

**Philo Pieterse and Sean Else**

present

A film by Sean Else



LIANIE MAY  
BOK VAN BLERK  
STEVE HOFMEYR  
JAY  
VAUGHAN GARDINER  
KARLIEN VAN JAARVELD

Writers  
Sean Else  
Deon Opperman

Line Producer  
Johan Kruger

Director of Photography  
Brendon Frans Keyser

# PRODUCTION NOTES

## SYNOPSIS

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*Platteland* is set to be the biggest Afrikaans musical to date and is scheduled for national cinema release on 25 November 2011.

The film tells the story of Riana van Niekerk (Lianie May) who is desperately fighting to save her family's farm from Mike Ferreira (Steve Hofmeyr), who has his own agenda and is determined to drive Riana from the land and seize her farm. When Dirk Pretorius (Bok van Blerk), a drifter with many personal secrets, arrives in town, new alliances are formed and love blossoms in the most unlikely quarters.

*Platteland* features great hits including, *Melanie* (Jay), *Tyd om te Trek* (Bok van Blerk), *Vergeet My Nie* (Lianie May), *Pa en Seun* (Steve Hofmeyr en Bok van Blerk) and *Sweet Dreams* (Karlien van Jaarsveld) ensuring that *Platteland* will be hugely popular.

The stellar cast comprises Bok van Blerk who shot to fame with his massive hit *De la Rey* and has since become one of the biggest names in Afrikaans music. He has a string of hits behind his name, including *Tyd om te Trek*, *My Kreet* and *Die Kaplyn*. He garnered the 2009 SAMA Award for his top selling album *Afrikanerhart*.

Steve Hofmeyr, the bad boy of the South African music scene, started his acting career in the phenomenally successful television series *Agter Elke Man*, before going on to cement his reputation as South Africa's most successful singer and songwriter with sales in excess of two million and a string of chart-topping hits such as *Pampoen*, *Agter Elke Man* and *FM Stereo*. His album *Toeka* was awarded a SAMA for top selling album in 2004.

Lianie May burst onto the Afrikaans music charts with her debut album *Vergeet My Nie*, the top seller of 2008. With hits like *Jy Soen My Nie Meer Nie*, *Vergeet My Nie* and *Honey Honey*, she has become one of the biggest names in Afrikaans music. Lianie teamed up with Jay for the duets *Toe Stop My Hart* and *In a Moment like This* which were instant hits. Jay, who plays Jakes Ferreira in *Platteland*, is a member of the group Eden and also has a very successful solo career.

The cast is rounded off by singers Vaughan Gardiner (*Gooi Jou Arms om My*), Karlien van Jaarsveld (*As Die Gordyn Val*) and actors Hannah Grobler (*Bakgat, Getroud Met Rugby*) André Odendaal (*Getroud Met Rugby*), David Clatworthy (*7de Laan*), Wynand van Vollenstee (*Karate Kallie*), Ivan Zimmermann (*Egoli, Dit Wat Stom Is*), Paul Luckhoff (*Egoli, Hopeville*), Izak Davel (*Egoli, Getroud met Rugby – Die Onvertelde Storie*), Cobus Visser (*Egoli, Villa Rosa*), Marcel Schoeman (*Torings*), Annette Engelbrecht (*Orkney Snork Nie*), Viljé Maritz (*Binnelanders*) and Dirk Stoltz (*Song vir Katryn, Binnelanders*).

Produced by Philo Pieterse (*Lipstiek Dipstiek, Circles in the Forest / Kringe in 'n Bos*) and Sean Else, and written by Sean Else and multiple award winning playwright Deon Opperman, *Platteland* is also directed by Sean Else (*Ons vir Jou, Jock of the Bushveld – The Musical*), and was filmed in Vrede and Verkykerskop. The film will be released by Indigenous Film Distribution.

## Q & A: Philo Pieterse, Producer

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### **How did the idea for the film originate?**

I had not produced any local movies since *Lipstiek, Dipstiek* in 1994 and felt it was time to do something new. Having heard about how popular Sean Else was as a singer, actor and producer, we arranged a meeting and from there decided to work together. I wanted to make a musical, as Afrikaans music is extremely popular and the industry is soaring.

### **How did Sean Else come on board as the director?**

Sean owns his own Afrikaans recording label, Mozi records, making him the perfect partner for an Afrikaans musical. He is really the expert in this area and in addition, he has an enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm. He was the right choice for the project as no-one knows the market for this film as well as he does. Furthermore, I had also had the opportunity to watch many of his music videos and his ability to direct was very evident.

### **What makes the story compelling?**

The subject matter, which is the story of a woman who is trying to save her family's farm from an unscrupulous man, lends itself well to the Afrikaans market. It's made even more appealing by the introduction of so many popular artists and musicians. There's a perfect match between the high drama of the tale and the high profile of each individual artist.

### **Why were Lianie May and Steve Hofmeyr chosen as the leads?**

As with the six main cast members, they are naturals. We developed the idea for the film with them in mind as there are few entertainers who are more popular than Lianie and Steve, and this film is a great vehicle for them.

### **How did you choose the music for the film?**

That was all up to Sean. He chose the music and we turned existing popular songs into new and exciting versions.

