

GOING PLACES

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# back story

## viljé maritz



Viljé Maritz is a South African actor best known for his role as Gys Eloff in the M-Net soapie, Binneland (formerly known as Binnelanders and Binneland Sub Justice), since 2009. It was his first major acting role. Viljé was head boy of Jan van Riebeeck High School in Cape Town, matriculating in 2008.

He is the son of actor Albert Maritz. In 2013 he was seen in the feature film, "Verraaiers", as well as the youth series, "Liefse Kayla" on Kyk-Net. During 2013 to 2017 he featured in the series "High Rollers" SABC3 and "Swart Water" SABC2 TV and films include "Platteland", "Hollywood in my huis", "Die Pro", "n Man soos my pa" and "Moorivier".

Theatre include best actor in Matric for various festivals, first double gold in the history of Logan Toneelfees thereafter "My pa dink hy's Elvis" with Ben Kruger and "Frats" with Francois Jacobs.

### Your favorite surf spot?

I'm not really a big wave charger type of oke, maybe when I was younger for sure, but these days I just wanna cruise a wave, but my favorite spot is Tube Wave in

Melkbos, that's where I learned to surf, and it's local! Best waves ever for me, Stilbaai, Jefreys Bay and Elands Bay! Would love to go and seek some spots overseas one day!

### How and when did you start your acting career?

It all started through schools theatres where I won National best actor and was scouted to play in one of our local soaps! From there on it escalated, did a couple of movies, series, judging and voice over work! Mostly all in Afrikaans! It is not an easy industry but hell its fun!

### What do you prefer stage or movies?

I like both, each one has its perks! One is sometimes more challenging than the other! For example, in film when you make a mistake with your lines it's fine because we can cut... So it's not too stressful. On stage however there are no cuts! With both I think knowing your character is key!

### Tell us about "The Pro"

"The Pro" tells the story of a young surfer, Tiaan Nothnagel,

that has to come to terms with the accidental death of his best friend, Dirkie Lawrence, just before their last year at school. After Dirkie's death, Tiaan swears off surfing for good as he can't stand to be reminded of everything that he and Dirkie shared. But then Dirkie's twin sister, (who went to live with their dad after their parents split up the previous year), arrives in town on a mission: to be selected to go on Wave-Seekers, a fictional World Surf Tour and something that Tiaan and Dirkie dreamt of doing.

That was a great film we did, first surfing film in SA, stayed in Jefreys bay for a whole month, surfing every day! Unfortunately my character dies, but the movie is based on his life and flashbacks!

Enough said, it was epic! I had the opportunity of showing the other actors the basics of surfing as well, and often we all went out for a paddle so that they could improve their skills! It was fun, they had to get body doubles, but I did my own surfing which was great, not spectacular, working my skills, but not kak!

### Anything you currently working on?

I did three films this year, which will be released in 2019. Two of them releasing on Kyk-Net, and the other one we are trying to get out in Ster Kinekor. This one is an Independant film, "Relatief jonk", and the other two are, "Stille Nag", with Deon Opperman and "Die Skandaal", with Deon Opperman, Eric Knobs and Lizz Meiring. I then shoot in Fiesta for Kyk-Net as well as being a presenter for them.

### What do you tell yourself on days when you really don't want to get out there? How do you stay positive?

Training, and staying healthy is what keeps me motivated and positive! Wake up with a smile and embrace life, live it! Enjoy everything you do, and if you don't enjoy it, stop and find something you do enjoy!

"Friends and family motivate me, beautiful stories, positive stories, nice people. Each day is a blessing. Don't take it for granted"

Photo's by Bertus Preller

## From West to East



Every year in July, a few of us keep a beady eye on Magic Seaweed to see what the surf conditions hold in store for us during the forthcoming week. Not because we are hanging for a surf, but because we need to know what the surf is like on the Ooskus.

This is very important information because if we are going to bunk work, it'd better be worth it! You see, every year in July, the World Surf League tour comes to J Bay and we want to be there in person to watch the pros do their thing on cooking waves. J Bay is renowned for its right-hand point break waves as some of the best in the world. Just like Elands Bay on the Weskus has some of the best left-hand point break waves, but that's a secret we don't share too easily! Oops!

We could watch the Corona J Bay Open online, but where is the fun in that? It's like watching paint

dry! Besides, Corona are the title sponsors, so we know that we will never run dry, and the breaks will always be whet.

So, MSW tells us that over the next 5 days, from the Monday afternoon, the waves are going to be cranking! The next morning at around 5am, we wipe the sleep from our eyes, brew some coffee, splash the face, get into hoodies, beanies, jeans and Ugly Boots, (the Weskus style Ug boots), and climb into my car to mission the 8-hour trip from Wes to Oos.

