



Catherine Constantinides - Editor, SA Fusion Magazine/Environmentalist/Runs many youth, community, and social upliftment projects in South Africa/Miss Earth South Africa 2003

Catherine has always been a special girl, and has made a difference in every sphere of her young life. Since she was 13-years old, she has been actively involved in community, social and youth upliftment projects all over the country. Those who know her, describe Catherine as a young woman with brains, beauty and a heart of gold.

Catherine has represented South Africa at several international competitions during 2001, in both the US and Europe. She has contributed to charitable functions and drives for almost her whole life, and decided to establish her very-own *African Renaissance Project* in 2000, which is a foundation, which aids the quadriplegic association as well as helping to alleviate child poverty in many areas. She had the privilege and honour of meeting Mr Nelson Mandela, a moment in her life that she will never forget. She said, "You sit with a man of his stature and his credibility and you know how much he has done not only for our country but for mankind. You have to sit back and realise that he was a man with a vision and a dream and he never gave up on all the things he believed in. We are creating our own culture and brand as a multi-cultural country. We have so much to offer the world, and this is just the beginning. It is up to us to reach the outer boundaries of ourselves and to make a difference. In the wilderness, young are nurtured, so they can go forth and continue the cycle of nature. The most significant creation in nature is the human child. And that is what has suffered the greatest casualties in Africa – **the human child.**"

And this is where Catherine Constantinides' passion lies, in the development and growth of children throughout Africa and the world. Especially young women, equipping them with skills and information to make a difference within their own communities. She quotes:

"Don't ask what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, then go and do that. Because what the world needs is for people to come alive" J. Eldridge

Over the past four years, Catherine has hosted events, been actively involved in charity drives, national fundraisers, and was nominated as an Honorary Member of the Quadriplegic Association and is Patron of the Shangri-La Quadriplegic Self Help Centre for her active involvement with the association.

Last year, Catherine launched her very own magazine, *SA Fusion*, which focuses on the entertainment, performing arts, music and modelling industries. Her aim is to bring to the fore South African artistic talent, as well as bring exposure to some of the country's most pressing issues.

Catherine won the title of Miss Earth South Africa 2003, where she has been actively involved in several environmental and social upliftment activities. She has become an ambassador for environmental awareness and projects such as The Endangered Wildlife Trust, Eco-Access, Jane Goodall Institute and wildlife endangered rehab centres.

Her mission statement is to "Teach our people, and more importantly, our children, to care and protect our world's natural environment. We must teach and illustrate this value, so that they can understand their role and responsibility in preserving what has become our endangered heritage. I hope to be instrumental in standing up as a proud South African and taking on my responsibility towards the environment."

"My roots are planted deep in the Heart of Africa and the African drums beat deep within My Soul!"
Catherine Constantinides