


COMPILED BY CRAIG TYSON, DYLAN MUHLENBERG, SIPHIWE MPYE, MILES KEYLOCK, TOBY SHAPSHAK,

IAN MCNAUGHT DAVIS

These men have changed the cultural, technological and emotional landscape in their own fields and on a grand scale. Some are corporate honchos, others could do with some extra sponsorship. All are rich in experience and big of heart

MEN OF INFLUENCE



35

SOUTH AFRICANS
UNDER

35

STEVE FISHER KAYAKER, 33

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: This all-rounder, who does big water, steep creeks, wavesyle and exploration, is regarded as the best white-water kayaker in the world. He likes nothing more than to hurtle down a mountain torrent that contains more rocks than water.

HE SAYS: 'Growing up in South Africa, we had nobody to tell us what we should do, but we also had nobody telling us what we shouldn't do. So we had to set our own standards.'

INVENTED MOVES: Air-screw, helix, free wheel, flip-turn, silly flip and Pan-am.

GREGOR JENKIN
DESIGNER_33

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: With a design language that's not restricted to any one particular style, Jenkin has turned South African military surplus into domestic design, hybridised furniture and collaborated with William Kentridge. This highly versatile approach is based on his multifaceted design background. After formal training in architecture and engineering, Jenkin spent two years in London working as an art director for Ralph Lauren's UK stores before establishing a South African workshop that machined bolts for the mines of his native Johannesburg. **HE SAYS:** 'It all comes down to a love of making things.'



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE TARGHEL



RYAN SANDES
ULTRA MARATHON
RUNNER_27

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: After beating popular favourite Dean Karnazes – the man named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World – on his first ever attempt, this Hout Bay surfer is now touted as the best technical runner in the world. He recently made history by breaking the Amazon Jungle Marathon record, conquering swamps, hills and exotic animals. **HE SAYS:** 'It's tough. It takes a lot out of me. You need to cut out sleep to work, train and just fit everything in. The race is at least 60 per cent mental – dealing with pain and being able to push through the long stages when all you want to do is stop.'

SIYABULELA XUZA
2ND-YEAR STUDENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY_20

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: From mixing chemicals in his mother's kitchen from age 12, he went on to build a rocket, which broke the South African amateur altitude record. **CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT:** His rocket-fuel project was so impressive, the NASA-affiliated Lincoln Laboratory named a planet after him.

PERSONAL ANECDOTE: Siya takes Mandarin and economics classes at Harvard to 'broaden my mind and make me an interdisciplinary thinker,' he wrote on America.org recently. **THE FUTURE:** A Nobel Prize for Science before the age of 30 is not far-fetched.

JOHN VAN DE RUIT
ACTOR, PLAYWRIGHT
AND AUTHOR_34

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: His debut novel *Spud* smashed all local publishing records. With comedy partner Ben Voss, John has produced the award-

winning satirical stage productions *Green Mamba* and *Black Mamba*. **POTENTIAL REALISED:** Both *Spud* and *Spud – The Madness Continues* were published in the US and UK, and translated into Italian, Russian and Portuguese. Rogue Star Productions has the screen rights to *Spud*, and a movie is being shot in KZN.

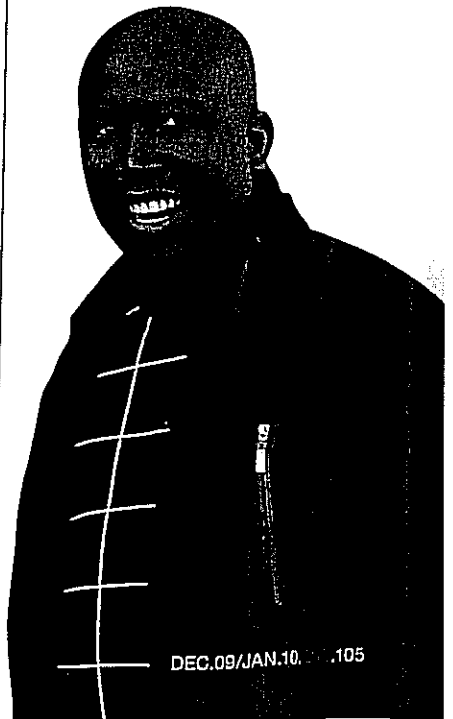
MIKE STOPFORTH
SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT_28

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Social media, the phrase for user-generated sites like Facebook and Twitter, is the biggest new trend on the Internet. Stopforth is taking advantage of it. **DEFINING MOMENT:** Co-founding Afrigator, Africa's premier aggregator of social media. **WHAT HE'S DOING:** His social media companies, Cerebra and Brandsh Media, allow brands to interact more meaningfully with clients.