There's a lot to negotiate during this long journey. My mate sleeping while I need company to stay awake, which in turn means I need to crank up the music volume, which leads to him moaning! Those pesky hidden speed cameras at the start and end of every single small town we go through!

Then there is the Wilderness area. I'm pretty sure the police's salary is based on how many speeding fines are issued, which means they are VERY well paid, and I contribute handsomely! Whoever invented 60km/h speed limits should be red carded, worse, sent to solitary confinement with a V8 engine revving every 5 minutes!

Ok, so after a pit-stop, a brekkie stop and a few sudden breaking moments (from those cameras!), we finally reach the infamous J Bay oppie Ooskus. Straight to the

event we say. We negotiate some cars, puddles and pavements and finally find a parking spot. We'll have to Uber to the event from where we parked! Actually, it's not that bad as my buddy, being a pro photographer, wants to position himself at the end of the wave. Better light and angle, I'm told. I agree. Anything, but walk back the "kay" or so to the event area where all the buzz is happening. Forget about the fact that I drove for a full nine and a half hours (we stopped a lot) and needed a refreshment. It is all about the shot! But, my time will come, I tell him. The Corona Dome is waiting, and I'm very thirsty!

The surfing is beyond impressive. The waves are cooking and the surfers are shredding the waves to pieces. The surfer dude pros of today are not how we grew up. We surfed, sometimes for 6 hours a day. That was our fitness program. Today, they have personal trainers, videographers and dieticians touring with them to every event around the world.

This is serious stuff now. Millions and millions of dollars go into surfing now. But I digress. The surfing is indescribably good. But the gees is what we came for, otherwise we would have watched it online. The gees is awesome. Lots of old surf mates come from far and wide, east and west to watch. Old friendships are rekindled every year.

Surfing stories of trips abroad are told over cold Coronas (lots). Legendary stories of old. Legends pitch up, yes, Shaun Tomson was there. Our own World Champ in 1977. He still surfs at 62, like a 40-year-old! At night, most of us go for dinner at Nina's, the local fave restaurant. More mates and legends, more Coronas!

The whole week is like this. Awesome, awesome gees. However, as two 50 something ballies, it all catches up to us at night. Early mornings (the light is perfect for the pics, huff!), all day in the sun, Coronas at sundown, dinner, more Coronas and general catch up talk. We are in bed by 10!



Finally, Felipe Toledo from Brazil wins the event in un-be-liev-able waves. We have to go home. It's sad. We have lived through this incredible vibe the whole week. Inspired by the level of surfing these youngsters do. But the reality is that we have to go earn some cash so that we can do it all over again in 2019. Besides, we missed our wives! Until 2019 then.



hugo zuanni

# House of Surf

Robyn Engelbrecht

We are a small, local startup located in our hometown, Elands Bay.

It all began when we made wall mounted surf racks for our own use at home, and found that there was an interest in our product. We then continued expanding our range to ceiling mounted racks for surfboards and also for SUPs. As avid surfers ourselves we have begun experimenting and developing retro/vintage style boards with amazing graphics.

Currently we are developing an apparel range for our brand with some amazing graphics and a vintage surf feel to be part of the range.





Photo by Keith Murray



Willie Esterhuysen 11 years

# WILLIE ESTERHUYSE

**W**illie was born two months premature on 19 August 2007. He weighed only 1.6kg that came down to 1.4kg as he became seriously ill in the Intensive Care Unit of Kingsbury Hospital.

Willie's life hung on a thread as he was infected with a unknown hospital bug that required some of the strongest antibiotics available to babies and his parents were advised to expect the worst.

This was, for Friedrich (Freddie) and Stephanie Esterhuysen, the most stressful experience of their entire lives. Willie, however, managed to survive the hospital bug as well as pancreatitis after spending six weeks in ICU- a miracle to his relieved parents.

He left the hospital weighing just 2kg's. The pediatrician advised keeping him away from other people to avoid contracting a new infection and so it was decided to immediately take him from Cape Town to Elands Bay where the air is clean and with fewer people around.

Willie spent the first two weeks of his life outside the hospital in Elands Bay and this was the first of many, many trips up the West

Coast.

Luckily for Willie, his father and two of his best friends, Joubert Steyn and Peter Hesselning, bought one of the beachfront plots on the point in 1998. Freddie was working in Amsterdam at the time and Peter Hesselning called him to ask if he is keen to buy the plot with him and Joubert. The answer was easy and he and his friends have never looked back.

Around 2001 they erected a wendy house between the Rooikrans bushes overlooking the point. It was heaven on earth and complete luxury compared to years of camping during the late eighties in the old quarry or wherever on many surf trips.

Warm showers only came later when Freddie met his wife Stephanie who immediately fell in love with Elands Bay but had only one "not so unreasonable" request: "warm water please". A gas geyser was duly installed but electricity only came a few years later.