### **What excites you about this film?**

What is most exciting is the way it all came together. It was structured so well and one of the best decisions we made was to shoot the film in Vrede, a small town in the Free State that is a hub for the surrounding farming community. The locations were all identified by Sean. There were some difficult times, like having to find accommodation for everyone in such a small place. But when you see what comes to fruition on the screen, you forget just how challenging it was at times. The music, the actors, the locations and the final product are all that matters.

**How was the film funded?**

It was funded through private investment and a grant from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

**What were the biggest challenges?**

The principal photography was conducted in January and February 2011, at the chosen locations and as such, the accommodation combined with the rainy weather proved to be major challenges.

**What were the highlights of the shoot?**

It was an absolute pleasure to work with a cast who were all enthusiastic and supportive with absolutely no drama whatsoever throughout the entire pre-production and production period. Although many of the cast members had never appeared in a film before, we never once experienced any problems. The crew was under Sean's leadership who never sits still and his energy is infectious. He was always jumping up and down and getting up to something – his eagerness impacted everyone. It was also one of those shoots where there were positive results at the end of each day – it was like taking kids to a candy store. Most importantly it was fun combined with many laughs.

**What was it like to shoot in Vrede?**

The interaction with the community was amazing. As an example, we announced that we would be doing a shoot at the church on Sunday, after the service. We asked the congregation to remain behind, and they waited for us to set up for more than 45 minutes demonstrating such patience. When the actors appeared, everyone hauled out their cameras as they were so delighted to see their idols in the flesh. The people of Vrede were absolutely wonderful.

## BIOGRAPHIES – CREW

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### **Philo Pieterse (Producer)**

Philo Pieterse founded Philo Films in 1980 and this film and television production company has been a dominant player in the SA film industry for the past 31 years. Philo's trailblazing Sun City commercial, set to Queen's concert showstopper *We Will Rock You*, scooped Hollywood's International Broadcasting award in 1986. This was only one of the scores of media honours the company has received from judges both here, and abroad. Philo has some 18 international awards and 48 local awards for creative excellence under his belt. One of the high points of Philo's illustrious career was as Executive Producer of the film *E'Lollipop* (1976), which starred Academy Award winner, Jose Ferrer, and was produced in the USA and South Africa. The film enjoyed success both locally and internationally. Philo then decided to expand the company's interests on the International front, and a management decision was taken to source additional projects abroad, particularly from Canada, Germany, UK, France and other European countries that could be co-produced and serviced in South Africa. Philo Films enjoys a significant and notable global presence; it has produced and co-produced with production companies throughout the world, especially with the North American and European markets. High profile credits include *The Red Phone* (2004) starring Arnold Vosloo, Michael Wincott, and Michael Ironside; *Platinum* (2004), an action adventure film based on the true story of Hans Merensky, the father of platinum mining; *Diamonds* (2009), a co-production between Canada, the UK and SA featuring Judy Davis, James Purefoy, and Marius Weyers, it was nominated for 9 Gemini Awards including Best Dramatic Series and Best Direction in a dramatic programme/mini-series; "*Winnie*" (2011) As Executive Producer. Featuring Academy Award winner Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*) and Academy Award nominee Terrence Howard (*Crash*). Directed by Academy Award nominee Darrell James Roodt (*Yesterday*). Locally, Philo is best known for producing some of South Africa's most loved films, such as *Boetie Gaan Border Toe*, *Boetie Op Manoeuvres*, *Brutal Glory* and *Lipstiek Diepstiek*.

### **Johan Kruger (Line Producer)**

Johan has been actively involved in film- and television production since he joined the SABC in 1984. His first position was Assistant Production Accountant on the acclaimed series *Shaka Zulu*, filmed in KwaZulu Natal. Between 1984 and 2010 Johan has been involved in various capacities on a total of 52 local and international feature films, and 44 television productions. Positions held through the years included Assistant Production Accountant, Production Accountant, Production Auditor, Line Producer, Associate Producer, Producer, Co-Producer, and Executive Producer. Budgets of projects under his control varied between \$250 000 and \$15 million. He has previously been recruited by two of the world's largest completion bond companies, Film Finances South Africa and The Motion Picture Bonding Company (previously Percenteprieses – Lionel Ephraim) (USA), to sort out so-called "problem" productions. His main function was to ensure that productions

finished on time, on budget, and were of an acceptable technical quality. Johan has worked with established international producers such as Lance Hool (Silver Lion Films, Los Angeles) and E. Perez (Fox, Los Angeles). He is a firm believer in staying up to date on world trends in film and television production methods and technology; hence his frequent travels to both the USA and Europe. In 1996 he became the first South African to be invited to attend the Euro Aim conference for producers in Berlin. During the latter part of 1995 he attended the Producers course at the International Film and Television Workshops in the US.

### **Sean Else (Producer, Director, Writer)**

Singer, actor and producer Sean Else was a member of the South African boy band Eden. He's also made various acting appearances in shows including *7de Laan* and *Egoli*, regularly produces theatre productions and owns his own Afrikaans recording label Mozi Records.

