



## Press Release

### **The Scandal Guide to Love, Lust and Life 2006**

**Mondays to Thursdays @ 7.30pm**

In 2005 we gave you a fictional independent Johannesburg weekly newspaper called The Voice, in the midst of its 10-year anniversary. Here are just a few of the things that happened in and out of the newsroom, and between the boardroom meetings, deadlines and sex:

An adulterous editor jailed on suspicion of attempted murder; his marketing manager mistress in a coma due to a botched murder attempt (she isn't very popular); a traitorous news editor who was fired; a photographer killed during action; a criminal publisher (who is the secret lover of the said editor's wife); an alcoholic crime reporter; a (formerly suicidal) sports journo who's come out of the locker as it were; an embezzler of an advertising manager who wears lingerie and a receptionist whose main job is to spread rumours faster than a tabloid.

There have also been actual murders; kidnappings; blackmail; corruption investigations; a serial rapist; a porn ring; copy plagiarism; cheque book journalism; nepotism; drug addiction; drunks; shootings and snipings (the latter mostly between staff members); advertiser pull outs and low circulation figures.

Yet the professionalism, commitment and sheer camaraderie of the staff ensures that The Voice, no matter how big the competition or egos - or how small the revenue and lack of bonuses - gets to bed every week.

Read on for instant IDs of where all the main characters stand (or lie!) right now. We've also provided some tantalising storyline teasers for next year... Lookout for a surprise wedding on Valentines Day, but we're not telling who will be going down the isle!

*The people in Scandal always live in "interesting times" - and, for the most, always manage to survive against all odds. Here's hoping that you script and*

*realise your own real life ambitions, dreams, goals, hopes and wishes during 2006. Happy New Year!*

## **The A-Z of Scandal**

### **Andrew McBain (played by Ashley Dowds)**

Still the advertising manager for The Voice (his company embezzlement was discovered by the paper's publisher who had no other recourse but to immediately blackmail him), mild-mannered Andrew carries - along with his briefcase and a weak spine - pale-male/BEE resentment and grudges about being the butt of practical jokes. He also has a little feud going with the marketing manager. He did stand by neurotic lifestyle writer Sam (he asked her to marry him, but she declined) during her newsroom experience of investigating a series of rapes - and during her subsequent emotional breakdown. *They are now "Fake It Until You've Got It" social climbers - watch this couple swing into "New" Year relationships...*

### **Angelina Apollis (played by Genevieve Howard)**

The girl is a tart with no heart. This lifestyle writer has uberconfidence in her sex appeal and a deeply dark obsession with Tino Martins, a property developer and new landlord of the building in which The Voice is based. He's into Tamia, the receptionist, who has rejected his advances because she's mourning her dead boyfriend, Breyton (the photographer who was killed while on a news story). No matter. Angelina blatantly hits on Tino and settles for his irregular booty calls, while missing story deadlines and keeping an eye on Tamia (always keep your enemy close!). In her spare time she plots a normal (read "romantic") relationship with Tino. *And then his mother, the rich witch-bitch from hell, comes to visit...*

### **Eddie Khumalo (played by Sandy Mokwena)**

Our alcoholic crime reporter is crusty, cynical and outspoken - especially with management (even though Editor Stan is his brother-in-law) and interns. He's also a mentor to most of the news team. Previously a loner, he's now in love with Maletsatsi, a former prostitute (who does have a heart) *and they're moving into a new home where his lady will play, "spend till it ends", with his credit card...*

### **Fana Baloyi (played by Welile Nzuza)**

Is the office messenger your basic (very small time) con artist - or a true entrepreneur in the making? He lasted a week as a trainee journalist and was involved in a cell phone scam that resulted in tragic consequences (have we mentioned our dead photographer?). There was the time Fana had to squat at The Voice's offices at night because of his not earning enough to get home. Will he make it straight from Zola to Sandton with big ideas and little work? *Next year sees him as a part-time debt collector...doing his job very close to home...*

### **Jaco Geldenhuys (played by Dewald Reynecke)**

The office comedian started off a hot office romance with The Voice's receptionist Tamia, (she's not a tart). However it turned out that the office playboy had a lot of issues to deal with ...his realization that he was gay led to a massive bout of depression followed by a suicide attempt. He's officially come out since then and become Tamia's always-there rock to lean on (a lot of his colleagues do that). However, the death of his best buddy, Breyton, has been hard on him. *He's going to meet his spiritual guru. And develop a big crush...*

**Lolo Khumalo (played by Stephina Zwane)**

Eddie's her dad and Stan's her uncle. Her mother died giving birth to her and that's when her father started drinking and emotionally abandoned her. Little Lolo found out this year that she was pregnant which brought her and Eddie together again, despite her dropping out of college and getting a job as a waitress. She decided to keep the baby after weighing up the pros and cons of abortion. And Eddie liked his new job of being a Grandpa. However, she miscarried, which drove Eddie back to suiping, until he met Maletsatsi, who has become a mother figure to his daughter. *But how will our fragile youngster react to our lady of the night's secrets that keep popping up like a professional's pesky ex-clients...?*

**Lulama Jackson (played by Sarah Ngubeni)**

She's the ambitious and nosey (an occupational hazard) newsroom rookie. She made headlines with her exposure of a child slavery racket, headed by her now very ex-lover, Yussuf Omar. She also suspected there was more to the cheap cell phones' ring/operation with whom the unsuspecting Fana was involved. Her probing resulted in Breyton's death and she feels tremendous guilt about that. She was also one of the first people to suspect that Eddie's newfound love was not all that she originally said she was. *Topical tokenism is what Lulama's future career holds...*

