



Press Release

Backstage Monday to Friday at 6.30pm

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Monday April 3

THE AGONY AND ECSTASY OF APRIL ON BACKSTAGE

Here follows a flash flood (we've taken into account all of those public holidays coming up) of the *main* and *hot* Backstage events during April:

On screen last Thursday, a monster of a secret was revealed!

Everything, *everything*, is the direct opposite of what we've been led to believe about the immoral Mike Jennings (David Dukas) and his life. He is, in fact, an undercover cop and this revelation will shift-shape the futures of many Backstage characters.

On ***Thursday April 6***, classical ballet teacher and department head, Carmen (Michelle Levin) is served with a notice of motion by the sheriff of the court. Music student and former playa Gyles (Ryan Laatz), who's now all grown up, is legally fighting for his right to be officially recognised as the father of baby Hamilton. Will Carmen finally allow her one-night-stand lover (whom she regards merely as a sperm donor) access to his son – or will she take unbelievably desperate action?

On Monday 10 and Tuesday 11, Gyles becomes a hero during a hostage drama - during which college principal Ipeleng (Grace Mahlaba) is shot - after a robbery attempt gone wrong. An

emotionally caged Gyles, suffering from post-traumatic stress, coupled with his having had to endure a terrible loss, is attracted to a physically violent sport (hint: it involves many, many bloodied episodes with our poster boy's shirt off).

Virginity is voluntarily lost on **Friday April 14** (Come on - *think!* Who can *possibly* be left of the cast characters to lay claim to the title?). A pregnancy is discovered **on Monday April 17** (but obviously not by our deflowered virgin). The grim secret of Maria (Boshadi Nkomo) and Sophie (Amu Muyanga) is revealed in all its harshness to Charmaine (Lorcia Cooper) during the same episode.

Book now (and avoid the queues) for the Backstage Aids Benefit Concert 2006! It will rock the stage (and neighbouring suburbs) on **Saturday April 22** at Johannesburg's Standard Bank Arena. Hosted by the entire cast of Backstage, the two-hour concert features (in order of stage appearance): Backstage actor and Kwaito star Chippa (Loyiso Mangena) and Mzambiya; HHP (Hip Hop Pantsula); Wikid; Jason Schaap (Backstage EMI Superstar Search 2005 winner); Pro Kid; Jamali; Malaika; Lebo and Skwatta Kamp.

The proceeds of this fund-raising event are being donated to Thembisa's Good Hope Home Based Care and Orlando West's Ikageng Itireleng Ministry. Tickets are R50 per person and are available from Computicket. The concert starts at 3pm. Doors open at 1pm. Bring a lot of friends.

Freedom Day celebrations echo (noisily) through the corridors of Vulindlela College on **Thursday 27**, and **the following day**, Keketso meets The Perfect Man (a media mogul, if you please). **Keketso's role** (previously played by Katlego Danke), will **as of Thursday April 13, be played by an established e.tv show presenter**. We'll release the official news about this within the next week!

Also, on Friday 28: Zinzi (Tselane Tambo) goes into a deliciously frenzied panic when Mike tells her the truth about who he is. Lives are lost as a result of her terrified response.

All life's pains and pleasures – April on Backstage

Weekdays @ 6.30pm

For photos (no, not of the virgin), please contact:

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