

Gender DynamiX: Board Members

May 2006

	<p>Person 1 in deep stealth I am 38 years old, transman in transitioning (early stages). I have a diploma in mechanical engineering, and I am currently employed as a Quality Assurance Manager, manufacturing and supplying automotive seat components to automotive manufacturers. I live in Cape Town since 2000 (originally from Pretoria) with my life partner Doreen and our pet African grey parrot-Ferdi. My interests are sport especially rugby, reading and hiking in nature. When I am not busy grinding my hours away at work, I like to read suspense novels, autobiographies and nature magazines, get frustrated by the performance of our rugby teams and love to watch movies. Otherwise, I love to have a nice "braai" with good friends and good wine. I also care about my health and try to have a work-out daily in the gym.</p>
 A portrait of Nazmah Achmat, a woman with dark hair, wearing a red and pink patterned dress, smiling.	<p>Nazmah Achmat, born and bred in Bonteheuwel Cape Town, 28 years old, a make up artist and hair stylist by profession, lived as a boy for 16 years and for the last decade has been living as a beautiful female, currently staying with his parents. Nazmah has worked with the G&L Film Festival for the last 5 years.</p>
 A portrait of Robert Hamblin, a man with short dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, smiling.	<p>Robert Hamblin became a freelance commercial photographer at the age of twenty-one, after six years as a newspaper photographer. His career in the media started at age fifteen, when he landed a job as an intern darkroom "girl" with a local newspaper. After high school, he started working for major South African daily newspapers and magazines. Going freelance at age twenty was maverick, but also "the best time to be free, according to him. It was during this period that his exposure to clientele, which included television and theater professionals, cultivated the development of his own talents as a conceptual artist. While successful in integrating symbolism and tangible elements into his photography as a whole, he says that it was the emergence of digital technologies that removed the perceived constraints he felt in expressing the intangible aspects of the human condition. Robert Hamblin's cutting edge digital work, both commercial and conceptual, makes him a leader in his field. Robert Hamblin is a transgendered man who uses his skills and talents as a photographer and artist to create narratives of the human state. He uses his expertise, aptitude and</p>

	<p>experiences to explore gender issues to increase awareness and transform gender relations.</p>
	<p>Bulelwa Panda, stays in a township in Gugulethu, just outside Cape Town works for Inclusive Affirming Ministries. IAM is a NGO that promotes dialogue and education on the inclusion and welcoming of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people within the Churches of South Africa. Bulelwa is mostly involved in assisting individuals who are thrown out of their houses due to their sexuality or gender identification. She then negotiates with the family and usually education is involved to create understanding and acceptance. Bulelwa likes attending personal growth and self empowering workshops. When Bulelwa is not at work, she loves spending her time with friends, listening to music and reading short stories. One of her biggest dreams is to see all people with diverse sexualities and gender expressions to stand up for them selves.</p>
	<p>Sally-Jean Shackleton's work in the gender sector started in 1991 with her involvement in the organisation People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) where she worked as a volunteer counsellor for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. In 1994 she was employed as the organisation's Information and Media Officer. Leaving the organisation in 1998 to complete her studies, she worked as a consultant, trainer and materials developer - training court personnel on violence against women, coordinating manual women women's rights, and participating in research on intimate femicide. She now focuses her attention on gender, media and information communications technologies for women's empowerment-including issues relating to access, content, skills development and policy. She joined Women'sNet in 2001 after working with the organisation to develop a website on women's human rights and is currently occupying the position of Programme Manager/Deputy Executive Director. She is a feminist.</p>
	<p>DR. MARLENE WASSERMAN, DHS DHS (Doctorate in Human Sexuality), Institute of Advanced Study in Human Sexuality, San Francisco, California; M (Soc.Sc.) Clinical Social Work, CUM LAUDE, is a Couple and Sex Therapist and Clinical Sexologist in Private Practice at Cape Town Medi Clinic Sexual Health Centre. As a Sexuality Educator Marlene uses the medium of radio, television and writing to inform and provoke people into thinking about their sexuality and relationships. She holds a post as part time lecturer at the Medical School of the University of Cape Town and lectures regularly at other academic institutions internationally. In January 2006, Marlene was appointed the first Africa Editor of a UK bases international academic journal, SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP THERAPY. Her first book, DR. EVE TEEN S.E.X. BOOK will be released in 2006 and her 2nd book in February, 2007.</p>



