

## ANDRE HATTINGH

(Class of 1971)



At the age of 13 Andre was touring South Africa on a professional basis with her sister and the well-known group "Groep Twee". She continued to shine as a solo artist at school. She was the first pupil at Epworth to represent the Province in singing and performed as a soloist for the Natal Schools Choir. At 20 she completed a degree at Natal University majoring in Speech and drama.

On arrival in Johannesburg. Andre auditioned for a part in a musical and immediately won the lead role as Catherine in "Pippin". As the result of her overnight success she became one of South Africa's favourite musical comedy performers going on to star in many musicals including "Tomfoolery" "Little Shop of Horrors" "Side by Side by Sondheim", Noel and Gertie

Andre played in several TV dramas and feature films including "Charlie Word n Ster " in which she sang and composed the theme song "Saam met Jou"

Apart from her stage and film performances Andre became a household name hosting SABC TV's first children show "Bangalory Time" for some years and during this period honed her song-writing skills, being required to write and perform a new song live on air each week. In addition to this Andre went on to host her own TV comedy series "The Andre Hattingh Show", again writing extensive material for the series.

Having worked with international directors, Andre was then invited to new York , where she performed. She returned to South Africa to play the lead in "Little Shop of Horrors.", after which she appeared in many more productions. In 2000 she co-wrote, directed, produced and starred in a show called "Two Tickets to Broadway".

In 1987 Andre diversified her talents and has since established herself as one of South Africa's leading lights in ethnic fashion design, even bringing out a collection for the opening of the "Lost City" In 1999 Andre was invited to Paris to show her Images of Africa Collection with tremendously successful results. She now has her own exclusive studio in Parktown North.

During the last two years Andre has stepped back into music. Experiencing a life of rich and sometimes painful experiences, her song writing has matured, culminating in a recent collection of songs based on her "Journey of Love"

She wrote a show around this CD and performed this to great critical acclaim at Carnival City for the whole month of February. She appeared as a guest on "People of the South" as a tribute to her contribution to the entertainment and fashion world. A few years ago she was inspired to write a song "Let Me Grow In Peace" . It was chosen as the anthem for Childrens Day in Gauteng and performed to an audience of 40,000. Many choirs throughout the country are now including it in their repertoire. Andre is married to the internationally acclaimed playwright and director

Anthony Akerman. At present he writes for several TV drama series. They live very happily in Greenside, Johannesburg with 3 dogs, Fundi Tombi and Umfana. Andre developed a inspirational talk in 2005 called "Colours of my Life"

She has been addressing schools, womens clubs and raising money for charities all over the country. She has recently undergone an operation to remove cancer and is on a treatment of chemotherapy. This journey has inspired her to write many more songs which she performs in her talk.