

## Gay and Lesbian archives of South Africa

### AM 2931 Monwabisi Diniso Collection, 1996 to 2001

**Title:** Monwabisi Diniso Collection, 1996 to 2001

**Size:** Reproductions of 37 photographs; list of annotations

**Source:** Gift of Monwabisi Diniso, April 2001

**Restrictions:** Researchers may not reproduce images for publication or exhibition without permission from Monwabisi Diniso. Diniso can be contacted through GALA.

**Biographical note:** Monwabisi Diniso lives in Queenstown, and is involved in the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Queenstown (GLO-QUE).

**Description:** The collection consists of colour reproductions of 37 of Diniso's personal photographs. Subjects include Diniso undergoing initiation, friends and family, Miss Gay Eastern Cape 2000, and the Skyline Bar (Johannesburg). The photographs have been annotated by Graeme Reid from descriptions by Monwabisi Diniso.

**Special formats:** Colour Photostats.

**Processed:** January 2003, by Graeme Reid

**See also:** Dark & Lovely, Soft & Free (GAL 0036)

#### Container list.

- A.1. Colour reproductions of 37 photographs from Monwabisi Diniso's personal collection.
- A.2. List of annotations

1a. MSD with 'nqathala,' the person who gets food for the initiates. He is the little boy on the left. On the right is MSD's sister's little boy. The picture is taken in the bush near the boma. A boma is the house where we are living in (during initiation). 'Khankatha' built the house – he is the person who is watching us and healing us. Sipiwe was the 'khankatha.' He is a member of MSD's family. He is about 25 years old. He watches over healing us.

1b. MSD in the river. Where we wash ourselves. In the morning about 5 o'clock.

2a. MSD 'standing with my stick' covering my body with a 'ingceke' – a liquid. You are crushing a stone in the water to cover your body so that nobody can identify you, even if someone who is a witch is coming to bewitch you they won't be able to see you. Stay covered for the whole process when you are there.

2b. (1 – r) MSD and Mtetho [(seated) Miss Gay Queenstown, 2000] with Sipiwe at the river.

3a. The day that the initiates go home. The people are singing, happy that we are alright. The man at the front is an old man.

3b. 'Saluka' – another one who came later to join the initial initiates. With his dog. His house is in the background. He had his own house. MSD and Mthetho shared a house.

4a. MSD talking with my friend. Standing with Simpiwe. Friend's cell phone. Friends came to visit.

4b. Lubabalo (c/f 3b) playing in the river.

5a. MSD sitting with dog.

5b. MSD sitting on the stone in the river.

6a. MSD and friend Siphos who is also a gay and he was circumcised a long time ago. He is having permission to come and visit us. Because he is a man. He is a man in tradition. If you are not circumcised you have no permission to visit.

6b. MSD swimming in the river. Washing the 'ingceki.' Wash daily and reapply. 'In the afternoon, before you are sleeping, you should wash and reapply.' His river is too deep. In the middle of it.

7a. 'Me enjoying myself'

7b. At school doing Std 8

7c. My former boyfriend. First boyfriend. 16 years old. Still at school. He was 32 years old. Broke up last year. MSD is 24 years old. Found out he is married. He cheated to me with another man. He had an affair with my friend. Married with three children.

Few girls in Queenstown. Lots of boys. Means that we are in the risk of having HIV if you are not condomised, because they are mixing us with girls they are living a double life. They are very interested in us, but we are few.

There are six girls in Queenstown. Half of the community do it after nine. Some of them are the professionals. Teachers, doctors, some big names. They are lying to us. They didn't told us they are having someone. Even each and everyone wants to have us, maybe three of us or four of us. They don't want us to tell our friends about that – if you are involved.

8. (l-r) MSD and two sisters.

MSD holding sister's child, Athi (1 year old) – birthday party. Sisters holding guest's children.

9a. Mthetho at 26 years old. Now 27 years old.

9b. MSD at school during Std. 10. Selected as a person who cooks for practical or Std. 10. With colleague Khanyisa at home economics teacher Linda Mvalo (standing).

10. Norman's Studio in Queenstown.

11a. Late mother's younger sister.

11b. Park Station, 1996

Father's sister

Child

Father's sister's husband

12a. MSD and friend. Wendy in Queenstown Square.

12b. MSD in Highpoint, Jhb Hillbrow, June 2000.

- 13a. MSD holding Mthetho's sister's young baby and Mthetho's older sister's baby. 1997.
- 13b. Finalists of Miss Gay Eastern Cape 2000. Kingwilliamstown. Traditional wear. MSD at the very back. Won award at Selithunzi SABC 1 Popular variety. Mbulelo came to Johannesburg to receive the award. Selithunzi video. Mbulelo has a copy. (See copy of photo).
- 14a. MSD with sister at funeral of family member.
- 14b. 1<sup>st</sup> day at work with friend and coworker. Started together. Edgars Queenstown September, 1998.
- 15a. At school busy decorating for the farewell of the teachers leaving for Bisho.
- 15b. Thembi living in Johannesburg. A friend of my cousin.
- 16a. Busy making dessert at school. Spanish cream.
- 16b. Luvuyo and MSD at Skyline in 2000.
- 17a. Junior Menyoko from Atteridgeville, Pretoria. Met at youth camp in Magaliesberg, organized by NCGLE.
- 17b. MSD outside Spur Restaurant in Queenstown. Bike belongs to gay Prof. at Masibulele College who is not out.
- 18a. Highpoint with Thembi and Pozisa (sister's friend).
- 18b. Thembi and Pozisa outside Mariston Hotel in Hillbrow.
- 19a. MSD and best friend, Xolisa. Picture taken in 1995 in Xolisa's place in Ezibeleni (Queenstown). Moved to Johannesburg in December 1998, after finishing matric.
- 19b. Skyline 2000.