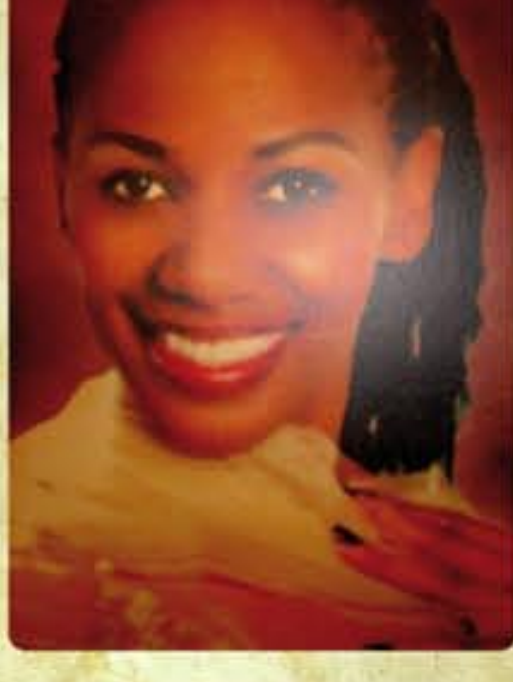




RHYTHM CITY

Press Alert!

Monday July 7 2008



RHYTHM CITY DIVA DIES.

(Rhythm City, weekdays, 6.30pm)

We interrupt tonight's normal scheduling for this breaking news: South Africa's flamboyant gospel star, Rachel Phakati, is dead. Music mogul, Miles Vilakazi, the owner of her record company, Redemption Records, is in a coma.

First official reports indicate Phakati and Vilakazi were rushed to a trauma unit, both in critical condition, after the car in which they were travelling crashed. It has been confirmed that no other vehicles were involved. It has been verified that the singer's injuries were so severe that a medical emergency team was unable to save her life, despite all intensive efforts. Vilakazi's condition is now described as stable.

Phakati and Vilakazi (who was driving the vehicle they were in) were returning home together after attending the glittering Johannesburg Music Industry Awards (MIAs) 2008 ceremony. Just hours before, a radiant Rachel was watched by millions of TV viewers as she accepted a trophy for Best Song of The Year - the club version of her song, I Still Believe - mixed by hot new producer, S'bu, the son of Miles Vilakazi.

It has been established that Phakati's husband, Pastor Abel Ngidi (from whom she was estranged), was the first person to arrive at the crash site. He immediately contacted emergency services. He had apparently been following the couple in a separate vehicle.

It is predicted that the immediate July fall out of this tragedy will affect:

- **Thembi Selani (Mmabatho Montsho):** will Rachel Phakati's daughter be forever haunted and guilt-ridden over her harsh rejection of her mother on the very day she died? The distraught, in mourning, 9-Nine magazine editor will finally meet her biological father on Thursday July 10. This leads to far reaching consequences. Thembi Selani will also have to make a decision as to whether she needs S'bu Vilakazi as an old friend...or as her new lover.
- The shocked citizens of Rhythm City who will grieve as they prepare for **Rachel Phakati's memorial service**, due to be held on Thursday July 10. A massive turn out of celebrities, paparazzi, and fans is anticipated.
- **Miles Vilakazi (Peter Se-Puma):** newspapers will speculate that he was drunk, fell asleep at the wheel, and is to blame for the car accident. It appears as if criminally orchestrated events this month will prepare our (presently) comatose music tycoon for the Big Sleep.
- **Lucilla Vilakazi (KB Motsilanyane):** Miles Vilakazi's estranged wife, and former financial director of Redemption, will betray her stepson, S'bu, and moving in with lover David Genaro, and selling Redemption to him (having received power of attorney over Miles Vilakazi's estate) on Thursday July 24. This, after agreeing to the rushed release of a commemorative album of Rachel Phakati's songs, a blatant marketing strategy of pure exploitation to bring in the big bucks.
- **Dazed S'bu Vilakazi (Lungile Radu):** will be fired from Redemption on Wednesday July 30. Office manager, Gail October (Pam Andrews) will walk with him. Marketing/PR manager, Bernard Markgraaf (Robert Hobbs), will not. Kop Khuse (Setihabi Taunyane), who was Rachel Phakati's personal company driver, still has a job...for now. S'bu Vilakazi will become jealous of the new man in Thembi Selani's life. He will also make the biggest proposal of his life.
- **David Genaro (Jamie Bartlett):** the owner of 9-Nine fm radio, and affiliated youth mag (and soon-to-be new owner of Redemption Records), is responsible for Rachel Phakati's death, even though he only intended to kill Miles Vilakazi. He will set up Pastor Ngidi - Rachel Phakati's opportunistic husband, from whom she was separated - as the fall guy so as to divert suspicion from himself.
- **Pastor Abel Ngidi (Mangaliso Ngema):** he and his traditional wife, Nokuthula (Charmaine Kweyama), will find themselves the main suspects in the investigation into the murder of his other wife, Rachel Phakati. Which is somewhat ironic, considering the head of The Church of the Thirteenth Apostle is the one who desperately tried to alert the police to the fact - with hard sought physical evidence on hand - that the car crash was no accident. Pastor Ngidi will be arrested for the murder of Rachel Phakati on Wednesday July 16. He will also discover the money he expected to inherit (half of Rachel Phakati's vast fortune) has been frozen by the authorities. The Lord has spoken.

Important Visitors to Rhythm City in July:

Gordon (played by James Cairns) the accomplice in the simulated "carjacking" (a chain of spikes across the road) that was meant to kill Miles Vilakazi. He was tipped off too late by David Genaro to stop the death of Rachel Phakati (well was it her fault she made an impromptu decision to go with Miles). He will now cover David Genaro's tracks with regard to the botched murder attempt, plant evidence that will incriminate Pastor Ngidi, and generally continue to do a good job of helping Satan's sidekick control Redemption - and the universe.

Superintendent Theuns "Dusty" Stofberg (played by Jacques Gombault) informs the Vilakazi family on Monday July 7 that charges of culpable homicide will be laid - a formality regarded by the law when someone is killed at the wheel - but that he regards the case as open and shut with no crime committed. He regards Pastor Ngidi's claims of foul play as ludicrous. However, the case will be officially reopened thanks to David Genaro's interference. The newspaper headlines: Africa's Songbird Murdered!

Thomas Phakati (played by Magic Hlatshwayo) enters Thembi Selani's life for the very first time on Thursday July 10. This simple living rural man was Rachel Phakati's childhood lover - and cousin. He is shy and humble and extremely nervous about meeting his daughter. She is extremely confused about her feelings, but, as always, remains immensely curious. They will bond and discover they have the same attributes: stubbornness, quiet determination, compassion, the ability to do good, without needing attention or recognition. She will decide she wants to spend a lot more time with him.

Nurse Sereme (played by Loungo Masire): she's hired on Thursday July 17 to supply Miles Vilakazi with continuous servings of a specially mixed (drug) cocktail to keep him in that coma. That's all part of preening psychopath David Genaro's plan to keep the music maestro out of the picture, so to speak, while he completes his plans for the takeover of Redemption.

For July's direct-from-set/on location storyline pictures, plus photos of our guest actors (interviews with them on request),

contact Matlapulana Ragoasha at:
Tel 011 537-9496, or email: matlapulana.ragoasha@etv.co.za

News just in: be prepared for a blast of July/August press releases on new storylines, new guest actors, new sets, plus more on the spot hot photos!

We now resume our normal scheduling. Further news updates will be provided.

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