



ZWAI BALA



Singer, songwriter, producer, arranger, performing artist, DJ and TV personality **Zwai Bala** first rose to stardom in 1997 as member of the sensational kwaito group TKZEE. He since launched a solo career in gospel music, one that was launched on a high note when he won a 2002 South African Music Awards (SAMA) for his hit single *Lifted*.

Bala is a classically trained musician who has honed his skills as a student at the Drakensberg Boy's School. He later pursued a Master's Certificate in Orchestration for Film and TV through Berklee Music in Boston. In TKZEE, Zwai's work as composer, producer and performer made him a household name in the South African music industry. The group revolutionised kwaito with their singles *Take It Eezy*, the holiday hit *Phalafala* and the ever-popular *Shibobo*, which sold over 280,000 units.

As a producer and/or musical director, Zwai has worked on musicals featuring Ali Campbell of UB-40 fame, and South Africa's *Evolution On One* show (featuring Hugh Masekela, Siphso Mabuse and other well-known artists); he produced the two-time Grammy award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir's album *Grace*, and has been the featured soloist at the Classical FM/ Lexus Soiree at the Sandton Intercontinental. Zwai was a celebrity contestant on the first season of *Strictly Come Dancing*, partnering up with professional ballroom dancer Kego Motshabi, and finishing third overall.

Zwai also founded the supergroup Bala Brothers with his brothers Loyiso and Phelo, a highly in demand crossover opera / pop trio.

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