



Press Release

Growing Up on Scandal! **LOLO & FANA** **Scandal Mondays to Thursdays @ 7.30pm**

Scandal features some of the biggest name soapie stars in South Africa. Stephina Zwane (Lolo Khumalo) and Welile Nzuzi (Fana Baloyi) started off in lesser roles when the show launched in 2005. This year, they are set to blast TV screens with big storylines – and major effect...

LOLO – 2005: She is the only child of crusty and cynical Eddie Khumalo (Sandy Mokwena), who - at the beginning of the series - had a problem with the bottle, a result of years of grieving for his wife who died giving birth. His escalating boozing was seriously affecting his career as crime journalist for the independent weekly, The Voice.

Eddie was a mess – and so was Lolo. She had a love-hate relationship with her father, being exhausted from regularly picking him (and his drunken excuses) up from the floor. After all, he had never really been there for her during childhood.

Lolo fell pregnant and made some hard decisions: she dumped the ambivalent father-to-be and dropped out of college where she was studying journalism to get a job as a waitress at the local bar, RTs. Daddy sobered up with the realisation that he was going to be a granddad, and started to mend fences with his daughter. Then Lolo miscarried. While Daddy returned to drink, Lolo resumed work and was promoted to stand-in manager at the bar.

Then Eddie fell in love with a former prostitute, Sunny Malinga (Joyce Skefu), whose real name was Maletsatsi Mooki. This warm-hearted, humorous and practical woman has made a respectable man of our Eddie, and become surrogate mother to Lolo.

LOLO – 2006: Lolo will be appointed the official manager of RTs by Abigail Rodriguez-Martin (Michelle Maxwell), who has acquired the bar (one of her few legal transactions) as one of her new business interests in Johannesburg's rapidly developing Newtown district. Lolo is now completely responsible for the revamping of the bar's new image and organising novel promotions.

But will she be able to resist the advances of the older, sophisticated Hector Dube (Nimrod Nkosi), Abigail's charming, but sinister, business partner?

Stephina, 22, who started off her showbiz career as an e.tv Craz-e (youth show) presenter, comments: "Lolo has come a long way. She's proud of herself and her achievements. She's strong now and she has definite goals and ambitions."

Fana – 2005: Fana's original job was office messenger at The Voice. He used to be your very small time con artist, the guy who had a scam for every time you blinked. Of course, if you believe his version, he's a true entrepreneur in the making.

He lasted a week as a trainee journalist. He got involved in a cell phone scam and subsequent investigation that resulted in a photographer being killed on the job. There was the period he had to secretly live at night as a squatter at the newspaper's offices, because of his not having enough money to get home. He is personally responsible for the destruction of two company cars.

FANA – 2006: He started off the year as a part-time debt collector. But when it meant going after Tino Martins (Clint Brink), the landlord of the paper's premises, he balked, which resulted in his being beaten up by his unofficial employers. He was forced to go into hiding. "He finally woke up to his own stupidity – and reality - when he got hurt," explains 24-year-old Welile.

Now Fana is a private investigator – sort of. With his training courtesy of the Internet (it's all those shiny, nifty spy gadgets that appeal) and a natural craftiness, he's learning on the job. He's not qualified as yet, but small details like formal qualifications will never stop our Fana. Weile says Fana is a developing character, finding his feet. "He didn't quite feature in the bigger plots and storylines. Basically, he was always there for comic relief. Now he has traces of the old, quirky Fana, but he's more mature. He has direction."

Fana is still interfering in other people's lives. But now it's legal (sort of). And he's being paid to do it. But what will he make of the growing friendship between his nephew, Nhlanhla and The Voice's sports journalist, Jaco? Will he be able to resist interfering in the lives of his best friend and close relation?

For photos of Scandal's new young professionals, please contact:
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