

Curriculum Vitae

LES AUPIAIS

Education St. Anne's Diocesan College, Natal.
(Vice head girl, head of debating society, Art Prizes '68, '69, '70 '71)
1973 – 1975. University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg
BA (English and Speech and Drama) Diploma, Marketing Management,
Institute of Marketing Management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Television Presenting

1998 – Present (as guest presenter and director)

Carte Blanche presenter and field reporter (*Carte Blanche* is an hour-long investigative journalism television programme)

Worked in South Africa, Kenya, Swaziland and Zimbabwe on stories ranging from the political, investigative, lifestyle and wildlife. The insert on the exposure of a *foie gras* farm in Brits near Johannesburg won an international award for television reporting.

presented over 100 *Carte Blanche* inserts including:

The Jim Rose Freak Show

Lion trainers in Africa

A mamba-venom for science in Kenya

The rise of trade unions in Zimbabwe

A squatter camp saviour

Pension fund fraud

Fear of flying

Fidelity Funds

Shark Fin Triads

Rape in Prison

Traditional healers or Sangomas

The AZT Furore

Are Angels back on earth?

Black entrepreneurs

Dolphins in captivity

War in Angola

Orphans in Bulgaria (three inserts the final to be aired in 2011)

New-age solutions for the Red Cross Children's Hospital

Human Rights Award winning stories on The Angel of Soweto and War in Angola.

And many others.

1999

Standard Bank TV, in-house television presenter

MC and Public Speaking work

MC work and public speaking done at a variety of events and for a variety of clients including:

Decorex 2007 to 2010

South African Congress of Shopping Centres Congress (2005)

Renault Emerging Artists Programme (2005)

Pam Golding Regional Agents Meeting (2005)

Nedbank (2004)

Old Mutual (2004)

Cape Grace Fashion Show MC (2004)

Diner's Club International Travel Awards (2002)

Standard Bank Stars Awards Ceremony (1999)

Daimler Chrysler Art Award (1999)

Independent Newspapers Woman of Worth Awards (1998)

National Woman's Day (1998)

Foschini (1998)

Mercedes Benz (1998)

NAAWBO International Conference (1998)

Park Davis national speeches (1998)

Winner of the 1989 ITC/Business Day Trophy for public speaking

Directing, Producing and Creative Direction

2003 – 2011

Creative Director of SABC 3's *Top Billing* and Tswelopele Productions
Corporate Division

Ad hoc Director for both *Top Billing* and Tswelopele Corporate
The Cosmo Show

Executive Director. In charge of show content and final mix.

1998

Ad hoc production for Carte Blanche inserts including:

Full production and co-direction of the multimillion rand foreign wedding
industry insert

Co-direction of Robert Swan Antarctic insert

Production of insert on medical aid vs doctors and new-age therapies used in
the burns unit of the Red Cross children's hospital.

2003 – Present

Ad hoc production/direction of corporate and private audio-visual presentations
including: Woolworths/Plascon home makeover commercial series (2004)

The Waterfront Woman of Worth Competition Finalist (2005)

Training

2003 – Present

Communications Lecturer, WITS Business School. Communications Coach.
Media Trainer.

2003 – Present

Ad-hoc corporate media and communications trainer for clients including: –

De Beers (2004)

Woolworths (2003)

Remax (2005)

Touchline Media (2005)

The Institute for International Research Employee & Corporate
Communications (2002)

UUNET (SA) (2003)

Deputy Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Lazarus Ipangelwa (2002)

Siemens (2000)

2010 TO PRESENT

NNR

Sanlam

Shell

Engen

Prudential

Virgin Active

Business Writing

Copy writer for various corporate publications including:

Adworx Advertising, Leloko property development brochure (2005)

Lanzerac, Western Cape Tourism Guide 2002, 2003, 2004 and pocket guide to
Western Cape.

Magazine Editing and Consulting

2007 to Present Editor award-winning magazine Private Edition

2001 – 2007

Editor of magazine *Icon*

A Pam Golding International quarterly publication formerly *Toplife*

Winner: Pica Award for Best Travel and Entertainment Magazine, 2 years
running

1999 – 2001

Editor of *Toplife* magazine

A Pam Golding International publication

1998

Media and editorial adviser to a variety of clients including *Toplife* magazine

and Touchline media

1997

Editorial Director, Condé Nast Independent Magazines. Chosen by new Magazine division of the Independent Group to launch Condé Nast titles in South Africa, in particular *House and Garden*.

1995 – 1997

Editor of *Sunday Life Magazine*.