### **Deon Opperman (Writer)**

Deon Opperman's career as a playwright, director and producer of theatre, television and film began in 1984. He is a Fulbright Scholar, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rhodes University; an Honours degree from UCT; a Master of Arts degree from North Western University in Chicago, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wits Business School. In 1996 he served as a founding director of AFDA: The South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance, a private tertiary institution for training in Motion Picture and Live Performance. He served as an Executive Director and head of the live performance department for eight years. He resigned from this position to become the CEO of Tanstaaf Holdings, which holds three subsidiaries: Packed House Productions, eQ2 Corporate Services and Bottom Line Entertainment, a television production house, which produced shows such as the popular daily soap opera, *Backstage* as well as the recent KykNet dramas *Kruispad* and *Getroud met Rugby*. Deon was also the co-writer and director of the very popular Boer war musical *Ons vir Jou*. Deon has written, directed and produced over fifty theatre productions in both Afrikaans and English in every major theatre and at every major festival in South Africa, as well as abroad. His professional career has been crowned with numerous awards, including receiving the Hertzog Prize for Literature twice and the Eugene Marais Award for Literature awarded by the South African Academy of Science and Art. Other awards include the Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year, the SACPAC Playwright of the Year, Fleur du Cap Award for Best New South African stage play, the Kanna Award for Innovation and Contribution to Afrikaans theatre and the Eastern Province Herald Showtime Award for Best Director, as well as eight Vita awards.

### **Chris van Latum (Assistant Director)**

Chris takes his profession and passion very seriously and puts 110% into every job he does. He believes firmly that by remaining calm at all times great results are achieved. He is often referred to as the people's person due to his warm and friendly nature. Apart from vast on set experience, Chris has a wealth of

scheduling experience. Chris has his sights firmly set on becoming South Africa's top AD. He aspires to become an accomplished director and loves making his own short films.

Chris has experience in features, commercials, TV series, documentaries, corporate videos and music videos. He has worked with a multitude of local and international A-list actors. Chris has also regularly assistant directed aerial shoots involving multiple aircraft, off shore boat to boat, Special FX (weapons, explosions, fires, rain etc.), car shoots as well as stunts, all manner of technical equipment and cameras. He also has an impeccable safety record.

### **Brendon Frans Keyser (Director of Photography)**

Brendon is a freelance cameraman interpreting people in specific scenes or niches. His work is published via the web, DVDs and television. Much of it, though capturing both human subject, urban and nature settings, does not centre upon either but rather the interplay between them as he believes elements of paradox and surprise are often strong. Just as the individual shot may confound normal expectation so too his approach as a whole sidesteps normal convention. Camera shots create images. Brendon's approach is more about capturing a moment than creating them. "Material for great shots surrounds us every day. These images are already there, free for the taking without any calculated construction." So for Brendon, the measured application of textbook, technique, and equipment is instinctively calculated and exercised with dedication and enthusiasm.

### **Inge Else De Klerk (Production Designer/Art Director)**

Inge Else developed an interest in drama and the arts from an early age. After winning trophies for dance and drama at primary school, she attended Pro Arte high school. She then completed the last two years of her schooling at Montana high school. In her final year of secondary school, she developed a great interest in filmmaking and completed a course at by Du Preez's film school, which was then affiliated with the SABC. During this time she also appeared in a film on drug abuse. She then went on to study production design and art direction at AFDA for a year, after which she freelanced for a year in the film industry. She went on to study drama at the University of Technology in Pretoria. She has worked as art director on a number of music videos, many of which have won top industry awards. She has worked behind the scenes on the Soap Opera's: *Villa Rosa* and *Wild at Heart*, and was also involved with the internationally acclaimed sci-fi hit *District 9*.



## BIOGRAPHIES – CAST

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### **Lianie May (Riana van Niekerk)**

Lianie May has set the Afrikaans music world alight with a succession of hits penned by Johan Vorster, Sean Else, and the singer herself. In the tradition of Dolly Parton and Shania Twain, her music is characterised by strong melodies and beautiful harmonies. Her latest album is the long-awaited *Boeremeisie*. This follows on from her debut success *Vergeet My Nie* which sold over 120 000 copies and won her a SAMA award.

### **Bok van Blerk**

Bok van Blerk is a South African musician who sings in Afrikaans. He became famous in 2006 for his rendition of *De la Rey* by Sean Else and Johan Vorster. The album *De La Rey* was released that same year. Van Blerk is accompanied by Jaco Mans (and occasionally Manie van Niekerk) on lead guitar, Francois Coetzee on bass guitar, and Nathan Smit on the drums. More recent albums include *Afrikanerhart* (2009) and *My Kreet* (2010)

### **Steve Hofmeyr**

Well known controversial Afrikaans singer, songwriter and actor Steve Hofmeyr studied drama at Pretoria Technikon. In 1997 he broke onto the international music scene when he recorded the duet *You Don't Bring Me Flowers* with Belgian star Dana Winner for his album *True to You*. This track was also recorded in Dutch and charted in Belgium at No. 2 in the Top 100. Winner and Hofmeyr performed together to sold-out shows in both Belgium and South Africa. One of his self-penned songs is currently a hit for her in Europe. He subsequently toured Africa in 2001 with *Beautiful Noise*, the story and music of Neil Diamond, and released a CD with the same title. The tour was a success, with 224 sold-out concerts. In 2007 he toured New Zealand drawing record expat crowds in the country. He has acted in stage plays, films and television. From 1992 to 2001 Hofmeyr had a recurring role in the soap opera *Egoli* as Doug Durand. He has released several hugely popular albums. His concert performances have kept him from starring in television roles, but he made a brief return to the SA soap scene in May 2007 with a role in *7de Laan* and more recently in *Getroud Met Rugby*. Steve is also the author of best-seller books such as *Mense van My Asem* and *Vier Briewe vir Jan Ellis*.

