

Empowering Youth
to a better Future



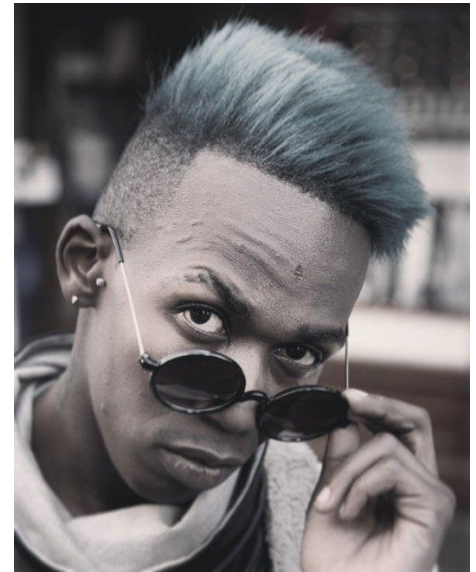
Rainbow Academy Success Story THABO "TYLOR" SPELMAN

Name and Surname: Thabo Spelman

Age: 25

Year of graduation from The Rainbow Academy: 2011

A.K.A (also known as): Tylor



What is your current job or studies?

I am a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher and lead member of the South African dance group WeDEfy

What have you been busy with since graduating at the Rainbow Academy?

After graduating from the Rainbow Academy, my dance group, WeDEfy took 3rd place for a reality TV show called *Step up Or Step Out*. We also performed live on Idols and SA's Got Talent with magazine coverage on HYPE, ISPEAKHIPHOP, TEEN ZONE, SA HIP HOP HEADZ.

Other successes include:

- Radio Interviews on RSG radio and several CT and Johannesburg stations
- Opening and closing Acts for CHAN'14 and features in International Adverts
- The WEETBIX Campaign
- Appearances on TV shows such as SHIZ NIZ, TURN IT OUT 2, YOTV
- Music videos for Lloyd Cele in "Louder" ; Emmy Gee in "Champagne showers" and Nic Billington in "love bound".
- Performances at the Youth Awards

What are a few of your personal career high-lights?

A few personal high-lights of my career include registering my company WeDFy Entertainment Marketing and Events with my partners Simon Chantelle Little and Keegan Mitchell. Also, performing for the first time behind a well-known South African artist on Idols in SA's Got talent and last but not least, the media coverage that my company has been blessed with.

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Did your time at The Rainbow Academy prepare you for the real world out-there?

The Rainbow Academy has taught me a lot about the industry, how to conduct myself professionally but mainly how to run my own business. My time at The Rainbow Academy is filled with so many good memories like THE CAPE TOWN SHOW, our trip to Limpopo and performing for President Jacob Zuma at the ANC 99th Birthday Celebration. My biggest fear is not being taken seriously in my career and I can honestly say I have now overcome that fear... I know who I am and what I stand for. I know what I am passionate about therefore I'll never give up on my dreams and goals. The Rainbow Academy has also taught me how to step out of my comfort zone. I remember auditioning as a dancer but I was required to sing and read a poem... which was not a problem because I usually don't sing unless I'm in the shower! I ended up loving singing, taking a lead role in the songs we performed for THE CAPE TOWN SHOW.

Every day was inspired at The Rainbow Academy. Imagine being surrounded by passionate and very talented artists. It can be intimidating but we were all family and wanted the best for everyone and that is what made it special.

What are your future plans? What is your role as a leader in helping to solve the many social issues such as drugs, poverty, lack of education, unemployment we have in this country?

My dream is to eventually have a base where all youth have the opportunity to become whatever they want to be but with the right tools and proper education. I want to help youth to turn their passion into successful careers to ultimately make a difference in the lives of others.

Links to Thabo's videos

- Song with Lloyd Cele : Louder
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKzKubpCyPs>
- Song with Emmy Gee: Champagne Showers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QV2tJM5ONs>
- Song with Nic Billington: Love bound
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru8BB_wXmhs

