



Press Release

ROUGH ROUGH **David Dukas on Mike Jennings** **Wed Feb 22**

"Behind every great woman there has to be a great man - and I'm loving it. The king is always in the line of fire, not his advisors," says David Dukas who plays bad man Mike Jennings on Backstage.

Mike, who was once Duke's right-hand man, is now Zinzi's (Tselane Tambo) faithful and loyal pet. He plays fetch and carry in terms of fencing her illegal diamonds for new business investments like the renovated bar and the recently opened coffee shop – and her altruistic (?) projects like the funding of Shaka's college education.

He is also Zinzi's Rottweiler (watch Mike's attack on Katlego in this episode when his boss instructs him to deal with the music head who has the support and respect of Zinzi's alienated son Duma). But Zinzi, at present, also keeps him well at heel. Does Mike truly adore Zinzi – or is it merely well planned pragmatism on his part? *Will the lap dog bare his teeth this year?*

"They may be an unlikely couple by conventional standards," says David, "but that just makes them all the more interesting. They have a fiery passionate relationship, which is always on the edge. They need that kick. They are both very headstrong people and they'd be bored with anyone who doesn't challenge them daily on every level.

"Mike is a snake. Of course he admires Zinzi and is very protective over her, but at the same time he wants to manipulate people - and make a fast buck. He enjoys the darker side of life and has a very secret life that keeps him ever so busy, but of course our viewers can't know about that - well, not yet..."

Onscreen David's character might be a bully, but in real life, David is completely different from his villainous counterpart. "As an actor I love playing the villain, because any interesting villain is always multi layered, but I'm actually quite the

family man - easy going, friendly, the guy next door. Playing a villain is fun. Sometimes Mike's tough and dirty, sometimes he's suave and ever so charming, so that no one sees the sting coming. Other times Mike feigns innocence so beautifully that butter wouldn't melt in his mouth. And that's what makes Mike a little bit of a schizo. He's a classic chameleon and just as creepy! The key as an actor is to play every single thing for real; even though your character might be lying in the story, the actor must be telling the truth."

David became a first-time father in December last year. "I took two days' paternity leave to stay with my wife in hospital and there I was taught how to bath Tamryn,, how to change her nappy, how to wind her and burp her, and how to sterilise and make her bottles. My wife, Cemoné, is a wonderful mother and a fantastic teacher. We've been married for four years in March, and Tamryn has completed our joy."

David's Five Favourite Things:

- 1) Movies
- 2) Thai and Indian curries
- 3) Cats and other animals
- 4) The outdoors (camping, hiking, swimming, horseback riding)
- 5) A night at the theatre

David's Five Least Favourite Things:

- 1) People who mock God, Christ or anyone else's faith
- 2) Madonna
- 3) Brussel Sprouts
- 4) All things Tretchikoff
- 5) Men who wear speedos

There's always vicious backbiting on Backstage – weekdays @ 6.30pm

For further information and pictures please contact:

Thabo Makeleni

e.tv Publicity Writer

Tel: 011 537 9399

Email: thabo.makeleni@etv.co.za