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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: MS. ROSIE MOTENE

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA (INTRODUCTION)	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA (GUEST SYNOPSIS)	Joining us today is Ms. Rosie Tebogo Motene. She is an award winning actress, a TV and radio presenter, a TV and film producer, author, voice-over artist, media trainer, global MC and activist and a brand ambassador to several of South Africa's most famous brand names. Rosie also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand. Welcome to the show.
MS. MOTENE	Thank you very much.
DR. MALKA	Womanity - Women in unity as a programme campaigns for the empowerment of women and on the one hand we always consider what women can do for themselves in terms of progress and development, but on the other hand we have to consider that there are certain elements which almost serve to disempower women, one of them being abuse. At the end of last year 2014 the Women's Ministry in South Africa launched their 365 days campaign which was aimed to bring government, private sector, civil society and others together in a year-long programme to eradicate violence against women and children. Now you are Vice-President of POWA, which is People Opposing Women Abuse, an important organisation which campaigns against women and child abuse in South Africa. Can you tell us about some of the activities in the organisation and how you came to become such an integral part of it?
MS. MOTENE	It was by default, you know they always say, it sometimes takes a negative to create a really good positive. When I was at university, my first year, I fell in love with a boy. There were different levels of abuse which he started before he actually hit me, fortunately I come from a family where my father always said, the minute a man raises his hand to you, walk out the door but like most families and no fault to him because that's how we were brought up, I was never taught about financial abuse, psychological abuse, emotional abuse.
DR. MALKA	Oh, and there's so many different levels or layers.
MS. MOTENE	And those are the ones, for me, I'm not saying that physical isn't serious but those are a lot more hard hitting, for want of a better phrase, purely because if somebody's breaking down at your psyche and you're emotional and telling you, you're fat, you're stupid, ugly, you're never going to amount to anything, you're going to get to the point where you can't even look at yourself in the mirror and so this is how he started to break it down, but fortunately for me, the night that he did hit me, it was the only one night and the next day I called friends of mine of the

	<p>university because I was part of the Drama Society and we had organised this event. He was very, very calculating because he took me around the back of the event, he hit me and he goes, what are you going to do, I said, I'm sorry and he got into my car, he drove my car and his cousin got into his car and drove me up the road and then proceeded to beat me outside the park, just where, it used to be the Civic Theatre, now it's Johannesburg Theatre and while it was happening, I kept looking up at his cousin, thinking, obviously something is wrong. His cousin sat in the car laughing.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So his cousin was there observing, watching what was happening.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>And fortunately for me there were young kids in the street and they were known as the Twilight Children of the time and they were street children and they came to my aid and they tried and he kicked them away and then I managed to get away, and got in my car and drove home. And driving home not once did I think, let me go back, get help, all I could think was I've done something wrong, nobody can know this.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So from an abuse point of view, it's the psychological element where you think that you've done something wrong.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja. And you've got to fix it but nobody can know because there's also that shame factor.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Of course.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>So when I got back to my apartment, and I was sharing the apartment with somebody else and outside he was waiting for me and he continued and then I don't know where it came from but the strength came where I screamed. And I think he got a bit of a fright and he left me. And I went in, my roommate was up, she saw what had happened, took me to the hospital and then going back to my friend. So the next day when I called and I said to them, they were like, why didn't you help us pack up, you just left and so forth and I said to my friend, I was like this is what happened but please don't tell anybody. I don't want to come in now my face is a bit swollen, just make an excuse for me, and there was silence and she was like, this is not on and she put the phone down and I went to sleep and everything and twenty-five minutes later all of my friends rocked up at the house. And if it wasn't for those men, they came back and they were, like listen, this is not on, this is not what men do. This is not something that you need to take ownership of. It's not your fault and although those were ringing through my ears, I mean the first thing for me and that's what got me through my healing was that I knew that not every man was like that. But it did take me nine years to realise to myself, that actually it wasn't my fault because I never spoke about that again and then it came ironically, I started Generations and a women's group from East London, the Masimanyane Women's Group gave me a call and said, as a TV personality would I mind coming through and giving a talk on abuse. Not once in my mind did I think I need to talk about my abusive situation so I went and I did all my research and it was before our iPads pads and stuff so it was all at the internet cafe and my boyfriend at the time, we had a huge fight the night before, no he wasn't abusive or whatever but was just one of those lover's tiffs and the next day I was so distraught thinking about what had happened I had left the speech, that I</p>

