

David 'Qadasi' Jenkins



By [Martin Myers](#)

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David 'Qadasi' Jenkins has received a Sama (South African Music Award) nomination for his solo album Uhambo Olusha and collaborative album Lashis Ilanga, which was recorded alongside his close friend and co-musician Maqhinga Radebe. Jenkins hails from KwaZulu-Natal and I saw him perform two weeks ago and needed to know more. He admits he gets called the new Clegg quite often, but says that does not faze him and considers it an honour when audiences say that to him.



■ ***What does music mean to you?***

I love the fact that it has the ability to invoke every type of emotion.

■ ***Your heroes?***

My musical heroes are Phuzekhemisi, Johnny Clegg, Mfaz' Omnyama, and Paul Simon.

■ ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

My 91-year-old grandfather who has had an incredibly interesting life travelling around South Africa and Zimbabwe as a missionary. He was part of some amazing organisations and spent much of his time helping those in need as well as being a loving and supportive member of our family.

■ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My late father's banjo.

■ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

Appletiser – I'm not the most adventurous in the pub!

■ ***What makes you stand out?***

My ability to speak fluent Zulu and my colourful patch pants (*umblaselo*), which my incredibly talented mother makes.

■ ***Nicknames?***

Dawie and Qadasi, another Zulu word for umlungu or 'white person'. This eventually became my stage name.



■ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

I would be a cinematographer. I've always had an interest in filmmaking.

■ ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Patient, compassionate, quiet, loyal, determined.

▣ ***What song changed your life?***

We are Growing by Margaret Singana. This was the soundtrack to the iconic series *Shaka Zulu*, which helped spark my passion for Zulu culture at a young age. It's a very powerful song, musically and lyrically, and embodies elements of both traditional Zulu and western music. It paved the way for my interest in the culture and the music.

▣ ***What is your favourite word?***

Lokhuzana, a Zulu word for thingamajig.

▣ ***Favourite fashion garment?***

My wooden beaded necklace, which I've worn every day for as long as I can remember.

▣ ***Your greatest achievement?***

Receiving a Sama nomination for my solo album *Uhambo Olusha* and collaborative album *Lashis Ilanga*, which was recorded alongside my close friend and co-musician Maqhinga Radebe.

▣ ***What do you complain about most often?***

Cold weather.

▣ ***On stage, I tend to?***

I gain a sense of comfort and confidence, which is contrary to my otherwise shy and introverted nature.



■ **Wishes and dreams for the years ahead?**

I would like to release a successful new album early next year, which would enhance my brand of music in the industry. I would also like to grow as an artist and a person by continuing to travel abroad through music.

Social media links:

Website: www.qadasimusic.co.za

Facebook: www.facebook.com/qadasimusic

Instagram: www.instagram.com/david_qadasi/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/qadasimusic

Youtube: www.youtube.com/davidjenkinsza

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