### **Vaughan Gardiner (Wian van Niekerk)**

Vaughan Gardiner is Mozi Records' latest find. The 21-year-old Capetonian has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Stellenbosch, but music has always been his first love. In 1999, he was a member of the Malay choir Villagers which performed in Hong Kong as part of the Year of the Rabbit festivities. In 2001 he appeared with the group Earth Harmony in Japan. He was 14 when he started singing lessons with Koba Wicomb with whom he trains to this day. His first paid appearance was at a college in the Western Cape for which he received the princely sum of R200. In 2004, he crossed paths with Sean Else

when he was at Curro Private School and participated in the Mr Curro competition. Else was the MC for the evening. Also in attendance was *Egoli* star Ivan Zimmerman. One thing led to another and Gardiner sent Else a demo, that paved the way for his first album, a collection of original Afrikaans songs.

### **Jay du Plessis (Jakes Ferreira)**

Jay du Plessis has been part of the popular group Eden for more than ten years, during which time the band has won several SAMA awards. Jay made his professional debut in 1999, in Neil Lessick's *Let's Rock*. He followed this with appearances in *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *DooWah Boys* and the pantomime *Aladdin and the Lamp*, for which he received an FNB Vita nomination. He is an experienced corporate theatre actor, with one of the highlights of his career being a role in the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of Nelson Mandela. In 2001, he competed in *ATKV Crescendo* which he won, along with Joe Niemand. The album that followed won him several awards. His long-awaited album *Solo* has been warmly welcomed by his many fans across the country. Jay also received two Tempo Awards for the best pop album and for the single *Melanie*, in the Most Popular Song category earlier this year.

### **Karlien van Jaarsveld (Rolene)**

Karlien van Jaarsveld is the older sister of popular Afrikaans singer Booby van Jaarsveld. She began her career as a guitar player in Bobby's backing band. Later on, she launched her own rock band which was well known in local rock music circles. In 2008 she decided to go solo, secured a recording contract with Mozi Records and released her debut album *As Die Gordyn Val*. Along this journey she was guided by Johan Vorster en Sean Else, who had heard Karlien sing at the Rittelfees. Karlien was also awarded the Tempo Award in 2011 in the "Most Popular New Comer".

### **Ashley Saunders (Tenk)**

Ashley Saunders was one of the top six finalists in the South African Body Building Championships in 2007 and one of the top 12 finalists in Mr South Africa that same year. He has appeared in numerous television shows including *Binnelanders*, *7de Laan*, *Egoli*, *Coconuts*, *The Lab*, *Madam and Eve*, *Scandal*, *Jozi Streets* and *Rhythm City*. He's also appeared in the films *Getroud Met Rugby – The Movie*, *A Million Colours (E-Lollipop)*, *Stoute Boude*, *Bang Bang Club*, and *Running Riot*. Saunders has also appeared in several stage shows as well as corporate and industrial theatre productions.

### **André Odendaal (Rot)**

André Odendaal obtained a BA Honours in drama from the University of Pretoria in 1983. After two years of military service he joined PACT drama for four years. He has a career spanning 29 years with over 60 stage productions and various television programmes and films to his name. He has worked with the BBC and CBC. His most recent acting roles have been Botha in *Getroud met Rugby* for Kyknet and Giovanni in *Magspel* also starring Sean Else. André has also directed various television productions, including *Pottie Potgieter* most

recently, and two feature films for television release. He has four acting awards and two awards for directing to his name.

### **Neels Clasen (Mossie)**

Neels Clasen is a South African actor best known for co-writing and co-starring in the television sketch comedy series *Kompleks*, from 2006-2007. He attained his BA Drama degree at the University of Pretoria. He has appeared on a number of plays which includes *Cinderella*, *70's Revolution* and *Three Dozen Roses*. He performed in the popular musical *We Will Rock You*. He has also featured in several popular television programmes, including *Egoli*, *7de Laan* and *Zero Tolerance*. Neels has been involved in all aspects of the performing arts and has also directed a few plays. He has written several educational shows, done countless radio voice-overs, and has also written shows covering all genres. He was a part time lecturer at T.U.T in Creative Movement.