	<p>had written, on the plane and when I got off, I was literally whisked from the hotel to the venue where I was speaking and I stood there and then I spoke and I spoke from the heart and I spoke about what happened and the more I spoke the more I started choking and the more I started then breathing and then letting it out and looking in the audience and I was relating to other women and then afterwards there was a standing ovation and people were talking about it and people were like, ja I'm glad you spoke about it because I've gone through it so long.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And I was having that authentic voice, it wasn't just another talk of something happening to a third party.</p>
MS. MOTENE 7.25	<p>Ja, you know, and then discussions with the organisers afterwards, it was weird because that was incredibly overpowering for me and there was the journalist from Sunday Times, he asked – do you want to report on this, I would love to report this and that ... I said yes and the next minute I thought do I want to and then I slept through and I prayed and I was like, actually no I do, because this is something that I need to get through, but the response from those women in that room, means that if I'm feeling that and they're feeling that, there are many other ones, you know. And then it's amazing when you put your mind to something, when the universe just opens up because then I started researching different organisations and POWA kept on coming up, People Opposing Women, People Opposing Women ... but I could never get hold of the director and I know to this day, she just thought, agh another celebrity, just wants to do something for her image and I couldn't get hold of her and I was like, okay the time will come. And then a friend of mine who is in marketing, contacted me and said, listen I'm bringing Eve Ensler out to South Africa, it's the first Vagina Monologues concert, would I like to be part of it but also would I like to be the spokesperson? And I was like, yes of course, it's fantastic, after the Vagina Monologues we gave a fantastic performance and even then after that I was like, okay I need to do a lot more and low and behold, we're sitting at the cocktail party and there's a woman sitting at the table and I go and introduce myself. She was, Hi, I'm Delphine and I'm like, I know this name, so I said, Delphine who, she goes Serumaga, I was like, Executive Director of POWA? She goes, yes. I go, Oh my God, ok sit down... this is a sign ...</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So you found her right there.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>I found her and I was like, okay this is divine intervention, you know, I could see was looking at me thinking I'm mad but and then from there I said you know I don't want to just go and be the face, that's not what I'm about, I need to do my training and then, because I was on Generations, I used to get a lot of fan mail from prisoners and they were, they used to take up about 80% of fan mail and they were like, we'd like to invite you, like to invite you and I was like, ooh do I want to go to a prison, not really my thing you know and then I spoke to the ladies at POWA and they said well maybe it might be a good thing because ...</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And is this all from a prisoner point of view and then again immediately in my mind I'm thinking, male prisoners?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja ... ja ... and so I said okay, well I'll give it a shot and it was organised</p>

	<p>and it was a special day and it was just for the sexual offenders and in my mind I thought will there be a cage or something between us, I was like there's got to be some form of protection and I was taken onto a field and these guys came in and they literally sat just about a metre away, if that and I was like okay Rosie we're going to ride or die on this, you know and obviously there were the catwhistling, the pessimist comments, negative comments. But then I took a deep breath and I was like okay, let's talk and I spoke about my experience and I spoke about what POWA does and I spoke about the misconceptions and the dialogues that came out afterwards were incredibly encouraging but also very worrying because some of these guys had been incarcerated at a very, very young age. They didn't have a father figure and in their mind women weren't women... are not human, they're objects. So the one guy was like, now why must I listen to you, you're just an object, I just use you when I need to and that's when POWA came in and they created these different courses, educating these guys, so when they do come out into society, they can integrate, they understand that the changes have happened ... this is some of them had been in for ten to fifteen years and with the changeover of democracy, it's a totally different world that is on the outside, you know.</p>
DR. MALKA	Absolutely.
