

# VALHALLA ARTS

*"When the burning flame of spirit is ignited, it will transform any soul - no matter what the circumstances."*  
(MUSA E. ZULU, 1999)

## PROFILE



**MUSA E. ZULU** is a published author, an award winning entrepreneur, international artist, celebrated motivational speaker and prominent disability activist in South Africa. He is also Creative Director of Valhalla Arts which handles his creative works including his published books, artwork and disability economic empowerment programs (from administering the drawing of contracts, sponsorships, collection of royalties, exhibitions, sales and his Intellectual Property Copyright).

After achieving an Honors degree in Sociology at UKZN (1993), MUSA E. ZULU lectured in the Humanities faculty before moving to the corporate world as Human Resources Manager. He was fast climbing the career ladder when his life took a dramatic and unexpected turn – this was in 1995 when he was 23 years old. Paralyzed and left in a wheelchair after a car accident, he found himself faced with one of the hardest challenges life can bring - disability. Applying his personal philosophy of embracing change, he not only found a way to cope with his new life, but to inspire others as well!

Zulu is the author of three books; *“The Language of Me”* (UKZN Press; 2004), *“Wheels on the Souls of my Shoes”* (NUTREND Publishers; 2008) and *“TRIBUTES: The Story”* (Valhalla Arts; 2012). He is also an established artist and has been widely commissioned by organizations to create artworks that depict business profiles. In 2005/6 his artwork was commissioned as Presidential Awards of Excellence to business achievers by the Institute of Personnel Management [IPM]. In 2013 he was invited by the American Embassy in South Africa, Durban, to participate in the State Department sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) which seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed professional visits to the US for current and emerging leaders.

Over the past 21 years (since the 1995 road accident), Zulu has delivered motivational talks to various business, educational and community institutions throughout South Africa. He has been invited to lead creative sessions for project kick-offs at various government, private sector and community organizations' gatherings (Conferences, Strategic Development Workshops, Seminars and other celebratory occasions). These invitations have also included being requested to deliver strategic communication solutions that help clients attain their marketing and communications objectives.

In the year 2007 he won both the Best Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the coveted Platinum Award at the annual Black Business Quarterly (BBQ) Awards. He has been named 'Man of the Moment' [True Love Magazine 2002] and 'One of 10 South African Men we just Love' [Oprah Magazine 2006]. In 2006 he joined forces with a paraplegic friend to establish INDIMEZULU Trust which awards bursaries at tertiary levels of education to students with disabilities in KwaZulu-Natal. He is the recipient of both the 'Ethekezi Municipality Mayors' Achiever Award' (2013) and 'The Phoenix Light Group Distinguished Service Award' (2013) for the role he has played in pioneering new models for disability integration and economic empowerment. In 2011, together with partners, he founded 'THISABILITY Newspaper', a disability awareness newspaper that tells socio-economic empowerment, entertainment and community related stories of the world of disability (visit [www.thisability.co.za](http://www.thisability.co.za)).

In his spare time; in-between his speaking engagements, drawing his artwork, writing motivational books and undertaking his duties and mission as a self-styled 'Disability Ambassador', Musa is a husband and a father to three beautiful daughters. He lives in Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal.

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