

# ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD AT THE SAFTAS

**FARRAH FRANCIS** takes a closer look at the South African Film and TV Awards (Saftas) and discovers that there are a lot of lights, a lot of cameras but very little action

It's five years since the South African Film and Television (Saftas) awards popped onto our screens. And what do they have to show? I'm afraid not much. They are yet to achieve the cult status of a ceremony like the South African Music Awards (Samas).

The Golden Horns which is the Saftas's monicker (named after the actual award handed out at the ceremony), however, seem to be a train stuck in transit as it still hasn't made its mark among the South African public. With the run-up to the coveted Oscar red carpet in full swing and the hype they enjoy, it shows that we have some way to go towards making Saftas glitter.

The Saftas were conceived to recognise outstanding achievement in the film and television industry but instead they have been marred by criticism and debacle since birth.

First, the cast and crew of popular SABC1 soapie Generations boycotted them after not being nominated.

Then there were complaints about the length of the awards which begin at 3pm and ended after 10 in the evening.

Another criticism is the great trek that people have to make to the State Theatre in Pretoria, given the excessive traffic volume between Joburg and the host city.

The awards are usually attended by 2 200 people willing to endure all this in support of the local entertainment industry. The awards which began in 2005 were started by the National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa (NFVF).

According to Saftas's project manager, Azania Muendane, the awards came about as a result of people working in the industry who wanted to be recognised for their craft.

"The entertainment industry is a big driving force both socially and economically so there was a need for it to be recognised."

"There was no significant change in the TV and film industry which warranted the awards but professionals of the industry wanted a platform to be recognised for their hard work and talent," says Muendane.

The panel of judges which consists of various television and film bodies choose the categories which are based on nominations received from various TV channels.

Winners are chosen by the judges and certain awards such as best soapie and lifetime achievement awards are chosen by the general public based upon motivation received from them.

Thus far stalwarts like Mary Tselela and Kevin Harris have been honoured.

Previous winners include City of the Sun crew for best comedy show



TEAMWORK . . . Soul City has been nominated for a Best Ensemble Cast award



IZULULAMI . . . Nominated in the Best Feature Film category

## AND THE NOMINATIONS ARE . . .

### BEST NEWS & ACTUALITY PROGRAMME

- Carte Blanche - Lotz Murder (Combined Artists)
- Carte Blanche - Xenophobia
- Carte Blanche - Zuma

### BEST MAGAZINE PROGRAMME

- 50/50 (Clive Morris Productions)
- Carte Blanche (Combined Artists)
- Flash (Red Pepper Productions)

### BEST VARIETY SHOW

- All Access (Homebrew Films)
- So you think you can dance (Rapid Blue)
- Strictly come dancing (Rapid Blue)

### BEST MUSIC SHOW

- Jam Sandwich (Mahala Media and Meerkat Media)
- Live (Urban Brew)
- Mama what went Down (Fuel Media Productions)

### BEST TALKSHOW

- Dis hoe dit is met Steve (Clive Morris Productions)
- Late night with Kgomo (T.O.M Pictures)
- The late debate (Urban Brew Studios)

### BEST REALITY SHOW

- Our House (Zen HQ Films)
- Treasure Hunt (Welela Studios)
- Vodacom Thumb Wars (Fuel Media Productions)

### BEST GAME SHOW

- Kids are Alright (Endemol SA)
- Noot vir Noot (Stemmburg Television)

### BEST MINI DRAMA SERIES

- Death of a Queen (Mud Hut Productions)
- Izingane Zobaba (Paw Paw Films)
- Noah's Ark (Sidewalk & Born Free Media)

### BEST FULL-LENGTH DRAMA

- A Place Called Home (T.O.M Pictures)
- Sokhulu & Partners (Paw Paw Films)
- The Lab (Curious Pictures)

### BEST DIRECTOR/S

- Akin Omotoso & Rolie Nikiwe for A Place called Home
- Tim Greene for Izingane Zobaba
- Barry Berk & John Trengrove for The Lab

### BEST ACTOR FULL LENGTH DRAMA

- Ronnie for A Place called Home
- Patrick Shai for Noah's Ark
- Fana Mokoena for The Lab

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR FULL LENGTH DRAMA

- Terence Bridgett for Erfsondes
- Fana Mokoena for Hopeville Andile
- Andile Jabulani for UGugu no

### BEST ACTRESS FULL LENGTH DRAMA

- Shoki Sebotsane for Death of a Queen
- Jana Strydom for Erfsondes
- Linda Sokhulu for Sokhulu & Partners

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS FULL LENGTH DRAMA

- Bongzi Ndaba for Izingane Zobaba
- Nolwazi Shange for A Place Called Home
- Andile Harriet Manamela for UGugu no Andile

### BEST ENSEMBLE

- A Place Called Home
- Soul City
- The Lab

### BEST SOAPIE PUBLIC VOTE

#### BEST DIRECTION

- Isidingo (Endemol SA)
- 7de Laan (Danie Odendaal Productions)
- Generations (Morula Pictures)

#### BEST ACTOR

- 7de Laan (Pierre van Platen as Oubaas Van Zyl)
- Generations (Seputla Sebogodi as Kenneth Mashaba)
- Isidingo (Don Mlangeni Nawa as Zeb Matabane)