MS. MOTENE	<p>So ... and then from then on, I mean it's interesting because then I met other prisoners. I did a lot of stuff at Modderbee prison as well but there's one guy who's phenomenal and he was put in prison for the most atrocious, atrocious crimes but at a young age, realised what he did wrong, improved himself, came out. He now runs a radio station in North-West, runs programmes for young boys, getting them off the streets, teach them about violence and so forth, so you know as much as we have a lot of negative about our country and our judicial system there is still a lot of good that's happening behind those doors.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>But it's always challenging to come through to change at socialisation because that's what people have been indoctrinated in and it becomes a vicious cycle so that's very very difficult to make. But in terms of the other work that you're doing, I noticed that you were also representative as an Ambassador for UN women and you did the climb to Kilimanjaro.</p>
MS. MOTENE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	<p>The highest, highest peak in the African continent and it was part of the cause, I read, was to stop violence against women and girls in Africa and then you climbed Kilimanjaro a second time, this time to raise awareness for the Tomorrow Trust, and Kilimanjaro Initiative.</p>
MS. MOTENE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	<p>Can you tell us about the experience personally and also more importantly what, doing the climb did to raise awareness of those specific causes?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>The first one was incredibly daunting because there wasn't anybody around me that I could say, okay give me a tip so ... you can go online and find out what you need to do and they give you this breakdown so there's nothing to prepare yourself for that. I have to say, I was incredibly, incredibly upset, not being able to reach the top. A couple of years later,</p>

	<p>and I said I will get to Uhuru and when was it, in 2013 I contacted Kilimanjaro Initiative and it was the same people who took us up with the UN and then I said to Tomorrow Trust because I also sit on the board, I said well, I'll try and raise money for the organisation, I started training and also focused my mind on it and I contacted the organiser and we've been friends since the last Kili Initiative, Tim Calen and I said to him, hi, do you think I can do it? And he goes, are you mentally ready? Do you want to? Do you need a breakthrough? I said yes, he goes, okay then you can do it. And within two weeks I was like, okay let's do this, put everything together, and by the grace of God, the finances were in place, I was able to take off work everything and every single day I was like, okay there's a reason why, what I need to do, I need to get through this and see what other ... what are the lessons I'm going to learn along the way and that was my prayer before I set foot and the first day went well, got into my own pace, obviously very strenuous, second day exactly the same and then the same day, the third day after we were about to summit that evening, I got incredible, incredible heart burn so when everyone was sleeping I couldn't breathe and I know it was partly anxiety and so when we were woken up to get going or whatever, I started walking and then I got violently ill and I said to my guide, I was like am I ... am I mountain sick and he says no you're not, he says what do you want to do? I said I need to get to Uhuru. So he goes okay, let's take it slowly. Don't worry about your group, and we were walking with a group of about 25 people from the States and South Africa, Kenya.</p>
DR. MALKA	So it's quite a large group of people to manage?
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja, ja. I mean there are lots of guides, guys that are with them but this guide I hadn't seen for the first three days, it was the first time I had recognized his face, and he goes like let's go slowly and that's exactly what I did, I took the ten steps, I ate, I prayed, I cried, kept on going, kept on going, saw the point where I turned around the last time, cried, I was like, eh, eh let's go ...I turned to God, I was like let's keep on pushing and then out of the blue, my guide turned to me, and he goes put on your sunglasses, and it was pitch black outside, I said why I am I getting mountain sickness because I kept on worrying I don't want to go down that route again and he says, no just put your sunglasses on and sit down and as I did that I saw the most breath taking sunrise of my entire life. And he said because this is the problem with people who don't live here, is that you forget about the small stuff and I was like, okay that's another lesson, he said are you ready to go, I said cool ... carry on going slowly, slowly, slowly. As we're getting to Gilman's which about ten, fifteen years ago was considered the top of Kilimanjaro and some of the group were coming down and they were like, oh my God we thought you turned around whatever, very very happy should we wait for you and I was like, no I need to get to Uhuru. So I obviously got to Gilman's, took our pictures and what have you and my guide said to me, he goes, can I convince you to go down so I said I need to get to Uhuru, he goes ... You're sure? So I said, yes. Because you're two hours behind the group, you've literally got an hour to get there because the sun was coming out, the snow is going to melt and it's very very dangerous because then that's when you can slip off the mountain and die. So he goes, but I think we'll pray together this time. So we sat down, he was praying to Allah, and I</p>

