

Musa's Story



Transcript

Musa: Dance chose me. I guess I realised what I am here on earth for. This is my purpose. This is what I need to do. This is what I am called for.



Cancer

When I was told I had cancer, I was eleven years old. I couldn't understand what that was. I kind of had an idea what cancer was, but I didn't have a full idea of how dangerous it might be, or how dangerous it is. I was a soccer player, and there was this tournament we were playing, and this other guy kicked my left knee. So from that day, every night at 11 or 12pm my mom and I would wake up. We used to wake up actually because of the pain. She would give me painkillers. Then there was this day I couldn't even bear the pain anymore, and she had to call the ambulance. That day, that was the start, the beginning of the journey. I went to Sebokeng Hospital. They couldn't find anything. From Sebokeng I went to Johannesburg Hospital, and that is where they found out I have cancer.

My mom couldn't stop crying. They explained to her that there is no cure, but there is a treatment. They explained to her about the chemotherapy, the radiation. And that is where I started to take treatment. It wasn't a great journey. It wasn't easy. It wasn't smooth. You lose your hair, your eyesight. They told my mom that they can't do anything. Now the only option is to take a step further, and is to actually amputate my leg. I am the one who took the decision. Let's just cut this leg and move forward, because I was in bed for the whole day. In my heart I was like, 'I am going to do this'. I remember the day I went to the theatre and told the doctors, 'Lets do this'. I was so happy that I was going to start walking upright like other people again. It was that moment – this is it. This is a life-changing moment for you. I lost a leg. So what?



The very first day I went to physiotherapy it was challenging, because my body wasn't used to standing upright. So I was getting tired so easily and fast. I used to have arguments with my nurse because I was training too much. I guess that is where the obsession with breaking the word 'impossible' started.

How I started to dance?

I was at this party with my friends, and I asked them to teach me how to dance. They taught me: 'The left crutch use it as your left leg'. From that day I took it seriously. The day after, I practised alone in the house with the tiles. I started to join a local dance crew. That is where I started to venture out, meet up with other people. We used to go out to competitions. From there everything kept on growing and growing and growing. In 2018 I came to Vuyani Dance Theatre to audition, and when I got here, everything was just so different, because I used to dance with both my crutches, holding them. But when I got here, they're using their hands. I was like, 'How am I going to do this?' That is how I started to think differently. I need to take movements from an able body to my body.



If you see yourself as a disabled person, you are still going to be disabled in your mind.

Musa is now a full-time professional dancer with Vuyani Dance Theatre. They have performed in Europe, America and across Africa, and received international recognition and acclaim.