

BROWN SCREENINGS



Produced by Konshus Pilot Media



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Project Summary;

Ernestine Deane is a multi talented filmmaker, healer, songwriter, singer and actress and hosts the Brown workshops and screenings. She is also a founder member of Cape Town based **Konshus Pilot Media** a multimedia production initiative that produces and trades in conscious music and films that promote creativity and pride in heritage and identity. The products (cd's, dvd's, performances, workshops and screenings) are made accessible to the disadvantaged communities who can benefit from these messages most, particularly women, prisoners and youth.

South Africans have long nurtured a culture of storytelling. Music and film have become vital media for modern day story telling and have a strong impact on the youth. When their influence is negative it can be detrimental to the development of a young mind. Konshus Pilot Media encourages conscious storytelling through music and film... promoting the positive values that South African *youth and families can only benefit from. These stories explore the issues of heritage and identity through music and film, encouraging self-pride and self-respect through creativity, so providing alternatives to the self-destruction and apathy so prevalent in disadvantaged communities today.

Ernestine grew up on the Cape Flats and is well aware of the challenges facing the Apartheid-labeled 'coloured' community today. For various socio-political reasons, many are oblivious of the origins of their mixed bloodlines-descendant of Slaves, indigenous tribes, as well as European colonizers and settlers. Earlier educational curricula made no mention of the fact that the inhabitants of the Cape Flats population were once forcibly removed from their ancestral land...now affluent areas such as Bishops court, Constantia and Stellenbosch (to name a few). These evictions affected by apartheid's Group Areas Act have left an indelible and deep-seated mark on the **Brown**-skinned people.

Ernestine uses the popular media of film and music as tools to address these issues in an effort to fill in the missing history chapters in an interesting, uplifting and entertaining way- instilling in the coloured community a sense of pride of heritage, their invaluable contribution to Cape Town-at the same time educating others about the little-known facts of this much misunderstood and stereotyped community.

The Brown Screenings showcase the autobiographical documentary, **Brown**- a musical portrait of Ernestine Deane.

In '**Brown**' we see Ernestine explore her own family roots as landowners and functional farmers in Constantia before the Group Areas Act evictions.

The film is an uplifting example of 'healing through creativity'. In Ernestine's case, she uses her music to tell her family story, and in so doing gives them an opportunity to speak, to connect and to heal and She shows by example shows how the younger generation can mobilize new futures for themselves in a positive way and without blame or victimization.

'Brown' was produced and directed by **Kali van der Merwe** of **Otherwise Media**, with writing and musical direction By Ernestine Deane. It was funded by the **Open Society Foundation for South Africa**.

Though it was completed in 2005, the film continues to tour the international film festival circuit, and has to date been screened in **Australia, Zanzibar, Italy, Czech Republic, Switzerland**. It won **three awards** for Best African documentary and Best South African Documentary, respectively at the Milano Film Festival in Italy, the Apollo film Festival and 26th Durban Film Festival. The film has also been licensed by the **SABC** and **CTV**.

Brown screenings **Programme**

1. Welcome and introduction to the film by Ernestine Deane

2. The themes explored in the film are outlined.

These themes are the topics for discussion or *creative writing projects.

3. The film is screened (54 min)

4. Motivational talk/ Questions/ Discussion around Themes explored in the documentary:

- The importance of understanding South Africa's History
- Pride in Heritage
- Taking ownership of one's Identity
- Writing one's own story
- The role of Women in the home and in communities
- The role of Men in the home and in communities
- The role of Nature in our Modern lives
- The role of storytelling in our Modern lives
- Promoting Tolerance through Arts and Culture
- Honouring one's creativity.
- The Importance of Dreaming and Visualizing in manifesting a new Future.
- The importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle
- How to be a Konshus pilot...taking charge of one's own destiny without blame or victimization

5. Conclusion 30 min Musical Performance by Ernestine Deane

*** In the event that the workshops are presented to schools, the workshop objectives are further extended by creative writing projects facilitated by History and Language/Literature teachers of the relevant schools on the abovementioned themes.**