	<p>was praying to Hashem, it was just a beautiful beautiful moment and carried on walking, carried on walking, kept at my pace and by the grace of God we were about to reach then I saw the rest of the crew coming back. Just such a beautiful moment because some of the people that we had walked with were children that came from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds and I had discussions with them the night before and there was one girl that we just ... the two of us broke down about the things and why we were doing this climb and what we needed to get through and one of the things were, if we get through this we can get through anything and we locked eyes and we balled and my guide was like, okay enough crying, let's go, let's go and got to Uhuru, whipped out the South African flag, so excited that it was even upside down, put on my Tomorrow Trust tee shirt and I was like, okay I did it and I knew from there I can get through anything but more importantly I can do it at my own pace.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Thanks for sharing those lessons of perseverance and your personal learnings through what you've experienced, whether that it was from the abuse, going through and taking it further with POWA, and eventually getting to Uhuru. But I think one of the other elements that you mentioned which is really important, was about doing it at your own pace and not at somebody else's.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Now, turning towards your acting career ... you have got an extensive acting repertoire, from the international circuit, you were in Oscar nominated Hotel Rwanda, The Other Woman, Nothing but the Truth and in your television roles that included acting on Generations, BUBOM SANNA, Stray Bullet, Zabalaza and given the wide range, of and of course the far reaching effects of media plus its longevity, it plays an important role in cultural representation ...</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Yes.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>... and social influence and I always consider that particularly with women in Africa, it's important that they are appropriately portrayed in the media, that their voices are heard and that they've got greater representation across all sectors. Do you find that women's representation is a factor when you're considering some of the roles that you take on?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Now, definitely and that is one of the reasons why there's been such a big break in my acting career. Number one was, I realised that there is a huge gap for female producers and directors so I honed in my talent on that side. And then when this amazing role came for Zabalaza and it was really really exciting and it was this powerful woman who uses her sexuality to get far but doesn't necessarily mean that she sells sex, and I know that there were a lot of discrepancies and problems that I had with the writers and producers because and I kept on saying to my agent there was like this perception that if a black woman makes it somewhere, she'd slept her ... way to the top and we've got to stop doing that. And that if somebody is using her sexuality or somebody's sexy doesn't mean I need to be flashing my breasts on screen or walking around like half naked, women don't have to do that anymore. They didn't have to do it before, but there was a time where people felt that way. So it's been quite an interesting journey of going into a space and claiming it and knowing what I do and don't</p>

	<p>have to do, what I'm comfortable with and what I'm not, and I think that's very very important, especially because there is a lot of young girls who have come in the industry with me and we're playing scenes with men and, yes because they didn't have the experience, their voices aren't as loud enough but they need to know that the director says okay, strip down you don't have to, you know, and it's about your pride and even if your character is that way, you've got to look in depth into exactly where your character's going and if the story line and the arcs don't tell you that at some point she strips naked and she's totally left vulnerable, if you're not told that up front and suddenly you're told to do it on set one day, you're allowed to walk off, you're allowed to put your foot down, you know, and so it's been quite an interesting role but I think also it's another reason that God has put me in this position where I can voice up and I'm coming from a voice from authority, I'm not being a diva. I don't have to do that, no character has to do that and especially with, as I said with the portrayal of black women, especially black women in business, you can get to the top without sleeping your way, you know.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>But do you find that this is also some elements between in the acting environment, conflicting of characters and conflicting the personal values?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja. It's very very difficult.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I think it was this year with the Oscars where we had Cate Blanchet talking, we had Patricia Arquette articulating not just from the point of view of roles that are offered to women but also from a remuneration perspective.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>That women are sorely underpaid in the industry.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>But that's a given in South Africa. I know for a fact that when I was in Generations, my male counterparts even the ones that didn't have any studying, behind them got paid a substantial amount more than I did and you know and that's still happening now and that's another battle that we're fighting, you know, but also, and that was one of the reasons why for me I needed to get into the producer and the director's space.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Well you've got more control.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>You've got more control but also like my first film that I co-produced I realised the boys club is so evident and one my mentors always said to me, Felicia Mabuza-Suttle, and she was at an event and she was speaking and she said, as a women you need to always be prepared because the boys club will be the boys club and they will always try and make you try and feel like, oh no you're over-reacting, we're not being that way so be prepared because they're going to do stuff to exclude you but you need to be prepared and clever and don't play it on the tune that they're expecting you to. There's nothing wrong with being emotional but you've got to choose your spaces to be emotional in and that's exactly what happened, where my partners had all decided they'd do Berlin, they'd do whatever and I was like, I need to get to these film festivals and so I was like, okay I need to be clever and those words rang through my head and I went and I seeked financial help and it was very very short notice and I wasn't even mincing my words, I said this is what's happening, boom, boom, boom and</p>

