

PROGRAM DATE: 2017-05-11

**PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY**

**GUEST NAME: KELLY KHUMALO – AWARD WINNING AFRO POP SINGER**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
DR. MALKA	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	Joining us in studio today is award winning Afro Pop singer Kelly Khumalo whose career in the entertainment industry spans almost two decades, predominantly as a musician with some acting roles as well as grooming upcoming rising talent as a judge on the reality music TV show Clash of The Choirs. Welcome to the show!
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Wow I didn't realise I've done so much, thank you for having me on the show it's such an honour to be here.</b>
DR. MALKA	It's a pleasure to have you here.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you.</b>
DR. MALKA	To begin with you've built a successful music career and you've been nominated, you've won various awards including a South African music award for Best Female Artist in 2013....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Yes I'm nominated for Best Female again and Best African album and I've just recently won a Metro Best Female so it's been an amazing journey for me and I've grown as a musician and as a woman and that's working very hard to make her mark in the music industry.</b>
DR. MALKA	Now with those landmarks in your career, when did you understand that music would be such a big part of your destiny?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I think it was at an early age, although I didn't have much understanding of how much impact music has in the world and in our society. I think when I was younger all I wanted to do was to sing and it's only much later where I got to understand through people that I bump into I mean on the road and social networks where people are like you know there's a particular song in your album that uplifts me and I can relate to what you are talking about I mean I talk about a lot of women issues, relationship issues I mean just being an individual that's trying to be the best that they can possibly be in this society, so that's when I realised actually music is not just music, somehow it has a way of reaching out to people that are going through difficult times in their lives.</b>
DR. MALKA	And can you tell us a bit more about your music in particular because you've spoken from a generic point of view on how music touches, how it engages with people...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I talk about love most of the time and I talk about my struggles as a woman, I mean especially on this particular album that I've recently released, I released it last year it's called "My Truth". For me My Truth was having to accept who I am as an individual, accept my reality as an individual and the things that I've gone through, I mean for most of the times leading up to where I am now I never used to really want to talk about my reality because I would feel like you know people would judge me and fingers would be pointed but now I'm at the place where I'm like this is my reality, this is my truth and this is what I've gone through and I'm not afraid to share.</b>

DR. MALKA	It can be very vulnerable though because you're..
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	....it is, it...
DR. MALKA	...scratching at this....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...I know...for me I think I'm at the point where I'm not afraid to share that vulnerable part of me because that's who I am, I can never change that and I cannot be judged based on being who I am 'cause I'm not...I don't know how to be anything else but me. So I've gone to places where I talk about love, how vulnerable I am in love and how love has made and broken me you know, I talk about all those things, I talk about being a mum and how painful it is to be a single mother and have to work and leave your children at home and try to build a better future for them, so I talk about a whole lot of things.</b>
DR. MALKA	And the reality is that irrespective of your career path, those are still issues that women contend with....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...so being a single mom, having to put food on the table....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...yes...</b>
DR. MALKA	...and still being a mom, being a parent.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Absolutely and still find a place where I can be myself and not hold back, so having to find balance through that, it's not an easy thing to do but we try and find balance.</b>
DR. MALKA	And when we look at the messages of music, so you've said that predominantly your focus has been on love and going down to that raw truth of who you are....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...ja...</b>
DR. MALKA	...but often I've found that music has...it's always been a huge inspiration to people...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...true...</b>
DR. MALKA	...across the world but it has sometimes been exploited for both political as well as social agendas.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Oh absolutely most of the time I mean, I mean we look at when we...I mean when we are faced with elections in the country they will not call other people, they will get musicians because somehow musicians have the power to somehow reach people because people look up to a lot of musicians and the messages that they send throughout their music so one way or the other we will find ourselves somewhere inbetween of all of that</b>
DR. MALKA	As a mouthpiece and as a forum and a platform for those agendas to be perpetuated.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Sometimes it's...it becomes very difficult because most of the time you're...for instance if you're supporting a particular party and that party is not seen to be the party that's representing people, we get bashed for such things, why are you supporting that because one, two, three...and at the end of the day people somehow forget that I support based on my views and my experiences and sometimes it's not really about who's in power at that particular time, it's what the party has done for you leading up to where you are, so it's a push and pull type of thing and you find yourself tangled in the middle of that.</b>
DR. MALKA	And sometimes it's purely about the entertainment....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>And sometimes you just want to entertain, okay never mind can we leave politics and everything else aside, I just want to entertain.</b>

