

# ‘Mshika-Shika’

a Dv8 Films production for Mzansi Magic

Dv8 Films



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## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

**Length:** 10 x 48 min  
**Original Language:** English, Zulu, Tsotsi-taal  
**Subtitled Versions:** English  
**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9  
**Delivery Format:** Digibeta  
**Sound:** Stereo  
**Website:** [www.dv8.co.za](http://www.dv8.co.za)

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# SYNOPSIS

## Short Synopsis:

One Sunday night in Mayfair, West-Jozi gang-star **SCARRA** (30's) and his two sidekicks, **JUDAS** (late 20's) and new kid on the block, **MAFIKIZOLO** (early 20's), jack a senior politician, **BUTHELEZI** daughters wedding gift, a brand new 3 series BMW .

When handsome, brooding **DETECTIVE PHAKA** (early 30's) learns of the case, he presses **SCHOEMAN** (50's), the Commander of the Local Police Station, to give him and his no-nonsense forensic partner, **KEA THOLE**, the case. What he doesn't know is that inadvertently what started out as a fairly standard case of car theft evolves into a labyrinth of cataclysmic events that will change the very nature of who he once thought he was.

The series becomes an exploration of family on both sides of the law. How the line is easily blurred, how separating the good from the bad is not as easy as it once was; how in the end, both sides will come crashing in on each other and what was once sacred is now contaminated by the lies, rapes and murders that came before it. But that ultimately how good must triumph over evil.



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## Long Synopsis:

One Sunday night, charismatic West-Jozi gang-star **SCARRA** (30's) and his two sidekicks, wizened **JUDAS** (late 20's) and new kid on the block, **MAFIKIZOLO** (early 20's), jack a brand new 3 series BMW out of a parking lot where a wedding is taking place.

The car was a gift by a senior politician, **BUTHELEZI**, to his daughter on her wedding day. Although car-theft is common in the area, what makes this case different is that the attention of local politicians is drawn and the police are told to use the criminals as scapegoats in the eyes of the media.

When handsome, brooding **DETECTIVE PHAKA** (early 30's) learns of the docket, he presses **SCHOEMAN** (50's), the Commander of the local Police Station, to give him and his no-nonsense forensic partner, **KEA THOLE**, the case.

Phaka is determined to get to the bottom of it in double quick time as his long gestating promotion hinges on it.

Scarra stole the car, because he knows wheel-chair bound **BONSAI**, the neighbourhood Godfather, will pay good money for it. He celebrates his payday by spending time with his working-girl girlfriend, **SHIRLEY DLAMINI**.

Meanwhile, Judas is becoming an increasingly frustrated figure as he feels he is overworked and underpaid. He begins to plot his own criminal path without Scarra knowing about it.

Using intuitive methods Phaka and Kea identify who the main suspects are but without any real firm evidence fail to make it stick. Schoeman, mid-stream, suddenly tells them to drop the case altogether.

A bemused Phaka vows to not let the case go and over the course of the series it becomes an obsession he can't shake.

What he doesn't know is that inadvertently what started out as a fairly standard case of car theft will evolve into a labyrinth of cataclysmic events that will change the very nature of who he once thought he was.

The series becomes an exploration of family on both sides of the law. How the line is easily blurred, how separating the good from the bad is not as easy as it once was; how in the end, both sides will come crashing in on each other and what was once sacred is now contaminated by the lies, rapes and murders that came before it.



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# Logline

- Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.



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## Director's Statement

*Mshika-shika* , a place where extreme paradoxes take place. The line between good and evil is often blurred.

Conceptually, the series seemed to undermine certain expectations an audience may have in the juxta-positioning of law enforcement and crime, like in the film *HEAT*. Much of these binary oppositions in character and world emerge and it was our intention to simulate these kinds of nuances in story, character, tone, and escalation of tension, albeit in a very particular South African context.

The entire series was shot on location in West Johannesburg , Brixton, Mayfair and Fordsburg. Although connected by one main road, each area brings with them their own idiosyncrasies, mood, hue and style. Brixton teems with gritty, rough-edged, depth and extends itself to shadowy film-noir motifs. Largely suburban Mayfair sits with menace next to a busy railway station; it's back-end streets that look like Louisiana Bayous. Fordsburg with its graffiti'd body, crooked alleyways, and double-shift dealers. All three areas allow for an arresting visual style, a restless camera frame, and complex characters that they gave birth to.

## DIRECTOR'S VISION (ATHOS, ZEE & ZUKO)



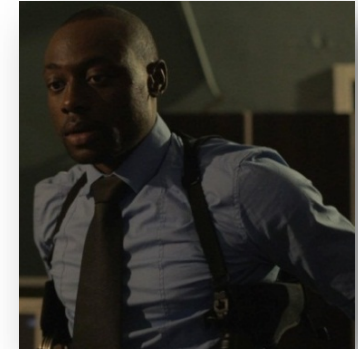
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# Cast

## **PHAKA – Richard Lukunku**

Richard Lukunku is a BA Live Performance graduate from AFDA, working on feature films like *A million colours*, *The people's war*, *Fihla* and on television he played in HBO's *Strike Back 2* and had a cameo role on *Rhythm City*.