The wendy house has since then evolved into the wood and natural stone house that it is today with its amazing views of the point and is the favourite weekend destination of the Esterhuysen family.

Apart from the world class left hand point break, it is one of the few places where kids can roam free, enjoy an outdoor lifestyle

and experience that unique sense of space that Elands provides.

Willie therefore grew up spending many happy weekends and holidays in Elands. From an early age he loved the ocean and spent many mornings playing on the beach and in the shallow water.

The beachbreak in Elands is an ideal place to teach kids to surf and Willie's dad started pushing him into foamies at around the age of 4. Willie has little fear of the sea and is tough as nails, a characteristic he shares with many prematurely born children. This attitude helped handling many wipe outs in the cold West Coast water.

This was also more or less the same time that Willie suddenly became very ill and was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, meaning that his pancreas stopped producing insulin to manage his blood sugar levels.

This was a massive shock to his parents and was probably the result of his illness after he was prematurely born, but Willie's positive spirit and lust for life was unaffected.

He now receives several insulin injections and finger pricks to check his blood sugar levels on a daily basis. He is a very brave boy that loves his surfing and Elands Bay.

He first paddled out at the point

with his dad helping him into waves at the age of eight and showed no fear for the rocks or the bigger waves. All surfers know that there is no going back once you have had a long ride at the point, especially if you are a goofy footer like Willie.

Every good ride has the potential to be the best wave of your entire life. As Willie grew in confidence and ability he started surfing the point and other spots on the West Coast more often, and now after many surf sessions over weekends and

holidays, is a regular surfer at the point at almost any size. Willie is unique for his age in that he is confident and calm when the waves are slightly bigger and has successfully tried out bigger wave spots like Dumps close to Lambert's Bay. In Sumbawa, Indonesia on a recent family holiday, Indo claimed his surfboard when it snapped clean in two on a wipe out on a barreling wave. This did not put him off and the next morning he got the biggest standup barrels of his life at the same spot on his little brother's board. Luckily for Willie the

owner of Importers Coffee, Olly Marshall who is also a keen surfer, noticed a photo of Willie on a sizeable West Coast wave and offered to sponsor him with 4 custom made boards a year. Ben Esterhuysen (8), Willie's little brother is now following in his footsteps and already surfs the point on smaller days. Their mom, Stephanie has also decided to take up surfing and is progressing really well and recently upgraded to a shorter board. It is surely the best experience for a family when they are all in the water together on the West Coast enjoying the waves, the beach and spending amazing family time together.



Willie Esterhuysen

Below: Dad & Ben



## Rally Time! LAMBERT'S BAY



Photos by Teresa Hollander

MALKOPPAN  
Guest Farm

**Mr Dragon Fly:** All the youngsters lined up in front, and the audience is going mad, music playing loud, and the men show their dancing moves, 'till their tattoos comes alive. On the Saturday the audience had to pick the best dancer with the best tattoo. It's not an easy job, but the audience made a decision, Ernest Cuthbert.

The winner, Ernest Cuthbert (Skull), from the bike club Syndicates Helderberg, won the competition with his full body tattoos. Ernest is an experienced biker, been in the club as Sergeant-At-Arms for 4 years. Married to Merianda (Muis) who also enjoys the freedom and biker culture with Ernest. The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for ensuring that the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the club are not violated. The SAA is responsible for the safety and security of the club, as well as the protection and defense of its members and prospects.

Riding a bike can be a thrilling and wonderful experience, it can symbolise control, can put your mind at ease, and on a more practical note, a bike can easily get you out of any traffic jam. Plus, imagine all the attention you get if you are riding a sexy bike! "You don't stop riding when you get old, you get old when you stop riding."

### The Best Old School Rally is back

The 2018 Dragon Fly Rally was held in July at the Malkoppan Guest Farm in Lambert's Bay. It was awesome to experience a lekker biker jol. This was the Dragon Fly Rally's 5 year anniversary and it was a good one! Wynand Windpomp and Dobbelsteun were the entertainers from Friday afternoon till early Sunday morning. Cash Bar at bikers prices, food stalls, braai areas were all available for the campers. Miss Dragon Fly 2018 was crowned the Friday evening, slow drag racing on the Saturday to test patience and capabilities. Games, competitions and bike concourse.

The passion or love for riding can be seen through the love and care any motorcycling enthusiast or biker showers on his or her machine. These individuals may seem all hard and tough on the exterior but can sometimes be the best gentlemen.

- Next Rally **Stiek Yt Rally**, 25 - 27 January 2019 at Kleinmond Palmiet Lagoon, hosted by Pure Venom MCC. See you there!
- Don't miss the big one, **Buffalo Rally** 12 - 14 April 2019 at their new venue: ATKV Resort Hartenbos, Mosselbay, hosted by Nomads.



"Young riders pick a destination and go...  
Old riders pick a direction and go."



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