**PEU OF POETRY**

ESONA POYO

**ROOTS**

Kwena Peu is from Africa’s Eden (Limpopo). I am from a small town called Mokopane and that is where I spent my first days on earth.

The years before Bloemfontein were just filled with nothing but a yearn, and that yearn pushed me to build a foundation on what was gonna come through wherever I’d end up, as long as it's ARTy (for obvious reasons). When I got to this city I knew that I was going to hunt ART down and that was a gradual process but from then, it was a snowball rolling effect typa thing. I didn’t choose to come to Bloemfontein because I remember, after matric I didn’t have a plan, so I had to go around to all these universities, standing in those long lines for late applications but I was also excited because I thought I was going to VUT. VUT has always been somewhat of a landing strip for alien ARTists, even my favourite poet is there. Bloem was literally a surprise but the more days go by, the more I think it chose me.

**POETRY**

It’s so hard to pinpoint the exact time that it started because I have always been an ARTy person. Before I even started writing, I used to draw a lot and that in itself embodies a whole lot of layers of poetry because you have to meet a certain threshold of imagination in order for you to draw. It was probably late primary school when I started to jot down my thoughts, and it’s crazy because it seemed like it was lurking at me from afar because all my friends were writers too and those are the same people who have been with me throughout all this entire ART thing. It was a calling, so to speak but then with regards to Spoken Word, specifically, I honestly noticed in High School that I can do spoken poetry. I’ve always been someone who was super cocooned which was why a lot of people were surprised by my ability. I told myself in grade 8 that this shy thing needs to end and I got accustomed to the person that I am now with all these traits that I possess right now.

**INSPIRATION**

I’m inspired by moments, everything and everyone. There isn’t really somewhat of a specific source of inspiration. Even with my pieces, there isn’t a lineage or commonness and I realised that the best way for them to manifest themselves fully is when I allow them to come out the way they want to come out, and that could literally happen at any angle, figure, time and anywhere. This is a very cool thing to embody because it makes you more curious about things because the more you notice that everything is one, the lesser you see to separate things from things.

**A KWENA DAY**

I think I’m a very lazy person because even though I get things done, I don’t do them to the certain extent that I want them. Even with regards to reading, I’m not reading at the pace that I would like to see myself reading at right now but I always make sure that all the objectives that I have for the day are met. The first thing I do when I wake up, is play music and everything else unfolds from there. I am not a planner but I have objectives because I feel like when you plan things you deprive yourself of moments.

**GOALS**

There are a lot of things lined up for me and my team. By “my team” I mean a mini poetry band, but we still need to add more layers to our work to make it what we really want it to be. I have two violinists, they’re in matric and they’re twins which is hella awesome. I have a pianist, he’s also schooling at UFS and two vocalists, Jojo, she’s from Namibia and Hlompho who is also a guitarist and another poet, my friend Peter. So far it’s just individual gigs that I’m booked for; I’m performing at a book launch on 31 March and other gigs that I haven’t confirmed dates and venues for. In June I will be releasing an EP of 6-7 pieces and at the latter end of the year we will have our second annual showcase, but we will put a bit of a twist to it this year. We wanna have a mini tour and it has already been finalised that it will be on campus (UFS) and in Kimberley.

**CHALLENGES**

That is one thing that makes life exciting, everything that pokes something in you; be it discomfort, be it comfort but everything that pokes something in you and basically provokes you to react and do things that you haven’t done, that for me is insanely exciting. I mean what is life if we are not gonna do something new? Challenges are very important, especially for artists, they’re crucial for growth. There are a lot of artist who stick within a certain route or frame of comfort because that is what their audience like, so they keep serving them that same dish. If you’re someone who really wants to explore the extent of this rabbit hole, this whole spectrum of ART, then there shouldn’t be such a thing as a “challenge”, it should just be another layer that you add onto yourself.

**MUSIC, MOVIES & BOOKS**

There are a lot of genres that I haven’t explored but then the ones that I have so far are more Soulful. Everything that I listen to now is Soulful or it has something to do with Soul. Sometimes music is therapeutic. There are certain artists who don’t only calm me with their sounds but also teach me, I know this because there are a lot of concepts that I’ve learnt through listening to music. I listen to some Rock too but I love everything that is independent.

I have a lot of favourite movies, I don’t even know where to start but the most recent movie I watched was Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless mind. It is an old movie, I love old movies. Any movie by Martin Scorsese (movie director), is bound to be crazy and each and every movie by him is my favourite.

Life is my favourite book but my favourite Author is Ben Okri. He expands perspective in a manner that is unafraid and my favourite book from him so far is Songs of Enchantment.

**FEMINISM**

Feminism to me is the empowering of the feminine. The empowering of the feminine part of everyone. People turn to think that feminism is something that is embodied in women only, no, it isn’t. Both males and females embody the two energies of masculinity and feminism, even on a biological level.

**ONE THING THAT BLOEM ARTISTS NEED TO SUCCEED**

The most interesting thing that I’ve come to realise about ART is that we just want to work to get to the table and eat with other people, instead of creating our own table, in a sense that we want to be part of ART in a non-contributing way. We can succeed when we bring our utmost best in what we’re doing, because all else is just an enhancement of what has already been done.

**FAVOURITE POET**

Mutle Mothibe. I literally grew up with his growth. Before he even released his first Anthology, I had his first release when he was still part of Inaudible. They released Definitions, an audio Anthology around 2009 or 2012 and now I have his recent work, Incense. The major thing that Mutle taught me is evolving, never be afraid to evolve. Evolving within your specific being, evolving as an individual ARTist.

**STANDARD OF POETRY IN AZANIA**

The Poetry industry in South Africa is at a point whereby the foundation is getting more solid. It has not reached its peak yet but it is slowly but surely getting there.

**ART**

Everything. The world itself is ART, everything that we believe in is ART.