JULIUS MALEMA
POLITICIAN_28

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: The leader of the ANC Youth League and the media's dial-a-quote guy has been called a power broker and a buffoon; a philanthropist and the president-in-waiting. He's been compared to Nelson Mandela and Joseph Goebbels, all the while building himself a higher public profile than the president and becoming a key figure in the broader political power plays going on within the ruling party. **CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT:** His public backing for President Jacob Zuma was emphasised by his infamous 'I will kill for Zuma' quote. Subsequently, he was paid back with an endorsement from Zuma as the country's future president. >>

PHOTOGRAPH BY FOTO23/BDNGIWE GUMEDE



PHOTOGRAPH BY @LOZZAPHOTO.COM/RED BULL PHOTOFILES

WERNER

JACQUES RAUTENBACH

CEO OF INTERNET SOLUTIONS AFRICA_35

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Rautenbach has wired up Africa for Internet Solutions (IS), South Africa's first, and now largest, corporate internet service provider (ISP). He spent the past two years in Nigeria building up, mostly from scratch, internet connectivity for top-tier clients.

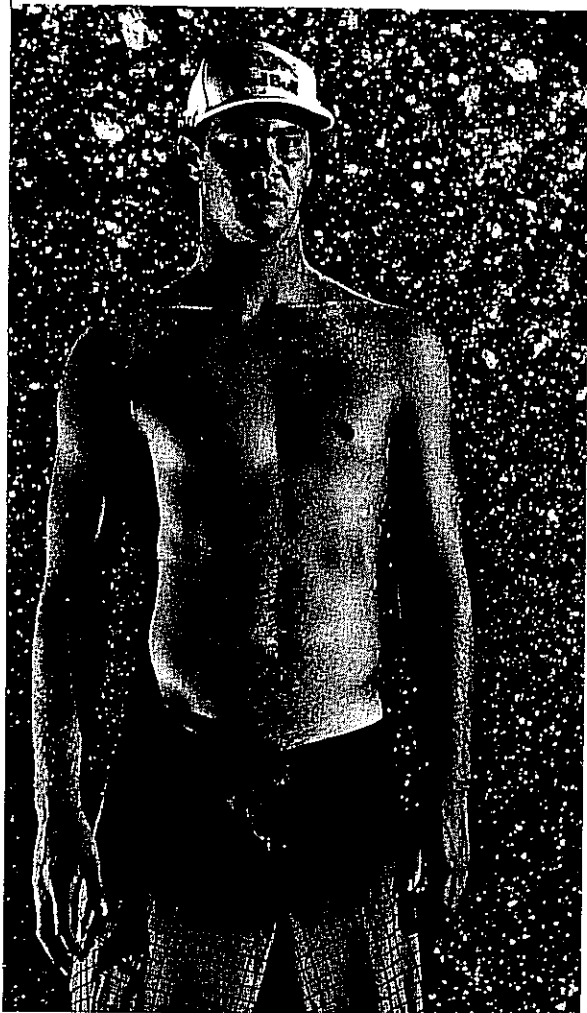
CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: When I realised the best job I could do was not in technology or commerce, but how to bridge commerce and technology.

JORDY SMITH SURFER_22

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Surfing's wunderkid found himself in the very enviable position of sitting in a bidding war, which saw him get the highest price an amateur surfer has ever received. Kelly Slater gets around \$2 million. Jordy Smith is on about \$1.7 million.

HE SAYS: 'My mentors, or the ones I look up to, are Martin Potter and Shaun Thomson, but my dad taught me everything and motivated me more than anyone else.'

POTENTIAL REALISED: World Junior Champion 2006, Triple Crown Rookie of the Year 2007, WCT' contender 2008 and said to become the next World Champ.



