



AFRICAN ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE presents an INDELIBLE MEDIA PRODUCTION

THE TRIALS OF WINNIE MANDELA

A NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY SERIES

A Documentary series by

MANDY JACOBSON

C.A. VAN ASWEGEN

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ

Executive Producer

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ

Producer and Director

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Co-Executive Producer

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Series Editor

C.A. VAN ASWEGEN

Producer

JOHN NYOKA

Co-Producers

BARBARA KING

SWATI MANDELA-DLAMINI

Associate Producer

TRISTAN BANHA-ACUTT

Research and Writer Associate Producer

LIZA KEY

ALIKI SARGAS-GEORGIU

Music Composer

BENJAMIN WILLEM

Director of Photography

NATALIE HAARHOFF

Editor

JO-ANNE GIBBON

Sound Design

BASIAMI SEGOLA

SPECIFICATIONS

Genre:	Historical Documentary Series
Running Time:	7 x 55 min
Language:	English
Country:	South Africa
FPB Rating:	13 L P V G
Format:	4k with ATMOS Sound

ABOUT THE SERIES

The Trials of Winnie Mandela is a seven-part premium documentary series that begins in the final years of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's life, as her granddaughters, Swati Dlamini-Mandela and Zaziwe Mandela-Manaway, set out to understand the woman behind the legend. At their kitchen table, they ask their grandmother to confront the actions, alliances and consequences that defined her life in the struggle against apartheid. From these intimate and often searching conversations, the series expands outward into a rigorous, multi-voiced examination of one of the most polarising figures of the twentieth century.

Drawing on unprecedented access, extensive archival research, and testimony from supporters, critics, journalists, jurists, family members and those who stood in her shadow, Swati and Zaziwe follow the threads of Winnie's life into the turbulent decades that shaped her reputation. Their search becomes an investigation not only of a grandmother, but of how history itself is written—revealing how power, race and struggle shape public memory, deciding whose violence is forgiven, whose suffering is erased, and who history ultimately chooses to absolve. In an age of media trials, instant verdicts and contested truths, the series offers no easy redemption or condemnation. Instead, it leaves audiences with the question Winnie herself insists history must answer honestly: who, if anyone, ever held 100 percent of sainthood?

LOGLINE

As death approaches, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela strips her legend bare before her granddaughters, exposing how power, race, and struggle decide whose violence is forgiven, whose suffering is erased—and daring history to answer who, if anyone, ever held 100 percent of sainthood.

SYNOPSIS

The Trials of Winnie Mandela follows HRH Swati Dlamini-Mandela and HRH Zaziwe Mandela-Manaway as they embark on a deeply personal and often unsettling journey to understand their grandmother, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. As death approaches, Winnie strips her legend bare before them, confronting the actions, alliances and consequences that made her both a revolutionary icon and one of the most controversial women of the twentieth century. Refusing redemption narratives or moral absolution, she revisits the decisions that shaped her life in the anti-apartheid struggle—decisions that continue to divide opinion decades later.

What begins as a family conversation soon becomes a wider investigation. Guided by their grandmother's testimony, Swati and Zaziwe move beyond memory and into history itself, speaking with family members, political allies, critics, journalists, jurists, activists, victims and former members of the Mandela United Football Club. Their search draws them into a turbulent landscape shaped by apartheid repression, township violence, political betrayal, spies, vigilantes and the uneasy boundary between resistance and abuse of power.

As they confront allegations that have haunted Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's legacy—including kidnapping, assault and murder—the sisters must reconcile the grandmother they love with the political figure the world continues to debate. Their search for truth becomes a reckoning with how history itself is made: how power, race and struggle shape public memory, deciding whose violence is forgiven and whose suffering is erased.

Resisting simple verdicts or moral binaries, *The Trials of Winnie Mandela* examines how legends are constructed, how reputations are dismantled, and how political memory is contested. In the end, the series offers no neat conclusion—only the question Winnie herself insists history must answer honestly: who, if anyone, ever held 100 percent of sainthood?

CHAPTER SYNOPSIS

"To those whose names we knew, and the ones we never will, who sacrificed everything for freedom, justice and human dignity – we honour you."

Chapter 1: MRS MANDELA - The Wife of Nelson Mandela

1936-1976

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has died, and South Africa is divided over how she should be remembered. As the nation mourns and debates whether she was saint or sinner, the story returns to 1952, when a young Winnie leaves her rural home for Johannesburg and meets Nelson Mandela, a rising leader of the anti-apartheid movement. Their marriage places her at the centre of the struggle – and in the sights of the apartheid security police. When Nelson is sentenced to life in prison, Winnie becomes both symbol and target, enduring years of detention, torture and bannings from the notorious apartheid security police. Hardening under the relentless siege and becoming increasingly uncompromising, she declares she is prepared to kill for her ideals.

