

Olu dresses the 'big' people

MOIPONE KOMANE

Creative, stylish and energetic: that's how Olubunmi Khonjwayo comes across.

Popularly known as Olu, this Durbanite oozes confidence, a quality that comes in handy in the fashion industry, where she is already making waves.

Olu has a clothing design diploma from Eastern Cape Technikon and her mission is to add love, passion and quality to clothing through the designs at her boutique, Chic 'n Stylish.

Chic 'n Stylish targets people with fuller figures.

"My target market is the young and trendy, those that are culturally conscious and love showing it off through their clothing," says Olu.

She contributes to the development of the country by giving street vendors various projects such as helping with beading and knitting on a part-time basis.

"I basically work on my own but if my business performs well I will be able to employ people full-time."

Olu prefers working with denim and different types of linen because she says "with these fabrics you can do more without damaging the fabric".

"I love playing around with paint (fabric) and beads to create a beautiful look without being limited by available material. Some stuff is made using crocheting skills I learnt from my mother and granny."

While still a student, one of the highlight of Olu's life was working with Sonwabile Ndamase, the founder member of the South African Fashion Designers' Association. She also remembers exhibiting her ensembles at the Vukani Fashion show.

"The show was in the Boulevard in Rivonia, Jozi and was in honour of Nigeria's First Lady. People loved my designs."

She's never looked back since.



Trendsetter . . . Olu Khonjwayo oozes confidence – and rightly so. She is making a powerful impact on the fashion industry.
Pic: Mandla Mkhize



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