	<p>I was brought to the festivals and at least I was there and representing myself as the producer because even in a lot of articles my name was always omitted, you know it was always put in the male counterparts. Then on the flip side when we were going and sourcing funding sitting down and literally men trying to put their hands in your lap or if it was an international funder, oh well meet me in my hotel room and things like that, okay we can be wise, and I said I can meet you at your hotel but I'm not coming up to your room, oh what do you insinuate, I said nothing whatsoever but let's rather meet in the ... and the knowing, well do I really want your money, do I really want to be doing business with somebody who's got that snide mentality you know, and it was difficult and you know there was one time when I was, I left a meeting and I'll never forget there was a scene in Sex in the City, when Samantha was leaving a meeting and in her mind she kept on saying, no emotion, no emotion, as she's walking to the lift she starts crying and that was me and I'd get into my car and I was staying in this fancy hotel where they had to bring your car, I said where's my car, bring my car, bring my car and the guy was like, okay what's wrong, I said just bring my car and I got into my car, crying away. And it's difficult and I think more and more women need to talk about these issues and also being more collective, you know a lot of the criticism that came from the film industry was like, what does the an ex actress and TV presenter know about producing? Little did a lot of people know that with Studio 53, I've been producing for a good couple of years so it's very different from film but then again my other male counterparts have never produced at all but nobody said anything to them.</p>
DR. MALKA	Yes there's always, let's say it's a double-edged sword.
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	And women unfortunately always bear the brunt.
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	And you're always having to prove yourself double or triple time than male counterparts.
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	But the reality is you've made it.
MS. MOTENE	Ja. And you get through it, you know.
DR. MALKA	Ja, you get through it.
MS. MOTENE	<p>And with all that criticism and I mean we, we raise and it's ironic because it was on the xenophobic violence that happened in 2008 and so we made the decision that we want to raise the funds but we don't want a funder to have artistic rights over the film. So we didn't want to fund the company and saying, okay we'll give you the money but you need to hire Leonardo da Caprio or somebody else and so we raised the money through crowd funding and from a little minuscule amount of money to reaching a point where suddenly this phenomenal film was made and I mean we premiered, our world premiere was at the Toronto Film Festival and for any African film maker it's one of the most auspicious film festivals</p>

	<p>because a lot of other international film festivals have an African section which is usually put at the back room or not really part of the festival and you know it hasn't been given the right type of accreditation but at Toronto you're given the respect so that was incredibly amazing and important for us and then we got invited all around the world and to date we've won fourteen global awards, you know.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Congratulations.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>So from that day when somebody was like, you produce ... oh this I've got to see ... to ... and then you see them at a local film festival and they're looking down you know and that's I suppose also part of the challenges and pushes you.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And taking into consideration the challenges that you've had, the successes that you've also had among your career and the experiences that you've accumulated from it, in your opinion, what areas do you think still need to be done with respect to women?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Honesty and I think dialogue between women, you know there's a lot of, you know I'm like very anti-campaign at the moment because whenever there's a problem, its ok we're going to do this campaign. No, let's have this dialogue but constant dialogue and Wendy Luhabe create a dialogue on] social feed and when I saw her tweets and the things she's talking about I've got ... I mean I've always had a huge amount of respect for her but that even like quadrupled because now she was going into a space that is not her generation and she was speaking to the people that are going to listen and the people that need to hear those actions so, I think we need to have that action, more women need to be honest and stand up and stand up against organisations who are not protecting them, you know. And then also bringing back that sense of self-worth because now we're in a very very dangerous position where we girls are incredibly empowered and it's beautiful because what they're saying, what they believe in and what they're standing for is amazing but then we have the ones that have taken us twenty years back, it's not their fault, it's circumstances so forth but also the rise of the sugar daddy, you know, where young girls are having sex for twenty rand airtime you know, so it's on that level of where did it go wrong that you don't believe in protecting yourself, you don't believe in your worth and also it's that instant gratification you know and I've sat at dinner parties where, I think this is also part of the reason why I haven't got a partner in my life because I'm not the type of girl that if you bring somebody to my house and she's not your wife and you have a wife, or she's not your permanent girlfriend, I'm not going to entertain this and it happened a couple of years ago, I was living with somebody and his friends came over and I met these women and we had a great time and then two weeks later, other women came, so I was rude to these women, and the one woman turned around and said, I'm his wife and I said, oh my God, I was rude to the wrong person, you know, and that's also another thing where women need to get involved is that stop turning a blind eye to it, you know somebody's cheating on somebody you don't have to ... it's not your place to go and tell everybody but it's your place to say, actually no I don't want this in my environment, you know.</p>

DR. MALKA	On that note, in terms of women's empowerment, equality, all of those elements, we've had the South African Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, which started up but is now undergoing consultation and review. In your opinion how do you see legislation like this, in helping advance women's issues?
