



Madiba and Danny K

“It was my first time meeting Madiba. I remember being very, very nervous. He was still president at the time and I had never met a president before, let alone someone as powerful as Nelson Mandela. I remember waiting in his dining room in his home in Houghton, his first home before he moved, and I was told that we were going to meet him in ten minutes. I remember my heart was beating just about out of my chest, before I was ushered in to see him. I had prepared a bunch of questions in my head that I thought I was going to ask him because I didn't want to go in unprepared. I walked in to the room and instantly Madiba disarmed me with his down-to-earth, friendly, charismatic personality. I didn't know how he was going to be, I'd only seen him on TV, but he was even better in real life. He was just so charming and so endearing. I remember reflecting on it afterwards, on how he made me feel; it was almost like he was honoured to meet me. That's what he did; he totally flipped it on you. During all of my interactions with him, for years and years afterwards, that was the one consistent feeling – that Madiba made you feel like you were the star, when obviously you were everything but in relation to him.”

Danny K

Pictured Right: Danny K, aged 18, meeting Madiba for the first time.

Place: Madiba's home in Houghton, Johannesburg

Date: 1996

Source: Gavin Koppel