Press release

14 October 2024

AGRI'S GOT TALENT

CHESTER FISCH WINS AGT 2024

Chester Fisch made everyone feel the music when he won Agri's Got Talent 2024 (AGT 2024) on Friday night, 11 October, at Dawn Mountains, Simondium, with the famous Michael Jackson hit "The Way You Make Me Feel."

Chester Fisch

It was not only Fisch's extraordinary vocal abilities that impressed, his dancing skills and showmanship all contributed to making Fisch a worthy winner of Agri's Got Talent 2024.

His second song, the politically inspired "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke (1964), couldn't be more apt in speaking to the heart and soul of South Africa's agricultural community.

Fisch, a seasonal worker in the wine industry from Mountain Ridge, Wolseley, said earlier in an interview with Food for Mzansi that he believed in the future of agriculture, "because the world was built on it, and the world cannot survive without it."

"People need to eat and that is why farming is important. I want to contribute towards promoting agriculture, especially amongst the youth."

Beyond wine making, Fisch is equally passionate about music. By winning AGT 2024 he hopes to advance his music career and wants to help young artists grow and develop their talent.

Fish was encouraged by his partner, Felicity, to enter AGT. Although gospel as a genre is his first love, he also excels in R&B and pop. "I am versatile and would like to grow in all areas when it comes to music."

For Fisch, participating in AGT was not about winning, but learning and growing as an artist.

"In every competition, there are no winners or losers. We are all learners," he said.

Chantel Boonzaaier, from DGB (Ltd) Franschhoek, took second place, and Sandile Mathebula, Macdaring Farm, Nelspruit, came third.

Chanthel Boonzaaier

Sandile Mathebula

The AGT judges said the 2024 competition was the toughest one to date, with a very small scoring margin separating the first three contestants.

Lungelo Sithole, from KMI Farming in Nelspruit, won the prize for the best singer in an indigenous language, awarded by the Afrikaans Language Council (Afrikaanse Taalraad/ATR). Her version of Zahara's emotional, Xa bendingena Mama, was a powerhouse performance second to none. The lyrics, in isiXhosa, are a tribute to Zahara's mother who passed away.

Lungelo Sithole with Dr Conrad Steenkamp

Dr Conrad Steenkamp, CEO of the ATR said that AGT is unique project that gives people from the agricultural sector a chance to sing in their mother tongue. "In South Africa we have several indigenous languages to be proud of, Afrikaans being one of them. We pass on our language to our children through singing. It is not just about Afrikaans, it is about encouraging and supporting the arts in the mother tongue."

Thea van Zyl, Agri's Got Talent project coordinator, said the project is more than a singing competition, it is also about skills development. Skills the contestants take back to their homes, farms and communities. It is about building bridges and inspiring talented agricultural workers to reach for their dreams. Agri workers are the backbone of the fruit and wine industries, the unsung heroes, and AGT gives them a platform to be heard."

Our Top 10 from left to right: Arno du Toit, Sandile Mathebula, Lungelo Sithole, Arnaud la Moer, Chester Fisch, Chanthel Boonzaaier, Davon Johnson, Franklin Hermanus, Ferencia Scheepers and Bonginkosi Nkosi

Our judges with Chester, from left to right: Jason Baartman, Almarie du Preez, Chester, Melanie Williss and Jade Paige.

AGT was started in 2013 by Hortgro, the South African deciduous fruit industry organisation. This was the 11th year of the project, which is sponsored by Hortgro, Citrus Growers' Association, South African Table Grape Industry, SA Wine and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

The project is also supported by FruitFly Africa, BerriesZA and Culdevco.

For more information about AGT, follow us on social media or visit our website, or contact Thea at info@agrisgottalent.com.

Citrus Growers' Association OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

HORTGRO Growing Fruit IQ

SATI SOUTH AFRICAN TABLE GRAPE INDUSTRY

SOUTH AFRICA WINE discover diversity in a glass

Western Cape Government FOR YOU Agriculture

Afrikaanse persverklaring

14 Oktober 2024

AGRI'S GOT TALENT

CHESTER FISCH WEN AGT 2024

Chester Fisch

Chester Fisch het almal die musiek laat voel toe hy op 11 Oktober 2024 Agri's Got Talent 2024 (AGT 2024) by Dawn Mountains, Simondium, gewen het met die bekende Michael Jackson-treffer "The Way You Make Me Feel."

Dit was nie net Fisch se buitengewone vokale vermoëns wat beïndruk het nie, sy dansvaardighede en vertoning het alles daartoe bygedra om Fisch 'n waardige wenner van Agri's Got Talent 2024 te maak.

