

# VALHALLA ARTS

"When the burning flame of spirit is ignited, it will transform any soul - no matter what the circumstances."  
(MUSA E. ZULU, 1999)

## WRITER



**2003** – **MUSA E. ZULU** is approached by Independent Newspapers to write an article that celebrates the International Day for People with Disabilities (03/12/2003). The title of the article is "*THISABILITY – The Power of the Soul*" and reflects on the influence of language to both constructions of self definition and social perspective.

**2004** – His autobiography "*The Language of Me*" is published by UKZN Press. The book details the author's life story and how he has managed to live a fulfilling life and lifestyle after a car accident that left him paralyzed and wheelchair bound in 1995.

**2004** – He is approached by Oprah Magazine to write an article on "*Body Confidence*" which appeared on their November issue.

**2005** – "*The Language of Me*" is featured on the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award long-list.

**2005** – Students and Teachers at Vukuzakhe High School (Umlazi, Durban) rename the school's Literacy Club the MUSA E. ZULU Literacy Club in his honor as a past student.

**2006** – The KwaZulu-Natal Premiers Office commissions him to publish "*The Integrated National Disability Strategy Calendar*" which seeks to position disability empowerment in every government Department's agenda throughout the 12 months of the year. The Calendar sees Zulu sampling artwork from "*The Language of Me*" and utilizing them as themes for each Department's disability empowerment mandate.

**2007** – He is again approached by Independent Newspapers to write another commemorative article that celebrates Disability on International Disability Day 2007. The title of the article is “*It’s My Space!*” and seeks to raise awareness and highlight the importance for society to respect infrastructure designed for the well-being, mobility and accessibility of people with disabilities (parking lots, facilities etc.)

**2008** – His second book “*Wheels on the Soul of my Shoes*” is published by NUTREND Publishers. Like its predecessor, this book adheres to the MUSA E. ZULU traditional approach of art, poetry and storytelling. It also sees Zulu moving towards packaging his messages as Motivational Modules with one Chapter revealing for the first time his mind behind the conceptualization and development his creative artwork.

**2010** – He launches the official Valhalla Arts Website to celebrate 15 years in a wheelchair.

**2010** – The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture together with the Department of Arts & Culture commission Valhalla Arts to publish their own special annual Calendars that depict their policies, service provisions and development strategies. These Calendar assignments see Zulu revisiting his classical style of utilizing artwork to support text in the process of developing themes for each month of the year towards exploring the respective Departments’ social development mandates.

**2011** – Samples of Chapters, poems and artwork from “*The Language of Me*” are featured in the book “*Tiling the Hard Soil*” published by the UKZN Press. This is a book, with contributions by authors with disabilities who hail from a wide diversity of backgrounds and life experiences. All of them share one desire: to be recognized as human beings first, and disabled people second.

**2012** – His third book “*TRIBUTES: The Story*” which celebrates the exceptional achievements of women with disabilities is published by Valhalla Arts.

**2013** – Valhalla Arts publishes the MUSA E. ZULU motivational module “*THISABILITY: A Graduation from Acceptance to Embracing*” which reflects on the 6 Principles that enable successful ability.

**2014** - Valhalla Arts and UKZN Press publish *“The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Language of Me”* to celebrate a decade since the book was first published. This new copy is covered in a new jacket wrapped over the original copy of the book and is packaged with a DVD titled *‘Standing Ovation: Song for my Audience’* which features some of the best motivational talks ZULU has presented to audiences in the last decade together with snippets of television programs where he has appeared during this period.

**2014** – He contributes an article titled *“The Reasons Why I Celebrated 20 Years of Democracy in my Country”* which appeared in the Umlando Magazine published by the Durban Natural Sciences Museum.

**2014** – Ken Junior Lipenga completes and submits his Dissertation presented for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Stellenbosch University on *“Narrative Enablement: Constructions of Disability in Contemporary African Imaginaries”*. This thesis examines depictions of disability in selected African films, novels and memoirs. Central to the thesis is the concept of narrative enablement, which is discussed as a property that texts have for enabling the recognition of disability by the reader or viewer. *“The Language of Me”* is one of the books by authors with disabilities that Lipenga analyses to unpack the concept of narrative enablement.

**2015** – Valhalla Arts re-Launches *“Wheels on the Soul of my Shoes”* in an appealing 100% online page-turning format. This software allows readers to access/view the book on their iPad/iPhone/iPod, Android Smartphone & tablets and other mobile devices.

**2015** – The Gauteng Library Services in the Department of Education announces confirmation of the procurement of copies of *“The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Language of Me”* for provincial school libraries.

Link to: **[Umlando \(MUSA E. ZULU Celebrating Democracy\)](#)**