At their table decades later, her granddaughters, Swati and Zaziwe, begin where history leaves off: how did the first black medical social worker become a woman the world would one day fear and revere in equal measure?

Chapter 2: ZANYIWE - To Be Tested

1977-1988

Banished to the white conservative town of Brandfort, Winnie is isolated from her family and the movement she represents. Yet exile strengthens her myth. Against all odds she continues her political activity and becomes known around the world as the “Mother of the Nation.” After nine years of enforced silence and loneliness, she defies her banning order and returns to Soweto—angry, damaged, and defiant. Around her, the Mandela United Football Club is formed, with Winnie at its helm. Football is not their purpose. Loyalty, protection and power begin to converge.

Watching the myth grow and the circle tighten, Swati and Zaziwe ask: when does leadership become something else entirely?

Chapter 3: WINNIE - Fair and Pure

1988-1989

Soweto descends into fear and chaos as the apartheid security police continue to stoke the fires of distrust and suspicion amongst the residents. Vigilantes patrol the streets. Brutal necklacing becomes a symbol of rage. Informers and spies operate in the shadows. At the centre of it all stands the Mandela United Football Club – and Winnie. Allegations mount: abductions, assaults, murder. Two grieving mothers recount the disappearance of their sons. Eight allegations of kidnapping and assault. Fourteen allegations of murder. The violence, the secrecy, the betrayal – all orbit her name.

Drawn into a dark and unfamiliar past, Swati and Zaziwe confront the question that reverberates beyond the courtroom: how do you ask your grandmother if she is a murderer?

Chapter 4: NOBANDLA - She Who Is Of The People

1990-1996

Nelson Mandela walks free, Apartheid falls and becomes President of a democratic South Africa. The love story that once captivated the world fractures under the weight of politics and ideology. Winnie faces a kidnapping charge and is linked to a romantic relationship with a young lawyer. As President, Nelson removes her from his cabinet, citing her disregard for his leadership and negotiated settlement. Winnie remains unapologetic, rejecting compromise she believes betrayed revolutionary ideals. The separation that follows marks the end of both a marriage and a political partnership that once symbolised hope.

Sitting across from her grandmother, Swati and Zaziwe press gently but firmly: was this the cost of conviction – or the continuation of isolation?

Chapter 5: WINIFRED - Friend of Peace

1996-1997

In 1997, Winnie and members of the Mandela United Football Club are subpoenaed before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. For over a week, the nation listens to harrowing testimony – accounts of torture, assault, disappearance and death allegedly carried out in her name. Victims speak. Former comrades speak. The country watches. Winnie stands defiant, offering explanation but little remorse.

As Desmond Tutu weeps openly before her, Swati and Zaziwe grapple with the weight of the moment: is truth enough without repentance?

Chapter 6: NOMZAMO - Mother of Endeavour

1998-2013

Winnie faces yet another trial – this time over fraud convictions. At the same time, she shares a meeting with unexpected old friends: former apartheid policeman Paul Erasmus, the man who once terrorised her. They reminisce about “the bad old days” – dirty tricks, surveillance, torture. Is it reconciliation, pragmatism, or something more complex? Meanwhile, former Commissioner of Police Johan van der Merwe denies under examination that orders to torture were ever given. Truth shifts. Memory fractures. Nothing feels settled.

Nelson dies with Winnie at his bedside, next to the man who could never forgive her transgressions. The moment is intimate, complicated, and unresolved – another reminder that history rarely offers neat conclusions.

As they reflect on these contradictions, Swati and Zaziwe are left with a quieter question: if forgiveness never fully arrives, how does a life move forward in its absence?

Chapter 7: WINIFRED NOMZAMO ZANYIWE MANDELA MADIKIZELA

2013-2018

More than two decades after they were last seen alive in Winnie’s backyard, the remains of two young activists are exhumed from an unmarked grave in Soweto. Their bodies are finally returned to their parents. No legal process follows. Winnie denies any knowledge of their murders. Five years later, she dies. Forty thousand mourners gather at her funeral. A nation grieves – still divided.

In the end, Swati and Zaziwe are left holding the question that has shadowed every chapter: whose violence is forgiven, whose suffering is erased – and who, if anyone, ever holds 100 percent of sainthood?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – MANDY JACOBSON

“When admiration for a public figure turns into adoration, we get subjugated by that adoration and often get caught up in a culture of unthinking”. - Njabulo Ndebele in his novel *The Cry of Winnie Mandela*.

This caution is exactly what I – as a filmmaker – have been struggling with over the past 6 years. The weight of responsibility has been an immense burden given Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's stature – a delicate dance between greatness and human frailty, between the public and the private.

A daily struggle to find a way to tell the story of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in her own words interwoven with a tapestry of competing voices and the voice of the filmmaker who fails to find one definitive portrayal. How do we live with the possibility of both truth and lies coexisting without a decisive outcome?