MS. MOTENE	It's very tricky and I've been lambasted about it but I still see we've got a long long way to go but those dialogues only happened when the time is right so you know I don't do the Sixteen Days of Activism campaigns anymore. Women's Month, people say to me, okay well we need you to come and talk to the ladies, I was like, no I want to speak to your company because a lot of these situations that are happening are not because of the ladies, you know, and that's why it also goes back to the home on how you're going to bring up your children, you know if little boys are told, well it's a girl's job to wash the dishes, go sit down, it's not his fault when he gets to eighteen and he believes that ... because you put him into that situation, you know, you've told the guy listen it's red all his life meantime it's green and he's going to go but what to do you mean it's green, you're mad, no you're the crazy one, put it down you know.
DR. MALKA	And that's where education is so incredibly important to change perspectives.
MS. MOTENE	Ja, like a friend of mine was saying, she went I think she went to pick up her cousin or somebody from a ballet class and I think her cousin must be about five or six years old and there was a little boy there dancing around with a tutu on and I think that is amazing, you know because I'm not saying it has anything to do with your sexuality but there is that freedom of choice and it's also just showing that the level of gender equality from the beginning.
DR. MALKA	Rosie, one of the questions that I ask all my guests on the programme who have made tremendous achievements in their respective fields is about the factors which have contributed to their success and some people talk about hard work, others talk about perseverance. In your opinion what have been the key drivers on your success?
MS. MOTENE	Definitely my mother, my biological mother was a domestic worker for a family who raised me and only in my thirties did I realize, I mean I've always known about the sacrifice but did I really sit down and I went through a whole existentialist crisis of who I am and so forth but realizing the sacrifice and the challenges that she had growing up and what she did for me, so definitely her contribution to that, and you know I mean she grew up, when I was growing up and my mother's always had high blood pressure and now she doesn't have it anymore, she takes sugar tablets because of this, and it's not there and realizing and I've written a book about it, realizing that a lot of it could have been from the angst and anxiety of being in a displaced environment, number one, having a child there who's not your child, you know, and not acknowledging that and thinking, I mean I'm sure and she's agreed to it and said so ... was lots of time when I think will Rosie every see us as her parents ... and fortunately I've gotten to that point, very much later in my life but at least I did, so a huge salute to my mother.
DR. MALKA	What then sounds like a pivotal period ...

MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	... in terms of our formative years in growing up ...
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	... can you share a bit more about that?
MS. MOTENE	It actually, you know, because I grew up, I was the fifth child of the white family and in my book I even write that I used to dream ...
DR. MALKA	What's your book called?
MS. MOTENE	I don't want to say yet.
DR. MALKA	Oh, is it still in there?
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	Okay, so we've got a new publication to talk about.
