

**FOR BOOKINGS:**

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**Lelethu “PoeticSoul” Mahambehhlala** heeded to her call for poetry in 2003 driven by a passion to empower school children and women. This saw the start of a journey that has led to her launching an album in 2015. She launched herself as an underground poet in her home town of Port Elizabeth and her talent has seen her blossoming into a recognisable brand within the Eastern Cape. PoeticSoul has performed along the likes of Lebo Mashile, Mac Manaka, and Sibongile Khumalo who are amongst the greats of the South African Creative Industry and as such has earned her stripes in successfully allowing her talent to lead her passion.

**Her notable accolades, amongst others, include:**

- Winner of the 2006 Lentswe Poetry Project competition in the category of Women’s Day. Her winning poem titled *Woman*, aired on SABC 2 and ran until August 2007.
- Started a project, *Life Lessons*, at Kwa-Magxaki High School in Port Elizabeth in collaboration with Nubian Mantombazana. She uses this project as a platform to encourage the youth to be expressive in whatever form (poetry, dance, drama, music etc). The project ran from 2007 to 2009.
- Was poetry coordinator of the *Steve Biko 30:30 Nelson Mandela Bay Festival* in August and September of 2007. She initiated the Poetic Expressions which gave a voice to local poets and became the focal point of the Steve Biko Festival.
- Hosted the September 2008 Port Elizabeth Heritage Concert alongside Bhontsi of KQ FM and well known TV personalities Menzi Ngubane and Sophie Ndaba. The event featured local and national artists including Ringo Mandlingozi, Camagwini, Siphokazi and Zulu Boy to name a few.
- Commissioned by the Arts and Culture Department in Port Elizabeth to write and perform a piece commemorating the *PEPCCO 3* in 2009.

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- Performed at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) CANRAD and South end Museum's Dennis Brutus Memorial lecture in 2011 and in the same year was invited back by the Durban Arts and Culture Department to perform alongside Lebo Mashile and Mak Manaka on the 2nd leg of *Izinkondlo ze Theku*.
- Winner of Beyond the Balance Sheet Award in the Arts and Culture category in 2012.
- Celebrated her 10 year anniversary as a poet in 2013 where she shared the stage with the likes of Dumza Maswana and Bongeziwe Mabandla.
- Staged her production *Village of the Forgotten* on the Main stage at The National Arts Festival 2014, in Grahamstown.
- Performed at *First Annual Xhosa Music Extravaganza* in 2015.
- *Performed at Grahamstown National Arts Festival 2016.*
- *Featured during the State of the Metro on the Morning Live Breakfast Show 2016*
- *Performed at the 2016 Nelson Mandela Bay Cultural Festival.*
- *Performed at the 2016 Gottenberg Sweden Festival.*
- *Performed at the 2016 Mhlobo Wenene Hats and Heels Womens Day Event.*
- *I Am Every Woman: Co-Founder of Theatre Production that included Poetry, Music, Drama and Dance.*
- *Showcased the I Am Every Woman production in Port Elizabeth ad East London*
- *Performed at the Raymond and Dideka Mhlaba Foundation (RDMF) uMkhonto Wesizwe Military Veterans event on the 16th of December 2016.*

The success of *Village of the Forgotten* in Grahamstown in 2014 led to an invitation to perform as a headline act at the launch of Favour Magazine's first Arts Exhibition. PoeticSoul's unique performance style at this event earned her the confidence of the Director of ECAVC Records who offered her an opportunity to have her works recorded under their artist support program.



PoeticSoul welcomed this opportunity and recorded her debut CD early in 2015 which was launched in Port Elizabeth on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

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She continues to dazzle audiences with each presenting opportunity. She recently had an impromptu performance alongside the legendary Simphiwe Dana in May 2015. This performance served as a launching pad for an invitation to perform later that month in Johannesburg alongside the likes of Mzwakhe Mbuli, Mac Manaka and Pops Mohamed at the closing of Africa month *Night of the Poet* event.

Driven by her greater calling, PoeticSoul is a blossoming businesswoman and community developer. She has combined her poetic flair and passion for her mother tongue and works with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in offering and teaching performance poetry training to high school learners with a focus on the development of isiXhosa.

Her penchant for words and poetry shall culminate in her becoming a published author.