PHOTOGRAPH BY AGUSTIN NUÑOZ/RED BULL PHOTOFILES



PHOTOGRAPH BY GALLO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

JOHN SMIT SPRINGBOK RUGBY CAPTAIN_32

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Forget Chuck Norris: the hardest man alive is John Smit. (John, ever the gentleman, insists that this mantle belongs to Bak-kies.) From winning the Tri-Nations in his first year as captain in 2004, he has added the World Cup (2007) and Tri-Nations and British and Irish Lions series this year. No man is more deserving of becoming the most capped Springbok and international captain as he has this year.

CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: 'It would have to be a combination of the four years leading up to the [World Cup] trophy in 2007. The World Cup was special.'

DEFINING MOMENT: Brad Thorn's 2007 Tri-Nations-ending tackle showed how much Smit's leadership meant to the Springboks. Without him they were mediocre. With him, they won the World Cup. Paid Thorn back with a crushing hit this year.

MIKHAEL SUBOTZKY PHOTOGRAPHER_28

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: After achieving international acclaim for his final-year project Die Vier Hoeke, a panoramic insider's view of Pollsmoor Prison, Subotzky has gone on to exhibit at MOMA, gain residency at Fabbrica in Treviso and receive a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the 2006 P25 Award for Concerned Photography, the 2007 KLM Paul Huff Award, and the 2007 City of Perpignan Young Photographer Award. He was awarded the Leica Oskar Barnack Award for his Beaufort West essay.

THEY SAY: His work is an expression of his experience of post-apartheid South Africa, and by placing himself in an extraordinary wide range of social situations, he allows his own experiences to formulate a vision of the social world around him.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY TILLIM



SHARLTO COPLEY ACTOR_35

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Producer, actor and director Copley spent most of his career behind the scenes, producing and directing commercials, music videos and short films. When he agreed to help Neill Blomkamp with his new film, he never imagined becoming a star.

POTENTIAL REALISED: Playing Wikus van de Merwe in the film *District 9*. Next up, Copley will play H M Murdock in the remake of *The A-Team*.

HE SAYS: 'I'm going to see where the road leads. I'm enjoying where I'm at now and will see where it goes.' >>



JACQUES IMBRAILO BARITONE_31

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: The Free State farm boy, who auditioned for the choir as a dare, attended the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School and attained a BA Law degree and BMus degree at the North-West University in 2002. He went on to study opera at the Royal College of Music under British tenor Ryland Davies. His 2009 Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music is one of many achievements. Others include winning the vocal category of the Royal Overseas League Competition, and taking the Audience Prize at Cardiff Singer of the World in 2007.

TOP BRASS: Made his Royal Opera House debut in December 2006 as Morales in Bizet's *Carmen* and completed the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in 2008. He still sings in sold-out venues in Wales, France, England and the US.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZY BERNSTEIN

NEILL BLOMKAMP DIRECTOR_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: In 2005, Neill Blomkamp's short, gritty documentary *Alive in Joburg*, about extraterrestrials marooned in Jozi, would eventually morph into the smash-hit movie *District 9*, which reached number one at the US box office.

SEAL OF APPROVAL: Under the wing of *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson, Blomkamp was poised to call the shots on the set of *Halo*, the movie adaption of the cult video game. After those plans fell through, Jackson was quick to bankroll *Alive in Joburg's* evolution to *District 9*.

HE SAYS: 'I'm a sci-fi freak, so I wanted to take all these Western staples and revisualise them in the African context in which I grew up. Most of the planet lives in settings that are closer to Joburg. To me, that stuff represents the future.'

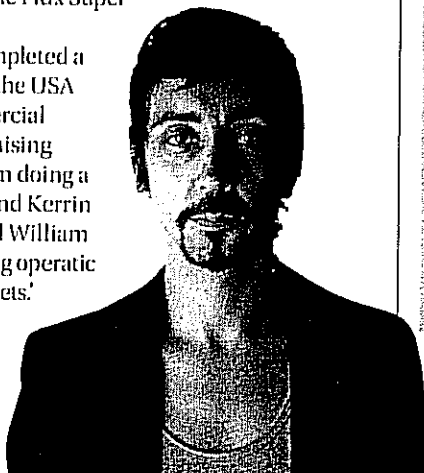
JANNES HENDRIKZ DIRECTOR_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: After stints as a professional composer at post-production companies, Jannes went his own way and is now composer and director for The Blackheart Gang at night and director for *Shy the Sun* by day.

