



## Press Release

### **TRUE LIFE ACTION MAN DUNCAN LAWSON JOINS BACKSTAGE!** **Tuesday, 18 October at 6.30pm**

Duncan Lawson is set to make his debut on Backstage as Sebastian Young, Vulindlela College's dynamic new writing teacher.

Sebastian is a born and bred Capetonian. He attended the University of Cape Town and majored in Film and Media studies. At university he met Naomi (Thahira Syed), and the two were archrivals right from the start. While studying at College, Sebastian applied and was accepted into a prestigious American Scholarship (Fulbright) programme in the States, and he chose to do a masters in Film at the University of Chicago. He left for the States at the end of his honours year and then continued to live and work in the states after completing his studies at the University of Chicago. But now he's back in South Africa - and he's about to cause waves at Vulindlela...

**More about Duncan Lawson...** He was born in Luanshya in Zambia, and like the character he plays in Backstage, he attended the University of Cape Town - graduating in 1993 with a BA in English and Drama. In the same year he graduated from Michaelis School for Fine Arts with a Performer's Diploma in Speech and Drama. He was nominated as Fleur du Cap's "Most Promising Actor" in 1992. He also received a Fleur du Cap and Vita nomination for "Best Actor" in 1996 and "Best Supporting Actor" in 2001. He has worked in theatre, film and television. His most recent play was "Butterflies Are Free", and the films he has worked on are "The Queen's Messenger", "One Man, One Vote", "Angel", "The Long Run", "The Surveyor", "Stander" and "The Triangle".

#### ***Fact File on Duncan's Favourite Things...***

**Activities:** Duncan's first love is snow skiing. He has also jumped out of planes, been in hot air balloons, has a glider licence (courtesy of R.A.F. cadets) and loves stunt work. Duncan is a Professional Association of Divers International (PADI) Divemaster and he got his commercial pilot's licence this year.

**Restaurant:** Espresso (Parkhurst)

**Food:** Spaghetti Bolognese (his own recipe)

**Artist:** Counting Crows

**Movie:** Apocalypse Now

**Book:** "The Wasp Factory" by Ian Banks

Says Duncan, "My general attitude towards life is that you should ride the wave while you can. I am excited at the prospect of joining Backstage - and in fact, I bought a surfboard last week!"

**More about Sebastian...** Sebastian wants to tell African stories, and to enrich the South African industry with the skills he has been privileged enough to develop overseas. His motive in lecturing is he that he believes he has a unique contribution to make in terms of shaping young South African students, and he is passionate about the industry and its future. He was looking for a lecturing post at the time he got the call from Ipeleng (Grace Mahlaba). He is strong-willed, opinionated, straightforward and roguishly handsome.

Joining the staff at Vulindlela means that Sebastian will have to work with cool, restrained Naomi - who is his polar opposite. It is said that opposites attract - and sparks are bound to fly when two such different personalities are brought into close proximity...

**Watch Backstage's bit of all write on Friday September 30 @ 6.30pm - only on e.**

**For more information and photos please contact:**

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