### **David Clatworthy (Attie Ferreira)**

David Clatworthy is best known for his starring television sitcom roles as Arno in *On the Couch* (since 2008) and as Clive Wright in *Konsternasie Oppie Stasie*, since 2009. Both shows air on SABC2. David attended Pretoria Boys High School and was regimental instructor for the School of Artillery from 1978 to 1979. He studied for a bilingual Performer's Diploma in Speech and Drama at the University Of Cape Town between 1980 and 1983. His theatre, film and television highlights include *The King and I*, *Life Is a Pitch*, *Macbeth*, *Revamp (musical)*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Homeland*, *Toering*, *Cry The Beloved Country*, *Koning*, *Going Up*, *Isidingo*, *Zero Tolerance*, *Hard Copy*, *Meester*, *Iemand Om Lief Te He*, *The Lab*, *7de Laan* and *Justice For All*. David won the Fleur Du Cap Award for best supporting actor for his role as Jamie in *Long Day's Journey into Night* and for his role as Eddie in *Greek*. He was also nominated for a Fleur Du Cap Award in 1989 and the Dalro award in 1989. He has appeared in several films, including *Jock of the Bushveld*, *Cry the Beloved Country*, *The Making of a Mahatma*, *White Lion*, *Everyman's Taxi*, *District 9* and *Winnie*. David has also been in over 100 radio dramas.

### **Hanna Grobler (Louise Ferreira)**

Hanna Grobler specialised in fine art but went on to study drama at the University of Stellenbosch. She combined both disciplines in her post graduate studies and successfully completed her honours degree. Hanna has appeared in many theatre productions including *Witsneetjie en die Dwerigreus*, *Wie'tditgedoen*, *Le Chat Noir*, *Harmse*, and *Sielsiek*, to mention a few. She has acted in a number of TV and film productions including soap operas, a sitcom, a game show and a drama series. In 2009 she took part MTN Celebrity Survivor Santa Carolina and was rated strongest female. After three successful seasons of *Getroud met Rugby* on television, Hanna also starred in the film *Getroud met Rugby – die onvertelde storie*. In 2010 she did an improvisation show with Casper de Vries at the Aardklop festival, and also made a guest appearance in *Proesstraat*.

### **Ivan Zimmerman (Pieter Naudé)**

Ivan Zimmerman started his career in the entertainment, media and print media industry in 1999. Since then he has been involved with numerous projects which include performing on stage, starring in numerous commercials, television presenting, and acting on stage and on TV. Ivan has also been involved in numerous promotions, shows and campaigns. In 2000 he was a finalist in Mr South Africa. Ivan appeared in the soap opera *7de Laan* for two years, and has also starred in *Egoli*. He played Koert in the film *Egoli – The Movie*. He is a trained and competent multi-camera actor, single camera actor, theatre actor, voice-over artist, presenter and MC. He released his debut album *Asems uit die See* in 2009.

### **Paul Luckhoff (Frik de Klerk)**

Paul studied drama at the Tshwane University of Technology and in 1978 he appeared in his first professional stage play. Since then he has performed in more than 130 stage productions. He portrayed the pivotal character of Saul in Daleen Matthee's *Kringe in 'n Bos*. This play and *Fiela se Kind* resulted in approximately 800 performances. In 2008 he played the part of Paul Kruger in the Afrikaans musical, *Ons vir Jou*. Paul is a well known personality and favourite with Afrikaans television viewers. Most noteworthy is his portrayal of Pastor Manas in the daily soapie *Egoli*. He has appeared in various television series including *Triptiek*, *Die Vierde Kabinet*, *Plek van die Vleisvreters*, *Hopeville* and *Feast of the Uninvited* directed by Kantinka Heyns. In his early 20s he appeared in the film *Fynbos* under the direction of Malinda Nel. This was soon followed by his first title role in the controversial film *Broer Matie* directed by Jans Rautenbach. In 2007 Paul was offered the role of Pop in the art house film *Triomf* directed by Michael Raeburn. He can be seen on the MNET series *Getroud met Rugby III*.

### **Izak Davel (Francois de Klerk)**

Izak Davel is an actor, singer, dancer and model. He matriculated at the Lady Grey Arts Academy in 2001 after which he proceeded to study dance at the Tshwane University of Technology and finished his studies in 2004. He is a prolific theatre actor and has appeared in many productions. He has starred as Scab in the soap opera *Egoli* since 2006. Davel released his debut CD *Ken Jy My* in 2008 and it went gold shortly thereafter.

### **Nat Ramabulana (Sergeant Dlamini)**

Nat Ramabulana (sometimes credited as Nathaniel Ramabulana) is a South African actor best known for his role as Blessing in the SABC2 sitcom *Askies* in 2009. Other television series he has acted in include *Isidingo*, *Home Affairs*, *Nomzamo*, *Jozi-H*, *Justice for All* and *Life is Wild*. In 2010 he played the role of Elphas in the SABC2 drama series *The Mating Game*. He has appeared in a number of films as well including *The Crossing*, *The Trail* (2006), *Blood Diamond* (2006), *Surprise* and *The Bang Bang Club* (2009). Nat received a

Dramatic Arts Honours Degree from Wits University. He is multilingual and speaks Venda, English, Zulu, Tswana and Afrikaans.

### **Vilje Maritz (Wynand)**

As a high school learner, Vilje Maritz appeared in several theatre productions at KKNK, Aardklop and Inni Bos. He has also starred in the television series *Binnelanders*, *Getroud met Rugby* and *Cape of Fear (Pilot)*. Vilje is also an experienced voice artist and an accomplished sportsman.

