



Press Release

NEW CO-PRESENTER FOR 20SOMETHING, SHASHI NAIDOO **Shashi Naidoo, on being 20something...**

Many will remember Shashi Naidoo as Ziggy's girlfriend Linda McGinty on Backstage in 2004. But Shashi maintains that her start in the industry was really paved when a model scout spotted her. Soon after she started doing modelling and commercials for different brands and products. "In-between that I had a small cameo as a super-bitch on a TV show which was nice to play as that is really not in my nature, but my big break would have to be Backstage where I played Linda," says Shashi.

"That's when I had some experience of being recognizable which was nice, except one time when some woman practically tried to attack me because my character Linda was cheating on her onscreen boyfriend Ziggy! Other than that, I have always loved people talking to me about the show. As a performer, I regard feedback as being very important... positive or negative, so I always appreciate viewers who want to share their views," adds Shashi.

That aside, viewers will get to see Shashi on another e.tv show 20something as of Sunday January 8. She will replace Khethiwe Kunene to co-host the show with Namhla Ndlovu. "To be chosen to be part of such a long-standing and credible show such as 20something really is an incredible honour. We have already shot my first two shows but I still don't think it has sunk in yet," comments Shashi.

"And from my experience in presenting thus far, I think the satisfaction comes from being part of putting together something really great that we can be proud to put our names on. Also, every week we get to interview people who have done inspirational things in their field, and that is the most exciting part of this job.

"I think one of the reasons this show is so great, is because it has constantly undergone changes to enable the show to have its finger on the pulse of the youth. Also, it is so important to have open dialogue amongst the youth to discuss critical issues pertaining to our future and us; I believe 20something provides that platform," stresses Shashi.

Shashi grew up in the small but friendly city of Port Elizabeth, where her parents still live. “I moved to Johannesburg on my own six years ago to study Chiropractic, which I guess ties in with my childhood dream... Ever since I was a little girl I always maintained that I would be a doctor when I grew up. Next year I will be doing my sixth and final year, which will also entail completing my internship,” adds Shashi.

Getting into the industry wasn't as easy as it sounds for the ambitious, beautiful and smart Shashi. So how did she do it? “With a little bit of luck and a lot of perseverance... I had always been involved with drama at school but that is hardly something you can put on your CV. Getting into the industry was the hardest thing. It's a bit of a catch-22 situation ...you can't get work if you don't have an agent and you can't get an agent if you don't have work experience. It took quite a bit of convincing to persuade my agent to put me on her books but it was definitely worth it,” says Shashi.

In conclusion, Shashi comments with a quote: “The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want. It is almost impossible to make the journey to a destination if you don't know what that destination is going to be. For me, knowing where you want to be makes getting there much easier.”

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