

Jazz Musician in Zimbabwe

TRAILER

Dudu Manhenga is a Zimbabwean musician who says she's been singing ever since she can remember. Her music is a mix of traditional Zimbabwean sounds combined with jazz, she lives in Harare with her family.

RUNTIME: 05:47

COUNTRY: ZIMBABWE

FILMING LOCATION: HARARE

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

SOURCE: A24 MEDIA/ REUTERS

SCRIPT

COMMENTARY

Live performances may look easy but it takes hours of practice to pull them off and Dudu Manhenga is getting better at it. Concerts and private functions like this are how she makes a living in Zimbabwe where people are still recovering from economic recession – and most can't afford to buy cd's.

Dudu started singing professionally when she was 16 years old and has even been a backup vocalist for internationally renowned Oliver Mtukudzi. So far she and her color Blu band have released three afro jazz albums.

ITV, DUDU MANHENGA (English)

"People have asked me why afro jazz? I never intended to sing afro jazz. I think its just my way of expressing myself and I suppose maybe I am a 60 year old caught up in a 29

year old body hence the direction that I go with that kind of music but its just my form. This is my artistic voice that is speaking and I never intended it to be called any particular thing. I sing what I sing and ten people told me this is the box that I belong in.”

COMMENTARY

Though she likes to sing about love and relationships, Dudu also uses her music to talk about women’s issues.

ITV, DUDU MANHENGA (English)

“When I speak in my clicks language, people say are you sure you are saying something right there? So in this song this person is saying I am tired of being your target and now I am going to take up my arms and I’m going to return whatever you bring to me and I think this is women saying that cause women have been taking a lot in the past years and now they are saying you know what, even though I’ve been flying alone I will not take that anymore.”

COMMENTARY

Dudu lives in Harare with her husband, Blessing – who also plays in her band. They have four children.

ITV, DUDU MANHENGA (English)

“My husband and my kids they are great. We have got I think our kids are so disciplined they take care of themselves, they understand that they have to share mama with the world. Even when they come to the concerts they sit there and they are still. It’s as if they are not kids at all.”

COMMENTARY

Dudu and her husband are both fulltime artists and though they work together they still enjoy hanging out with one another.

As Zimbabwe recovers from years of economic recession they hope that more gigs can come their way but also that the government can make musicians a priority.

ITV, BLESSING MBARUTSA, Dudu's Husband (English)

"We really need to work harder than what we've been doing and what we are doing currently because we still have other structures in shambles they are not in place, they are not where they are supposed to be. We still want to be really recognized as people who are in a profession cause some people think its a game not knowing this is a proper profession you can actually take your family through the early education system even to university and even after they can have a comfortable life from music and the arts."

COMMENTARY

On Sunday, Dudu wears a different hat at her local church where she sings in the choir...

We asked her pastor what it was like having a secular musician in the church.

ITV, Reverend MPARUTSA, Dudu's Pastor (English)

"We empower people Dudu cannot come and impact people in the church they are already impacted. She has got to go and impact the people in the place she has influence which is the music industry and environment. She is our ambassador on church to the world in the music industry."

COMMENTARY

In addition to representing her church, Dudu who has also performed abroad wants to be an ambassador for her country. For now she will keep experimenting with different sounds - hoping she can achieve what some of the worlds greatest artists have...

SHOTLIST

(AJ) HARARE, ZIMBABWE (RECENT) (REUTERS – ACCESS ALL)

1. VARIOUS OF DUDU MANHENGA PERFORMING ON STAGE
2. VARIOUS OF THE BLU BAND PERFORMING WITH DUDU MANHENGA
3. AUDIENCE WATCHING
4. DUDU MANHENGA PERFORMING ON STAGE WITH HER BAND
5. DRUMMER
6. DUDU MANHENGA PERFORMING ON STAGE WITH HER BAND
7. (SOUNDBITE) (Female) AFRO JAZZ SINGER, DUDU MANHENGA, SAYING:
“People have asked me why afro jazz? I never intended to sing afro jazz. I think its just my way of expressing myself and I suppose maybe I am a 60 year old caught up in a 29 year old body hence the direction that I go with that kind of music but its just my form. This is my artistic voice that is speaking and I never intended it to be called any particular thing. I sing what I sing and ten people told me this is the box that I belong in.”
8. DUDU MANHENGA PERFORMING ON STAGE WITH HER BAND
9. (SOUNDBITE) (Female) AFRO JAZZ SINGER, DUDU MANHENGA, SAYING:
“When I speak in my clicks language, people say are you sure you are saying something right there? So in this song this person is saying I am tired of being your target and now I am going to take up my arms and I’m going to return whatever you bring to me and I think this is women saying that cause women have been taking a lot in the past years and now they are saying you know what, even though I’ve been flying alone I will not take that anymore.”
10. AUDIENCE CLAPPING
11. DUDU MANHENGA SINGING ON STAGE
12. DRUMMER
13. AERIAL OF STREET WITH BUILDINGS
14. DUDU MANHENGA AT HOME WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN
15. DUDU MANHENGA WALKING OUTSIDE HER HOUSE WITH HUSBAND BLESSING MPARUTSA

16. DUDU MANHENGA AND HER HUSBAND EATING AND TALKING OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSE

17. (SOUNDBITE) (English) DUDU'S HUSBAND, BLESSING MPARUTSA, SAYING:

“We really need to work harder than what we've been doing and what we are doing currently because we still have other structures in shambles they are not in place, they are not where they are supposed to be. We still want to be really recognized as people who are in a profession cause some people think its a game not knowing this is a proper profession you can actually take your family through the early education system even to university and even after they can have a comfortable life from music and the arts.”

18. DUDU MANHENGA SINGING WITH HER CHOIR AT CHURCH

19. DUDU'S PASTOR, REVEREND MPARUTSA DANCING

20. PEOPLE IN CHURCH DANCING WHILE LISTENING TO THE CHOIR

21. DUDU AND THE CHURCH CHOIR PERFORMING ON STAGE

22. (SOUNDBITE) (Male) DUDU'S PASTOR, REVEREND MPARUTSA SAYING:

“We empower people Dudu cannot come and impact people in the church they are already impacted. She has got to go and impact the people in the place she has influence which is the music industry and environment. She is our ambassador on church to the world in the music industry.”

23. AUDIENCE CLAPPING TO THE MUSIC

24. DUDU MANHENGA PERFORMING ON STAGE WHILE THE AUDIENCE DANCES

25. AUDIENCE DANCING

26. DUDU MANHENGA THANKING AUDIENCE AND LEAVES STAGE

END