



Press Release

IPELENG GETS A LAWYER – AND A LOVER! **BACKSTAGE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22**

Vulindlela Arts College principal, Ipeleng Theledi (Grace Mahlaba), urgently needs professional help. The institution is being sued in the amount of R10 million Rand by the parents of a student who is suffering from permanent brain damage - a result of being electrocuted during a technical rehearsal for Lerato's (Tahirih) cabaret.

The college has no immediate funds or insurance to fight the charge. How can Ipeleng save the college from closing – and salvage its reputation in order to keep it open?

This is when lawyer Jonathan Lewis (Adrian Waldron) steps in.

Our usually practical, indomitable, yet always compassionate principal, who has earned the respect of every student, past and present, is close to a physical and emotional breakdown. She is under immense pressure from the Press and the public to answer to allegations of gross negligence. Ipeleng, in crisis, needs a shoulder to lean on, somebody who will, just for once, absorb life's blows on her behalf. Ipeleng needs somebody who loves her.

This is when lawyer Jonathan Lewis steps in.

Johannesburg-based Adrian has appeared in local and international film productions, in both lead and support roles, like American Ninja 2, Cyborg Cop 2, Mr Bones and BBC's To The Ends Of The Earth.

He has performed in South African stage and TV shows, the latter including stints in other soapies, and a police detective series. He has just been seen on screen in a rival station's drama about the dark side of everyday suburbia. He's also featured in plenty of ads.

At 44, the Aries actor has formed his own industrial theatre company (which requires writing, directing, negotiation and management skills), learned hands-on nearly everything there is to know about behind-the-camera production, and worked for a year as a vocal developer to corporate management. His CV lists "minor" stunt work skills that include swimming and water-skiing, and the ability to handle a car, bike, boat, horse and all weapons. Adrian is an actors' agent, and he is also busy developing his own casting agency.

"Jonathan is a dedicated, lonely professional, looking for love," is how Adrian describes the character he plays. Jonathan is also everything Ipeleng deserves: he's handsome, strong, quick witted and charismatic – with a gentle, loving side.

Can Ipeleng and Jonathan survive the obstacles and prejudices that often accompany an interracial relationship? Even Ipeleng's (unofficial) vice-principal, music head, and closest friend, Katlego (Baby Cele), has deep misgivings (although she could just be jealous).

Ipeleng and Jonathan – a love against all odds?
Backstage, weekdays, 6.30pm

For photos of the couple, please contact:

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