



## **Press Release**

### **LIKE FATHER, LIKE SONS**

**5 JULY**

**SCANDAL, Monday-Thursday @ 7.30pm**

The poisoned fruit never falls far from the tree. Jomo Zungu is a sly, manipulative, ex-shebeen owner and charmer of a con man who is running from a checked-past and racing headlong into future disaster. With a weakness for gambling, Jomo has managed to get himself in serious debt.

However, along the way, he's managed to teach his sons very, very well.

Jomo (Yule Masiteng), you'll see, is also the father of the infamous step-bothers: Vusi (Siyabonga Twala), publisher of Scandal! and The Voice, and photographer, Jay-Jay (Daniel Hadebe), the celeb magazine's photographer.

There is bitter rivalry, jealousy and resentment, stemming from childhood, between the two brothers who grew up with different mothers and totally different lifestyle. Jomo abandoned Vusi's mother, leaving them poverty-stricken. This (possibly) explains cold-hard, first-born son Vusi's relentless search for security in prestige, power, money and trophy women – at any cost. Jay-Jay, although a petty scam artist (and another skirt chaser), has had it easier as the younger son, receiving more affection and attention from their father. Vusi has never forgotten – or forgiven – this.

“Jomo is one of those characters that viewers will eventually feel sorry for. They may not feel like that at the beginning, but he is a flawed man and he knows it. His eldest son Vusi does not like him very much and he knows it,” says Yule. And he doesn’t respect him, either, but his younger son Jay-Jay adores him and is intensely jealous of Vusi eventually getting closer to their father.

“He has a way of coming across as a user, of being shady - but I pity him because I know where he’s coming from. I’ve been there as well, those low moments, when life puts you in a corner and you feel defeated. There was a time before 1998 when I was getting by on little and did things I thought I would never do just to get a buck. So, in a way, I sympathize with him. He’s desperate and that’s made him the way he is,” comments Yule.

Born in the then Orange Free State, Yule began his working career as a model in the mid 70s. It was Ken Gampu’s role in one of SA’s earliest films “Ngaka” that inspired him to become an actor. “I would try to go and see as many films and plays as possible, and when TV was introduced in South Africa it was awesome to see the likes of Ken and Zakes Mkayi’s talent,” remembers Yule.

It would take Yule 10 years to realise his dream – he starred alongside Henry Cele in the 1986 BBC TV production of Shaka Zulu.

“It still wasn’t easy after that initial break into the industry, mainly because of the stigma of having been a model,” adds Yule. It would take a good five years before he slowly began getting some theatre work and the occasional cameo TV role. “This also didn’t last and after the second slump I decided to take a break and in that time that’s when things got really hectic so to make money I would take any odd job available.

“At some point me I also volunteered at an HIV/Aids centre in Jo’burg town where we were going around trying to teach people about the illness and this was in the mid-90’s and people were still clueless about things like using condoms! There were also various other projects I set up with friends of mine and one of these was setting-up a small printing business where we did flyers and banners for small businesses.”

But that was then and this is now. Yule lives and thrives on the adrenalin of being live on stage doing shows such as “The Spear fits the Wound”, which was directed Rufus Swart and played in the Grahamstown Arts Festival, and getting through seven-10 scenes a day on the Scandal set. “It was a daunting challenge at first, but that’s followed by a feeling of achievement when the director says it was a good take and it’s a wrap.”

“Because of scarcity of work we don’t often have a choice of roles, so sometimes one gets typecast. You can try to have an acting signature to establish your identify as an actor - I have my beard!”

Yule has appeared in numerous South African TV shows over the years and has had roles in international movies such as, The Trail, Lord of War and Cape of Good Hope. Foreign TV roles include The Long Firm and "The Canterbury Tales" (The Man of Law's Tale).

For photos of Yule, Siyabonga and Daniel, please contact:  
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