I run the African Oral History Archive Project, a multi-media initiative to document the stories of those history makers who have made a difference to the practice of democracy on the continent. And naturally we wanted Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to be part of this archive. I fell in love with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela the moment I met her and her magnetic construction of herself. At the same time, we at the African Oral History Archive are clear that we do not produce hagiographies. We respect the value of critical examination of extraordinary leaders.

In the end, I wanted this story to be as much a reflection of who we are, as it is about the life story of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

How do we grapple with iconic people like artists, politicians, musicians, scientists, to name a few who have contributed to our world but at the same time may have committed deplorable acts? How to find the hidden links of humanity that connect people and their actions throughout time?

MANDY JACOBSON (1961 - 2024)

ABOUT THE AFRICAN ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

The African Oral History Archive (AOHA) is a non-profit initiative of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the living memories that have shaped Africa's past and continue to influence its future.

Through filmed interviews, oral testimonies, and multimedia storytelling, the Archive captures the personal accounts of individuals who have played a role in the political, social, cultural, and economic transformations of the African continent. From globally recognised leaders to individuals whose experiences remain largely undocumented, these voices provide first-hand perspectives on the events and movements that have defined modern Africa.

Rooted in Africa's long tradition of oral storytelling, the Archive recognises that history is not only written in books but carried in memory, conversation, and lived experience. By recording and preserving these testimonies, AOHA safeguards an invaluable body of knowledge that might otherwise be lost to time.

The African Oral History Archive forms part of the Heritage Pillar of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, which is committed to preserving Africa's cultural and historical legacy for future generations. Through this work, the Archive contributes to a broader effort to ensure that Africa's stories are documented, protected, and shared on their own terms.

A central mission of AOHA is to make these histories accessible for learning and education. The Archive serves as a growing resource for students, researchers, educators, and the wider public, offering direct engagement with the people who witnessed and shaped key moments in African history. By providing access to these first-hand accounts, AOHA encourages critical thinking, historical understanding, and deeper engagement with the continent's complex past.

Rather than presenting a single narrative, the Archive embraces multiple perspectives and experiences, reflecting the diversity of voices that make up Africa's history. In doing so, AOHA invites audiences to explore the richness and complexity of the continent's story and to engage with history as a living conversation.

Today, the African Oral History Archive continues to expand as a dynamic digital repository of filmed interviews and historical testimony, preserving Africa's collective memory while creating a valuable educational resource for generations to come.

At its heart, the Archive is guided by a simple belief: understanding the past is essential to shaping the future.

ABOUT THE CAST

NOMZAMO WINIFRED ZANYIWE MADIKIZELA

To the world, she was a revolutionary. To South Africa, she was the “Mother of the Nation.” But to her family, she was simply uMama — a woman whose strength, compassion, and fierce sense of justice shaped not only a nation, but also the lives of those who knew her best.

Born Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela on September 26, 1936, in the rural village of Bizana in South Africa’s Eastern Cape, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela grew up surrounded by the traditions and values of the Xhosa people. From an early age she showed a remarkable determination and independence that would define her life. She pursued education with passion and later became one of South Africa’s first Black medical social workers, working at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. There she witnessed firsthand the harsh human realities of apartheid, an experience that deepened her commitment to justice and social change.

Her life entered the global spotlight when she married Nelson Mandela in 1958. Soon after, Mandela was imprisoned for his role in the struggle against apartheid. During the 27 years of his imprisonment, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela became one of the most visible and defiant figures in the anti-apartheid movement. While raising their daughters and holding her family together, she endured relentless harassment from the apartheid government — including surveillance, arrests, banning orders, and imprisonment.

In 1977, the apartheid regime attempted to silence her by banishing her to the small town of Brandfort. Rather than disappear, she transformed exile into resistance. She organized community programs, spoke out against injustice, and continued to mobilize support for the liberation struggle. Her courage and defiance made her a symbol of resistance to millions of South Africans who saw in her the unwavering belief that freedom would one day come.

At home, however, she was far more than a political symbol. She laughed loudly, spoke frankly, and carried herself with unmistakable presence. She loved her children deeply and taught them to stand tall in the face of injustice. Even during the darkest periods of repression, she believed dignity and resistance were inseparable.

When apartheid collapsed and South Africa held its first democratic elections in 1994, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela continued her work in public life. She served as a Member of Parliament and held leadership roles within the African National Congress and the African National Congress Women’s League. Throughout this time she remained a powerful advocate for the rights of women, the poor, and marginalized communities, insisting that political freedom must also bring economic justice and dignity for ordinary people.

Her life, like the struggle she fought in, was complex and often controversial. Yet those complexities do not diminish the extraordinary courage it took to stand at the front lines of one of the twentieth century’s most brutal political systems. She carried the weight of a nation’s expectations while enduring profound personal sacrifice.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela passed away on April 2, 2018. Her legacy remains deeply woven into South Africa’s journey toward freedom — a reminder that courage often begins with a single voice refusing to be silenced.