DR. MALKA	And with that role you've spoken about the complexities, managing that dynamic of being put forward and perceived support, that it's not necessarily your views...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...true...</b>
DR. MALKA	...how do you think that musicians should walk that line?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>It's a very tricky one because you find yourself having to choose which party you have to follow for starters and somehow at the end of the day we have fans everywhere, it's not just with one party and somehow, I don't know it's been very difficult with me because something I'll find myself in the forefront, sometimes I'll pull back 'cause I'm like no ways this is...at the end of the day I'm not a politician, I'm a musician, I entertain and irrespective of how I feel about certain parties or politics I somehow have to hold back because one way or the other it ends up having to affect my career.</b>
DR. MALKA	And let's talk about the fan base for a moment because ultimately your support is driven by your fans, your career is pushed, your music is....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...everything....</b>
DR. MALKA	...purchased so fans are an incredible part of who you are and who your brand is, can you tell us a few of the responsibilities that come with having such a large fan base?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>You have to be as honest as possible because you're not just dealing with yourself, you're dealing with a following, people that have been loyal to your music, to your career, people who tell you the truth even when you don't want to hear the truth so what I've done with myself is that I constantly want to be honest and I communicate my feelings, what I am going through, how I see things and I always say this is my truth. It may not be necessarily how you see it but this is my truth and they have to accept the fact that I'm an individual who sees things differently than the other.</b>
DR. MALKA	And there's also that dynamic of Kelly Khumalo at the frontline who is in concert; who is the public personae and then there's the private personae which is challenging to navigate.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Oh it's always been a struggle and having to be that famous Kelly Khumalo and having to be the private one and having to find balance between the two is always a struggle because people..somehow people don't understand that there's two people not just one, but then again I've learned to understand having to try and find balance in all of that will drive me crazy.</b>
DR. MALKA	Balance is really important for women irrespective of roles or careers but in this particular, this crossroads or where you are, how do you navigate it 'cause I think that's invaluable advice for anybody on steering that balance?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>You know it's a very intricate one because as much as I have my private life I also have the public life and somehow the private overlaps to the public and same goes for, you know..</b>
DR. MALKA	...it's a fusion...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...so it's a...you know sometimes I always say to my friends is that sometimes losing balance is a way of actually gaining balance so I find myself juggling in-between but at the end of the day I remain very honest to myself.</b>
DR. MALKA	I think that's an interesting perspective and one which it's a reality that we have to confront.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>It's a very difficult one like I said, is that having to find balance between the two worlds because sometimes I don't even know what the two worlds</b>