TURNING POINT: The *Tale of How* proved to him that artistic integrity still exists and so Jannes decided working for other people was a senseless thing to do.

POTENTIAL REALISED: Invited to join the Flux Super 8 Exhibition in Los Angeles this year.

HE SAYS: 'Shy the Sun has recently completed a 14-minute short film for Sony BGM in the USA and is now starting on another commercial for the American market. We are organising book launches around the country, I am doing a workshop in Mexico city next month and Kerrin Kokot is doing a documentary on us and William Kentridge, which will include a travelling operatic event in which we'll build props and puppets.'



KHOTSO MOKOENA LONG AND TRIPLE JUMPER_24

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Mokoena is the Olympic and World Championships Silver medalist, Africa record-holder in long jump and national record-holder in triple jump.

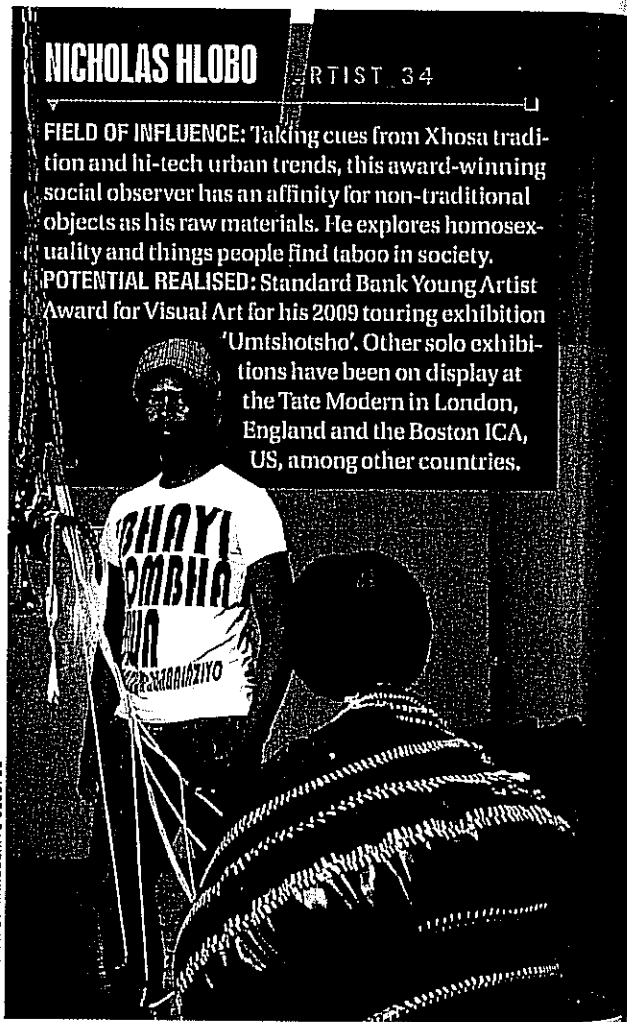
CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: After a Gold medal in the 2008 World Indoor Championships, he became our only medal winner at the Beijing Olympics the same year.

WHAT HE SAYS: He brought hope to South Africans.

NICHOLAS HLOBO ARTIST_34

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Taking cues from Xhosa tradition and hi-tech urban trends, this award-winning social observer has an affinity for non-traditional objects as his raw materials. He explores homosexuality and things people find taboo in society.

POTENTIAL REALISED: Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Art for his 2009 touring exhibition 'Umtshotsho'. Other solo exhibitions have been on display at the Tate Modern in London, England and the Boston ICA, US, among other countries.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGUERITE OELFSE

GARETH KNIGHT SOFTWARE ENTREPRENEUR_32

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Knight is an unsung entrepreneur making his mark in the internet industry in Europe. His new project uses niched e-commerce, drawing on his experience of social networks.

CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: 'Realising the importance of search engines in today's economy - and how to tap that for internet businesses and to reach the mass market and not just geeky early adopters.' >>

MANDLA SIBEKO ENTREPRENEUR_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: He is the director of at least four companies, including the massive Paarl Media Group. He's also chairman of Netflorist, founder/chairman of Seed Capital Investment and a board trustee of LoveLife. The self-proclaimed 'serial entrepreneur' has the ear of everyone from Thelicia Mabuza-Suttle and Pieter Dirks to Tokyo Sexwale and former First Lady Zandile Mbeki. Impressive stuff, especially since he just turned 30.