And for those who knew her personally, her spirit lives on: in the lessons she taught, the strength she embodied, and the enduring belief that justice is always worth fighting for.

ZAMASWAZI (SWATI) DLAMINI MANDELA: Granddaughter of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

History shaped Zamaswazi (Swati) Dlamini Mandela long before she began telling it. As the granddaughter of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, she inherited a legacy marked by resistance, sacrifice, and courage. Today, she works as a storyteller and producer committed to bringing these powerful histories to life—bridging archives, personal memory, and film to share African stories with the world.

Zamaswazi holds a degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Midrand Graduate Institute and built her early career in communications, luxury, and brand-led consumer businesses. She began her professional journey in Public Relations, developing expertise in narrative-building, media strategy, and audience engagement.

Her background includes a senior client-facing role with LVMH in Johannesburg, where she managed portfolios of high-value luxury clients and collaborated with marketing teams on brand storytelling, consumer engagement, and relationship management at global brand standards. She later held leadership roles in fashion and retail, including heading the Press Office at House of Busby and working on brand strategy and commercial direction for international brands such as Mango and Claire's.

Alongside her corporate career, Zamaswazi has played an important role in preserving the historical legacy of the Mandela family. In collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, she co-edited *491 Days: Prisoner Number 1322/69*, the prison memoir of her grandmother, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, which documents her solitary confinement under apartheid. She also co-edited *The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela*, a collection of letters written during Nelson Mandela's 27 years of imprisonment.

Working on these projects deepened her commitment to storytelling as a way of preserving memory and illuminating the human stories behind history. The process of researching and shaping these narratives inspired her transition into documentary storytelling.

She is currently a producer on a forthcoming documentary inspired by *491 Days*, bringing the story of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to screen and continuing her mission to share powerful African histories with global audiences.

HRH ZAZIWE MANAWAY: Granddaughter of Winnie Madikizela Mandela

Zaziwe Manaway is a South African entrepreneur, cultural advocate, and emerging global voice in social impact, diplomacy, and heritage preservation. As a member of the distinguished Dlamini lineage and connected to the legacy of the late Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela Mandela she carries forward a commitment to leadership, reconciliation, and community empowerment rooted in one of the most influential families in modern history.

Deeply rooted in her spirituality and a proud mother, Zaziwe's work focuses on bridging heritage with modern innovation. She is actively involved in initiatives that advocates for women economic

empowerment, cultural diplomacy, and technology-driven solutions aimed at uplifting communities across Africa and the global diaspora.

Her leadership supports projects that combine historical legacy with forward-looking development strategies, particularly in the areas of Women and children engagement, cultural preservation, and international partnership building. With a strong commitment to humanitarian values and the principles championed by both her grandparents, Zaziwe Manaway represents a new generation of leadership dedicated to honouring history while building transformative opportunities for future generations.

Zaziwe Dlamini is currently working on creating a Museum in honour of her late Grandmother Winnie Madikizela Mandela Legacy and all the countless Women who played a critical role in the fight to end apartheid. The museum will be located in the heart of one of South Africa Townships, Soweto. She is currently the director of Mandela Dlamini Manaway LLC.

ABOUT THE TRIBUTE TRACK

ZOLANI MAHOLA – Series Vocalist

Zolani Mahola is a celebrated South African singer, actress, and storyteller whose voice has become one of the most recognisable sounds on the continent. As the former lead singer of the beloved pan-African band Freshlyground, she shared stages with icons including Stevie Wonder, BB King, Shakira, Hugh Masekela, and Johnny Clegg. Over 17 years, the group toured the world, released seven acclaimed albums, and became a powerful symbol of unity and hope for a nation in transition.

In October 2024, Zolani graced the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City for the 30-year celebration of South Africa's democracy, performing alongside some of the country's most acclaimed artists.

A passionate advocate for the natural world and our connection to it, Zolani is an ambassador for The Seachange Project, the team behind the Oscar-winning documentary *My Octopus Teacher*. Together with the film's director Pippa Ehrlich, she co-created the award-winning podcast *Back To The Water*, which won the 2024 Independent Nonfiction Audio Storytelling Award at the Tribeca Festival for its exploration of South Africans' deep relationships with the ocean.

An award-winning actress, Zolani received the Fleur Du Cap Award for Best Actress for her 2019 one-woman play *The One Who Sings*. In 2020, she shared the stage with Grammy-winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma in Cape Town, and her debut solo album *Thetha Mama* (2021) went on to win Best Produced Album at the 2022 South African Music Awards.

Currently, she is recording a new album and working on two forthcoming films, one directed by Pippa Ehrlich, which explores her bond with nature, and another chronicling her life story — both set for release in 2026. Ambassador for the Seachange Project, advocating for marine conservation efforts.