Sy tweede liedjie, die polities geïnspireerde "A Change Is Gonna Come" deur Sam Cooke (1964), kan nie meer gepas wees om tot die hart en siel van Suid-Afrika se landbougemeenskap te spreek nie.

Fisch, 'n seisoenale werker in die wynbedryf van Mountain Ridge, Wolseley, het vroeër in 'n onderhoud met Food for Mzansi gesê dat hy in die toekoms van landbou glo, "omdat die wêreld daarop gebou is, en die wêreld kan nie daarsonder oorleef nie." "Mense moet eet en daarom is boerdery belangrik. Ek wil bydra tot die bevordering van landbou, veral onder die jeug."

Behalwe vir wynmaak, is Fisch ewe passievol oor musiek.
Deur AGT 2024 te wen, hoop hy om sy musiekloopbaan te bevorder en wil hy jong kunstenaars help om hul talent te laat groei en te ontwikkel. Fish is deur sy lewensmaat, Felicity, aangemoedig om vir AGT in te skryf. Hoewel gospel as genre sy eerste liefde is, blink hy ook uit in R&B en pop. "Ek is veelsydig en wil graag op alle gebiede groei wanneer dit by musiek kom."

Vir Fisch het deelname aan AGT nie daaroor gegaan om te wen nie, maar om as kunstenaar te leer en te groei.

"In kompetisies is daar nie wenners of verloorders nie. Ons is almal leerders," het hy gesê.

Chantel Boonzaaier, van DGB (Bpk) Franschhoek, het die tweede plek behaal, en Sandile Mathebula, Macdaring Farm, Nelspruit, het derde gekom.

Chanthel Boonzaaier

Sandile Mathebula

Die AGT-beoordelaars het gesê die 2024-kompetisie was die moeilikste een tot nog toe, met 'n baie klein puntemarge wat die eerste drie deelnemers geskei het.

Lungelo Sithole, van KMI Boerdery in Nelspruit, het die prys vir die beste sanger in 'n inheemse taal, toegeken deur die Afrikaanse Taalraad (ATR), gewen. Haar weergawe van Zahara se emosionele, "Xa bendingena Mama" was 'n ongeëwenaarde kragtige vertoning.

Lungelo Sithole saam met dr. Conrad Steenkamp

Die lirieke, in isiXhosa, is 'n huldeblyk aan Zahara se ma wat oorlede is. Dr. Conrad Steenkamp, uitvoerende hoof van die ATR, het gesê AGT is 'n unieke projek wat mense uit die landbousektor 'n kans gee om in hul moedertaal te sing. "In Suid-Afrika het ons verskeie inheemse tale om op trots te wees, Afrikaans is een daarvan. Ons dra ons taal deur sang aan ons kinders oor. Dit gaan nie net oor Afrikaans nie, dit gaan daaroor om die kunste in die moedertaal aan te moedig en te ondersteun."

Thea van Zyl, Agri's Got Talent-projekkoördineerder, het gesê die projek is meer as net 'n sangkompetisie, dit gaan ook oor vaardigheidsontwikkeling. Vaardighede wat die deelnemers terugneem na hul huise, plase en gemeenskappe. Dit gaan daaroor om brûe te bou en talentvolle landbouwerkers te inspireer om hul drome na te jaag. Landbouwerkers is die ruggraat van die vrugte- en wynbedryf, die onbesonge helde, en AGT gee hulle 'n platform om gehoor te word."

Top 10 van links na regs: Arno du Toit, Sandile Mathebula, Lungelo Sithole, Arnaud la Moer, Chester Fisch, Chanthel Boonzaaier, Davon Johnson, Franklin Hermanus, Ferencia Scheepers en Bonginkosi Nkosi

Die beoordeelaars saam met Chester, van links na regs: Jason Baartman, Almarie du Preez, Chester, Melanie Williss en Jade Paige.

AGT is in 2013 deur Hortgro, die Suid-Afrikaanse sagtevrugtebedryfsorganisasie, begin. Vanjaar was die 11de jaar van die projek wat deur Hortgro, Sitruskwekersvereniging, Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruifbedryf, SA Wyn en die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou geborg word.

Die projek word ook ondersteun deur FruitFly Africa, BerriesZA en Culdevco.

Vir meer inligting oor AGT, volg ons op sosiale media, besoek ons webwerf, of kontak Thea by info@agrisgottalent.com

Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa | HORTGRO Growing Fruit IQ | SATI South African Table Grape Industry | SOUTH AFRICA WINE discover diversity in a glass | Western Cape Government Agriculture FOR YOU