



Press Release

Craz-e Salamina Mphelo is our new Keketso! **Thursday April 13 2006**

Former Craz-e presenter, Salamina Mphelo, makes her Backstage debut on Thursday April 13 as Vulindlela College's junior drama lecturer Keketso - and readily admits to being a little nervous about replacing Katlego Danke.

"Filling the shoes of an outstanding actress has never been easy. The character is already developed, I am just bringing a different look to the role," she says.

Salamina has never formally studied drama. e.tv audiences will remember her as one of the wild co-presenters of the popular youth programme, Craz-e. It's a job she held for almost five years. Besides having a TV career, Salamina is also a third-year full time student at the University of Johannesburg (UJHB). She hopes to complete her Corporate Communication degree this year. This ambitious presenter/actress is a pro at performing on and off screen and utilizes her weekends to catch up on all the lectures and assignments she misses during the week.

A 22-year-old Gemini, Salamina says there are no real similarities between Keketso and herself. "I'm a bit of an introvert while Keketso is more theatrical. She always makes sure her presence is felt, so it's going to be a challenging, but interesting, learning curve for me," she adds.

Keketso, the obsessive-compulsive and (previously) extremely disciplined and focused drama honours graduate, started her teaching career at the college this year. However, she's gone somewhat off course recently. She's already resigned twice: the first time, because she couldn't cope with the pressures of her new job; the second because she couldn't handle the public embarrassment of being dumped by her writing lecturer lover, Sebastian Young (Duncan Lawson), who went back to his old flame Naomi (Thahira Syed) - the drama department head - and Keketso's boss.

College principal Ipeleng (Grace Mahlaba), has, on both occasions, convinced her to return to class and a stable career, but is fast losing patience with Keketso's erratic - and unprofessional - behaviour.

Watch how Keketso now attempts to balance her academic career with her off-campus lead in a big-time TV soapie - what was that about there being no real life similarities between Salamina and Keketso?

And let's see how she copes with being pursued by her soapie celeb co-lead. That relationship turns into a love triangle later this month when Keketso meets The Perfect Man (he's a media mogul) and his mother. True love never, ever, did run smooth...

Salamina will also be live on stage when the entire cast of the TV show hosts the Backstage Aids Benefit Concert on Saturday April 22 at Johannesburg's Standard Bank Arena.

The two-hour concert (it starts at 3pm, doors open at 1pm – with DJs working the decks) features Backstage's Kwaito star Chippa (Loyiso Mangena)/Mzambiya; HHP; Wikid; Backstage EMI Superstar Search 2005 winner, Jason Schaap; Pro Kid; Jamali; Malaika; Skwatta Kamp and Lebo. All artists are performing for free. Lorcía Cooper (Charmaine) opens the show with a specially choreographed and spectacular dance/percussion sequence and Vulindlela College's vocal group of Gyles (Ryan Laatz); Melissa (Mari Michael); Lerato (Tahirih) and Shaka (Quincy Myeza) with Baby Cele (Katlego) sing for the ultimate cause.

Tickets cost R50. Book at Computicket. All proceeds from the concert go to Good Hope Home-Based Care (based in Thembisa) and Orlando West's Ikageng/Itereleng Ministry.

*A New Keketso (Salamina Mphelo) on Backstage
Weekdays @ 6.30pm - from Thursday April 13*

For photos of Salamina, please contact:
Portia Adams
e.tv Junior Publicist/Writer
Tel: 011 537 9496
Fax: 011 537 9380
Email: portia.adams@etv.co.za