“LION HEART” by Zolani Mahola

You were born for the battle, lady
You were born chasing darkness away
Everything you desire is all inside of you
Take these words as your motto, lately
say them loud every night and day
You see the heart of a lion is yours -
you’ve found your way

I believe you’re a lion heart
braver than you thought you were
Take your place in the circle of life
It was yours right from the start
I believe you’re a Lion heart
coming home towards yourself
Underneath these stars above...
we are here to stay

Inkululeko! (*Translation- Freedom!*)
And even though even though even though
I’ve seen you on you on you on
You on your knees in the night
don’t get it twisted -
everybody need a breath sometimes
So Rise up Rise up Rise up
Look up to the skies above my love,
Those kings and queens they will guide you
There to remind you
Always inside - remember who you are !

I believe you’re a lion heart
braver than you thought you were
Take your place in the circle of life!
It was yours right from the start
I believe you’re a Lion heart
coming home towards yourself
Underneath these stars above...
we are here to stay

Inkululeko! (*Translation: Freedom!*)
Inkululeko ilapha isegazini (*Translation: Freedom is in the blood*)
Freedom is in the blood.

And for my people
Inkululeko (*Translation: Freedom!*)

Never give up!
Never give in!
Oh Those kings and queens they will guide us
There to remind you
Always inside

Remember who you are!

I believe you're a lion heart
braver than you thought you were
Take your place in the circle of life
It was yours right from the start
I believe you're a Lion heart
coming home towards yourself
Underneath these stars above

Remember who you are! Inkululeko! (*Freedom!*)

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

MANDY JACOBSON – Producer / Director

Mandy Jacobson is an award-winning documentary filmmaker working between New York and South Africa over the past two decades. She won 2 Emmy Awards (Producer and Director) for *Calling the Ghosts* (1997), about the experience of rape during the war in former Yugoslavia.

The documentary was instrumental in the recognition of rape as a prosecutable war crime by the United Nations and her work was also featured on CNN, NBC Dateline and CBS Sixty Minutes in the USA.

Her company, Indelible Media, produces the African Oral History Archive, a multimedia initiative that produces a range of creative tools (art, music, books, films) to encourage Africans to chart their collective memory.

To mark South Africa's Twenty years of Democracy, Jacobson produced and directed an award winning six-part *Rainbow Makers Series* (2014) that was broadcast across the continent. One of the flagship films, *Plot for Peace* was released theatrically in South Africa, USA, UK, France, Spain, and Japan during 2015. It has garnered over 8 international awards and was released on NETFLIX.

Other award-winning documentaries include: *Facing the Truth With the Bill Moyers* (1999) team, as Associate Producer, won the Peabody for PBS, *Facing the Truth* about South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Committee. For PBS/Wide Angle; *Road to Riches* explored black economic empowerment in South Africa's new democracy. Mandy has also directed programs from Bangladesh, Cuba and Rwanda. Select others include *Locked Up* (2001) for Discovery/TLC, *Defying Genocide* (US Holocaust Museum); *Tribute to Nelson Mandela*, (SABC/BBC - series celebrating the Legend); *Total Soccer* (2010) Series – ETV.

Member of the USA National Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences Chair; Joris Iven's Jury Chair, Amsterdam International Documentary Festival (1999); Achievement Award from the South African Minister of Arts and Culture (2001.) Jacobson was selected to attend the Sundance Producers Lab in August 2007 with her feature film, *Miriam Makeba*.

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ – Executive Producer

Ivor Ichikowitz is a proud African industrialist, philanthropist, and global thought leader dedicated to ensuring that Africa's voice is heard on the world stage. He believes that Africa, with its rich history, immense potential, and dynamic youth, is at a defining moment—one where it can move beyond the constraints of its past and claim its rightful place in global affairs.

Recognized as one of the most influential commentators and thought leaders on the African continent, Ivor's impact extends far beyond business into diplomacy, security, and global policymaking. His insights and thought leadership have been featured in some of the world's most prominent international media, including CNN, BBC, Newsweek, Politico, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, The Financial Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Reuters. He is a frequent speaker at global forums, engaging on critical issues related to business, security, conservation, governance, and global cooperation.

Ivor has been decorated by multiple governments and institutions worldwide in recognition of his political work, contributions to conflict resolution, and civic and community development initiatives. His strong relationships with heads of state, governments, key business figures, and global thought leaders allow him to influence policy and foster meaningful international collaborations.

Ivor began his career during South Africa's historic transition to democracy in the early 1990s, playing a role in supporting Nelson Mandela's vision of national reconciliation, economic normalization, and the country's reintegration into the African continent and the global economy.

Over the past three decades, he has built successful businesses across four continents, spanning energy, aviation, mining, retail, tourism, ICT, media, manufacturing, and advanced defense technology.

