

# Empowering Youth to a better Future



## Rainbow Academy Success Story

### NADIA ALEXANDER

**Name and surname:** Nadia Alexander

**Age:** 24

**A.K.A (also known as):** Nadz

**Graduated from the Rainbow Academy:** 2012

#### **Describe yourself in a few sentences.**

I'm very humble when it comes to my community or even in my social life. I'm a go getter that definitely knows what I want and ultimately no matter how tall skinny or fat I should grow I'm always growing spiritually.

#### **Are you currently completing Higher Education, any further skills development courses, running your own small business, perusing a career in performing arts or are you involved in productions? Are you involved in setting up your own community projects or all of the above? And Why? How has Rainbow Inspired you in any way to follow your passion?**

I'm currently working at a company called 3 I solutions where I'm growing in my business management skills I've adapted through the rainbow academy. I'm always doing productions such as movies, commercials, music videos, modelling, singing live gigs, dancing in flash mobs etc. I was busy with a partnership community project brown paper studio which is on pilot at the moment but we will rise again as some of us have busy schedules. The community project uplifts the youth to keep following their dreams no matter their obstacles or situation they are in. That's one of the skills I have adopted and implemented to my life and was given from a very strong woman Denay Willie. Rainbow academy taught me so much about Ubuntu, you clearly should never forget your roots. My passion has driven me through thick and thin and it's all thanks to the academy that always reminded us of how skilled and talented we were physically and mentally.

#### **How has the Rainbow Academy Curriculum (a mixture of both ACADEMIC AND PRACTICAL TRAINING in performing arts, music, life skills, tourism, business and performances) benefitted you in acquiring diverse skills, life lessons, learning the values of Ubuntu- never giving up -working hard, etc. helped to develop your career? For Example, What did Business lessons teach you, what did the hard work & disciplines of shows teach each? What lessons for life did you learn from the programme, your teachers and students at the academy?**

Well like I've just mentioned that the skill was embedded into us about Ubuntu. It's not something you can forget. It's the first institution I've seen that mix the two. I mean I could pursue my passion but yet learn how to manage it. Gaining the skills of business has made my employment career successful thus far, because I'm always setting my goals to move forward and head for greater things in life.



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## Who was your favourite teacher(s) and why?

There was no favourite teacher as all of my tutors and lectures have been a blessing to my life and career. Godfrey has put me in deep waters and he has trained me not to drown, and I didn't. Michelle showed me the ropes in musical theatre and taught me a hidden talent inside of me that has risen. Fahruq has been my mentor for much longer but introduced me to different genres and brought the best out of me. My dancing teacher has made me much more flexible but taught me the story between dancing and understanding it. Denay Willie was not a teacher but a mother to us with so much soul in what she does and motivated us to never give up because our problem we complain about is actually not the worst as those in the world out there.

## How have your studies, job placements in professional shows, gigs, and leadership/entrepreneurship training at The Rainbow Academy helped you to further develop your confidence, build your career planning skills to help you embark on a career as an entrepreneur and reporter.... Please elaborate.

Rainbow Academy has boosted my confidence and self-esteem. Remember your roots whenever pursuing or reaching that top level. I've used my skills in all my performances and it has only brought me to excel. Some people think taking the short cut is better. Working hard, focusing, perseverance gets you where you want to be and above all the grace of God is so important.

## List some of the exciting performance, career project and successes you have achieved since graduating from The Rainbow Academy? Please list a few career high-lights and achievements

Since the academy I have excelled successfully until thus far:

- Featured extra in Father
- Dancer in Pharelle Williams "Happy Cape Town" music video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QcOshv9oq0>
- Pepsi commercial for Egypt  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nde4-FxYnEc>
- Actress in South African musician music video Ifani " Ingomma Ezmenini"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpQscNlbK38>
- Commercial with Edris Alba superstar from London Oude Meester advertisement  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ockJt205VGE>
- NACTV presenter and currently still am
- Currently in a Bollywood movie and a thriller movie with some professional actors ( cannot disclose names or title due to my contract until movies are released)
- Flash mobs dancing contemporary and salsa at different live gigs.
- Highlight was having my own variety show with 20 acts and a successful show!



## What are the key valuable lessons, values, skills and insight and inspiration you have acquired whilst at Rainbow

Valuable lessons was believing in myself and not forgetting that, also reflect what our history was and how we are the future heroes of tomorrow, skills I've picked up and embedded was being a leader, focus on what you want, persevering in that and being consistent, Insight and inspiration came from where my lecturers came from their story opened new beginnings to my lives. The struggles we have endured as the academy was arising has inspired my life, mind-set and myself as a human being that impossible has no meaning but only meant as "I'M POSSIBLE".

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## What inspiring memories, challenges, and funny moments do you remember at The Academy?

Greatest moments will be the entire experience at the academy. Getting the opportunity to be on Expresso and dedicating a message through our skills to our greatest hero Nelson Mandela.

The flash mobs in St George's mall not worrying who's watching the concerts we had for our parents in the basement. Dressing up as any character, laughing together crying together it felt like my second home I could call family.

## What are your next goals, future plans and where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

My future goals are to be a successful triple threat because I sing dance and act. I would love to pursue each of my talents. I want to give my son which is the biggest part of my motivation a better life but also teach him about Ubuntu like I was taught back at the academy. I definitely see myself successful in the next 5 years having my own arts facility such as Rainbow Academy. It's going to take a lot but I believe in myself to make a change for the better out there.

## What is your role in helping to solve the many social problems such as education, youth unemployment, drugs and poverty in our Country?

My role at the moment is to try and change someone's life. I am proudly a role model in my community and I will keep it that way, helping others is more important than helping oneself.

## What is the most important lesson you have learnt at The Rainbow Academy?

The most important lesson I've learnt is to never give up. Be strong even if strong is the only thing you can be. Live up to your values because you are worth it.