**Richard Lukunku**

## **SCARRA – Mxolisi Majozi**

Mxolisi Majozi aka Zulu Boy, is a successful actor and musician who has a couple of accolades under his belt from his participation in music and he has acted in a number of South African award winning drama series' and soaps.



**Mxolisi Majozi**

## **KEA – Terri-Ann Eckstein**

Terri –Ann is notably a growing talent and fast becoming a large industry player. Her work includes feature films and a number of television shows.



**Terri-Ann Eckstein**

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# Cast

## **COMMANDER SCHOEMAN – David Clatworthy**

David Clatworthy has been a professional actor for 26 years with numerous awards under his belt. He has performed in over fifty stage productions . He has been in 15 movies including the acclaimed *Platteland*, and he has performed in over twenty TV productions .



**David Clatworthy**

## **BONSAI – Arthur Molepo**

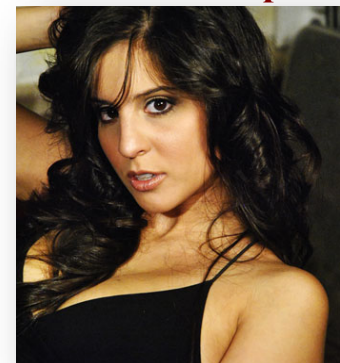
Arthur is a veteran actor and scriptwriter, he has contributed for over 40 years. Arthur has starred in television since the early 80's, he also later worked on another South African feature film *Hijack Stories*. He also had roles on countless television dramas.



**Arthur Molepo**

## **ANGELIQUE - Aimee Goldsmith**

Is a graduate from the University of Witwatersrand. She obtained her honours degree in Dramatic Arts majoring in performance. She was also a member of the acclaimed Actors Centre for a year before its demise in 2008. Still new to the industry her TV work includes *Scandal*, *Jacobs Cross* as well as several adverts.



**Aimee Goldsmith**

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# Cast

## **JUDAS – K. Dom Gumede**

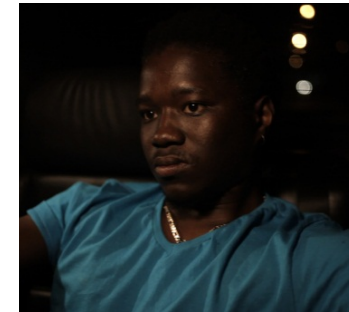
Dom is a recent Wits Drama University Graduate specializing in Performance. As a performer has collected a list of credits to date his student career. He has also appeared on a number of TV shows such as ‘ Rhythm City’ .



**K.Dom Gumede**

## **Mafikizola- Thato Dhladla III**

Having studied Acting, Thato’s. As an individual with very high potential, sharpening his artistic ability to inspire other who encounter his work. Thato, works with the mind set of wanting to propel and change the face and history of the Arts on an international level.



**Thato Dhladla III**

## **SHIRLEY – Busiswe Mtshali**

Busisiwe Mtshali is currently doing her third year in a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic arts Honours degree at the Witwatersrand University. She has worked on a few productions, still new to the industry Busisiwe’s performance as Shirley, no doubt proves her abilities as a well rounded performer.



**Busiswe Mtshali**

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# CREW BIOGRAPHIES

## PRODUCERS

### **PRODUCER- Jeremy Nathan**

Jeremy Nathan has been involved in the South African film and television industry for nearly twenty five years. He has produced numerous features, television dramas, documentaries and short films. He has lectured in many local institutions and written widely about the industry.



**Jeremy Nathan**

### **LINE PRODUCER- Moroba Nkawe**

Moroba Nkawe completed a BComm Degree in Economics at the University of Cape Town in 2002. She then entered the film and television industry working in various aspects of production. In 2005 she studied Producing at AFDA. She has worked on various commercials, TV Series (*Jozi-H*) and feature films, including *Country of My Skull*. She was production manager on DV8's *IzuluLami* and line producer on *Shirley Adams*.



**Moroba Nkawe**

### **PRODUCTION MANAGER- Claribel Nkwili**

Claribel obtained a Certificate in Television Arts at the Natal Technikon, she then started out in the Film and Television industry as a Receptionist at Velocity Africa where she was promoted as Junior Researcher within 3 months of employment there. She has continuously gained success in the industry having worked as Production Manager for a number of years on various television programmes and feature films like *Jerusalema* and *Catch a Fire*.