In early 2022, Ivor transitioned his focus to lead the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, a philanthropic initiative dedicated to youth empowerment, environmental conservation, education, and the preservation of African history and heritage.

Ivor has been involved in track-two diplomacy—the art of informal conflict resolution. Throughout his life, he has engaged in shuttle diplomacy, working behind the scenes to mediate security crises, political disputes, and economic challenges in various regions. Most notably, Ivor was actively involved in the African Peace Mission—a historic initiative involving seven African Heads of State who sought to mediate in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. His involvement in this mission reinforced his unwavering belief in Africa's role as a proactive diplomatic force on the global stage.

Through the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, Ivor has championed transformative initiatives that celebrate Africa's past and invest in its future.

The African Oral History Archive and #IAMCONSTITUTION project have documented Africa's journey to democracy, preserving the voices and stories of those who shaped the continent's liberation movements.

One of his most impactful projects is the African Youth Survey—the most comprehensive study of African youth sentiment, aspirations, and concerns ever conducted. Since its inception, the survey has covered 25 African countries and engaged nearly 15,000 young people.

Ivor's deep roots as an anti-Apartheid activist have shaped his worldview. He understands firsthand the complexities of nation-building, economic growth, and political transformation. In a time of increasing global polarization, Ivor stands as a bridge-builder, calling for renewed engagement between Africa and the United States while warning against foreign powers seeking to divide the world along ideological lines. His work remains dedicated to ensuring that Africa's rise is defined not by dependency, but by agency where the continent stands as a respected and equal participant in global affairs.

C.A. VAN ASWEGEN – Editor

C.A. van Aswegen S.A.G.E. is a South African film editor, colourist and post-production producer whose career has helped shape some of the country's most recognised feature films and documentaries. With credits spanning more than 40 theatrical feature films, 50 documentaries and numerous television productions, his work has played a significant role in bringing South African stories to both local and international audiences.

Among the films he has worked on are *Fiela se Kind (Fiela's Child)*, *Ellen: The Ellen Pakkies Story*, *Vaselinejje (Call Me Vaseline)*, *Vir die Voëls (For the Birds)* and *Stroomop (The River Within)* - productions that have screened and received recognition at major international festivals including the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Rotterdam International Film Festival and WorldFest-Houston.

An acronym holder of the South African Guild of Editors, van Aswegen has received multiple international editing awards and several SAFTA nominations. Beyond editing, his work as a colourist and post-production producer has contributed to the visual and narrative finishing of many award-winning South African and international productions.

JOHN NYOKA – Producer

John Nyoka entered the film and television industry after joining Soul City's Trainee Scriptwriters' Programme in 2006, where he worked under some of South Africa's most acclaimed head writers. He has worked on multiple projects, including M-Net's *High School Musical*, DV8's *State of Violence*, and productions for Born Free Media.

Over the years, John has worn many hats in the industry, including Video Editor, Line Producer, Producer, in addition to writing, he also works as a story consultant and editor.

John is an alumnus of the National Film and Video Foundation's SEDIBA Spark Narrative Fiction Scriptwriting Programme and the SEDIBA International Financing Programme for Emerging Producers.

He was also selected for the Durban Talent Campus Script Station, placing in the top four out of more than 500 applicants.

He has served as a judge for the South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTAs) for over 10 years.

John has worked with Indelible Media for more than 16 years, contributing to numerous award-winning documentaries, including 12 years under the direction of the late Mandy Jacobson, a two-time Emmy Award winner.

BENJAMIN WILLEM – Music Composer

Benjamin Willem is an award-winning film and television composer whose work spans more than 65 productions across feature films, documentaries, and internationally broadcast series. His scores have accompanied stories screened at major festivals and on global platforms, earning recognition for their emotional depth, narrative sensitivity, and distinctive musical voice. With a background rooted in both classical craft and contemporary cinematic sound, Benjamin approaches each project as a collaborative storyteller. His music is shaped by a deep curiosity for character, theme, and emotional architecture—bringing nuance, tension, and resonance to the screen. Whether working with intimate human stories or large-scale cinematic worlds, he is known for creating scores that elevate narrative and leave a lasting emotional imprint.

Producers and directors value his ability to translate creative vision into a cohesive musical language, his disciplined workflow, and his commitment to delivering world-class music that supports the film's artistic and commercial ambitions. His work continues to reach audiences around the world, contributing to projects that push boundaries and celebrate the power of storytelling through sound.

BASIAMI SEGOLA – Sound Designer

Biasi Segola's career in sound design and mixing spans over 20 years, with experience in over twenty-five feature films, over ten television series, eight documentaries, as well as numerous other short films and short form projects. Biasi received her BA Honours in Motion Picture Medium from AFDA in 2003 and in 2004, launched her career as sound designer and mixer on the 3-part miniseries, *Homecoming*. She has worked on several dramas for the SABC including *Gaz'lam*, *Hillside and One Way*, *Soul City Season 12*, and *Skeem Saam* Seasons 1-3. Biasi was also sound designer on the SABC miniseries *Society*.

