

# **CACTUS AGONY**

## **PROFILE**

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### **SKILLS**

- Singer
- Song-writer
- Performing artist

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Authored and co-produced "Brothers for life" the official theme song for the Brothers for life campaign
- Was selected as an ambassador for the " Brothers for life" Campaign. Brothers for life is a lifestyle based media campaign against HIV and Aids. It advocates for men to do the right thing and be more responsible in terms of sexual behaviour, alcohol consumption, knowing their status and standing up against gender based violence. The project was implemented by UNICEF and the National AIDS council of Zambia.
- performed at the 2011 peace concert in Lusaka show-grounds aimed at ending election violence in the 2011 general elections.
- Composed and recorded " Speak out" which was the official theme song and video for the APRM (Africa peer review mechanism) in Zambia. Cactus was also spokesperson for the APRM Campaign" in Zambia. "Every Voice Counts" is a nationwide campaign bringing awareness towards "The Africa Peer review Mechanism or APRM. (APRMZambia.com).
- Was appointed official Zambian Ambassador for "Dance for Life" (Restless Development), which is a youth led development agency focused on encouraging youths to change their attitude towards life and contribute in development and HIV and AIDS eradication.
- Co- authored ""Gender" the official theme song for the 16 days of activism against gender based violence and performed at the campaign's official launch at Mulungushi International Conference centre.
- Performed at Big Brother Africa with JK (2010)
- Performed with Zimbabwe's Oliver Mtukudzi at the "Rhythm of life festival" in Lusaka. (2009)
- Co- authored and featured on HCP's (Health Communication Partnership) Campaign song, along side Oliver Mutukudzi". HCP is a five-year USAID funded project, promoting good health and cleanliness through the mobilization of communities. Hence the "Rhythm of life project." (2009)

- Performed at the UPF (Universal Peace Federation) Global peace festival in Lusaka, at the Inter Continental Hotel. (2009)**
- The video for “Body can’t lie” spent two weeks at number one on “The people’s Choice” music programme, on MUVI T.V. (2009)**
- Featured on Judy’s hit single “follow me” from her debut album supernatural woman. (2009)**
- Performed at Flava fm’s first Birthday in Kitwe, alongside D.J. Cleo, Blek Sam, Proff and Kabelo. (2009)**
- Performed at the first ever ZNBC Born and bred music awards. (2008)**
- Officially launched and released debut album “Bush Territory”. (2008)**
- Performed with Brian Gold Thomson, The Mwale Sisters and the B-sharp band, at the agricultural and commercial show in Lusaka. (2008)**
- Performed live with Brian Gold Thomson and the Brian Gold Project team at Smuggler’s inn, in Lusaka, with the B-sharp band. (2008)**
- Performed with Brian Gold Thomson and the Brian Gold project team at the Lounge in Northmede Lusaka. (2008)**
- Recorded “The Brian Gold project” with Brian Gold Thomson from Jamaica, to raise money for the Nyumbayanga Homes of joy orphanage for girls in Lusaka. (2008)**
- Featured in Chileshe Nshumfwa’s “Kankungwe” album (2008)**
- Featured on Matthew Tembo’s “Anthem” album. (2008)**
- Featured on I.O.M’s. (International organization for migration) “Break the chain” of human trafficking, campaign song. (2008)**
- The video for “Waiting” was voted Video of the month on ZNBC’s (Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation) Born and bred program, for the month of July. (2008)**
- Performed with D.J. Waxy and Proverb from South Africa when they visited Zambia with Channel O. (2007)**
- Performed with P-Square from Nigeria at Sundown stadium on New- year’s eve. (2007)**
- Worked with the Palliative care association of Zambia and performed at Lusaka International School in celebration of palliative care in Zambia. (2007)**
- Worked with Project Concern, which is an American NGO and performed at their HIV awareness workshops for school children in Chawama and Mundawanga. (2006)**
- Featured on Mr. Switcha’s hit single “Launch it”. (2005)**

-Featured on Leo Munthu's "Nazala album". (2004)

-Featured on Joe Angels hit single "Mayo mpapa". (2003)

-Feature in Runnell's debut album "Shibukombe napulani." (2002)

-Featured on the "Cypher- toon" music compilation. (2001)

-Featured on Danny Kaya's debut album "Mvelani". (2000)

- Has worked with many bands, artists and groups on the Zambian music scene including The Impact Band, The Mulemena boys, James Chamanyazi and the Littles, The Uhuru band, B-sharp Band, Burning youth, Tasila Mwale, Mathew Tembo, Nalu, K- Fula, Crisis, CQ, Hope, Kanji, Tommy-D, Slap-D, Ozzy, Anointed Power-house, Chileshe Nshumfwa, JK, Funti-K, The Mwale sisters, Mainza, Conscious, Pompei, Nasty D, Shimasta, Nalu, Crysta Sean, Scarlet Just to mention a few.

## **BRIEF BIOGRAPHY**

Cactus's musical aspirations began in south London, England where he was schooled in the art of writing and toasting by his close friend Mr. Lopez and a South London Hip Hop outfit called the Nappy Clinch Clan. Living in and around London's African/ Jamaican/ immigrant Community gave Cactus, as he says, a better understanding of who he was, what he wanted to do and what he represented, hence the album title track "Bush Territory". A year later he went on to study at Middlesex University and eventually returned to Zambia, Africa in 1999. In 2001, Cactus became part of a Zambian Based Hip-Hop label called Cypher Music for a year and this saw his debut appearance onto the Zambian Music Scene. Not long after, He sought out the producers for his album "Bush Territory" and his search led him to top producer and proprietors of Kula Music. A relentless performer, Cactus has been busy working with artists on the international and local scene, artists such as Hugh Masekela, Brian "Gold" Thompson, Oliver Mutukudzi, P-Square, JK, Joe Angels, Mr. Switcher and a lot more. As time went on, the Kula family gave him the alias "The philosopher" because his songs always reveal spiritual insight, deeper life philosophy and an understanding of the power of love. It is clear to see and hear that Cactus was born to do what he does and his lyrical content and style sets him apart from any other artists. Combining his rap like flows with the melodies and chants commonly associated with reggae and dance hall music, his debut was a hot one. Cactus and his music are one and the same and so it is no surprise that he is also heavily involved in social causes, such as Red Cross campaigns, Voters Registration and most recently the "Rhythm of Life" project and the "Every Voice Counts" campaign on good governance under the African Peer Review Commission and the.

### **Bush Territory**

The album is a powerful representation of the direction Zambian Music should take in terms of creativity and musicianship. Through its blend of afro-jazz, reggae, RnB and hip hop and through its lyrical content it's music transcends age, race and geographical borders, it is conscious. Bush Territory is a statement, a banner claiming Zambia's and Africa's place in the world of music. The album features a host of Zambia's finest singers and producers, creating an all in all great listening experience.