**Claribel Nkwili**

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# DIRECTORS & WRITERS

## **Zuko Nodada – DIRECTOR**

While studying drama, at Technikon Natal, he directed a feature titled *The Dream* which later enjoyed success at the Durban Film festival. After relocating to Johannesburg in the year 2000 Zuko started working in television as Dialogue Coach and Script Supervisor on productions such as *The Lab*, *Tsha-tsha*, *Hard Copy*, *Bay of Plenty* and he has also directed on *Intersexions* and *Fallen*.



**Zuko Nodada**

## **Athos Kyriakides – WRITER/DIRECTOR**

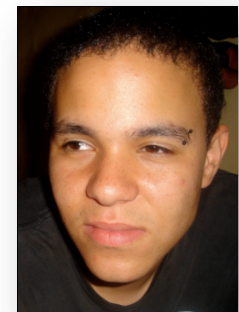
Athos Kyriakides has been working in the film and television industry in Los Angeles, London and South Africa, as a writer and script editor for the past 13 years. He began his career in Los Angeles with U.S. company October Films (a division of Universal Pictures) working in Development and Acquisitions. During his time there he worked on a range of international films. He moved to London and for several years worked as a Story-Editor for the British Film Council (Development Fund), Film Four, BBC Drama and Pathe. Returning to South Africa, he was appointed Head of Development at Dv8 Films and oversaw the development and publicity of several feature films. He has written more than 150 episodes of e-tv's *Scandal*, and also episodes of *Tsha Tsha*.



**Athos Kyriakides**

## **Zee Ntuli – WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Zee had an extremely successful university career, his films have been screened at a number of festivals around the world. Zee has also directed music videos for the bands *Crash Car Burn*, and *Wrestlerish*. Zee has worked as a script consultant on *Soul Buddyz*, *Series 5*, and had written on *Soul City Series 11*.



**Zee Ntuli**

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### **Jacqui Pickering – WRITER**

Jacqui attended the University of Cape Town where she completed a BA in English and a Performers Diploma in Speech and Drama. She now works primarily as a scriptwriter, and has written for *Scandal*, *Fourplay: Sex Tips for Girls*, *Nomzamo* and she is currently working as a writer and break downer for *Rhythm City*.



**Jacqui Pickering**

### **Thuso Sibisi – WRITER**

Thuso's has attained a graduate degree in film. His 3<sup>rd</sup> year experimental film, 'Chiskop' was selected to be aired on Mzansi Magic in 2010. Later in 2010, he served as First Assistant Director on the student film set of *Bomlambo*, which has been awarded Best Fantasy Short at the 2011 New York Film Festival. Thuso co-directed and edited a 5 part documentary series entitled 'Blood, Sweat and Tears' in 2011.



**Thuso Sibisi**

### **Tracey Dearham - WRITER**

Tracey is an active Council Member on the board of the Writers Guild of South Africa since 2009. She also serves as guest lecturer for Critical Film Analysis at the Newtown Film and Television School in Johannesburg. In 2010 her production company, Stiletto Entertainment. She has since been commissioned to write and co-produce a slate of films for Mzansi Magic.



**Tracey Dearham**

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## **Nicolaas Hofmeyr–DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Nic Hofmeyr does a variety of work, photographing feature films, documentaries and commercials. His diverse career includes shooting news, directing music videos and taking documentary photographs. Nic's feature film DOP work includes the South African gangster/action film, *JERUSALEMA*, for which he won Best Cinematography at FESPACO in 2009 and the dark and stylised *HOW TO STEAL TWO MILLION*, a hugely successful crime film released in 2011.



**Nicolaas Hofmeyr**

## **Jessica Young– PRODUCTION DESIGN**

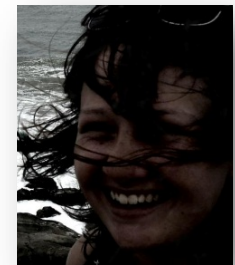
Jessica is a graduate in film studies, she's always had a passion for colour and textures. Her work includes numerous student films which have been screened at many international student films festivals. Jessica has also done work on music videos and has assisted on many TV commercials.



**Jessica Young**

## **Anneke Olivier – COSTUME & MAKE-UP**

This would be considered Anneke's TV production debut, Anneke has earned herself a degree in Costume and Makeup Style, her short films have been screened at many festivals. To date she has worked on short films and independent music videos.



**Anneke Olivier**

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**Jack Estehuizen –EDITOR** Jack Estehuizen was born and raised in the city of Johannesburg, He studied editing and television production at AFDA and holds a BA honors degree. He started working in 2009 and has been editing ever since, having assisted on movies such as, *State of Violence* and *How to Steal R2 Million*.