Biasi worked as sound mixer and sound designer on several documentaries which included *Giant Steps*, *Angels in the Dust*, *A Pair of Boots and a Bicycle*, *The Manuscripts of Timbuktu*, *Dawn of a New Day*, *The Shore Break* and *Bag on my Back: Return to Zimbabwe*.

Biasi was the sound designer and final mixer on a number of feature films; namely *Ouma se Slim Kind*, *Die Ongelooflike Avonture van Hanna Hoekom*, *Superhelde*, *Bakgat! & Bakgat!2*, *Telegraph to the Sky* (short film), *Nightdrive*, the critically acclaimed *Roepman*, *Wolwedans in Die Skemer*, which was based on a popular 1970s radio drama series, *Klein Karoo*, *Lien se Lankstaan Skoene*, *Pad Na Jou Hart* and *AGENT 2000*, *Ballade vir 'n Enkeling*. She was recognised for her work with a nomination for Best Sound

Design in a Film at the Rapid Lion Film Festival (2017) for *Noem My Skollie* and won a SAFTA award for Best Sound Design in a Feature Film (2016) for her work on *Hear Me Move*. Other notable work includes being the sound mixer for the documentary unit on *District 9*, sound design on *The Tokoloshe*, *Table Manners*, the critically acclaimed short film *The Letter Reader*, the Netflix series *Queen Sono* and the animated film *Headspace*. She has currently been part of the creative team and sound designer on the documentary series, *The Trials of Winnie Mandela*.

SWATI DLAMINI MANDELA – Co-Producer

History shaped Zamaswazi (Swati) Dlamini Mandela long before she began telling it. As the granddaughter of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, she inherited a legacy marked by resistance, sacrifice, and courage. Today, she works as a storyteller and producer committed to bringing these powerful histories to life—bridging archives, personal memory, and film to share African stories with the world.

Zamaswazi holds a degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Midrand Graduate Institute and built her early career in communications, luxury, and brand-led consumer businesses. She began her professional journey in Public Relations, developing expertise in narrative-building, media strategy, and audience engagement.

Her background includes a senior client-facing role with LVMH in Johannesburg, where she managed portfolios of high-value luxury clients and collaborated with marketing teams on brand storytelling, consumer engagement, and relationship management at global brand standards. She later held leadership roles in fashion and retail, including heading the Press Office at House of Busby and working on brand strategy and commercial direction for international brands such as Mango and Claire's.

Alongside her corporate career, Zamaswazi has played an important role in preserving the historical legacy of the Mandela family. In collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, she co-edited *491 Days: Prisoner Number 1322/69*, the prison memoir of her grandmother, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, which documents her solitary confinement under apartheid. She also co-edited *The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela*, a collection of letters written during Nelson Mandela's 27 years of imprisonment.

Working on these projects deepened her commitment to storytelling as a way of preserving memory and illuminating the human stories behind history. The process of researching and shaping these narratives inspired her transition into documentary storytelling.

She is currently a producer on a forthcoming documentary inspired by *491 Days*, bringing the story of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to screen and continuing her mission to share powerful African histories with global audiences.

STANLEY ICHIKOWITZ – Co-Executive Producer

Stanley Ichikowitz is a business executive and strategic leader whose work bridges enterprise, philanthropy, and legacy-driven cultural initiatives. As CEO of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, he plays a key role in shaping and advancing the Foundation’s work across education, heritage, public engagement and the preservation of African stories and voices. His leadership is marked by an instinct for long-term value creation, operational clarity and a belief in the power of institutions to influence and impact this and future generations.

With a background in business leadership that includes senior executive positions at several corporate entities across South Africa, Australia and the UK, Stanley has led organisations through changing markets with a focus on agility, efficiency and sustainable growth. His professional approach — grounded in adaptability and strategic execution — translates naturally into the creative and cultural space, where ambition must be matched by structure, rigour, and delivery.

For *The Trials of Winnie Mandela*, Stanley brings both executive oversight and a deeply personal investment in the stewardship of African history. As Co-Executive Producer, he is part of the team helping to bring to screen a series that confronts myth, memory, power and political inheritance with rare intimacy and scale. His contribution reflects a wider commitment to storytelling that does not flatten the past but opens it up thoughtfully and courageously for future generations.

TRISTAN BANHA-ACUTT – Associate Producer

Tristan Banha-Acutt is a cultural strategist and arts leader whose work sits at the intersection of global culture, philanthropy, and storytelling. Based in London, his career spans Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean, where he has helped shape international cultural programmes, support emerging artists, and steward projects that explore how art, culture, and heritage can act as agents of change.