**Malitsatsi Mooki/Sunny Malinga (played by Joyce Skefu)**

Shrewd Sunny first introduced herself to Eddie as a social worker from an organization that provided shelter for sex workers. Her actual plan was to get Eddie (and the only close friend he has in the world - Detective Bert Esselen) to investigate the death of *her* best friend, who was murdered by their pimp. Her plan succeeded - the pimp has been arrested. But, in the process, she pretended to be somebody she wasn't, lying to the two people she claims to have come to love - Eddie and Lolo. They're playing happy family right now with Sunny reverting to her true name, the couple moving into a new home and Ms Mooki attempting a career change - trying her hand at anything from computer training to hairdressing. However. Is she working Eddie as much as she worked her former clients? Will she be tempted to go back to earning easy money? Will her pimp return bent on revenge? *Of course, her past comes back to haunt her...*

**Mangi Nyathi (played by Kagiso Modupe)**

He has the arrogance of spoilt, good-looking youth and he's come home after finishing his matric exams at the big-name private school that mommy and daddy

worked so hard to keep him in. With his parents Stan and Thato on the brink of a break up, due to Daddy's infidelity, his little bubble of bravado is rapidly bursting. *So he's ripe for some personal attention and flattery - which comes from his father's ex-mistress, who is working to a rather sick agenda...*

**Nirvana Nahir (played by Keren Tahor)**

The Voice's Marketing Manager is a woman of so many, *many* talents. The exotic temptress managed to seduce Editor Stan, a former fine and upstanding member of society and a happily married man of 17 years. She's recovered from a month-long coma after a botched murder attempt (she wasn't the one whom the hit man was ordered to kill - it was actually the tenacious News Ed/political writer). She just won't accept that her affair with the main man, even after being dumped like yesterday's dailies, is *so* over. And although Stan wants her permanently out of office, *she's planning reinstatement through sexual harassment charges, the financing of a new project (obtained through blackmail) and the seduction of his 18-year-old son...*

**Samantha Young (played by Candice Derman)**

Sam is recovering, with counselling, from an attempted sexual assault by a prominent fashion designer. Being the sole contributor to the Lifestyle supplement (this was before Angelina's arrival) drove her to pinch copy from online sources and take the credit for some brilliant copy until her conscience (and Eddie) stepped in. She still can't truly commit to Andrew, (she's aware of other men's interest) even though he helped her through the physical and emotional torment of her news investigation into a series of rapes. She's highly impressionable and curious - *which leads her into double sexual temptation early next year...*

**Stan Nyathi (played by Luthuli Dlamini)**

Editor Stan (and co-owner of the paper) prided himself on being a man of "integrity" and a man of "his word". Now he's eating "his word" after letting other "integral" parts of him lead him into a very public extra-marital, messy affair with his marketing manager. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, had to endure a lie detector test, house confinement, ridicule by rival papers, the duplicity of his best friend, the near collapse of his publication - and the deep disappointment of his staff. *Will the prospects of being a father again be enough to keep Stan out of trouble next year, or will this be a revelation of something bigger than he and his family could have ever imagined?*

**Tamia Bardill (played by Renate Stuurman)**

Razor-sharp tongued, leave no barbed comment unuttered, Tamia (the office gossip), has rejected Tino Martin's advances because she's still getting over her murdered boyfriend who died in a shoot out on the day he planned to propose to her. She's also been trying to cope with her teenage brother, Byron (he lives with her), who has started mixing with the wrong crowd. *Tamia will soon hear from - and talk to - Breyton...*

**Thato Nyathi (played by Rami Chuene)**

She's the dutiful wife of Stan and a nursing sister. She saved the life of her husband's mistress and personally took care of Nirvana while she lay in a coma after a gone-wrong murder attempt on her life. Waging psychological warfare only, Thato never once made practical use of all the shiny, sharp instruments at hand, including scissors and syringes, while looking after this particular patient. She desperately wants to save her marriage and has demanded Stan end the affair and fire his lover. *Now she wants another child to seal the deal.* Thato has been the (secret) long-time mistress of the paper's publisher, who also used to be Stan's best friend.

**Tino Martins (played by Clint Brink)**

The young, brash property developer is The Voice's landlord. His confidence and cavalier attitude mask a range of insecurities, phobias and secrets, including the fact that he's insolvent, nothing but a Mummy's Boy - *and has enough mood swings to warrant his own (padlocked) playground.*

**Vanashree Dhevan (played by Leeanda Reddy)**

She's now the new News Editor as well as being the Political reporter - and she has the respect of every single staff member including (*Shock Headline!*) publisher, Vusi. Vanashree was thrown into the deep end when the previous news Ed did her walk of shame to join a rival paper. Not once did Vanashree sink - with her instincts, dedication, savvy and work sweat she led her team to save the day - and the publication. She did this in between Breyton's funeral, Nirvana's coma, Stan's arrest and a lot of copy subbing. Vanashree also worked overtime with her co-ordination of a sting that revealed who did in fact attack Nirvana - and proved Stan's innocence. *Will our heroine burn out within the next few weeks?*

**Vusi Zwane (played by Siyabonga Twala)**

The publisher and co-owner of the paper was Stan's best friend for over 20 years (long-term affair with his wife and allowing him to be arrested, aside). He regards his staff as servile servants - there only to do his bidding (which includes regular shady business schemes) and make more money for him. *This cold, smooth-slime monster is going to sleep with the enemy, very, very soon... and maybe, just maybe, meet his match...*

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