**Jack Estehuizen**

**Karien Goosen– EDITOR** Studied film editing at AFDA and holds a BA honours degree. Karien, started working in 2011, assisting on *Restyle My Style*, and *Class Act*. She also edited on *Restyle My Style*, *Listen* a music video for Newtown Knife Gang, and *Bodies of Water* a music video for Wrestlerish. Her honours graduation film *Bomlambo* won best Fantasy Short Film at the New York International Film Festival in 2011, and has recently been nominated for a SAFTA for Best Short Film.



**Karien Goosen**

**Lindi Goosen– EDITOR** Lindi Goosen was born city of Johannesburg in 1987, and traveled around for most of her youth staying in a colorful array of places . She studied editing and cinematography at AFDA, and holds a BA honors degree. She started working in 2010 as an editor for MTV Networks Africa, and has been editing ever since.



**Lindi Goosen**

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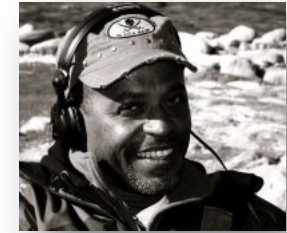
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## **Gita Cerveira–SOUND DESIGN**

Gita Cerveira has over twenty years of international experience, he works as a sound engineer in New York, Paris, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Have worked alongside beasts of Portuguese cinema as João César Monteiro and José Fonseca e Costa. He has been honoured in Odessa for "The Hero", a film with nine nominations Swallow Trophy. Gita has done numerous films with Dv8 quite notably *Shirley Adams* and *How To Steal R2 Million*.



**Gita Cerveira**

## **Fabian Sing – MUSIC COMPOSER**

Fabian Sing is a South African music composer for film, TV and Video Games. He is most known for his work writing original compositions for TV Commercial spots. Fabian has worked with some of the world's most prolific producers, such as the Grammy winning team of Colin Richardson and Matt Hyde (Slipknot), Mark Trombino (Blink 182) and most recently Grammy Award winning producer Darryl Torr (Soweto Gospel Choir). His highly motivated approach to his work has seen him composing work for the likes of KFC, Coca-Cola, Coke Zero, Cocopops , Nandos, Ford, Simba.



**Fabian Sing**

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# Dv8 Films

## Feature Films

*Layla Fourie*

*How To Steal 2 Million*

*The Italian Consul*

*State of Violence*

(Durban, Toronto, Pusan, Carthage, Dubai 2010, Berlin, Milan 11)

*Shirley Adams*

(Locarno, Toronto, Durban, Best 1<sup>st</sup> Film, Best SA Film, Best Actress 09,

Dubai, Best Actress, Editing 09)

*Izulu Lami/My Secret Sky* (Dubai, 08, Tarifa, Zanzibar, Durban 09)

*Zimbabwe* (Rotterdam 08)

*Bunny Chow* (Toronto, AFI LA, Rotterdam Tigers 07)

*The Flyer* (Locarno 06)

*Max and Mona* (Toronto 05, Fespaco 06)

*Forgiveness* (Locarno Main, 05)

## Past Projects by Dv8 partners include

*Boesman and Lena* (New York, 2000)

*Promised Land* (Rotterdam, Tokyo 04)

*The Quarry* (Montreal, 1998)

*Jump the Gun* (Berlin, 1997)

*Shot Down* (Mannheim, 1988)

## Short films include:

*Portrait of a Young Man Drowning* (Venice Best Short Film Silver Lion, 1999)

*Husk* (Cannes Main Competition, 1999)

*So Be It* (Venice Best Short Film Silver Lion, 1997)

*The Foreigner*

*New Voices, New Visions* (6 x 26 min documentaries for Discovery Europe).

## Television

*In a Time of Violence* (aka The Line, 3 x 52 min, Berlin, 1994)

*Africa Dreaming* (6 x 26 min dramas, Rotterdam 1996),

*Short and Curlies* (5 x 11 min),

*Ulibambe Lingashoni* (5 x 52 min documentary series)

80 music videos, music documentaries, live shows for Channel 0 and MTV Base.

by Pia Marais

by Charlie Vundla (Durban, 2011)

by Antonio Falduto (Taormina, 2011)

by Khalo Matabane

by Oliver Hermanus

by Madoda Ncayiyana

by Darrell James Roodt

by John Barker

by Revel Fox

by Teddy Mattera

by Ian Gabriel

by John Berry

by Jason Xenopoulos

by Marion Hansel

by Les Blair

by Andrew Worsdale

by Teboho Mahlatsi

by Jeremy Handler

by Joseph Gai Ramaka

by Zola Maseko

by Brian Tilley

by various directors

by various directors

by various directors

Dv8 Films<sup>TM</sup>

[www.dv8.co.za](http://www.dv8.co.za)

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**Dv8 Films**  
Jeremy Nathan

The logo for Dv8 Films, featuring the text "Dv8 Films" in a white, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the word "Films". The text is centered within a solid black rectangular background.

Dv8 Films<sup>®</sup>

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