



## **Press Release**

### **MOMMY LOVES YOU BEST?** **Monday to Thursday @ 7.30pm**

Last night we got a glimpse of the domineering Abigail Martins (supported by an iron will, a cane and dubious associates) as re-enters the life of her only child, Tino (Clint Brink), so that she can meddle in, and redirect, his career, finances and sex life.

Michele Maxwell plays the role of this scheming mother who takes an instant dislike to her nearly-bankrupt son's minimalist penthouse décor and isolated lifestyle (OK, he does spend a lot of time with feature writer, Angelina (Genevieve Howard) and office receptionist, Tamia (Renate Stuurman)).

"Abigail is a bit of an enigma and she is very politically connected. Recalling the climate of the 80s (and not giving away too much of the story), she probably married a coloured man and had to go underground for safety. Now she's a rich widow. She is very powerful, and owns a chain of businesses. There is much more to the character than initially meets the eye," comments Michele.

With a career spanning over 35 years, it's a little difficult to single out Michele's career highlights. She started with the Tennessee Williams play, "Outcry", with Bill Flynn in 1973 at Cape Town's Space Theatre. Recent examples of Michele's successes are as "Bubbles" a popular character that she played on a rival show and her onstage productions, "Death of a Salesman", "Annie" and "Popcorn". She also features in numerous jazz concerts as a pianist and singer.

Born in Cape Town, Michele grew up in a musical and theatrical family. She's taken a quick liking to Abi, and has respect for the character. "She absolutely loves her son Tino, although she's a bit on the over protective side. There's a subtle hint of danger about her and one can never be quite sure what she could be capable of... she's influential, stylish and is always well groomed. She is a wealthy, interesting woman."

Although most her time is now taken up by acting, Michele still manages to find some time for music. "I'm obviously busy with the show right now, but I am also preparing for the Cape Town International Jazz festival in March."

"Acting poses a bigger challenge. People may assume that what we do is easy, but I would say to anyone who wants to go into the arts as a career to be sure about your motives. If you want to go into acting merely for the glamour then you won't go far. It's a way of life...it's the way you observe life...it's a love for detail."

Ah yes, the details.

Watch as our ultra smooth, suave and sophisticated property developer/The Voice landlord Tino, regresses whenever his controlling Mama makes an entrance – no wonder the man-boy feels compelled to colour code his shirts and towels and alphabeticise his CD collection – the child needs to feel that he's in charge of *something* in his life, no matter how small it may be.

Does Mommy – and Abigail Martins - *a/ways* know best? Only Scandal will tell – Mondays to Thursdays @ 7.30pm.

For further information and pictures please contact:

Thabo Makeleni

e.tv Publicity Writer

Tel: 011 537 9399

Email: [thabo.makeleni@etv.co.za](mailto:thabo.makeleni@etv.co.za)