



Press Release

Charmaine and Speedy Romance of the (Hot!) Dance Backstage Friday October 20

Vulindlela Arts College dance lecturer, Charmaine (Lorcía Cooper), is physically and emotionally weary. Lord knows - the girl needs some fun – and a little lovin’ - in her life.

Enter top South African hip hop performer, Speedy, who needs a choreographer for his new Latino dance music video – and Charmaine comes highly recommended. Of course, it turns out she will also be the lead dancer in his video – and he needs a lot of preparatory dance lessons. All of this obviously makes for a lot of steamy-sizzling screen scenes.

Charmaine has had a tough time of it this year, what with opening her heart, and her home, to nine-year-old Sophie (Amu Muyanga), who is suffering from HIV-AIDS. Sophie recently lost her mom to the disease, and her absent father is also sick. The precocious imp has done a lot to replace Charmaine’s pain of losing her son, Ethan, in a tragic accident last year.

*However, Charmaine is ripe for some adult excitement in her life.
Could Speedy be her man?*

Speedy (Harold Matlhaku), formally associated with the Afro pop group, Bongo Muffin, decided to go solo in 2000.

His first single, Rumors, was released in 2000, with the single shooting straight to gold status and earning him a spot in the South African film, Hi-jack Stories, which caused an amazing stir at the Cannes Film Festival in France. He also appeared in all three seasons of another TV station's drama series.

Speedy's second album, Sgubhu sa Mampela, also received gold status, as has his 2005 release, Evolution, featuring the hit singles, Le Ngoma, and Busuku ne Mini. This year he was nominated in the SAMA Awards' Best Afro Pop Album category.

He says music is his first love, but he's open to all the opportunities available within the entertainment industry – and the acting bug has definitely bitten. He says he has always had Lorcia in mind to perform in his future music video of Busuku ne Mini (“Night and Day”) so it was as if Monde Twala, the show's e.tv producer, was “reading my mind”, when Speedy was approached to appear in Backstage.

Speedy left for America this week to appear in Sisqo's (the lead singer of R&B group, Dru Hill) new music video. The two collaborate on various business ventures.

Lorcia says that, although she loves the opportunity of stretching her acting capabilities - with all the attached pathos - in her role of Sophie's foster mom, acting and dancing with Speedy has been a welcome break for her. “Risk Looking Like A Fool For Your Dream”, is Lorcia's philosophy. Lorcia is married to her soul mate, ballroom, latin and salsa dancer and teacher, Rafick Hoosain.

There's talent to burn when Charmaine and Speedy take the lead on Backstage - weekdays at 6.30pm - from Friday October 20.

For hot dance photos of the couple (or individual pix of the actors) please contact:

Thao Makeleni

e.tv Publicist

Tel (011) 537-9399