



Press Release

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

The first episode of the Backstage EMI Superstar Search aired last night - and soon **one** talented singer will become South Africa's next Superstar. The Gauteng auditions went off with a bang, with queues of contestants (well over 1000 entrants over a 10-hour period!) waiting patiently outside the Johannesburg Civic Theatre, for their turn to shine.

The judges chose the three Gauteng semi-finalists the day after the auditions - **but remember that it's the voting viewers who, every week, have the crucial role of deciding who will represent their region at the semi-finals on December 4.**

(Mzansi's provinces will all take their collective bows. The next eight episodes will be in the following order: Mpumalanga, Mafikeng, Polokwane, Free State, Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal).

In Gauteng, there were obviously some extreme personalities (and costumes!) during the competition's debut audition day. But Michelle Kirby, e.tv's Marketing Manager's overall take of the first show, is that, "We have exceptional talent in this country - this competition is surely going to bring out some fantastic, undiscovered stars."

The judges (Kwaito star Arthur; Grace Mahlaba as Ipeleng Theledi (in character as the principal of Backstage); Malebo Phage (Head of Local Productions, e.tv) and Mike Maswanganye (Marketing and Promotions Director EMI/CCP) had a tough time of it - but, here (roll of drums, please!) are their choice of the three Gauteng regional finalists:

Malika Davids, Reggie Mogane and Jappie Kobue.

The Low Down on Malika:

Age: 19

Favourite Music: R&B

Favourite Musician: Whitney Houston

Occupation: Student (B. Com Accountancy)

Hobbies: Dancing, sport, playing musical instruments

Quote: "I come from a musical family - we learned to sing through the generations. I want to be an effective part of the musical industry by what I say, do and sing."

The Low Down on Reggie:

Age: 20

Favourite Music: Hip Hop

Favourite Musician: Proverb

Occupation: Student (General Management)

Hobbies: Writing songs

Quote: "I taught myself to sing and I also beat box... I want to be a star - to go multi-platinum. I also want to make a movie and produce for major artists."

The Low Down on Jappie:

Age: 22

Favourite Music: R&B

Favourite Musician: Musiq Soul Child

Occupation: Student (Music)

Hobbies: Listening to music, singing, playing musical instruments

Quote: "I want to become well-known and respected... I want to be a star - and I also want to contribute to the community. My dream is to have my own record label one day."

This coming Sunday's Superstar Search show (October 9) will reveal whom the judges - and the viewers at home - chose from Gauteng as the regional representative who will go through to the semi-finals.

Don't forget: Viewers act as the "5th" judge: So vote now! 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.

Then tune in this Sunday at 6.05pm, to find out who viewers chose to win the Gauteng title - and be ready for the Mpumalanga auditions in Nelspruit.

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

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