

# "MEDIA MAESTRO: NAVIGATING SUCCESS IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY"

BY LUYANDA MBALANA



**MR. THABO KAGISO**  
**BUSINESS MAN, PRODUCER, WRITER & DIRECTOR**

Thaba Kagiso is a meticulous 26-year-old guy who was born and bred in the rural outskirts of Matobole, in Limpopo, just outside the city of Polokwane. He was born on the 22nd of September and is an only child to a single mother who dedicated everything she is to his success. He went to Kgetsa Primary school in Matobole, and later went to Mitsubishi Primary school, which is situated in Hamanskraal and then he went to Lethuli Primary, which is in Seshego. He started his secondary school education in Sehlola Secondary and then later on went to Millennium Combined School in Madiba Park where he matriculated in 2014. He enrolled for Bcom Law in Midrand Graduate Institute but had to drop out due to financial implications.

In life, winning and losing will both happen. What is not acceptable is quitting- Mr Thaba is the perfect epitome of someone who went through that. After completing Matric, we all aspire to see ourselves pursuing our dreams and goals, but when we hit rock bottom unexpectedly, it takes a toll on us, as it did on him, which, however, instead of stopping him, became the fuel in the tank. Having dropped out due to not having any funding whatsoever, Mr Thaba found himself putting his dreams on hold. However, his mother has

-been a pillar. She made a sacrifice and showed that indeed a woman holds the sharp end of the knife by selling her house for her son to complete his undergraduate studies, to which Mr Thaba is still in awe and grateful to date. In 2016 he enrolled at Boston Media for a Diploma in Media Practice and this is where he was exposed to all the fundamentals of film making. In the same year he started his own Media Production company called Kagiso Media Production Studio, and registered it with SARS for tax purposes.

It is not all the time that everyone will share your visions with you and the same holds true for Mr Thaba- his vision was only his alone to foresee and he had to become the director, producer, script writer and manager of the production and he has never been more happy to have gone through this journey to understand every nook and cranny pertaining to production. Later, he went to the University of Limpopo to pursue an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts qualification in Media Studies. His performance was exceptional and he made it out with a Cum Laude and was recognized as one of the top achievers in his field.

Unfortunately he could not even celebrate his achievements because it was during the Covid-19 lockdown and everything was done online, "it was such an honour to graduate my Bachelor`s degree in Media Studies with an outstanding performance. I have never imagined outshining my fellow graduates with a Cum Laude degree" Mr Thaba expressed himself. Even though he did not make it to that stage and could not have the grand celebration he was planning for, his spirit was still cheerful and he imagined himself wearing that gown and walking on the red carpet.

Coming from a poor background and his daily activities have always been the drive and motivation behind his hard work. During the midst of Covid-19, he always remained hopeful and maintained his hard work and commitment and the results vouch for him. His passion in media and communications is also one of the things that made him to progress in his studies. If you know the struggle and how hard you fought to get to where you are you would always incubate whatever it is that you have. Sometimes life gives us so many opportunities, but we do not always comprehend and value them because not everyone is that fortunate. He feels sad at the fact that he had to commence his degree at a later age than he had hoped, but his love and passion kept him going. Not having a sponsorship, worrying about where he will live and his overall expenses ached him a lot at the time, but even through the unfavourable circumstances he had to go through, Mr Thaba has a different story to tell now; he came out a victor against all odds.

In 2021, he made a journey to the city of milk and honey, of endless possibilities and opportunities and pursued an Honour`s degree in Film and Television. He started attending film workshops and auditioned for featured roles. He was cast in several SABC Television shows such as Generations and Muvhango as a body guard and Mzansi Magic Soap Operas, Diepcity as Tsotsi, Side Dish and The Republic as a Prison Warden, and Lingashoni as a journalist, to name a few.

Then he worked for the department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg as an assistant to the Head of Department in the following year, 2022, where he was conducting research, writing book chapters, organizing and overseeing the general work in the department. Early 2023 he served as a Student Debtors and Registration Assistant at the Finance Department in the university. He was doing accounting, examining financial statements, daily account records, answering phone calls, writing emails and having face to face consultation sessions answering student queries, among others. He is also a passionate photographer- he was a photographer for Limpopo TV, he has worked very closely to many celebrities and has covered the 2019 Mapungubwe art festival, modelling and events.

Currently he was shooting the African Union Model Summit, where they had delegates from abroad and also had a chance to work closely with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg.

Mr Thaba feels that having to work to pay for his tuition fees took a toll on him. There are times where he was met with multiple deadlines and he still had to show up for work. He feels that if he could, he would have waited until he got a bursary to fund for his studies before he pursued them.

However, he is a self-motivated person who promised himself that he would never give in, no matter what happened in life and he is living up to that promise. He is in the midst of finishing up his Master`s degree at one of the top universities in the world for this reason. Despite all the difficulties he had to face, he is still standing and willing to advance even further. He has come to realize that he has a perseverance and persistence-oriented spirit, which is another quality of his character. He always aspires to go higher since he is a go-getter.

**"IN THE EXTRAORDINARY ODYSSEY OF LIFE, REGARDLESS OF OUR METICULOUS PLANS, FATE REMAINS THE ULTIMATE ARBITER. OUR INDIVIDUAL PATHS MAY DIVERGE, FOR YOU ARE YOUNG AND CAPABLE, DESTINED TO SCULPT YOUR UNIQUE NARRATIVE. EMBRACE YOUR TRUE ESSENCE, CRAFT YOUR PERSONAL CHAPTER, AND ABOVE ALL, FOSTER UNSHAKEABLE SELF-BELIEF. IN THIS HARMONY OF CONVICTION, THE SYMPHONY OF TRIUMPH SHALL GRACEFULLY UNFOLD."**

Fear and procrastination are two things Mr Thaba would like to change about himself because sometimes when things happen so fast, he fails to adjust and ends up thinking negatively. At the same time, whenever he is presented with a problem, he tries to give himself plenty of time to decide while trying to learn as much as he can about the issue at hand. The silver lining however, is that, he can better understand the issue and have new perspectives around it.

He wants to see himself achieving much greater things than this and even travelling the world and being in places he never imagined he would be. And he acknowledges that it is only through God that we are able to achieve all our dreams, so he is hoping for divine positioning.

At the top of his list of hobbies are swimming and cooking. He believes that they greatly assist in restoring his energy anytime he feels stressed or like he needs an escape from studying. He also enjoys being on the beach, whether it is in Durban, where he visited in 2015 and there learned how to swim, Cape Town, or somewhere else entirely where there is water he can dive in and cool himself down.

The people behind the man he is today are his family and his girlfriend. And his bucket list for this year includes getting a permanent job, getting a car and an apartment of his own, and paying his future bride a dowry (Lobola).

When he was not able to finish his law studies, his world came tumbling down but he realized he had to continue in his struggle. He holds the belief that sometimes rejection means redirection. Looking back, he never anticipated being the sole student in his institution to pursue a Master`s degree in Film and Television. There is no shortcut in life, it may take some time but we are all heading there.

Knowing what he knows now, he would advise his younger self to not turn down even one of the many opportunities he was presented with because he thought he was still young and needed to grow first. If those opportunities would be presented to him again, he would snatch them without thinking twice.

"In this journey of life whatever that we plan God decides. My journey and your journey may not be the same. Be your own person and write your own chapter. But more than anything believe in yourself and everything shall fall into place." You are, **Young and Capable**.

For more:

Facebook: Kagiso Kay-gee

Instagram: kagiso\_executives26

Tik tok: executives