	<b>are myself.</b>
DR. MALKA	And almost losing balance to fall into the one for the sake of the other.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>It just depends on what's important at that particular time I think.</b>
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to award winning Afro Pop singer Ms Kelly Khumalo. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter: @WomanityTalk.
	<b>AD BREAK</b>
DR. MALKA	You are listening to "Womanity – Women in Unity" on Channel Africa, the African Perspective on frequency 9625 KHz, on the 31 meter band, also available on DSTV Channel 902. Today we're talking to award winning Afro Pop singer Ms Kelly Khumalo, we would love to receive your comments on Twitter: @WomanityTalk.
DR. MALKA	Now going back into the show, "Womanity – Women in Unity" our programme is all about gender equality and it's increasingly becoming a global focus, I don't think there's a day that goes by where there isn't another mention of equality coming through to the fore, but one element that I think is really important is driving female leadership and it's important for building the capacity of women.....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...irrespective of country, of continent, of world, how do you see female leadership whether it's in the entertainment industry or the political space?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Ja it's been a very difficult one, having...I mean I grew...I was born in South Africa and looking around we've always had male leadership whether it's in the business corporate space, whether it's in the entertainment business, whether it's in relationships, I mean we have always been put down or been given a back seat. Somehow I don't know whether it's our fault or it's societies fault but I feel like the society somehow doesn't believe in women enough to allow them to lead and yet we have so much power, to an extent where I feel like we have to fight twice as much to gain recognition, to be respected in the office space, to be respected in parliament, I mean if it was up to me I feel like it's time that we have a female president so we get to experience that nurturing part of a human being that understands how to be a mother, how to nurture or even nurture the country so for me I feel like society at large doesn't really believe so much in women.</b>
DR. MALKA	Do you think that it's also a case of having more visible role models so if you have got a female president its proven women can do this?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I think we need that, we need that and I think Michelle Obama did so much to raise awareness where gender equality is concerned but I still feel like in African countries we still need to do more because we are seen as people who belong in the kitchen and raising kids at home but we are never seen as people who can run the country or run the office spaces.</b>
DR. MALKA	And yet we're responsible for bringing the next generation into the world...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...absolutely I'm like if we can do this, surely we can take care of the country.</b>
DR. MALKA	And on that note what areas do you think we need to build on the most to help benefit women in the future?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I think young kids, the children. We need to teach them how to believe in themselves, to know that they are never at the back seat but at the front, as long as they believe in themselves because if we groom them now then we are grooming the future leaders of the country, the future leaders of the office space or even in the entertainment industry, so it starts at home, how...what we teach them that determines who they become and how they</b>

	see themselves.
DR. MALKA	And you mentioned you've got children...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...yes I have...</b>
DR.MALKA	...boys, girls?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I have a girl and a boy.</b>
DR.MALKA	And how are you managing that blend and that dynamic?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>It's very intricate as well because I'm a single mum okay. I have to be a mum and a dad to both my kids and which is a male and a female so I have to be a girl at some point, I have to be a man at some point but at the end of the day I think the core of everything is to teach them to believe in who they are which determines what they become.</b>
DR. MALKA	And not on predefined stereotypes...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>....no I'm never about that, I'm the type of the mother that says go for it, believe you can do it, irrespective of whether you are a female or a male, that doesn't count in my house, you are a human being before you are a male or a female.</b>
DR. MALKA	And do you think that as a society because this is the point you raised it earlier when you said the fact is that there is this perpetual belief that women belong in the kitchen, that we need to help negate that misconception and to drive things forwards, what do you think society needs to do to educate women about their rights and about gender equality?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I think like I said before it starts at home but even in schools as well, even in the office spaces we need to have campaigns that motivate women to go back to their place of power because I feel like we have been stripped of our power to a point where now we are so submissive to anything and everything, I'm a woman I belong in the kitchen, I'm a woman I cannot lead, who said that? You're a human being before a woman it means you have the same strength as a man.</b>
DR. MALKA	Education is paramount.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>It is, it is very important.</b>
DR. MALKA	One of the questions that I ask all my guests on this show is about the factors that they consider that have contributed to their success, so some people speak about perseverance, others talk about hard work; some have a particular person who's contributed to their lives....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...ja...</b>
DR. MALKA	...in your opinion what have been some of the key drivers to your success?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>For me it's a bit of a lot of things. Character is more important.</b>
DR. MALKA	Character of self?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Self character, it's very important to know who you are, why you are here and what's your purpose actually, that's the important part. Do you even love what you are doing, does it make you happy and secondly having to respect what you do and thirdly hard work is very important and discipline most of the time because I mean it's very easy to lose yourself once you make it and you think I have made it and I can do whatever and you forget what propelled or what motivated you to get to where you are, always respect, always stay focused but more than anything I'm a spiritual person. I'm highly grounded in Christ. I pray all the time and I'm very in touch with who I am in Christ so I always go back to my spirituality when things don't make sense, I go pray about it and ask God to give me guidance</b>

