

AGRI'S GOT TALENT

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Mariska Jaars New Agri Diva

A general agricultural worker from LHB Boerdery, near Worcester, won the coveted Agri's Got Talent title on Friday night. The 25-year old Mariska Jaars opened the gala evening at Allée Bleue, Simondium with her version of Mariah Carey's hit 'Hero' and with her performance set a high bar for the other contestants to follow.

This was the fifth year that the competition was held and the first time that a woman walked away with the honours. Chantel Hess from Boomerang Farm, Grabouw, and Tersia Rhodes from Diemersfontein, were in second and third place respectively.

Earlier Jaars said that the competition and training week, gave her the opportunity to find herself again. "I have suffered from low self-esteem and during this training week I have discovered things about myself that I did not know existed. She described the contest as "challenging, but a great opportunity for agricultural workers".

"It opens up a whole new world for agri workers. The support from the other contestants has been empowering. We are a family now."

Agri's Got Talent is the brainchild of Hortgro's executive director Anton Rabe and is jointly sponsored by Hortgro, the VinPro Foundation and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. The South African Table Grape Industry sponsors the aftercare project.

According to Thea van Zyl, organizer of this year's project, Agri's Got Talent is more than just a singing contest.

"It gives agricultural workers the chance to broaden their horizons and build new networks. The project is an opportunity to develop skills at many levels that they can apply back in their own communities. Emphasis is also placed on the development of human relations - something that is much needed in South Africa."





Caption: Mariska Jaars the AGT 2018 winner.



Caption 2: From left Chantel Hess from Boomerang Farm, Grabouw, was second, the winner Mariska Jaars, and Tersia Rhodes from Diemersfontein, Wellington, was third.

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Mariska Jaars Nuwe Agri Diva

'n Algemene landbouwerker van LHB Boerdery, naby Worcester, het Vrydagaand die gesogte Agri's Got Talent-titel gewen. Die 25-jarige Mariska Jaars het die gala-aand by Allée Bleue, Simondium, met haar weergawe van Mariah Carey se treffer 'Hero' geopen. Haar vertolking het die druk op die ander deelnemers geplaas om uit te haal en te wys.

Dit was die vyfde jaar dat die sangkompetisie gehou is en die eerste keer dat 'n vroue deelnemer wen. Chantel Hess van Boomerang Farm, Grabouw, en Tersia Rhodes van Diemersfontein, was onderskeidelik in die tweede en derde plek.

Vroeër het Jaars gesê dat die kompetisie en opleidingsweek haar die geleentheid gegee het om haarself weer te vind. "Ek het aan 'n lae selfbeeld gely en tydens hierdie oefenweek het ek dinge oor myself ontdek wat ek nie geweet het bestaan nie."

Sy het die wedstryd beskryf as "uitdagend, maar 'n fantastiese geleentheid vir landbouwerkers".

"Dit maak 'n hele nuwe wêreld vir landbouwerkers oop. Die ondersteuning van die ander deelnemers is bemagtigend. Ons is nou 'n familie."

Agri's Got Talent is die breinkind van Hortgro se uitvoerende direkteur Anton Rabe en word gesamentlik geborg deur Hortgro, die VinPro Foundation en die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruifbedryf borg die nasorgprojek.

Volgens Thea van Zyl, organiseerder van vanjaar se projek, is Agri's Got Talent meer as net 'n sangkompetisie.

"Dit gee landbouwerkers die geleentheid om hul horisonne te verbreed en nuwe netwerke te bou. Die projek bied die geleentheid om vaardighede op verskeie vlakke te ontwikkel wat deelnemers weer in hul eie gemeenskappe kan terugploeg. Daar word ook klem gelê op die ontwikkeling van menslike verhoudings - iets wat broodnodig in Suid-Afrika is.



Onderskrif 1: Mariska Jaars – die Agri's Got Talent 2018 wenner.



Van links, Chantel Hess van Boomerang Farm, Grabouw, tweede plek, die wenner, Mariska Jaars, en Tersia Rhodes van Diemersfontein buite Wellington was derde.