Spring Queen pageant exhibition finds three beauties from 1980s

Alicia Luikes, 49, was Spring Queen back in the day

I was 26 and represented Cape Town. I was wearing a cerise dress, which I later gave away to another model. It was very exciting, the Spring Queen was the biggest event in the clothing industry."

"I was very sick that same year, I had TB and I thought I wasn’t going to make it. But I had this boldness in me and at the pageant. That was my breakthrough as a woman – when you believe in yourself it doesn’t matter where you come from, if you set goals, they can come true." 

Siona says the queens will be photographed and interviewed to become part of the exhibition which forms part of this year’s Spring Queen pageant at the Good Hope Centre on November 17. It opens at the District Six Museum a week later.

Organisers have been trying to track them down from Cape Town. They could barely recognise themselves... All their factories have closed down and that is very sad – only one of the ladies still works in a factory.”

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