



## Press Release

### **WHO KILLED DUKE?** **A ROUND UP OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS**

So many enemies, and so little evidence. Duke (Carlo Radebe) is dead... but nobody knows who shot him. However, there's a whole index of people who had it in for Backstage's notorious villain...

**SUSPECT ONE:** Firstly, isn't the spouse of a murder victim always the number one suspect? Could Katlego (Baby Cele), Duke's longsuffering wife, have killed him? Katlego has certainly suffered enough abuse at Duke's hands. When she married him, she firmly believed that he had changed, but early into their marriage, she realised that Duke was just as bad as ever. He physically and emotionally abused her, and his cruel behaviour caused her to seek refuge in alcohol. This once dignified teacher is now a wreck. Her self-esteem has been shattered, and all this can be laid at the highly shone shoes (well, feet) of her husband. Maybe Katlego shot him in a fit of rage and despair. As surely as he drove her to drink, maybe he also drove her to murder....

**SUSPECT TWO:** Alternatively, perhaps Vulindlela College's principal, Ipeleng (Grace Mahlaba), who has always hated Duke with a passion, finally decided to do something about it. She witnessed the deterioration of her dear friend Katlego at close hand, and had to sit helplessly by while Duke got away with treating his wife like dirt... So maybe, with the resolute determination that is so characteristic of this strong woman, she decided it was time that someone stopped him getting away with murder - by murdering him herself.

**SUSPECT THREE AND FOUR:** But then again, just what have Mike and Zinzi been up to recently? Duke's right hand man, and Peter Mzamo's (Sello Sebotsane) widow have been scheming together - plotting and planning in a frenzied attempt to get their hands on some missing diamonds. They'd just found them, when Duke took Zinzi's son, Duma (Leroy Gopal), hostage, and demanded that they hand the diamonds over to him. Zinzi was frantically worried about her beloved boy, and maybe she decided that without Duke in the way, she could get her son back - and get to keep the diamonds as well. Diamonds are forever, but only if they're actually in your possession... So perhaps Mike and Zinzi decided that the Hard Stone (well Rock) of Backstage needed to be cut down to size, and with Zinzi in the driving seat (diamonds ARE a girl's best friend remember) they planned to put him out of the way...

**SUSPECT FIVE:** But hang on a sec - what about Mpumi (Sello Motloung), Katlego's film lecturer colleague and former flame? He loves Katlego with heartfelt devotion, and what lengths wouldn't a man go to to save the woman he loves? Just before Duke was shot, Mpumi confronted him about his treatment of Katlego, and demanded that he let her go. They argued viciously about Katlego's future and Mpumi ended up threatening Duke. You see, Katlego is the most important

person in his life and he will do ANYTHING not to see her suffer anymore. Anything... which just might include murder?

**SUSPECT SIX:** However, the plot thickens even further when you look a little closer at the facts of the case. Just what is Duke's old enemy, Venter, doing back in town, this man who once stated that he WILL kill Duke? In the past, he tried to burn Duke's bar down - and now he's out of prison... could he have done the deadly deed?

**SUSPECT SEVEN:** On another tack, Duke had been getting deeper and deeper into trouble with his corrupt business partner, Moloï (just a few weeks ago, Duke framed Moloï for fraud). Moloï had been pressurising Duke for months to return his diamonds - might he just have got tired of waiting and decided to put a bullet in his enemy?

Will Detective Khumalo (Patrick Bokaba), who has been assigned to the case, be able to wade through this list of suspects, and uncover the murderer of Backstage's biggest villain?

**Watch Backstage every week day at 6.30pm on e to find out.**

**For new pix of Carlo; David; Tselane; Leroy; Baby Cele; Grace and Sello, please contact:**

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