, ist der Schlüssel für dein Leben-ahaa". How is it possible to pronounce that?

Well, sometimes miracle things happen in life and these things can change and influence everything. My first contact with South Africa was in July 2015 while travelling through the Eastern Parts of the continent.

Accompanied by our guide Sfiso from Kwa-Zulu Natal, we learnt a lot about the country, society, nature, wildlife, cultures, and traditions. I never got tired of asking more questions and I am thankful that these questions were answered, because if I hunger for knowledge, I tend to not stop exploring.

One of the days, there was a discussion about music. I wondered what kind of music our guide was listening to, and there I had the encounter with my first Maskandi song ever, namely: "Nguwe" (by Mthandeni/Jaiva Zimnike). Although it was a bit strange to my European ears, I liked the music and wanted to listen to more.

Returning to Germany from this unforgettable tour with impressive memories, I kept on learning more about Zulu music, listened to Maskandi Cd's that were sent to me and I learnt about the culture as well as all the problems that accompany daily lives in SA. After a while of nurturing the growth of knowledge about what happens even behind the scenes, I had an idea to help our friend and his siblings by supporting him and his little sister in their further educa-



tion. So I started a small charity project. And meanwhile thanks to Sfiso and the music,

I got introduced to more music fans and people and in the same way more projects and help were created by focusing the support of education! And of course through all these contacts I learned step by step-kancane kancane- a bit more about the Maskandi Music.

The visit to SA that followed, my news friends in the country and Maskandi fans arranged a

meeting with Jaiva Zimnike and Sonakali Zondi in April 2016. They wanted the artists to meet their first German Fan ever! And then while talking with them I made a joke and said: "Next time when I am in SA we will sing together"- well... and there was a "next time"!

"Education is the key to your life" (Imfundo ibalulekile empilweni yomuntu) – this song was produced in October 2016. I visited SA again and contacted Jaiva Zimnike and Sonakali Zondi. Although I am

neither an artist nor a musician, we started a music project, a united effort which gave the Maskandi fans a surprise by singing these important lyrics in German.

Sounds a bit like a revolution – but indeed till today people really like and appreciate the idea expressed in this song, and many young students still text me to tell me that the song encourages them while doing their homework, for example. The album that has this track called "Ngehlelwa Umoja" successfully went on

sale last November, and then in April 2017 I joined Jaiva with the band and dancers on stage in Curriesfontain, where fans happily welcomed me in an appealing manner, more than I expected.

After this event there were some articles in the newspapers about the "umlungu from Germany" and so it happened that one of the co-founders from a youth publication "Mzansi Youth" who likes Maskandi music saw the article and contacted me. He was planning to organize an event in Durban and he told me he really wanted to meet me. Indeed he made a big effort and went the extra mile; he came to Johannesburg with his colleague for a talk, where they found out about my projects and charity. As they are as well involved in some community charity we kept in touch. Meanwhile we became friends and thanks to him I will support the "Umkhumbane Maskandi Festival" soon. Ngiyajabula !!!

Our life is like a symphony- it can be happy and sad. Melodies accompany us every day and often help us to go through all kinds of situations. Music can open doors. Music unites; music is love, peace and happiness. In music, respect should be shown and tradition should be kept.

In music, people socialize as well as compete but this should be done with passion and love. So as you see in my case everything started with a friendship and a song and a unique collaboration that made a lot of people happy. For me it was and is more than an honor to have been accepted in this wonderful tradition as I am an "Umlungu" from very far away.

Sharing is Caring - developmental assistance should be implemented at the base of everything, the source of all good things. It should help people stand on their own feet; it should provide chances and motivate people to make the best out of their lives as well as the lives of others. Sharing should motivate and educate. That is the key.

Words: Karin Kadeem