

Thembelani Sipho Bukali

Preferred Name: Sipho

📍 South Africa

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💬 Facebook: Tha Cyfex (40K+ Followers)

Professional Summary

I am a multi-talented creative technologist and founder of **KnerdMultimedia**, with a deep passion for storytelling, science, and innovation. With a background in **computer science and applied mathematics**, I have transitioned from retail to technology and media, using my love of **science fiction and fantasy** to develop educational platforms and interactive content. My career spans **retail, freelance engineering, writing, and entrepreneurship**, culminating in the upcoming launch of **KnerdLit**, a multimedia app for education and entertainment that has already attracted early investment.

Core Strengths & Skills

- Strategic Thinking & Creative Problem Solving
 - Storytelling & Narrative Development
 - Software Engineering (Python, C++)
 - Content Creation & Social Media Strategy
 - Public Speaking & Stakeholder Engagement
 - Startup Leadership & Pitching
 - Open Source & AI Research Participation
 - Project Management & Cross-functional Collaboration
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Education

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

Majors: Applied Mathematics

University of South Africa, South Africa

Professional Experience

Founder & CEO – KnerdMultimedia

2021 – Present

- Building **KnerdLit**, a digital platform blending comics, education, and games to teach programming to underserved youth.
- Led the project from concept to prototype, coordinating development, design, and investor outreach.
- Secured **two rounds of minor investments**, currently in talks for larger funding.
- Collaborated with illustrators, educators, and developers across Africa.
- Prototype launching in two months with strong community interest.

Freelance Software Engineer

2018 – Present

- Delivered various software projects, focusing on **C++** and **Python-based solutions**, including AI experimentation and community-based open-source tools.
- Reconnected with Python through the **PLP program**, which supports my current development of KnerdLit.

Retail Professional (Post-University)

2016 – 2018

- Developed exceptional **customer service, sales, and marketing skills**.
 - Gained a deep understanding of user needs and behavior, which I now apply to product design and marketing for tech platforms.
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Creative Work & Public Recognition

Writer & Digital Creator – Tha Cyfex

- Built an online following of **40,000+ fans on Facebook**, sharing original fiction, social commentary, and digital art.
- **Short storybook launching in June**, expanding my publishing profile.

Featured on Television & BASA Programmes

- Participated in **BASA (Business and Arts South Africa)** programs including:
 - *Kickstarter*,
 - *Hlanganisa*,
 - and currently in *Catalyst*, preparing to meet the **Minister of Arts and Culture** and potential investors.
 - Grew from a solo creator to a recognized startup founder with a growing national footprint.
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KnerdLit

KnerdLit is a hybrid educational-entertainment platform that teaches **coding and storytelling through comics and games**. It targets young learners with limited computer access, offering both **app-based and board game** experiences. Our mission is to create equitable tech education while fostering creativity and literacy across Africa.

Personal Philosophy

As a proud **90s baby** and lifelong sci-fi enthusiast, I believe imagination fuels innovation. My fascination with science and storytelling helps me build tools that educate and inspire, especially in communities that often lack access to quality digital learning.

Reference

Given Machuisa

Cofounder & Business Associate

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