

Lynelle Kenned joins *Finding the Light* cast



By [Martin Myers](#)

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South African stars will align in a musical extravaganza entitled *Finding the Light - an evening with musical theatre stars* at the Artscape Opera House in support of The Kolisi Foundation.

Hosted by Marc Lottering and featuring a stellar cast, the musical theatre showpiece will take place from 17-21 April, with the gala night on Thursday, 18 April 2024.

Lynelle Kenned is just one of the stars on the show (*West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *Orpheus in Africa*) and has become one of the most popular and sought-after cross over musical theatre performers. Roles include Maria in *West Side Story*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Mattie Allen in *Orpheus in Africa*, Musetta in *La Boheme*, Julie in *Showboat*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Grace in the world premiere of *Calling Me Home*.



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Her list of awards includes a 2023 Fiësta for Best Classical Music presentation, 2022 Woordtrofee, the Kunste Onbeperk Young Voice 2019, a 2018 Naledi Award, a Fiësta Award in 2017, and a Fleur du Cap Award in 2016. Since 2012, she's been a television presenter on *Pasella*, and subsequently hosting other shows on KykNET and VIA respectively.

We chatted recently...

▣ ***What is your purpose?***

To inspire feeling and connection through the arts, and build an authentic life of meaning and community.

▣ ***What does music mean to you?***

Energy in motion, a vibe, a celebration, a meditation.

▣ ***What is your motto?***

“And now that you don’t have to be perfect, you can be good” - John Steinbeck.

▣ ***What is fame about?***

Visibility, and other people’s opinions - a fickle friend at best.

▣ ***When will retirement happen?***

I die. I’m building wealth, while living a life I don’t need a holiday from, and hopefully I’ll be performing way into a ripe old age like legends like Joni Mitchell.

▣ ***What don’t you do?***

Bad vibes, bad faith, or competition

▣ ***Who would you like to co-write with?***

Solange Knowles or Janelle Monáe.

▣ **Where do you find inspiration?**

Road trips, camping, retreats, travelling, engaging with other forms of art and networking with creatives.

▣ **What's the most enjoyable aspect of your work?**

The variety, the sense of community, the travel, the fun, the self-growth.

▣ **What's the one song you enjoy performing?**

It changes constantly, but they include *Lascia ch'io pianga* by George Frideric Handel, *Think of Me* by Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Moon River* by Audrey Hepburn and *Mali, Die Slaaf, Se Lied* by Mimi Coertse.



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▣ **Do you have any funny moments on stage?**

I was on stage with Jonathan Roxmouth in *West Side Story*. On stage there was a mannequin in a wedding dress and kept exposing a boob in the scene, and we and the audience were in stitches.

■ ***Who are your heroes?***

Dr Gabor Maté (trauma expert), Blair Imani Ali (intersectional activist)

■ ***Who is your style icon?***

Solange Knowles, Zendaya, Tracee Ellis Ross



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■ ***Who do you admire?***

Alok Vaid Menon, for their activist art around queer identity and the harm of the patriarchy. Adrienne Maree Brown, for

their work on Pleasure Activism, intersectionality, and collective healing.

▣ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My time and energy.

▣ ***What makes you stand out?***

My hair, my smile, my quirkiness, my voice

▣ ***5 words that describe you...***

Curious, mischievous, sensitive, adaptable, versatile

▣ ***What song changed your life?***

Agitata da due venti, as sung by Cecilia Bartoli

▣ ***What's at the top of your bucket list?***

Touring Japan, and walking the Kumano Kodo (I did the Camino de Santiago in 2016, solo).

ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

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