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Binnelanders (Tobie Cronje as Kallie Koster)
- Isidingo (Jack Devnarian as Rajesh Kumar)
- Rhythm City (Zenzo Ngqobe as Stone Khuze)

#### BEST ACTRESS

- 7de Laan (Vinette Ibrahim as Charmaine Beukes Menjies)
- Generations (Katlego Danke as Dineo Mashaba)
- Isidingo (Keketso Semoko as Agnes Matabane)

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Generations (Lulu Nxosi as Belinda)
- Isidingo (Kim Engelbrecht as Lolly De Klerk)
- Rhythm City (Conny Chieme as Mamokete Khuze)

#### BEST ENSEMBLE GENERATIONS

- Isidingo
- Scandal

#### BEST WRITING TEAM

- 7de Laan
- Generations
- Isidingo

Isidingo for best soapie and Khumbul'ekhaya for best factual programme. Some of the stars to grab a Golden Horn include Sophie Ndaba, Connie Ferguson, Linda Sokhulu, Sonia Sedibe, Mduduzi Mabaso and Jamie Bartlett.

This year's nominations across 18 categories include best actor and best actress, as well as best talk-show, best short film and best feature film.

Muendane says while there are 73 awards which are dished out, the organisers have tried to shorten the event by combining award categories together but admits that its difficult

to exclude categories altogether. "The real pain of awards is that they are long, all over the world it is the same but is difficult to exclude certain people for their hard work for the sake of time. It wouldn't be fair."

While Muendane says the awards will be slightly shorter than last

year's she also adds that the awards will not be anything more significant than the last few years: "Although the country is looking forward to the 2010 soccer World Cup, the awards do not aim to make one year better than the last, because the awards are industry-based we do not want to take away anything from

previous winners by setting a barometer for the Saftas."

The actual award, the Golden Horn, which consists of three heads on the statue and is supposed to symbolize the idea of creative energy forming part of a team.

The award is moulded around the Lydenberg Heads that dates back 2 700 years in the Mpumalanga province. These three figureheads recognise the leaders in their fields and specifically represent excellence in visual creative arts, performance and drama.

■ The Saftas take place at the Pretoria State Theatre on 20 February.

## THE CUTE SERIOUS WINNERS

### BIGGEST ATTENTION-SEEKER

The following people have made a career of their shenanigans. The joint winners are:  
■ Khanyi Mbau (hyphenated with Crous on her Twitter account).  
■ Zola

### WORST DRESSED MEDIA PERSONALITY

The winner is:  
■ Mara Louw - Shoulder pads may be in, but they're out for you.

### PRESENTER/ACTOR WHO NEEDS TO FIND A NEW CAREER

The winners are:  
■ Minki van der Westhuizen - Pasella  
■ That stale girl on Top Billing (what's her name again?).

### MEDIA PERSONALITY WITH CONSTANT 'FOOT-IN-MOUTH DISEASE'

The winner is:  
■ Gareth Cliff

### WORST LOCAL GAME SHOW YOU SHOULDN'T ADMIT TO LIKING

The winner is:  
■ Game Time on e.tv

### WORST DRESSED CAST IN A SERIES/FILM/SOAPIE

The winner is:  
■ 7de Laan

### WORST NAME OF A FICTIONAL BUSINESS/ESTABLISHMENT IN A SOAPIE

The winner is:  
■ Uhm, Dinangwe on Generations seems to be the ONLY formal dinner spot. Expand your horizons people!

### PLEASE 'JUST STICK TO THEATRE' AWARD

■ Sello Maake ka-Ncube in Scandal.  
■ Sindiwe Nodangala in Generations.

### THE 'SLOWLY BUT SURELY FADING OFF THE SCREEN' ACTOR/ACTRESS AWARD

The winner is:  
■ Carmel Fisher is the ultimate "now you see, now you don't".

### 'HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THIS FOR' AWARD

The winner is:  
■ The cast of The Bold and Beautiful. They're not local but jlsiaak! As for Botox!

### THE 'MOST CRINGEWORTHY SCENE ON TV' AWARD

The winner is:  
■ Generations: Every time Senzo looks at Jason's butt, and each time Senzo and daddy bond. Awkward!

### TV SERIES/SOAPIE/DRAMA THAT HAS PAST ITS SELL-BY DATE

Four reasons why local is lekker:  
■ The Bold and the Beautiful, Days of Our Lives, The Young and The Restless and All my Children.

### THE 'YOU SHOULD NOT BE GETTING PAID FOR DOING THIS' AWARD

The nominees and winners are:  
■ All Top Billing/ Travel Presenters  
■ Nonhle Thema (on O-Access)  
■ And presenters on All Access

### CHANNEL WITH THE WACKIEST SHOWS

The winner is:  
■ SABC3 - Man and Momma's Boys. - Mokgadi Seabi



WHITE LION . . . Nominated in the Best Cinematography



HOPEFUL . . . Pabi Moloi and team are also nominees



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE . . . Best Reality Show



KIM ENGBRECHT . . . Best Supporting Actress nominee

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