



Press Release

THE BACKSTAGE EMI SUPERSTAR SEARCH 2005 **MEET OUR MPUMALANGA REGIONAL FINALISTS!**

But first of all, here is the winner of the Gauteng auditions, announced during the show's second episode that aired last night:

Malika Davids, 19, from Johannesburg.

Malika had this to say when contacted yesterday:

"I'm excited and happy and surprised... Because I was the only girl in the three regional finalists, I didn't expect to win. I plan to practise for the semi-finals and hope to work on my stage personality, as well. I was very nervous when I was auditioning. At present I'm at RAU - writing exams... I start on November 7 - and have lots of tests at the moment so my mind's distracted, but I'm so pleased!"

Last night's show also revealed that the eight-hour Mpumalanga auditions were far more tranquil and chilled than those of Gauteng's frenetic showcasing - but don't forget that e.tv is determined to scour the country to unearth the one talented singer worthy of the EMI CD track recording deal, worth half-a-million Rand. So on our map, the smaller towns rate as big as the major cities.

(Mzansi's provinces will all have their turn to perform. The next seven episodes will be in the following order: North West Province, Polokwane, Free State, Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal).

Our judges (Kwaito star Arthur; Grace Mahlaba as Ipeleng Theledi (in character as the principal of Backstage's Vulindela College); Malebo Phage (Head of Local Productions, e.tv) and Mike Maswanganye (Marketing and Promotions Director EMI/CCP), have made their decision - ***but remember that it's the voting viewers who, every week, have the crucial role of deciding who will represent each region at the semi-finals on December 4.***

The three Mpumalanga semi-finalists are: Makhosazane Olive Maphanga, Reuben Mphagi and Sicelo Moya.

A determined Reuben actually entered the contest twice. (He registered in two provinces and travelled long distances to attend both the Gauteng and the Nelspruit auditions)

Sicelo comes from a very musical family, has a twin sister, and it was actually his brother who entered the competition first. However, his brother couldn't make it, so at the last moment Sicelo

approached the organisers of the competition and asked if he could enter in his brother's stead. The organisers agreed to his request.

Olive spent the whole week practising, and just before singing, said nervously, "I've been waiting a long time for this."

Fact File on Olive:

Age: 21

Favourite Music: R&B and House

Favourite Musician: Thandiswa Mazwai

Occupation: Student (Psychology)

Hobbies: Singing, reading magazines and watching TV

Quote: "I learned to sing in church - I was in a church choir. I want to become a well-known musician, to grow as an artist and to have my record go gold. I also want to have a career in psychology."

Fact File on Reuben:

Age: 23

Occupation: By day he trades as a street vendor in Jo'burg

Favourite Music: Kwaito, Hip Hop, House Kwaito

Favourite Musician: Mr Mafokate

Hobbies: Playing the keyboard

Quote: "I want to reach my dream! And gather skills in the music industry. I also have an interest in media promotion."

Fact File on Sicelo:

Age: 27

Favourite Music: Gospel

Favourite Musicians: Jonathan Butler, Benjamin Dube and Fred Hammond

Occupation: Performing Arts Practitioner

Hobbies: Playing the piano

Quote: "I've played musical instruments from an early age, and later on, I developed an interest and passion for singing. I play the piano, bass guitar and drums. My dream is to get a recording deal. I also want to own a music college, and travel internationally."

This coming Sunday's Superstar Search show (October 16) will reveal whom the judges - and the viewers at home - chose from Mpumalanga as the regional representative who will go through to the semi-finals.

Don't forget: Viewers act as the "5th" judge and can vote any day, any time, directly after the Sunday show until the following Friday evening, after which there's the final count. So keep watching e.tv's promo spots, then SMS BSS and the name of your favourite contestant to 35171. In the case of a split vote, the viewers will have the casting vote. Viewers can win DVDs and CDs from EMI each week and one trip for a winner and his or her partner to a SA destination sponsored by e.tv, so hit those phones!

Watch this Sunday at 6.05pm to find out who viewers chose to win the Mpumalanga title - and get ready for the North West Province auditions in Mmabatho.

For more information and the photos of the three Mpumalanga regional winners, please contact:

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