Originally trained in live performance and film at AFDA, the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance, Tristan’s early interest in storytelling evolved into a career working alongside artists, cultural institutions, and global philanthropic leaders. Over the past decade he has worked across museums, foundations, and international organisations, collaborating with partners including the United Nations, Royal Households, and UNESCO to develop initiatives that explore the role of culture in diplomacy, social dialogue, and global cooperation.

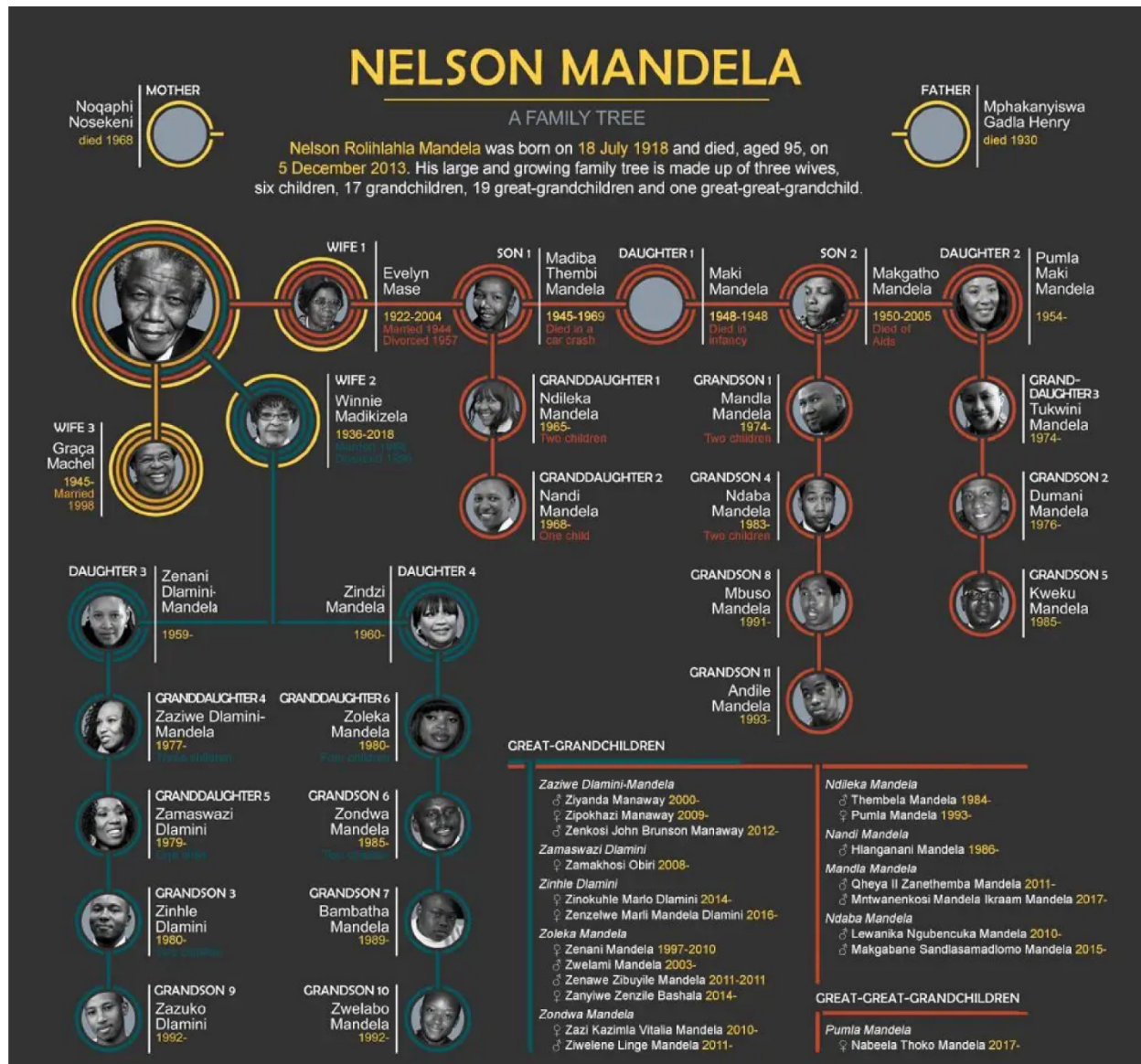
His work has often focused on how art can influence change and shift perspectives on some of the most pressing challenges of our time — from social and cultural questions to wider climate issues. Through these projects he has collaborated with artists, filmmakers, curators, and policy leaders to support creative initiatives that engage with complex cultural narratives on an international stage.

With a career shaped by the belief that culture can shift perspectives and spark meaningful dialogue, Tristan brings a rare combination of operational leadership, cultural diplomacy, and creative insight to his work.

FAMILY TREE

<https://sahistory.org.za/article/nelson-mandela-family-tree>

https://thednatests.com/nelson-mandela-family-tree/#Second_Marriage_Winnie_Madikizela-Mandela



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