



The Biography Of

THANDIWE MLAULI

*Animation Studio Founder, Producer, Writer &
Illustrator*

Meet **Thandiwe Mluli**, the young, black, independent animation producer, writer, and illustrator based in Johannesburg, South Africa actively carving out a unique space in the country's fast-growing animation industry.

Having graduated with a **BFA in Producing for Film & TV** from the **New York Film Academy**, Thandiwe spent time in Los Angeles studying the international animation game by attending workshops like the first-of-its-kind, **Black Women Animate Bootcamp** in 2018 and returned to her home country having built a bad-ass network of like-minded creatives all over the globe.

Passionate about creating and telling heart-warming stories for all ages, Thandiwe is the first black woman to independently build an animation studio in South Africa. At **Studio Yezi** she works with new talent, diverse storytellers and collaborates with young people to illuminate the diversity-lacking local animation industry. Thandiwe's deep desire to nurture fresh talent and reflect positive narratives about Africans has led to her championing a heart-centred business model for her studio where representation, affirmation and talent development is the focus.

Studio Yezi's first development is an afro-anime short film and series titled, '**SOLA**'; set in 22nd century South Africa to be brought to life through an ambitious crowd-funding initiative.

The African-mythology-based show will see Thandiwe as the showrunner and director as she sets her sights on making a positive shift in the national animation field through her diverse casting of the project and the themes of family, friendship, magic and transformation.

Follow and donate to the **#MakeSOLAHappen** crowd-funding initiative by visiting www.studioyezi.co.za



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Studio Yezi is a development and animation studio based in South Africa. "Yezi" is short for "inkanyezi" which means "Star" in isiZulu.

As a company, we intend to be a symbol of hope and light, we intend to serve the world with our storytelling.

Studio Yezi is dedicated to creating and telling stories made for people of colour, and black people in particular. Black people are extremely underrepresented in the global animation space, and Studio Yezi intends to equalize the playing field, and create economic opportunity for artists and animators on the continent.



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