



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Martin Phike joins the cast of Backstage in the role of musically talented Skumbuzo (TX: Wednesday 8 June @ 6.30pm)**

Martin Phike, a former member of the popular Kwaito group, Inadiflo, and a current member of the winning Pop Stars group, Ghetto Lingo, is set to join the dynamic cast of Backstage to play Skumbuzo, a young man with a dream to make it big in the music industry. Skumbuzo, however, has a disability that hampers him... When he gets a job as a cleaner at Vulindlela College, he starts the journey that will eventually take him where he hopes to go.

*More about Martin...*

In a way Martin's life journey mirrors the character he plays in Backstage. He grew up in the suburb of Seapoint in Cape Town. His mother, Nozuko, a domestic worker, moved out of the townships, wanting the best education for her boys. They were a large family of eight, living in a room that was literally the size of the main house's bathroom.

However, when Martin moved to Gugulethu in Cape Town in 1998, he became part of immensely popular group Inadiflo. Then Martin entered the Popstars competition - with stunning success.

*More about Skumbuzo...*

He comes from Durban, and because he suffers from dyslexia, he only managed to complete a grade 10. This has kept him from studying further. But his dream is massive: to sing, to dance, to act. He first applies for a job at Duke's Bar, but Sgolwane, his cousin, is afraid that Duke and Mike will spoil him, and so he sends him to Vulindlela...

Says Martin: "It doesn't matter where you are, it's who you are that counts and whether you are ready to take control of your life and reach for your dreams. I want to enthuse South Africans with passion and drive."

Watch Skumbuzo's debut on **Backstage** on **Wednesday 8 June @ 6.30 - only on e.**

**For more information please contact:**

**Alissa Baxter**  
**e.tv Publicity Writer**  
**Tel : 011 537 9496**  
**Fax : 011 537 9301**