	<b>'cause sometimes it's very easy to lose who you are in this very busy world that's consumed by a whole lot of things so having to go back to a place of spirituality is one of the things that has kept me grounded and one of the things that have made sure that I become the best I can possibly be in my journey of becoming the best.</b>
DR. MALKA	And listening to you I hear to two elements, one – grounding, focus, roots, coming back....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>....yes, absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...and then the second element is keep working at it, it's going to change and you've got to apply the discipline...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...ja, absolutely because sometimes you don't get immediate results, it does not mean you have failed it means you have to go back to the drawing board and restructure your structure and come back again and do it all over again. It's what I've been doing for the past 13 years, sometimes it works sometimes it doesn't, it knocks you down you get up and you do it again.</b>
DR. MALKA	And we're talking today to the Kelly Khumalo today who's been nominated for awards but can we go back a little bit to the Kelly Khumalo of the past in terms of sharing some of the pivotal moments in your life growing up because often I find that people see you here today....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>....ja, but they don't know....</b>
DR. MALKA	...you didn't come here overnight...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...oh absolutely not....</b>
DR. MALKA	...so let's talk about some of that journey....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...it's been a very interesting, difficult journey for me. I was raised by a single mother as well and I'm from the rural areas like in the bundus of KZN where like you don't even dream of being the Kelly Khumalo, it's actually not even anything to talk about or even imagine because there are no resources, there's nothing that says you have at least the smallest possibility of becoming anything recognisable, so I had push through that. I had to push through beliefs of if you don't go to school you will never become anything. I didn't finish school by any....I didn't finish school so I'm one of those people who believed I have a talent, yes school wasn't as good as I thought it would be but I want to be something, I want to be someone someday...</b>
DR. MALKA	...so you had the fire...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...I had the fire, so the fire is what has brought me here through everything having to push through poverty, being suppressed and being told that I'd never be anything in life and look at where I am now.</b>
DR. MALKA	What would you say influenced you the most in that time?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Well there were magazines, as much as there was no TV there were newspapers and I'd go to school and go through newspapers and I'd come and visit my mother every now and then in Johannesburg so I'd watch TV and I'd see your Witney Houston, I was highly driven by her, she inspired me, I'd look at her and like one day I want to be like that woman. So every time even having to go back to those dusty streets it stayed with me that I wanted to be that woman I saw on TV the other day.</b>
DR. MALKA	So focusing on the dream and making that dream a reality.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Ja...</b>
DR. MALKA	All of these elements, you've had media influences, you've had dreams, what