### **Cobus Visser (Uncle Martiens)**

Cobus Visser hails from Upington in the Northern Cape. He studied drama at the University of Pretoria under Professor Anna Neethling-Pohl. After that, he appeared in several productions for PACOFS and PACT. He then joined the SABC and spent 25 years with the broadcaster as a freelance translator, director and actor. During this period he won four Artes awards. He has studied acting in the US over the years, and attended master classes at the renowned Lee Strassberg School of Acting in Los Angeles. He has also furthered his studies in Germany and England. For the past 30 years he has worked in the subtitling industry, appeared on the stage, and undertaken many film and television projects. He has appeared in the films *Klara Viljee*, *Fiel se Kind* and *Promised Land*, and in the television soap operas *Generations*, *Egoli* and *Villa Rosa*. He has also starred in several television dramas and stage productions and is a familiar face in many television adverts and an easily recognisable radio voice-over artist.

### **Neels Coetzee (Uncle Louwtjie)**

Neels Coetzee studied Dramatic Arts at the University of Pretoria and was part of SUKOV's drama discussion from 1968 until 1974. From 1975 until 1996 he appeared in what was then known as CAPAB. He was named numerous times and received the Fleur De Cap award for his role in DIE TOU.

He has appeared in productions such as *Vrededorp*, *Die lewe is alleen daagliks as 'n mens bietjie dronk is*, *Altyd Jonker*, *Die Storm*, *Ella se Perde*, *Pieter Fourie's Die Koggelaar* and *the follow up piece*, and *Untitled* at the Grahamstown Festival.

At the state theatre he was seen in *Skroot*, *Drie Susters II*, *My Vrou se Man se Vrou*, *Vatmaar* and *My Boetie se Sussie se Ou*. He also appeared in several TV productions such as *Isidingo*, *Egoli*, *Binnelanders*, *Jacobs' Cross*, *Snitch* and *7de Laan*. Neels recently appeared as Siener van Rensburg in Deon Opperman's play *Ons vir Jou* at the Pretoria State Theatre in 2008 and again in 2009.

### **Thembaletu Ntuli**

Themba Ntuli is a South African actor best known for his guest starring role as young car guard Pule on the e.tv soap opera *Rhythm City*, from May to June, 2008. He is also known for his roles in television commercials for Sunlight and SABC2. Thembaletu lives in Ekurhuleni on the East Rand and attended school in

Germiston. He has been acting since primary school and took drama classes from Grade 8 to 10. Thembaletu would like to study audiovisual management and establish his own multimedia company.

### **Fanie Cronjé (Ampie, Photographer)**

Fanie Cronjé completed a National Diploma in Drama at the Technikon Pretoria in 1999. After small parts in the television shows *Vetkoekpaleis*, *7de Laan* and *Egoli*, he made a career change and started working in the magazine industry for titles like *Marie Claire* and *FHM*. For the past eight years Fanie has worked full-time for the woman's magazine *Sarie* and is currently the style and social editor. He caught the public's attention recently with his stint as a presenter on the cult make-over show, *ID* on DStv's MK channel.

### **Samson Khumalo (Minister Khumalo)**

Samson Khumalo is a South African actor best known for his role as Percy Mlambo in the M-Net sitcom *The Coconuts*, in 2008. He also acted in the 7th film of the Heartlines documentary series, entitled *The Other Woman*, in 2006. In 2010 he joined the main cast of the SABC2 sitcom *Rasdien* in the role of Speaknice, the janitor.

### **Natisha van Zyl (Melanie, Stripper)**

Natisha is a 23-year-old dance, drama and musical theatre graduate from the Waterfront Theatre College. She studied under the late Keith Galloway and graduated in 2009. She was awarded the Aviva Pelham trophy for outstanding singing. She has appeared in several local television advertisements, including KFC, MTN, Firestone Tyres and Homemakers Expo. Her appearances in international commercials include Lays, Nivea, Cha Cha Chocolate, McCain's and Vaseline Intensive Care. She starred in Deborah McFadden's *Life's Choices* at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, danced at The Design Indaba in 2007 and 2008, and in Keith Galloway's *Best Foot Forward* and *5,6,7,8*. She has also performed in several locally produced musicals. Natisha is currently part of the Northern Dance Project dance company and teaches part-time.

### **Marcel Schoeman (Club Manager)**

Marcel Schoeman has appeared in three films and 17 TV series, playing the lead in 12 of those. He was last seen in the series *Torings*. In 1998 he acted opposite the French actress Laurence Debut in the co-production *35 Degrees South*. He was nominated for an Artes Award for Best Actor in 1995. His professional experience includes revue, cabaret, comedy, children's theatre and radio dramas. He has also appeared in corporate videos and done voice work for advertising and dubbing, including various voices for animation. Marcel performs under the name Maximilian and can be seen in his touring show which includes songs by Bob Dylan.