HE SAYS: 'The worst professional or business decision would have been to stay down when things didn't work out. The career challenges I've experienced in the past taught me some hard lessons. They've helped to propel me forward.'

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS SAUNDERS

MPHO GIFT NGOEPE SHORTSTOP PITTSBURGH PIRATES_20

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Mpho Gift Ngoepe is the first black African to sign for an American baseball team and is set to be the first African in Major League Baseball (MLB).

CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: In 2007 he was selected to play for an MLB academy in Italy, leading to the call from Pittsburgh.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HIM: 'He's a very impressive young man with tremendous charisma. He really wants to learn, he picks up things real quick and can play almost anywhere on the field,' says long-time Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin and coach of Team USA.

VINNY LINGHAM CEO OF YALO.COM_35

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Vinny Lingham, who may well be South Africa's most successful internet entrepreneur since Mark Shuttleworth, was named by the World Economic Forum as one of 25 Young Global Leaders for 2009. Ka-ching! Earlier this year he secured \$20 million in funding to go with the previous \$5 million.

NEXT BIG THING? Lingham is going head-to-head with Google and Microsoft with his own website-building software Yola, which uses a 'freemium' model of free services and paid-for premium offerings.

MICHAEL MACGARRY PROVOCATEUR_31

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: This 2010 Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winner for Visual Art is part of the visual-art collective Avant Car Guard who – with Zander Blom and Jan-Henri Booyens – does stuff like throw dirt on Kendall Greer's grave and turn William Kentridge into Frankenstein.

HE SAYS: 'The political leaning of my work interrogates the characteristics of political elites in African nation-states post-independence – their power dynamics and the quality of leadership – with a focus on the escalating role of resource control and exploitation in this milieu. In the South African context, I'm focused on questioning and critiquing the processes and consequence of political leadership based on a revolutionary mandate, and what happens after that revolution is realised.'

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIPUSI MACGARRY



PHOTOGRAPH BY GALLO IMAGES

FOURIE DU PREEZ SCRUMHALF_27

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: SA rugby player of the year, Fourie du Preez, has been the world's best scrumhalf for the past two years. With his cool head and immense experience, his tactical genius on the field gives his flyhalf time to shine. His pin-point kicking and vision have been lauded, and he's not afraid to follow up his lofted kicks to score himself.

GREATEST GAME: 'Three moments of individual brilliance in 18 minutes destroyed England in the 2007 World Cup pool match.'

FOKOPPOLISIEKAR ROCK STARS_LATE TWENTIES

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: 'Die bende' (the gang) consists of Francois van Coke (lead vocals), Hunter Kennedy (guitar), Johnny de Ridder (lead guitar), Wynand Myburgh (bass) and Jaco Venter (drums), a group of friends who stood up and made themselves heard, even though everyone told them they would fail, then led a generation of Afrikaners towards claiming their place in a country that had forgotten them.

POTENTIAL REALISED: Between Liam Lynch's photography and the fokumentary, 'die bende' will be remembered as rabble-rousers even when they're playing *Huisgenoot* parties and doing *Egoli* cameos.

THEY SAY: 'Fok off! Fok off polisiekar, fok jou! Poes off polisieaman!'



PIETER HUGO

PHOTOGRAPHER_33

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: His deliberately provocative images of everything from albinos, Ghanaian barristers and solicitors to the Hyena Men of Nigeria and the wild-honey collectors of Ghana have caused a stir and won him a trophy wall of international awards, including a World Press Photo Award.

HE SAYS: 'I am six foot tall. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. I stick out like a sore thumb in the locations I visit. I quickly realised that the traditional photojournalistic approach of capturing a fleeting moment wasn't going to work for me. Firstly, my reflexes are too slow, and secondly I am not a fly on the wall, I have a presence.' (Discussion with Sean O'Toole in *Creative Review*, April 2006.)



PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIENE VAN ZYL

KESIVAN NAIDOO

DRUMMER_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: The missing link between Elvin Jones, John Bonham and Animal from *The Muppets*, Kesivan honed his polymorphous percussive chops playing with a 'who's who' of jazz giants including Zim Ngqawana, Abdullah Ibrahim and more. He's currently remapping the SA jazz landscape in five killer combos: Babu, the Beat Bag Bohemians, Closet Snare, Reality Radio and Kesivan and the Lights.