	would you say is there a particular person or anyone that has had the biggest impact to make you the person you are today?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>My...there's a lady I met when I started in the industry, I think it was in 2004 when I was part of a gospel competition and she was my stylist then and then onto being my manger. That woman believed in me so much to a point where I was like there has to be something very important about me for someone to push through everything, she invested her time, her everything to make sure that I become the woman that I am today. So that woman I'd forever be grateful to her, her name is Sarah Shongwe, she used to manage me and she made sure that I got to understand how talented I am and the amount of power I still have in me as an individual.</b>
DR. MALKA	So she saw the raw talent, nurtured it...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...ja...</b>
DR. MALKA	...and that became your reality.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>And what's even more where she's concerned is that she saw me spiritually; she was not fazed by what she saw physically so she had to dig deep and she saw that person that had so much fire to become the best that she can be in the music industry.</b>
DR. MALKA	And would that be something because this is our...let me rephrase this a little bit. Often we've had these interviews where people talk about women connecting, delving in and helping lift other people up....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...would you say the same applies in this instance?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Yes absolutely she was a woman who....a young woman who wanted to be the best and she just went in there, she pulled me out of all of it and made me believe in myself when I did not because I mean when you're from a very poor background your self esteem is very bruised, you...</b>
DR. MALKA	...and also you don't have a frame of reference....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...absolutely so you don't believe in anything, you don't even know how to dress you don't even know how to carry yourself as a woman, she literally grooms me into being the woman that I am today. So I would also say that it is very important 'cause I've seen a lot of women bashing one another, judging one another which is something that I'm so passionately against 'cause I really believe that we need each other, we are more effective when we support one another, you know.</b>
DR. MALKA	And I'd say that goes through right from grassroots up because I mentioned earlier in the intro that you were a judge on Clash of The Choirs....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...yes....</b>
DR. MALKA	...and I see that as where you've got these start-ups of young talent....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>For me it was like I'm so grateful that I get to do what Sarah did for me...</b>
DR. MALKA	...give back...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...and it...for me it was very personal you know and a lot of people would find me fighting people because I'm like I believe in this kid, this kid reminds me of who I was a couple of years ago, they have so much fire in them and they need to be groomed to a particular path that will make sure that they become the best they can possibly be.</b>
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to award winning Afro Pop singer Ms Kelly Khumalo, we would love to receive your comments on Twitter: @WomanityTalk.
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DR. MALKA	Looking towards the future now, what’s next for you, what are the next set of milestones you want to achieve?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I would like to be a global star but more than anything else what I’ve learned is that we plan but God plans the best so you can plan that you want to be next door in the next minute but it doesn’t happen because you were not meant to go there, so all I always say to myself is that this is what I want yes, but God what have you planned for me?</b>
DR. MALKA	So you’re sewing the seed...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I put it out there and I’m like ok Kula I’m going to let you do your job but I’d like to be a global star but more than anything I want to be that person that would be remembered that I fought to be where I am and not only that but I represented a whole lot of silent voices out there that never had the opportunity or the ability to be where I am.</b>
DR. MALKA	That’s a really important part, representing those silent voices and being able to find them, being able to ignite the passion...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...because not all of us have the opportunity or even have the power to go out there and say this is who I am and I will fight to be this person.</b>
DR. MALKA	And whilst you want to have the global presence and be recognised internationally, because our programme is broadcast across the continent....
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...oh that’s beautiful...</b>
DR. MALKA	...have you worked or had an opportunity to collaborate with any artists in Africa?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>I’m actually busy with one. There’s a friend of mine called Ziko, he’s from Mozambique so we’re actually busy in negotiations with his people releasing a new single that’s going to be coming out in a couple of months, so ja. For me it’s taken a while, it’s taken a while and I feel like I needed to root myself in who I am before I can spread my wings because I would not have a very solid background had I done it a couple of years ago.</b>
DR. MALKA	So looking at, as you mentioned, your whole view at the moment is my truth and that was about the foundation of yourself...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...yes absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...are there any...is there anything that you can share with us some of the lyrics from My Truth?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>There’s a song called Themba which is hope. I remember when I wrote this song I was in a tour bus going to KZN to perform there and I saw a reflection of myself on the window and I’m like Kelly you still smile and you still look the way that you look after having been through so much, what is the motivation behind all of that and the answer to that was hope. If it wasn’t for hope I would not be the person that I am today and I feel like a lot of people can relate to that, we never have...we don’t...we are not guaranteed the next minute but through hope we get through that.</b>
DR. MALKA	And lastly, as we go out and close off with the show today, can you share a few words of inspiration or wisdom which you’d like to pass onto young women or girls that are listening to us?
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>First of all I’d like to say that gender does not determine your ability as an individual and secondly don’t ever let anyone tell you that you can’t do it.</b>

	<b>If you have the fire inside you, you have enough to propel you to be anything you can possibly be but more than anything stay true to yourself.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you so much.
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you.</b>
DR. MALKA	It's been a pleasure having you on our show today and we...
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...thank you....</b>
DR. MALKA	...look forward to hearing some successes in those nominations that come about to be awards
<b>KELLY KHUMALO</b>	<b>...now can I just win....thank you.</b>
	<b>PROGRAMME END</b>