

What's on your mind?



I honestly think we are getting there as a country, we just need to get the write producers and equipment. But I also think there should be more film schools in the country.



I love our local content, we have beautiful stories to tell, but no equipment. We need to invest more in this industry, also some faces are becoming boring, it's high time things change.



We have stars, But I don't think the country invests enough for the industry, But I am hoping some day we will reach the united state level of film making.



We are not bad at all, I always watch our local films on Mzansi Bishkop, They are really amazing and entertaining, if there is anything that needs to be done to improve the industry, is to invest in it.

Noko Maboea

Grace Selolo

Makhosazana Tshabalala

Kholofelo Mabore



Some of the participants at the Soweto Hotel.

All the way from the United States to teach in Kliptown

Vicky Mabotha

Coming All the way from the United State, Freedomland Media in partnership with a non-profit organisation, The Global Media Project had dedicated their time in Kliptown at the (Sharing Hope And Leadership in Kliptown) SHALK, coming up with a media camp which started on January 7 to January 18 where they worked with local students on storytelling and executing a short film video project to give them experience in production and an understanding of the power of storytelling.

The SHALK is a multi-faceted, grassroots nonprofit that offers motivated young people opportunities for educational development, extracurricular activities and new experiences. It's also a place where they can find basic necessities like nutritious meals, clean water and caring adults to go for support and guidance.

The two organisations came up with a program called, Pathways to Production: Storytelling in South-Africa, which is aimed at inspiring, empowering and educating children and young adults in rural Johannesburg's townships that lack access to technology and media education.

They spent two weeks providing the training and tools needed to create and execute their own video stories, the participants got immersive course in production.

Through the various projects, students learned the importance of messaging and storytelling and the value of owning and sharing their narratives. They also developed skills and connections to gain future internships and job opportunities in the Johannesburg area. After completing the program, an event to honour them for their hard work and dedication was held at the Soweto Hotel in Kliptown, where they were given certificates. Guests were also given an opportunity to view the amazing videos created by these students during the two weeks camp.

A group of 20 selected students were organised into production crews. Each crew paired with a volunteer Producer, Camera Operator (Director of Photography/DP), and Editor to help the students execute their collaborative idea. Participants were divided into two groups, the 1st group did a great documentary on the issue of the Uber/Taxify Drivers and Taxi drivers in South Africa, while the other group created an amazing music video. Both were great videos; the sound and the picture quality were so professional.

This was made possible by Kimberly Selden, a multimedia producer and educator with experience in entertainment, politics and social activism, the founder of the Global media project and Orla Manning, a multimedia producer specialising in reality and docu-series programming, the Co-owner of Freedomland Media.

"This has been an amazing journey, working with the students that have so many great ideas. What I saw in South Africa is rich stories and a lot of talented people and I think that with the right tools, resources and access, South African film can be one of the leading film industries," said Selden.

We asked some of the students about what they have learned in the programme and this is what they had to say:

"I have learned how to edit and that it all involves hard work but at the end of the day, you produce beautiful results. If you have the right people, nothing is impossible," said Nonhlanhla Msibi.

"This was a great opportunity which enlightened us on a lot of things. I have learned that it is not just about what is in front of the camera, but what goes on behind the scene is as important, team work in filmmaking is key. It has also taught us to use what we have to create a good story, it doesn't have to be something fancy," said Kate Ngenyena.



Orla Manning and Kimberly Selden congratulating Bongani Ngenyena.

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Listen to Kimberly Selden on www.sowetourban.co.za