



## **Lebo Mashile**

Lebogang Mashile, the daughter of exiled South Africans, was born in the USA. At the age of 16, the family returned to their home country. In her work as a life skills facilitator for adolescents, poetry has been her preferred medium.

Mashile began to achieve recognition as one of South Africa's most popular young artists in 2002 when she performed her hip-hop inspired poetry at the Urban Voices Spoken Word and Music Festival. In 2003 she co-founded the "Feel a Sistah!" Spoken Word Collective alongside Myesha Jenkins, Ntsiki Mazwai and Napo Masheane, which rapidly gained wide-spread popularity. Her acting début came in the Oscar nominated film "Hotel Rwanda". Lebo was voted one of South Africa's Awesome Women of 2005 by Cosmopolitan Magazine.

In 2006 and 2007, she was named one of the Top 100 youth in South Africa by the Mail & Guardian and in 2006 she was awarded the prestigious Noma literary award. She is the recipient of the City Press/Rapport Woman of Prestige Award.