



PRESS RELEASE

Rhythm City: Moses Creates Xmas Mayhem!

Wednesday November 28 at 6.30pm

Funny man, Phillip “Pubs” Mbele, is set - from Wednesday November 28 - to disrupt all Christmas preparations in Rhythm City with his larger-than-life character, Moses Ntombela.

A master teller of tall stories (in hilarious scenes that include Sophiatown Tsotsi taal), we discover that Moses has returned to Jozi from Ghana, where he has been living for the past 15 years.

He hangs out at Fats’ (Mpho Molepo) KO Palace and Suffo’s (Mduduzi Mabaso) Kilowatt Club, claiming to have been a driver to Prince Philip on a royal visit, coached the national soccer team, sang at a presidential inauguration, and had his own church with a following of forty thousand. Moses gets drunk (a lot) and has an eye for the girls. Moses is also flat broke, ill, and homeless.

Which is why, being the festive season and all, a well-meaning S’bu (Lungile Radu) takes him home, a good deed that unleashes domestic havoc and disharmony throughout the Vilakazi household.

Life rolls full circle this Christmas for Moses. We find out that his claim of once being a renowned gospel singer is true. We also discover that his past is an illuminating example of how inexperienced or unprofessional performers can be exploited in the music industry – and that Redemption Records’ boss, Miles Vilakazi (Peter Se-Puma), and his wife, Lucilla (KB Motsilanyane), will have to give, and give, and give, again and again, during this joyful season

Actor/musician Phillip has his own (true!) tales to tell: born and raised in Moroka, Soweto, Phillip started school at Enkholweni Higher Primary and matriculated in Thabanchu. He decided to study music after high school. Phillip worked on the stage production, Mahlomola, directed by Boykie Mhlamme, and in 1981 he joined the legendary Gibson Kente. He first appeared on the Market Theatre stage when he performed in a stage production called, Schoolgirls, with Rhythm City’s Peter Se-Puma (Miles Vilakazi). Phillip featured in the TV drama, Masechaba, and starred in the series, A Place Called Home.

Phillip enjoys listening to jazz, rhythm and blues, and world African music. His favourite album: “In the Kitchen”, by Jimmy McGrieff. Because he is aquaphobic he would rather go on holiday to Limpopo. In 1991 he toured France and England playing music with Dolly Rathebe and Lite Swingston. A personal highlight: soon after Nelson Mandela’s release from prison, Phillip, with other musicians like Dolly, Margaret Singana and Abigail Khubeka, were asked to perform at the great man’s birthday party.

Phillip, also known as “Pubs” among his close friends, loves his seafood. Sidney Poitier is his idol. He enjoyed reading “Animal Farm” by George Orwell and has watched Pulp Fiction more than twenty times because he believes it is the greatest movie ever.

“This industry is a learning curve. You learn something new with every production. I am learning from the youngsters in Rhythm City. I hope they learn something from me,” says Phillip.

For more information and pictures of Philip in action, please call:

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