MS. MOTENE	Yes. And so what was I saying, so I would dream and pray before I went to sleep every night, please can I wake up like a little white girl with blonde hair, and having an identity crisis all the way through to my late twenties, thinking I dealt with it in my thirties then like as I said before it's like you need to go through these real hardships before you actually find the gold and a lot of turmoil was happening within the family, within myself with myself trying to find myself and I was working for a Jewish radio station and that was just going all wrong and I decided okay I need to resign, let me figure something out and I had been incredibly incredibly ill for about six months prior to that that I had an earache, ear problems, that my loss of hearing for a short while, came back, still not a hundred percent right and my body, I could just feel everything was just caving in and you need to listen to your body when that starts to happen so from spastic colon to backache to everything, and then after I put in my resignation I was driving on the highway and I got this sharp pain all the way through my left side and I could feel the muscles in my arms going a bit numb and I pulled over and I sat down and prayed and I prayed and a voice said to me, go home. The same voice that said to me, when I was on the mountain, the mountain will always be there and I called my biological parents and they live in Rustenburg, which is about three hundred kilometres outside and I said, mama can I come home and she was like, of course. I said no, no, I'm going to come home for a while, she goes of course and when I made that decision I prayed again and I saw this sign that said, extra space in my head, I don't know where I'd seen it and I remember the number, called them, said I need to, how big is it, how much, can I afford it, figured out that maybe the space that I could use because I need to put all my furniture, pack up my apartment and that's exactly what I did and I drove home and I cried and I cried out of fear, out of happiness, out of relief and then when I got home, I just like slept and slept and I thought okay this is the time to work on my relationship with my parents and discover who they are because I had never had a conversation with my father and for many years I resented him because he drank a lot although he wasn't abusive but I was just like, why couldn't he have been like my foster father who died when I was a very early age but I had a wonderful upbringing with them, and it was those

	<p>conversations, that waking up in the morning and sitting outside and having coffee with my father and discovering this phenomenal phenomenal man who actually was in a choir and he's baritone and he breaks out into the song and I was just like, oh my gosh I've missed out on all of this, you know and now I understand where my creative gene comes from, you know and speaking to my mother of where she came from, who we are was mind blowing for me and in my mind I was going to be there for three months and before I knew it eighteen months had passed and it was the best, yes I took a bit of a pay cut because I wasn't in Joburg doing professional gigs but I could handle my agency but it was an absolute necessity.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And do you think that given your experiences and almost living a dual life and having that opportunity to catch up with your parents that that has had a big impact and influence on you now?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Absolutely, positive and negative, you know I was fortunate that I could face my demons and face the fact of my relationship with my father, my identity crises, all of that.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>But today you've become a role model and you have proved to many women and girls inside South Africa that with hard work and personal sacrifice that things can be achieved. Can you share with us a few of the gender challenges that you've overcome during your career and also what advice you would give to young girls who want to become aspiring actresses, to almost to walk in your footsteps?</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>You know what the first thing is that you need to create your own journey so you need to, and I've realized this especially with the agency and how I take on somebody to represent. The first thing I ask them is, what do you want to do and why do you want to achieve it and if somebody wants to do the journey because they believe that they're talented and they want to and they want to get into roles and do that, beautiful, let's go on that journey, let's go it's a lot of work but let's go, but when somebody says I want to do red carpets, I want to be in the papers, I'm like cool you probably will but it's going to be short-lived and also it's not the energy I want to work with. And so going back to your first question is that there is going to be a lot of challenges especially as women you're going to be doubted. And then, Jenna Clifford who mentored me for a short while before said to me, she said one of the things that women fail at is that we try to play the game as a man. Men have their game, they have their testosterone, we don't have that, we have our oestrogen, we have our inner power and so yes you can be affirmative and you can be powerful but you don't have to play it on that masculine energy. And that's something I've taken to heed, is that also you don't have to lower your standards and it was those words that rang through my head when that guy was putting his hand on my leg or when somebody says to me, well okay, let's meet up in my hotel room, you know it's actually no, that environment I'm not happy with and it's okay for me to be that way and so the advice I would give to young people is that you need to know your worth but map out your journey, my journey changes all the time, you know I do my vision builds, I do my praying, I do my affirmations and it's okay to change it but do it according to your speed, you know. If I've gone to, climbing Kilimanjaro, if I kept to the speed to everybody else I would never have gotten to the</p>