### **Annette Engelbrecht (Auntie Sanet)**

Veteran actress Annette Engelbrecht is best known for her role as the mother in the popular sitcom *Orkney Snork nie*. She has appeared in hit stage productions like *Mattewis en Meraai*, *Hello and Goodbye*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Othello* and has worked with top directors including Francois Swart, Lucille Gillwald, Barney Simon en Robert Mohr. During her lengthy career she has won several awards, including Computicket's award for best actress, a Star Tonight accolade, and an FNB Vita award. She has appeared in the television series *Mattewis en Meraai*, *Bosveld Hotel*, *Swart Kat*, *Joachem Verwey*, *Orkney Snork Nie*, *The Fourth Reich* and the soap opera *Egoli*. Annette has also starred in many feature films. She also taught voice studies at the prestigious Birmingham School of Acting in England, and was head of drama at Saint Andrews International High School in Malawi and AFDA in Johannesburg.

### **Dirk Stoltz (Teacher)**

Dirk Stoltz is a South African actor best known for his role as Stefan Ferreira in the Afrikaans drama series *Erfsondes*. Dirk has been working in local television, theatre and cinema since the early 1990s, starring in many local productions. He was most recently seen on TV in *Song vir Katryn*, *Riemvasmaak* and *Erfsondes*, all on SABC2. He has appeared in numerous Afrikaans-language television drama series including *Arsenaal*, *Die Vierde Kabinet*, *Iemand om Lief te Hê*, *Triptiek* and *Plek van die Vleisvreters*. From April 2009 he played the starring role of Mikey, a 40-something gangster-wannabe landlord who lives with his gran, in the SABC2 sitcom *Askies*. Dirk is currently appearing in the daily drama series *Binnelanders* in the role of Liebenberg.

### **Joel Zuma**

Joel Zuma is an actor, director, singer, musician and television presenter best known for hosting the reality television series *Lets Fix It*. After school, he acquired a National Diploma at the Technikon Natal (now called Durban University of Technology). He has been involved in entertainment since 1998. His professional acting career started with Ukhozi FM radio dramas such as *Soul City*, *Ingoma kamama*, *Hhayi bo*, *Sibhekephi* and *Ngavuka Kwabafileyo*. Until 2007, he presented the career guidance slot on the Ukhozi FM drive-home show. More recently, he was the voice behind the social commentary programme *Izindandaba*. His talent in show hosting landed him several lead roles in musical theatre shows and corporate events. His theatre acting includes lead roles in *Othello* and *Amadeus*. In addition, he has worked with different musical theatre stables such as Richard Loring Enterprises and The Barnyard Theatre. In addition, he was musical director for *Animal Farm*, *Mama Africa* and *Zonk'iZizwe*. He was nominated for a Naledi Award in the categories of Best Comedy Performance (*That Will Be the Day*, 2005), Best Newcomer and Best Singer (*The Young Ones*, 2004). He was also nominated for the FNB Vita awards for Best Actor in a Supporting Role (*Hamlet*, 2003 and *Peace in the Valley*, 2000). Joel made his television debut in an episode of the drama series *Justice for All* in 2003 and in the same year appeared in the second season of the SABC1 drama *Gaz'lam*.

## END CREDITS

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Riana van Niekerk – LIANIE MAY  
Dirk Pretorius – BOK VAN BLERK  
Mike Ferreira – STEVE HOFMEYR  
Wian van Niekerk – VAUGHAN GARDINER  
Jakes Ferreira – JAY DU PLESSIS  
Rolene – KARLIEN VAN JAARVELD  
Tenk – ASHLEY SAUNDERS  
Rot – ANDRE ODENDAAL  
Mossie – NEELS CLASEN  
Attie Ferreira – DAVID CLATWORTHY  
Bennie – WYNAND VAN VOLLENSTEE  
Louise Ferreira – HANNA GROBLER  
Pieter Naudé – IVAN ZIMMERMAN  
Frik de Klerk – PAUL LUCKHOFF  
Francois de Klerk – IZAK DAVEL  
Auntie Baby – KRIEK VENTER  
Pieter (Security Guard) – JAPIE DE VILLIERS  
Sergeant Dlamini – NAT RAMABULANA  
Wynand – VILJE MARITZ  
Uncle Martiens – COBUS VISSER  
Uncle Louwtjie – NEELS COETZEE  
Truck Driver – DIRK VAN NIEKERK  
Child – THEMBALETHU NTULI  
Ampie (Photographer) – FANIE CRONJE  
Pastor's Wife – OBIE VERMEULEN  
Pastor – COBUS VERMEULEN  
Minister Khumalo – SAMSON KHUMALO  
Melanie (Stripper) – NATISHA VAN ZYL  
Club Manager – MARCEL SCHOEMAN  
Auntie Sanet – ANNETTE ENGELBRECHT  
Teacher – DIRK STOLTZ  
Policeman – JOEL ZUMA  
Bank Clerk – JOHAN BOTHMA

Producer – Philo Pieterse  
Line Producer – Johan Kruger  
Producer/Director/Writer – Sean Else  
Co-Writer – Deon Opperman  
Production Manager – Jessie White  
Production Accountant – Andre Loggenberg  
Production Coordinator – Soné Combrinck  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director – Chris van Latum  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director – Nicolette Louw  
Production Assistant – Ruan Crane  
Script Supervisor – Saskia Derksen  
Director of Photography – Brendon Keyser  
1<sup>st</sup> Camera Assistant – Gavin Sterley  
Camera Focus Puller – Graham Clark  
Camera Focus Puller – Khyle Smith  
Camera Assistant – Grant van Vuuren  
DIT Operator – Janine Moller



