



## **Press Release**

### **Shaka: A Sweeping Success**

#### **Weekdays @ 6.30pm**

“It’s been interesting, challenging and a learning curve. Every day I learn something new about acting,” says Quincy Myeza, who swept onto the Backstage scene last year as Vulindlela College’s cleaner. Shaka is working as a part time as a barman to earn money to supplement his income at the moment.

Shaka, who wiped the stage with his talent in last year’s musicals, has been given the opportunity of a lifetime - Zinzi, Backstage’s up and coming businesswoman, has agreed to pay for Shaka’s entire college education (is there a catch though? Is Zinzi ever entirely altruistic?) Which means that some changes are in store for the young man. How will this windfall affect his relationships with the other students, and what does 2006 hold in store for this talented dance student?

“I believe that Shaka’s role is symbolic of the development in South Africa and how education liberates people,” says Quincy. “It’s part and parcel of the skills development which is going on in this country. The character is inspirational and aspirational, and it challenges the perception that you can’t move beyond your social/economic class. The level of education in South Africa needs to be boosted, to balance things. The economy isn’t shared equally, so how do we get there? We need to sharpen our skills, compete and work hard.

“Skills development is so important to integrate us and empower people. It’s important to be self-reliant and independent.”

Shaka and college student Melissa were involved in a relationship last year, and although it didn't work out, the two characters remain good friends. When asked to elaborate on the relationship (if you remember, Melissa went through a short-lived, self-obsessed African identity phase last year in a bid to identify with Shaka), Quincy says, "Shaka has been confined by culture, and to cross a racial line, is quite difficult. People can be sceptical about cross-cultural relationships.

"But with the Melissa/Shaka storyline, the Backstage writers were challenging the public's perceptions. I think it was a very nice storyline for South Africans - it illustrated how the new South Africa is developing, and how we are trying to loosen our fears so that we can be introduced to the new vibe, the new culture... We have to learn to bridge the gap as South Africans but how do we do it?

"Shaka is a very nice guy," Quincy continues. "He's not a womaniser, he's an honest guy, and he'll be a loyal boyfriend. He does things straight and believes in fairness and loyalty. Not all the students have accepted him, some still hold his past against him, but this character is following his dream... he wants to make all of his dreams a reality.

"I'm enjoying Backstage a lot," he concludes. "Education is the key to the future, for brighter things and success, and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Shaka's storyline is developing along interesting lines - in particular look out for his new relationship with the girl next door....

Unlike the character he plays in Backstage, Quincy was born in Gauteng - specifically in Boksburg in the Vosloorus township. He joined a Community Theatre group when he was 12 years old, and it was there that he discovered that he had a passion for acting. He has a BA in Dramatic Arts from Film School AFDA (African School of Film and Dramatic Art), and he has a diverse range of acting experiences, having landed roles in various films, including "Soldiers of the Rock" and "Eitemango". He has also trod the stage in "Koo Beans for the Soul", "Le Shebeen", and "Got it Maid". But his interest in the arts isn't limited to acting - Quincy has a passion for music and has starred in a

number of music videos, as well as co-producing the Oskido music video with Afro-Sputnik. He also enjoys writing plays for theatre.

Quincy's favourite things:

Favourite Movie: Gladiator

Favourite Book: "Echoes of Anguish" by Charles Chavinduka

Favourite Play: "Baobabs Don't Grow Here" by James Cunningham

Favourite Food: Seafood

Favourite Singers: Luther Vandross, Isaac Hayes, and Victor Ntomi.

**For photos of Quincy, please contact:**

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