

# Toby Shapshak biography

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Toby Shapshak writes and speaks about how innovation is better in Africa.

His [TED talk](#) on how Africa is solving real problems has had over 1,4-million views; and he has been featured in the [New York Times](#).

Toby is the editor-in-chief and publisher of [Stuff magazine](#); is a contributor to [Forbes](#) and writes a weekly column for the [Financial Mail](#). He has been co-hosting a weekly TV show on CNBC Africa for the past three years.



He believes Africa is a mobile-driven continent, about which he has written for [CNN](#), [The Guardian](#) in London and for [Forbes](#). He is writing a book on innovation in Africa, looking at how the problems Africa is solving for itself will benefit the rest of the world.

Toby has spoken at the South by South West (SxSW) conference in Austin, Texas, ([thrice](#)) on [how mobile is being used in Africa](#) (2013) and [how music is being consumed](#) (2014); and [The Guardian's Activate: Johannesburg](#) on [innovation out of necessity](#).

He has also spoken at Intel's IDF conference in San Francisco, Germany's [Zukunftskongress](#) (Future Congress), [TEDxGateway](#) in Mumbai, [Pivot East](#) in Nairobi, and [Tech4Africa](#) in Joburg.

Toby was named in *GQ's* top 30 men in media and the *Mail & Guardian* newspaper's 300 influential young South Africans list; and has won the ICT Journalist of the Year. *GQ* said he "has become the most high-profile technology journalist in the country" while the [M&G wrote](#): "Toby Shapshak is all things tech... he reigns supreme as the major talking head for everything and anything tech."

As a news and political journalist, he ran *Mail & Guardian* newspaper's website when it was the first news site in Africa, shadowed Nelson Mandela when he was president, and covered the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has interviewed a range of tech industry luminaries, including Apple co-founders [Steve Jobs](#) and [Steve Wozniak](#).

Formerly a senior newspaper reporter covering everything from crime to politics, he has been writing about innovation, telecoms and the internet and the impact it has on our lives for more than 18 years, including the *Sunday Times*, *Business Day*, *Mail & Guardian*, *Financial Mail*, *The Times*, *City Press*, *ThisDay*, and *The Weekender*.

## Toby Shapshak

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