

Royalty Era

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER | PICTURE PERFECT | STORYTELLER

WHO ARE YOU

MY NAME IS WELCOME TSHEPO KUNENE ALSO KNOWN BY THE NAME "ROYALTY". I AM A 27-YEAR-OLD CREATIVE AND PHOTOGRAPHER BASED IN JOHANNESBURG. I THINK I BEST DESCRIBE ME AS A VISUAL STORYTELLER. THE CAMERA IS MY TOOL WHICH I USE TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD AROUND ME AND EXPRESS MYSELF. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ARTS AND CREATIVITY IN THIS PHOTOGRAPHY FIELD. I SPECIALIZE IN LIFESTYLE, EVENTS, AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS ROYALTY

I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT I AM AN INTROVERTED EXTROVERT. MY FRIENDS AND THOSE CLOSEST TO ME WOULD SAY THAT I AM CHATTY, WHILE THOSE I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH OR IN A NEW SPACE WITH WOULD SAY THAT I AM RESERVED. I AM ALSO VERY FAMILY AND SPIRITUALLY ORIENTATED. I BELIEVE IN GOD AND HIS PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE. BESIDES THAT I AM HONESTLY LAID-BACK AND IN MOST TIMES ALWAYS CRACK JOKES TO EASE UP THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN I AM AROUND PEOPLE.



A PICTURE OF WELCOME TSHEPO KUNENE

WORDS BY WELCOME TSHEPO KUNENE

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INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

THE THING ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY IS THAT IT IS TIME-CONSUMING, IF ONE ISN'T MOVING FROM ONE SET TO THE NEXT, YOU ARE SPENDING EVEN MORE HOURS EDITING AND RETOUCHING IMAGES. BUT OUTSIDE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, I DO GRAPHIC AND DESIGNING. I ALSO ENJOY TRAVELING AND EXPLORING NEW PLACES. I USED TO ALSO BE QUITE AN ATHLETE GROWING UP, I SOMETIMES ENJOY JOGGING TO KEEP FIT, MOST IMPORTANTLY I LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

HOW DID YOU START YOUR CAREER

I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT PHOTOGRAPHY FOUND ME. IT WAS A GIFT GREATER THAN MYSELF. I OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED INTO PHOTOGRAPHY ABOUT 5 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS STILL A CONSULTANT AND ADMINISTRATOR AT A BANK AND I NEEDED AN HOBBY TO ESCAPE THAT STRESSFUL ENVIRONMENT SO I USED MY CREATIVITY. AS TIME PASSED IN THIS JOURNEY, I REALISED THAT I WAS GREATLY FOND OF CAPTURING MEMORIES. I STARTED TO EXPLORE THE IDEA OF PHOTOGRAPHY, AND LUCKILY ENOUGH, I HAD CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO I SHARED THIS VISION WITH AND THEY BELIEVED IN ME. I THEN INVESTED IN BASICALLY WHAT THEY CALLED A "BEGINNER" CAMERA AND STARTED WATCHING YOUTUBE TUTORIALS TO SHARPEN MY SKILLS, CREATED CONCEPTS/MOOD BOARDS AND SENT THEM TO VARIOUS FRIENDS AND MODELS WHO WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH.



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INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR CRAFT

MY JOURNEY DURING THESE PAST YEARS DOING PHOTOGRAPHY, EXCEPT HAVING STARTED FROM A DEEP SOUL SEARCH OF WANTING TO FIND MY CREATIVE MEDIUM OR PASSION. I WAS INSPIRED BY MY PASSION FOR CREATIVE STORYTELLING AND CAPTURING MEMORIES, AS WELL AS BEING INSPIRED BY OTHER CREATIVES WHO WERE CONSTANTLY PRODUCING QUALITY CONTENT AND ARE ALWAYS ELEVATING IN THEIR MEDIUM.



WHERE DID YOU START YOUR CAREER

MY CAREER BEGAN IN A SUBURB NORTH OF JOHANNESBURG CALLED "COSMO CITY". I SPENT A LOT OF TIME DOING RE-SEARCH IN MY ROOM AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME I SPENT WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHY MENTOR WHO GUIDED ME AND OFFERED PRACTICAL LESSONS WHEN I ASSISTED DURING HIS SHOOTS. I WOULD THEN COME UP WITH VARIOUS IDEAS FOR MY PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS AND STARTED SHOOTING MY FRIENDS WHO WERE DJING IN CLUBS AND EVENTS. THIS GAVE ME EXPOSURE TO DO MORE SHOOTS WITH MODELS AND ENGAGE WITH MORE PEOPLE. I THEN GAINED A LITTLE BIT OF CONFIDENCE WORKING IN THE FIELD. THIS MOTIVATED ME TO GRADUALLY ELEVATE MY WORK AND PRODUCE MORE ENTICING CONTENT.



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