

SA's Retroviral named in PProvoke Media's 2023 Global PR Agencies of the Year

By  Danette Breitenbach

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Retroviral is the only African and South African agency listed in PProvoke Media's 2023 Global PR Agencies of the Year.



Source: Retroviral [Retroviral](#) Mike Sharman from Retroviral, which has been named as a finalist in the PProvoke Media 2023 Global PR Agencies of the Year

One of only five finalists, the other finalists are the UK's Cirkle London, India's First Partners, and Omnicom PR Group's Ketchum and Publicis Groupe's MSL, both from the US.

According to [PProvoke Media](#) the finalist agencies are the result of an exhaustive research process involving more than 500 submissions and (virtual) meetings with the best PR firms across North America, EMEA, Asia-Pacific and LatAm.



Retroviral crowned Africa's PR Agency of the Year at the 2023 EMEA Sabre Awards

Danette Breitenbach 24 Mar 2023



Retroviral founder and chief creative officer, Mike Sharman says it has been an incredible year for Retroviral, both on the results front creatively and from a business perspective.

"We were the joint PR Agency of the Year by MikeLives' Star of the Year and then we went on to win African Consultancy of the Year at the EMEA Sabres. It is obviously the cherry on the cake being on the top 5 global PR agencies, also the only African and South African agency on the list."

“ Your mother's fave creative PR agencies, globally 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆 <https://t.co/QGlpE3gKX7>— retroviral (@retroviral) [October 7, 2023](#) ”

He says it is a “hugely proud moment” and that they “are looking forward to 8 November in Washington to see if we are crowned the winner; it's going to be mind-blowing.”

Winners are announced at the 2023 Global Sabre Awards, taking place at the 2023 PProvokeGlobal Summit on 8 November in Washington in the US.

Sharman says it has been an incredible year. "I am super chuffed to be part of the team and the outputs. The work we continue to create continues to push the bar, creating tomorrow what did not exist today."

Sharman is also the only South African to be included in this year's PProke Media's #Innovator25 EMEA list.



Retroviral's Mike Sharman on EMEA list of innovators

17 Nov 2022



Retroviral is also a finalist in this year's AdFocus Awards. This year it won two EMEA Innovation Sabre Awards.

One was for its Sixty60 Swindlers campaign for grocery app Checkers Sixty60, using TikTok to newsjack attention around the Netflix phenomenon *The Tinder Swindler* and launch its own "don't get swindled" message, earning plaudits for bravery and efficacy.

Second is its *BeYou Period* initiative for Lil-Lets, a content campaign that celebrates the empowerment women can feel from a better understanding of their bodies.

While Retroviral largely focuses on challenger brands, it has some pretty big names among its long-term clients, such as

Gumtree, Liberty, Beko, Grundig, Ryobi, Profmed, Kreepy Krauly, First for Women Insurance, and Dove Cotton.

New clients in 2022 included Lil-Lets UK, Blue Ribbon Bread, BB Bakeries Bread, HTH, YumYum Peanut Butter, Ultra Pet, Checkers Sixty60, Discovery Bank, Beyers, and Sweetie Pie.



Retroviral takes the double at the EMEA Innovation Sabres

22 Feb 2023



Retroviral, while headquartered in Johannesburg, has executed campaigns across the continent, in markets such as Ghana, Namibia, Zambia, and Kenya as well as the occasional creative campaign in the UK.

ABOUT DANETTE BREITENBACH

Danette Breitenbach is a marketing & media editor at Bizcommunity.com. Previously she freelanced in the marketing and media sector, including for Bizcommunity. She was editor and publisher of AdVantage, the publication that served the marketing, media and advertising industry in southern Africa. She has worked extensively in print media, mainly B2B. She has a Masters in Financial Journalism from Wits.

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