

## Social media erupts for Zim *The Voice UK* contestant

Zimbabwe-raised, 16-year old Donel Mangena is the talk of *The Voice UK*, along with his dancing grandmother who owned social media after the performance of her grandson, when she danced for joy on stage alongside him.



Donel Mangena.

The teen wowed UK and South African viewers and scored a standing ovation after his jaw-dropping rendition of *Major Lazer* and Justin Bieber's *Cold Water* in the blind audition round at the start of the series, singing parts of the song in his native *isiNdebele*.

Mangena, who now lives in Southampton, barely made it through half his song before all four coaches pressed their buzzers and turned their chairs for the young singer. Mangena's 77-year-old grandmother Nita, who looked after him in Bulawayo in his younger years, could barely contain her excitement and ran onto the stage, stealing the show with her own dance moves.

The four coaches: Sir Tom Jones, will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson and Olly Murs, then proceeded to battle over who gets to train the young talent, with will.i.am finally managing to persuade the teen to join his team after both he and Hudson compared their careers and awards in order to impress.

Viewers flocked to Twitter to hail Mangena, praising him for his electrifying blind audition with one fan claiming: “Here is the winner of *The Voice UK 2018*. Everyone can go home now. It’s all over.”

And it seems bookies are willing to get behind the singer too, offering solid odds for Mangena to scoop a record deal. “Donel stole the show on the return of *The Voice* and has attracted a flurry of bets to win the series where he is sure to be in the mix come the live shows,” said a leading UK bookmaker.

Mangena told *The Voice UK* producers that his dad is his inspiration and that the father-and-son duo have a studio at their house. Mangena's father is Bulawayo-born musician and composer Nkosana Mangena, who is also known as Mangesto.

“ Who is in Team <https://t.co/vZKElpzktW> on The Voice UK? Get to know Donel Mangena, Mark Asari, Tai and Kade Smith <https://t.co/jXP7Fku0rP>— UK Entertainment (@\_UKent) [January 21, 2018](#) ”

“ Donel Mangena's Story, Audition and Reaction: Full Clip | The Voice UK 2018 via <https://t.co/8E2AvlzKeJ> <pic.twitter.com/BPJFLu7j1P>— Showbiz 💎 (@My\_Showbiz) [January 20, 2018](#) ”

“ I liked a @YouTube video <https://t.co/CwXWqOwmab> Donel Mangena's Amazing Dancing Granny Steals the Show! | The Voice UK 2018— ShyneKwa Joseph (@shynekwajoseph) [January 20, 2018](#) ”

“ One of my favs by @officialdonel ❤️👍❤️👍❤️👍 <pic.twitter.com/fuxtXL7FM9>— Radiyah💎 (@Radiyah\_99) [January 22, 2018](#) ”

A new episode of *The Voice UK* premieres every Sunday on ITV Choice (DStv 123) at 18:00 with catch-up opportunities the next day at 20:00 as well as at 16:00 on Sundays before the new show.

The show broadcasts in South Africa within 24-hours of the UK making it as up-to-date and relevant as possible.