



## PRESS RELEASE

**Honey ain't so sweet**

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**(Scandal! Mondays to Thursdays, 7.30pm)**

Meet jittery, dishevelled, easily spooked, recovering junkie, Honey, played by guest actor, Vera Chimes. She is an invaluable informant – and potential eyewitness – in Eddie Khumalo's continuing personal crusade to find and bring Laqhasha to justice.

Eddie (Sandy Mokwena), the Acting Editor of, and senior crime reporter for, independent weekly, The Voice, originally met Honey at the Healing Addicts Centre while researching a feature on the rapid growth of Tik in Jozi. The girl's been around. While people ignored her most of the time because they thought she was so out of it, she picked up a lot of information. Lucky Eddie.

Honey was the girlfriend of Mzwandile, one of three generals in Laqhasha's empire. She was with him when he delivered money to the notoriously feared, but unidentified, head of the criminal underground. Make that Queen of the Underground, because Honey can verify that Laqhasha is a woman. And she will confirm that businesswoman Abigail Rodriguez-Martins and Laqhasha (Michele Maxwell) are one and the same person.

"I enjoy doing mainstream jobs, and paying my bills, obviously, but my passion lies in 'indie' projects, with substance. Not your run of the mill, everyday characters," says Vera.

She also believes in recognition, above massive pay cheques: "For me, it's about doing a project that I feel proud of, something that my skills will be remembered for. Doing films like Boys Don't Cry or Monster would be my ultimate project, something where I can be totally transformed physically and mentally." Vera has appeared in numerous TV ads.

Born in Bloemfontein, 25 years ago, this Piscean grew up in Gauteng's East Rand with one other sibling, a younger sister, Erna. Vera attended school in Kempton Park and always loved being an outsider as she never fit in with the cool crowd, but she knew what she liked and who she was. "I was always one of those, kind of dark, arty kids at school, you know, the ones who don't sing those cheerleading songs on sport days!" recalls Vera.

By the age of 16, she knew that acting was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life. "It gives me the opportunity to explore parts of my personality that I would not necessarily get to know otherwise. I like the idea of being allowed to play the part of someone who is different to me, for instance not morally correct, or perhaps from a different period in history," says Vera.

"For the Scandal casting, I raided my wardrobe to find something that projected Honey's tough lifestyle. I drew inspiration from Amy Winehouse, and found some great pieces at a charity shop!

"I enjoy spending time with my friends and boyfriend; Facebook stalking; cocktails; colouring my hair crazy colours; random photo shoots; pop culture; music; live gigs and my hypothetical band, Hells Yea."

Detective Inspector Conradie (Morne Visser) will attempt to use Honey's information as leverage to open an official police investigation into Abigail Rodriguez-Martins, even though Eddie, with the best of journalistic principles, tries to protect his extremely nervous source.

Honey is going to make Abigail's life sour.