Stills – Liezel Botes  
 Stills – Annelize Kraounakis  
 Behind the Scenes – Leonard Holtshouzen  
 Trainee Set PA – Joubert Grigor  
 Sound Mixer – Derrick Mansvelt  
 Boom swinger – Brendon Allen  
 Key Grip – Robert Brooker  
 Grip Best Boy – Lawrence Mmatli  
 Grip Assistant – Kholwani Mkhwanazi  
 Grip Assistant – Zewelanka Mafanya  
 Jib Operator – Johan Strydom  
 Jib Assistant – Andries de Ridder  
 Gaffer – Lesiba (Righteous) Makona  
 Best Boy – Dumisani Ndlazi  
 Spark /Truck Driver – Lesiba Mashao  
 Generator Operator – Simon Buthelezi  
 Production Designer/Art Director – Inge Else de Klerk  
 Art Department Assistant – Gwen Marais  
 Set Dresser – Francis Scheepers  
 Props Master – Francois Coetzee  
 Standby Props/Buyer – Kyle Peterson  
 Standby Props Assistant – Lisa Bernard  
 Action Vehicle Coordinator – Magrietha Neethling  
 Scenic Artist – Elizabé de Klerk  
 Swing Gang Lead – Solomon Legobate  
 Swing Gang 1 – Xolani Mncwango  
 Wardrobe Designer – Frances Howie  
 Wardrobe Assistant – Nicolene van der Westhuizen  
 Wardrobe Standby – Corlia Louw  
 Wardrobe Washing – Elizabeth Maunatlala  
 Wardrobe Truck Driver – Issa Inussa  
 Make up/ Hair Artist – Odette Earle  
 Make up Standby/Assistant – Julia Mnyamezeli  
 Make up Standby/Assistant – Rujean Botha  
 Make up & Hair Assistant – Carla Halgryn  
 Location / Unit Manager – Hendrik White  
 Location / Unit Assistant – Rodney Govinder  
 Unit Assistant – Fanie Muntz  
 Security Supervisor – Drikus Odendaal  
 Cast Chaperone – Issa Inussa  
 Cast Chaperone –Ezekiel (Pops) Nkawani  
 Crew Driver – Sebastian Matthys  
 Crew Driver – Solomon Thwalo  
 Acting Coach – André Odendaal  
 Stunt Coordinator & SFX – Gerhard van der Heever  
 SFX Assistant – Zakhele Mkhize  
 Stunt Coordinator – Wayne Smith  
 Animal Wrangler – Dirk van Niekerk  
 Medic – Jaques Swart  
 On Set Catering Management – Ron's Caterers  
 Catering Driver – Simon Mhubena

## **Songs featured in PLATTELAND**

### **Pleister vir my hart**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Lianie May/Barry Lubbe  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Lianie May

### **Baas van die Plaas**

#### **(Oorspronklike titel: Ek kan Rock in my Taal)**

Composers: Didi Kriel/Amanda Strydom  
Publisher: SAMRO  
Sung by Steve Hofmeyr

### **Vergeet my Nie**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Rencha Vorster/Sean Else  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Lianie May & Vaughan Gardiner

### **Pa & Seun**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Rencha Vorster/Sean Else  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Steve Hofmeyr & Jay

### **Sweet Dreams**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Dewald Wasserfal/Vaughan Gardiner/Karlien van Jaarsveld/Adolf Vorster  
Publishers: Coleske Artists/Oxynity Music Publishing  
Sung by deur Karlien van

### **68' Chevy**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Sean Else/Bok van Blerk  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Bok van Blerk & Lianie May

### **Is jy Bang?**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Sean Else  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Jay

### **Melanie**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Adolf Vorster  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Jay

### **As die Gordyn Val**

Composer: Johan Vorster  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Karlien van Jaarsveld

### **Deur Jou Vingers Val**

Composer: Steve Hofmeyr  
Publisher: EMI Music Publishing  
Sung by Steve Hofmeyr

**As Ek Voor Jou Breek**

Composers: Johan Vorster/Rencha Vorster/Sean Else  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Vaughan Gardiner

**My Kreet**

Composers: Johan Vorster, Ricul Nel, Adolf Vorster, Bok van Blerk, Sean Else  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Bok van Blerk

**Waar Is Al Die Helde Heen?**

Composer: Johan Vorster  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Lianie May

**Saam Is Ons Beter**

Composer: Johan Vorster  
Publisher: Coleske Artists  
Sung by Lianie May & Bok van Blerk, Vaughan Gardiner & Karlien van Jaarsveld

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**



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Saam boer ons vooruit

**TOMBCO Standerton**



Make-Up supplied by  
**Elizabeth Arden**

**Hannon Haircare**

for all the hair products and styling aids used by all cast

**Thomas Jewell**

for the cut, colour and extensions of the cast's hair.

**Papie Hlalele**

Manager : Animal Health  
DC19 Veterinary Service  
Department of Agriculture

**Dirk and Riana van Niekerk**

For their assistance on location

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