Launched a 48-page national colour magazine carried in the Sunday Independent, Weekend Argus and Sunday Tribune. The launch entailed hiring key staff members, mainly from the magazine industry, conceptualising the editorial, and devising the visual formula of the magazine with the international Art Director and Designer, Mario Garcia, presenting the magazine to the advertising industry and fine-tuning the product over the initial launch stage. Duties included choosing the weekly content of the magazine, overseeing the art direction, choosing photographic and graphic material, assisting staff members in editing and writing, writing a weekly column, feature writing, radio broadcasting, and giving speeches and presentations.

Annual budget: R12 million.

Sunday Life won three major Mondi awards in 1996 under my editorship

1993 – 1994

Managing Editor *Cosmopolitan Magazine*

Managed a staff of approximately 25 writers, editors, sub-editors, and art department.

Wrote, edited and produced major supplements in particular *Zest* (Summer beauty/health/fashion guide) and the De Beers Diamond magazines.

Edited, wrote and managed the magazine's career sections, introducing *Hot Careers* section to provide readers with more accessible career information.

Wrote *Work it out* the career and television advice column.

Controlled a R1 million editorial budget, made radio and TV appearances to promote the magazine and wrote and presented speeches to promote the magazine. Wrote television scripts for *Cosmopolitan* documentaries. Assisted in the editorial makeup of the magazine and deputised for the editor. Liaised with the head of the promotions department on all projects. In general, fine tuned the magazine from visuals to writing style.

1992 – 1993

Features Editor, *Cosmopolitan Magazine*

Commissioned, wrote, edited features, wrote advertorials, produced two major supplements annually and handled the careers portfolio

1991 – 1992

Concurrent portfolios included:

Deputy Editor: *Red Magazine*

Leisure Editor: *Finance Week* (Co-producer of 1991 FW Ad Report)

1986 – 1990

Johannesburg Bureau Chief, *Cosmopolitan Magazine*

Wrote major features, deputised for Editor in Gauteng, represented magazine

on foreign assignments, delivered speeches and chaired seminars on behalf of the magazine. Portfolio included editing of three sections of the magazine, advertorial writing, radio and television appearances.

Script writing

2003 – January 2011

Senior Script-writer, *Top Billing* and Tswelopele Corporate Productions

1991 – 1993

TV Scriptwriter for *Vanity Brief* a weekly TV programme

Ad hoc scriptwriting for corporate productions including:

Knilam Packaging, Zwelethu Mathethwa, Absolut Vodka series, etc

Script writer: Big Fish TV

Clients include: Seeff Properties, Ackermans, Tile Africa etc

Books 2003/2004

2009 Text for Thesen Island Coffee table book

2008 Wrote and published *Take 3: triplets in transit*

Wrote text for *South* a South African décor and style book by Karen Roos and Annemarie Meintjes.

2000

Contributed to *Laugh the Beloved Country* on humour in SA

Published and edited *Cape of Flames* commemorating the great fires of the Cape

Peninsula and *Spill!* An IFAW sponsored book on the ecological disaster caused by the sinking of the ship the *Treasure* in 2000. The books were best sellers.

1998

Commissioned to write book: *The Peri-Peri Guide*

Columns and Current: Ad hoc features and columns appearing in a wide variety of Features publications including:

Private Edition

Icon

Visi

Journey

Sawubona

2004 – 2005

Top Billing Magazine. Contributing columnist

1998

Hot Wire columnist for the Business Day, After hours supplement

Columnist and feature writer for *Altitude Magazine*, *Essentials*, *Quality Life*,

Men's Health and *The Money Standard*, *Femina*.

1991 – 1992

Senior Writer: *Style Magazine*

1990 – 1994

Columnist writing: *The Bottom Line* for *Femina* magazine

Radio

Regular contributor to Radio 702 weekend décor slot

1997 - 1999

Hosted Cape Talk 567 Radio show for two hours on a Saturday morning

The Good Life with Les Aupiais

1997 – 1998

Drive Time news presenter with John Maytham on Cape Talk Radio

1991 - 1992

Radio journalist with weekly show on Radio 702

Newspapers March 1995 – July 1997

Invited to sit on Cape Newspapers Executive

As a member of the executive I was part of the strategic and financial planning team of Independent Newspapers Cape.

1984 – 1986

Promoted to Chief Sub-editor of the *Saturday Star Weekend* then to weekly political supplement, *Review* magazine

1983

Sub-editor

The Star Tonight, TV reviewer

1981 – 1983

Sub-editor and arts editor. Television and film reviewer.

Natal Witness, Pietermaritzburg

1979 – 1980

Advertising sales.

Natal Witness, Pietermaritzburg

Public Relations

1991 – 1992

Director and co-owner: *Wordsworth Public Relations Company*. Clients included Saatchi & Saatchi, L'Avenir wine estate, The V&A Waterfront.

1978 – 1979

Public relations officer, reporting to the Marketing Manager

Tongaat Foods, Durban