HE SAYS: 'Chicks dig sticks! But the intention behind my music is to reach a deeper place in your self, to invoke things in the audience that make their lives better.'

CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: Studying under sitar guru Sanjay Bando-phadyah in India when he turned 20. 2009 Standard Bank Young Jazz Artist Award.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JONKES

BEVAN CULLINAN

COMMERCIALS DIRECTOR_33

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: For someone who studied for four years to become a mime, Bevan's done good. After touring SA's comedy circuit and dishing out lols, rofls and lmaos, he's moved from the spotlight to behind the camera. As a director for Fresh Eye Productions, Bevan uses his significant performance experience and knack for comic timing to extract award-winning performances from anyone placed in the camera's focus.

CLEANING UP: He made us proud at the 2009 Promax BDA Promotion and Marketing Awards held in New York, where he scooped seven awards (three gold, three silver and a bronze) for the DStv 'Guess Who?' television commercial series.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JUST MUSIC

THE BLK JKS

ROCK BAND_LATE 20-SOMETHINGS

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: *Rolling Stone* reckons they're 'Africa's best new band'. Linda Buthelezi (voice, guitars), Mpumi Meata (guitars), Molefi Makananise (bass) and T'shepang Ramoba (voice, drums) are re-imagining what progressive rock music really means by mainlining township blues, renegade dub and free jazz-fusion freakadelia with Afro-beaten sound scraps ripped from a Jozi taxi rank.

THEY SAY: 'It doesn't matter what people think of the music, because it's an important cultural moment just because of its existence,' says Meata on their debut album, *After Robots*, in conversation with Lloyd Gedyde (*Mail & Guardian*, August 2009).

CAREER-DEFINING MOMENT: That iconic front-cover feature in New York's *Fader* magazine.

CHRISTO BASSON

ILLUSTRATOR_29

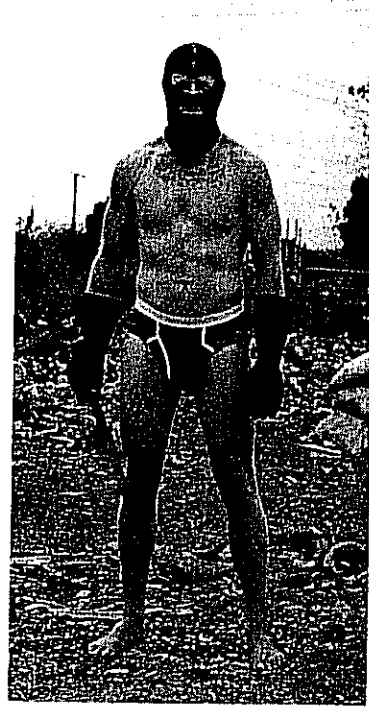
FIELD OF INFLUENCE: A childhood spent doodling in school usually ends up with a polyester uniform and finishing sentences with 'Would you like fries with that?' Nope so for the two founders of the art collective, who turned their love of illustration into big business.

THEY SAY: 'If you work for an agency, the best you're going to get is a gold watch or a pen when you leave after 20 years. We found people who feel the same way as us, and then decided to work with the agencies, not for them.'

