



Press Release

THE BACKSTAGE EMI SUPERSTAR SEARCH 2005 **LAST STOP: DURBAN**

We're finally there! We've toured all nine provinces, and we're just about ready for the semi-finals of the Backstage EMI Superstar Search, where nine regional contestants will come together to compete and be filmed in Johannesburg for the Sunday, December 4 at 6.05pm screening.

Last night we aired the ninth episode of this popular show, and Durban highly impressed our team. Will a singer from Kwa-Zulu-Natal be that one lucky person who will win the coveted prize of a recording deal from EMI worth half a million Rand? You'll have to watch to find out!

Before we introduce you to the three Durban semi-finalists here's the winner of the Port Elizabeth auditions, announced last night:

Darren Scharneck

Says Darren, "I am very excited. It's all a bit surreal at this stage. You always dream about something and when it happens it hits you and it's unexpected. I'm feeling very positive and I'm going to give it all I've got."

85 contestants auditioned in Durban, and original Hip Hop, R&B and Kwaito were the genres of music that most of the contestants chose their songs from. The auditions started at 9am and ended around 2pm. There were many callbacks as the judges had a shortlist of about 10 singers before they chose the final three.

Lamees Romaney, one of the e.tv production crew members, says, "What really amazes me each time is the amount of writing and creative talent a lot of the contestants have - all those who wrote and performed their own compositions sang about what is relevant to the youth in South Africa and they do it with such wit and flair."

Here are the three semi-finalists from Kwa-Zulu Natal: Angel Zondo, Bongiwe Msindane, and Sibusiso Mthembu.

All About Angel:

Age: 25

Studying: Jazz music at the University of KZN

Working As: A performer in the entertainment business

Favourite Music: Jazz

Favourite Musician: Norah Jones

Hobbies: watching movies at the cinema

Quote: " I learnt to sing in church at Sunday School. If I had three wishes they would be to study overseas, drive my own car and own a nice house. I would like to make it big in the music industry."

All About Bongiwé (who wants to terminate the copying of songs. CDs should be bought!)"

Age: 20

Studying: part time - B Comm Logistics at Unisa

Working: part time - as a beauty promoter at Hub in the Pavilion

Favourite Music: Afropop with a bit of Jazz

Favourite Musician: Lebo Mathosa

Hobbies: dancing, singing, and composing songs

Quote: "I learnt to sing at the Playhouse. If I had three wishes they would be to win today, make my mother proud and to have my own CD (of the songs I've composed). I'd like to bring unique originality and more cultural songs to the music industry."

All About Sibusiso Mthembu:

Age: 19

Favourite Music: Slow Jam, R&B and Hip Hop

Favourite Musician: Usher Raymond

Hobbies: listening to music

Quote: "My greatest ambition in life is to be the best artist to ever come out of the Republic of South Africa. If I had three wishes they would be to win the Backstage EMI Competition and thereby improve my music career, to perform with some of the world's greatest artists, and to be able to help other struggling young, good musicians."

For the last regional finals **remember viewers act as the extra judge and can vote any day, any time, directly after the Sunday show until the following Wednesday evening, after which there's the final count.**

Watch the Backstage EMI Superstar Search and you could be a winner. Each week DVDs and CDs are up for grabs. The weekly winner's names go into a draw, and at the end of the competition, one lucky person will win a trip for two, to a South African destination of choice. You just have to SMS your favourite contestant's name to this number. BSS... then the contestant's name... followed by 35171.

In this coming Sunday's Superstar show (December 4) all nine regional contestants will participate in the semi-finals. Please note that the judges will be choosing the three finalists during this Sunday's show, but straight after the semi-final episode has aired, viewers will be able to start voting for that one talented person they believe deserves to win the title of Backstage EMI Superstar Search Winner 2005 (The grand finale airs on December 11).

Watch out for surprises, which may include a couple of wild cards.

For more information and photos of the Kwa-Zulu Natal regional winners, please contact:

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