

**Comrade Fatso**

**Profile**

*“Bold, daring and very talented” - BBC Focus on Africa*

*“Sharp satire for troubled times” - The Economist*

*“Brilliant!” - CNN*

Comrade Fatso is one of Zimbabwe’s trailblazing comedians, a leading activist for freedom of expression and a media disruptor. The artist, born as Samm Farai Monro, juggles being a comedian, an activist, an actor, a poet, a blogger, a new media publisher, a festival director and a creative director. Fatso is one of Zimbabwe’s urban culture pioneers whose work has had a major influence on the country’s hip hop, spoken word and comedy industries. Comrade Fatso is also a leading Zimbabwean comedian and a pioneer of Zimbabwean political satire having launched one of Harare’s first stand up comedy events, the Bang Bang Comedy Club, as well as being the creator and one of the main actors in the hit satire shows, Zambezi News and The Week. Zambezi News became a global sensation in 2015 making headlines on Amanpour (CNN), BBC Focus on Africa, Channel 4 (UK) & The Guardian (UK). Zambezi News is a witty and brave parody of the relentless propaganda churned out by the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation. Meanwhile his new weekly show The Week has been featured on the BBC and was called “sharp satire for troubled times” by the Economist magazine.

Comrade Fatso is also regarded as one of the leading Zimbabwean spoken word artists. Comrade Fatso and his band, Chabvondoka, have toured globally having carried their revolutionary music to Europe, America, the Caribbean and Africa. Comrade Fatso currently runs Magamba Network, one of Zimbabwe’s most dynamic organizations that works on the cutting edge of culture, media, activism and innovation. Through Magamba, Comrade Fatso’s award-winning projects include include Shoko Festival, Zimbabwe’s biggest festival of urban culture; the pioneering citizen journalism projects *Open Parly* and *Kalabash Media*; Moto Republik, Southern Africa’s first creative hub; as well as Magamba TV, the producer of Zambezi News & The Week. Through his trailblazing creative activism Comrade Fatso has reached millions across the country and beyond.

**Awards & Achievements:**

**\* 100 Great Zimbabweans - Winner - Alpha Media Holdings, Harare, 2017**

**\* Promoter of The Year (Shoko Festival) - Nominee - Zim Hip Hop Awards, Harare, 2016**

**\* Comedian of The Year  (Zambezi News) - Winner - African Entertainment Awards (USA), 2016**

**\* Outstanding TV Production (Zambezi News) - Nominee - National Arts Merit Awards - 2016**

**\* Outstanding Comedian - Nominee - National Arts Merit Awards - 2016**

**\* Top 100  (Zambezi News)  - Freedom Of Expression Awards/Index on Censorship (UK) - 2016**

**\* Comedian of The Year - Nominee - African Entertainment Awards (USA), 2015**

**\* Zimbabwe's Top Five Comedians -  Rated Number 4 - Youth Village, 2015**

**\* Top 60 Emerging Young African Democracy Leaders - World Movement for Democracy (USA), 2015**

**\* Zimbabwe's Top Ten Comedians - Rated Number 2 (Zambezi News)  -  Zimbojam, 2015**

**\* Pursue Truth Award (B.TheMedia Project)  - Winner  - World Summit Youth Awards (UN), Sri Lanka, 2013**

**\* Promoter of The Year (Shoko Festival)  - Winner - Zim Hip Hop Awards, Harare, 2013**

**\* Hip Hop Event of The Year (Shoko Festival) -  Nominee -  Remix Award, Washington DC, USA, 2013**

**\* Hip Hop Organisation of The Year (Magamba Network) -  Nominee - Remix Award, Washington DC, USA, 2013**

**\* Best Short Foreign Film (Zambezi News) - Nominee - Abuja International Film Festival, Nigeria, 2012**

**\* Promoter of The Year (Shoko Festival)  - Winner  - Zim Hip Hop Awards, Harare, 2012**