POTENTIAL REALISED: The Cannes Grand Prix 2008. ->

RUAN VERMEULEN

ILLUSTRATOR_31

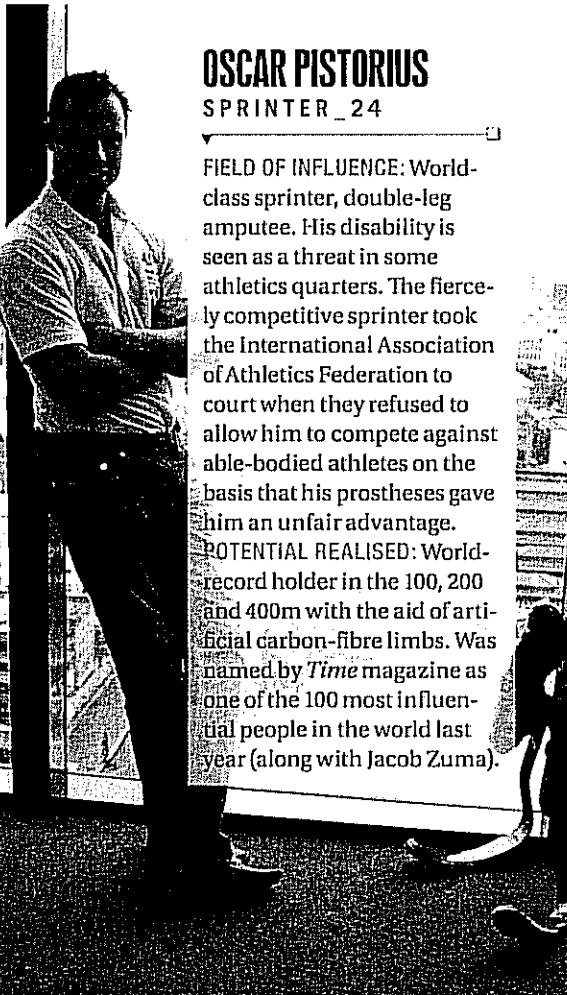




HENRICO GROBBELAAR

EXECUTIVE CHEF AT VERGELEGEN WINE ESTATE_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: After finishing high school, Henrico Grobbelaar obtained a degree in polymer engineering. After working in the field for one year, he got bored with whatever it is that polymer engineers do, and got cooking. **POTENTIAL REALISED:** Represented South Africa at the 2009 San Pellegrino Cooking Cup held in Italy, a world-famous competition that has professional sailing crews competing in the regatta while their representative chefs cook a dish during the time on board. Grobbelaar's Cape Malay curry, dukkah lamb, tuna tataki, scallop in pancetta and oyster on samp won gold.



OSCAR PISTORIUS

SPRINTER_24

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: World-class sprinter, double-leg amputee. His disability is seen as a threat in some athletics quarters. The fiercely competitive sprinter took the International Association of Athletics Federation to court when they refused to allow him to compete against able-bodied athletes on the basis that his prostheses gave him an unfair advantage. **POTENTIAL REALISED:** World-record holder in the 100, 200 and 400m with the aid of artificial carbon-fibre limbs. Was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world last year (along with Jacob Zuma).

DUNCAN ARTUS

FUND MANAGER_33

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Duncan Artus heads the largest general equity fund in South Africa – the Allan Gray equity fund, valued at about R15 billion. He joined the Allan Gray stable as an equity analyst after completing his honours in business science and postgraduate diploma in accounting at the University of Cape Town. His ever-expanding CV has since read CFA charter holder and portfolio manager. **HE SAYS:** 'Managing other people's savings makes it a difficult task to switch one's mind off work completely.'



DUNCAN SAVAGE

WINEMAKER_30

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: With his wines being recognised locally and internationally, several 90+ *Wine Spectator* ratings, numerous five-star ratings in the *Platter's* guide and the Best Sauvignon Blanc in the world over £10 according to the *Decanter* World Wine Awards, it's little wonder that Cape Point Vineyards was recognised as Winery of the Year by last year's *Platter's* guide. **HE SAYS:** 'We are able to constantly experiment in order to attain our goal of being one of the world's leading wine producers and at the same time make sure we have loads of fun doing it.'

GRAEME SMITH

SA CRICKET CAPTAIN_28

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: He's big and tough and led SA to the number one standing in Tests and ODIs. As an opening bat, he has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to keep his head as all around him lose theirs.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Smith became the world's top-ranked ODI batsman in 2008, and was the leading runs scorer in Test cricket that year. Led SA to away series wins over Australia and England, playing memorable innings in both series. He was named SA's 2009 Cricketer of the Year. He is the only South African with four Test double hundreds, and holds the world record for the highest first-wicket partnership in Tests of 415 runs with Neil McKenzie.

HE SAYS: 'We will get the job done.'

SYLVESTER CHAUKE

NATIONAL MARKETING MANAGER, NANNOS_28

FIELD OF INFLUENCE: Moved himself into the public's consciousness when he got his ad agency to piss off the ANCYL through the infamous Julius Malema puppet advert.

HE SAYS: 'Love it and live it! My life is filled with doing things I love and enjoy. I don't let negativity and lack of imagination from people affect my passion and my love for what I do. I try to stay focused on my dream.'