Robert Bayer grew up in Germany and moved in 2001 to the "Mother City". He holds a German degree in Business Administration and Informatics and worked overseas in project management and the public relations field. In Cape Town he joined a customer communications and client relationship management firm. In his private life he enjoys Cape Town and the sea with his partner and two cats. He is also serving on the board of Good Hope Metropolitan Community Church, an inclusive congregation which ministers mainly to LGBTI persons. Robert got in touch with Gender Dynamix at a very early stage when the first workshop was held in May 2005. After the workshop he joined the organisation as a volunteer and headed the development of the Gender Dynamix online activities.



Renisha Perigrino brings a rich history to Life's Table. Born in Maitland, Cape Town in 1946, she realized from an early age that she was not the gender of her birth-- a boy. Her desire to become a female was overpowering and constant and continued to concern her even after leaving school at the age of sixteen. She went to work for four years, followed by two years of minor seminary to complete her matric. She returned home for awhile, and it was there that she "came out". For the next twenty- one years, however, she worked as a civilian employee for the Navy at Simonstown, and only lived as a woman in the evenings. At the age of thirty-eight, she began living as a woman full time. She is now a pre-op transexual and shares her life with her partner of twenty-five years. She enjoys reading, cooking and playing the piano.

I am **N D L**. **[Please don't make contact, on her request]**
 I am 51 years young and I live in Pretoria. I was born, raised and schooled in Pretoria. I matriculated from Wonderboom High in 1972. I started my career in chemistry at the Research Institute for Soil and Irrigation. In July 1973 I started compulsory military service, which lasted for ten months. In 1975 I started my studies in analytical chemistry at the Technikon Pretoria. After ten years in chemistry, I decided to start off in law and in 1987 I enrolled at UNISA for the B Proc. Degree. In 1991 I left the AEC (atomic energy Corporation) and started at the Department of Justice. I'm still at the Department in a legal capacity in the Promotion of Access to Information unit. I was married for 24 years and I have two sons - 22 and 20. My partner passed away in 2001 and immediately there-after I started my transitioning from male to female. I am little over two years post operative and I have integrated into society in full as a woman.
 I am active in sport especially road running, I am a provincial referee for road running too. I am a member of Maritime Marathon Club and I'm club captain. I play league squash and cycle. I have a deep passion for sportscars, and I own a classic Alfa Romeo GTV2000. I am a member of the Alfa Romeo Club of Pretoria and serve on their committee. I have members' Affairs as portfolio and I'm also the secretary of the committee. I also write the motoring journal on a monthly

	<p>basis for Wrapped Magazine. I love music especially the classical -, jazz and blues - and rock genres. I'm an avid reader and enjoy courtroom dramas and mysteries. I was invited to serve on the Board of OUT a lesbian gay bi-sexual and trans-gendered wellbeing organization. At present I am the vice-chair of the board. Trans-gendered queries received at OUT are channeled through to me. I also authored a booklet titled Am I Trans-gendered, which will be handed out by OUT. I have spoken to study groups at OUT on the problems experienced by trans-gendered people.</p> <p>I am on of the founder members of The Budding Roses. The Budding Roses is an informal support group for TG's and their SOFFAS. The Budding rose's get together once a month on a Sunday and is not only for MtF but also for FtM</p>
	<p>Person 2 in deep stealth is a 22 year old transgendered woman currently undertaking a double-major degree in both Psychology and Social Work. I recently started with the transformation process and will soon start hormone therapy. I am - as I would like to think - very artistic and creative. I love writing and drawing and oh yes to socialize. I love Madonna's music and Alanis inspires me!"</p>

Manager:

	<p>Liesl Theron, is a gender consultant, active in the LGBTIQ community, on the Cape Town Pride planning committee, is co-owner of the Gay and Gay Friendly Business Network, sits on the council at Good Hope Metropolitan Community Church, and is the Expert on Health24's Transgender Forum. She is the co-founder of Gender DynamiX.</p>
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