	<p>top but I did it and I noticed a lot more than what other people did. I saw the beauty in the journey so it's about belief and you know, there's so many different sayings about following your passion and remember somebody can condemn your passion but also see where they're coming from maybe they were too scared to follow their passion that's why they don't want you to follow or they don't understand. You know one of my family members when the agency had just started and I wasn't doing acting work and things weren't that great and you learn from those low times when the finances are bad you don't know when you're going to get my rent money and so forth and he's like, well you know, your time's up move on to something else just get a job and for a second I thought about it and I thought, I don't want to be miserable. I could have get a nine to five job. I'd been offered tenders before, I could be going down that route but I don't want to you know, and I stuck to it and that's why it's been I mean yesterday was my twentieth year in the industry and although it's had a lot of downs but now we're on the up again, you know, and I don't regret anything. The only thing I do regret is that I didn't take a lot of the ... I didn't take risks and jump into situations a lot more than I'm doing now.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>But hindsight is a twenty-twenty vision, you know it's only something we know about after we've actually done it.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>Ja.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And I heard a wonderful expression the other day when someone was saying exactly what you were saying, when people talk about the negative elements that they're actually expressing their own fears, it's got nothing to do with you, it's how they perceive those fears.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>It's how they perceive and it's okay and sometimes, you know, yesterday was Nolene's last show, and she said, and she was like you know who I really need to thank are the haters, you called me fat, you hated my hair, did all of this, I still enjoyed the journey and at the end of the day that's what it's about.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Yes, and overcoming those superficial, ridiculous nonsense. But now in closing our discussion, could you please share a few words of inspiration that you'd like to pass on to girls and young women in the continent that are listening to us today.</p>
MS. MOTENE	<p>First and foremost be you. When people say I want to be you when I grow up I'm like, why there's one Rosie already find who you need to be and follow that path. We could overlap on some of the things that we do, but don't think how would Rosie do it, no think about how you're going to do it and don't be scared to be you, you will get that criticism, you will be doubted, expect that, if you don't that means you're not on right track, you're not being challenged and life is a challenge so when you're in a place and things are going great and you want to get to that next level, it means that you're ready. So make that leap, you know. Accept those challenges and also ask. One of the things in the beginning of my career was that I didn't ask people enough for advice. Asking somebody advice doesn't mean that you're stupid, you know, and expect no and if somebody says no and one door closes create a window. You know my first car ambassadorship which was in fact my only car ambassadorship I wanted</p>

	<p>BMW to sponsor me and I went into a BMW dealership and I noticed that the only black people that were walking around at the time were the ones that were working at the back or were working in the workshop, I think maybe one or two sales persons but it was predominantly white. Somebody said to me, no well why don't you go into town, it's black owned you've got a better opportunity. I was like no wait a minute so I went in and I bought a BMW and I drove it for a year and I paid my instalments on time, did my services. Then I found somebody who was like okay, I need to put through the PowerPoint presentation for you, I said let's get this meeting and I went in and I was like I'm your buying power but there's nobody coming through the door whose black and who knows about it. And prior to going to them also I went to BMW Head Office and they were like, the guy was like we don't sponsor non sport's people and we definitely don't sponsor women. I know he wanted to say black women but he was being pc. I was like cool so I went through this dealership and I got the sponsorship and I was expecting maybe six months to a year. I got the sponsorship 2004, it ended in 2008 and every six months my car got upgraded because the only series BMW that's made in the country, it's a three series, so whenever there was an update I got that one and of course got to drive all the other ones for a week-end.</p>
DR. MALKA	What a pleasure.
MS. MOTENE	Ja, absolutely but if I had listened to that guy in the beginning when he said, no, well we don't sponsor, who are you to tell me what I want and what's on my journey and what's on my vision board?
DR. MALKA	So don't ever take no for an answer.
MS. MOTENE	Ja.
DR. MALKA	Thank you very much for sharing your words of inspiration, for taking the time out to be with us today.
MS. MOTENE	It's my pleasure.
DR. MALKA	It's wonderful having you here and we wish you all the best for the forthcoming publication of your book and we'd like to hear more details once it is released.
MS. MOTENE	You definitely will.
END OF PROGRAM	