



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Come Out, Come Out – whoever you are Scandal! TX: Monday March 17 at 7.30pm**

We love Nhlanhla Baloyi (Litha Bam) for being so loud and proud about being gay.

The only true scandal in his life, as we are about to find out, is that he's petrified of telling his mother the truth – for fear of rejection.

When we first met Nhlanhla, former NZH receptionist (now production manager for the weekly gossip/celeb mag Scandal!), gorgeous gossiper, and nephew to Private Eye, Fana Baloyi, (Welile Nzuza), he was a happy go-lucky chap who had to take on a regular day job because, as a dancer, he was “resting between performances”.

He's now the cornerstone of the Scandal! office. Not only is he brilliant in his job, he's also been nearly everybody's confidante at NZH – including grouchy news editor for The Voice Eddie, and abrasive corporate analyst Mo. He has never been scared to put things right in people's lives – even when they haven't asked for his help. A walking style guide, Nhlanhla is entirely responsible for introducing the perfectly delicious frappuchino recipe into the world of Scandal!

Nhlanhla's mother, lawyer, Charmaine Baloyi (Harriett Manamela), arrives in town to sort a family crisis. Her brother, free-spirited and flat broke Fana, has got himself in a bit of a bind with the law after being arrested for robbery – in a case of mistaken identity. As a result, Fana has had to swallow his pride and reluctantly seek help from judgemental, critical Charmaine (like most brothers and sisters, their sibling rivalry has continued from childhood).

In between their spats, Nhlanhla goes to pieces as he seeks help in attempting to hide his true sexual identity and lifestyle from his mother. As his friends rally round, we are going to learn quite a lot about his past.

“The highlight of the storyline for me - which has a comical element to it, as well - is when Nhlanhla enlists the help of Jay-Jay (Daniel Hadebe) to give him a crash course in how to be macho. Even NZH CEO, Daniel (Sello Maake ka Ncube), has advice to offer. Palesa (Refilwe Madumo) lends a hand as his decoy girlfriend!” says Litha.

Adding: “Nhlanhla has always been the kind of kid that seeks approval from his parents, especially his dad, and so when he realised he was gay, he tried to hide the fact from them. The funny part is that his mom has always known her son is gay and wishes him nothing but the best of luck in his quest to find happiness.”

And...it's not only Nhlanhla who has kept a family secret. Charmaine is about to reveal important family news of her own.