

New series ‘Shadow’ gives Dladla star status

Actor’s internal battles enthrall viewers

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The first South African Netflix original series, *Shadow*, is rocking local and international audiences.

It is gritty, edgy and unapologetically South African.

A young girl is horribly slain. Johannesburg detective and former task force specialist, Shadrach “Shadow” Khumalo, quits his job to become a “fixer” for people who, like him, have been failed by the criminal justice system.

Shadow is played by award-winning South African actor Pallance Dladla who shot to fame as the runner-up of SABC 1’s season 2 of *Class Act*.

Dladla is best known for his role as Duke on *Mzansi Magic’s Is’thunzi*.

The eight-part series takes viewers on an emotional journey. Shadow has been affected by a personal trauma in his life and as such, he wants to do good to others.

Director Gareth Crocker describes Shadow as a “modern-day Robin Hood with a bit of a dark side”.

“Because of the trauma he has

faced, he seeks vengeance which has made him bitter, making it difficult for him to move on from his past,” said Crocker.

The local production was filmed in Johannesburg with local actors and local content.

The series explores the locations of Hartbeespoort Dam, Dinokeng, Big 5 Game Reserve and the Kevin Richardson Lion Sanctuary.

“While set and grounded in

A modern-day Robin Hood with a bit of a dark side

Gareth Crocker

Africa, *Shadow* has an international feel and deals with issues and challenges facing most people around the world. *Shadow* has been created to appeal to a wide international audience, beyond merely Africa and the diaspora,” said Crocker. It is only fitting for a heartfelt drama-thriller to have a love interest for the protagonist.

eSwatini actress, model and television presenter Amanda du Pont plays Ashley, Shadow’s kryptonite.

Ashley is a fearless, confident, reliable and strong woman



BATTLING DEMONS: Pallance Dladla plays the role of Shadow in the first South African original Netflix drama and thriller series ‘Shadow’, streaming globally. Picture: SUPPLIED

who tackles all challenges thrown her way, head on.

Ashley helps keep Shadow centred when he becomes engulfed in his “duties”.

The series has received great reviews on social media from some local and international viewers.

●@Shad.Spikes on twitter said, “*Shadow* on Netflix is really good. I suggest y’all get hip.”

●@I_am_Nashdee said, “I must honestly say I was a bit sceptical at first, but four minutes into watching #Shadow on Netflix, I was in awe. You guys did the things with that series. It’s world class. Thank you @PallanceD @AmandaDupont and the rest of the cast and crew. Amazing work there.”

●@Amouranaa tweeted, “Wow I didn’t know it was 4 in the morning, my eyes are glued onto this series on Netflix called *Shadow*. It’s dope.”

●@MatNetflixFan echoed the above sentiments by saying: “I just discovered *Shadow* on @netflix I’m about half way through it I’ve been loving it so far. It’s about a vigilante who can’t feel pain, what’s not to like? I can’t wait for season two.”

Shadow was launched on March 8 and is available on Netflix globally.

Massive sunfish beached

A boulder-sized fish of a kind known to sink yachts has washed up on an Australian beach.

The 1.8 metre specimen – believed to be a Mola Mola, or ocean sunfish – came ashore near the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia at the weekend.

The enormous creature is distinctive for both its size and peculiar shape, featuring a flattened body and fins.

The fish can weigh up to 2.5 tons (2,200 kilograms), according to National Geographic.

A photo circulating on social media showed two people on a beach standing over the giant specimen, which had died.

“The amount of news and media from all over the world wanting to report it has been on another level,” Linette Grzelak, who posted the image to Facebook, told reporters.

South Australian Museum fish collection manager Ralph Foster said the fish was actually at the smaller end of the scale for the species.

It earned its name for basking in the sun near the ocean’s surface, but is also known to dive several hundred metres into the depths, he said.

“I’ve actually had a good look at it. We get three species here, and this is actually the rarest one in South Australian waters,” Foster told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

“It’s probably an average-sized one.

“They can get nearly twice as big as that,” he said.

Mola Mola have also been known to damage vessels, said Foster.

“We get a lot of them hit by boats, and some of them are so large they actually sink yachts,” he said.

“We know very little about them. It’s only in the last few years that technology has allowed us to start learning about them.

“They are amazing things, they really are.” – AFP

Activists want golf course given over for housing

DAVE CHAMBERS

About 200 activists occupied a Cape Town golf course on Thursday, calling for it to be used for affordable housing.

Reclaim the City spokesperson Zacharia Mashele said the activists got into Rondebosch Golf Club “through the back gate” after the main gate was closed as they approached.

Mashele said City of Cape Town metro police officers were monitoring the protest, which was peaceful.

The activists were due to hear Nick Budlender, one of the Ndi-funa Ukwazi researchers who produced a report on Tuesday calling on the City of Cape Town to redistribute publicly-owned land such as Rondebosch Golf Club.

The club, with about 500 members, pays R1,000 a year to lease the 45ha between the M5 and the Black River, and Budlender said it was typical of land across Cape Town that was used in an “inefficient, exclusive and unsustainable manner”.

TimesLIVE has asked the City of Cape Town and Rondebosch Golf Club for comment. – TimesLIVE

No joy for zoo protestors as official fails to pitch

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No one from the Buffalo City mayor’s office was on hand to receive a petition calling for the closure of East London Zoo on Thursday.

Hundreds of animal rights activists gathered outside the zoo anticipating the handover of the petition signed by more than 4,000 people, but were disappointed when not one official from mayor Xolo Pakati’s office arrived to accept the document.

Khoisan activists, including ANC MP Christian Martin, concluded their 11-day protest which saw them sleeping and living in a cage at Retail Park in Beacon Bay, on Human Rights Day. They have been supported by world-renowned conservationist and documentary filmmaker John Varty in highlighting conditions at the zoo.

The large group of protesters chanted and danced with colourful placards and banners,

much to the amusement of passing motorists who hooted in support of the cause.

Martin was disappointed that BCM had failed to pay attention to their protest.

“I’m very disappointed in them because we did everything according to procedure as they required, and still it still did not yield the intended results. This was our way of honouring Human Rights Day,” Martin said.

Earlier, the Khoisan activists stepped out of the cage to cheers from supporters, and released two white doves as a symbol of their release.

A motorcade of protesters then drove to the zoo, led by a large group of bikers.

Martin said the experience of living in a cage was “emotionally, mentally, physically exhausting and traumatic”.

“I had a choice getting into this cage and coming out, and if I had to go one more day I would’ve broken down. Animals do not have that choice. We feel that this is extreme abuse. Animals

like the bear have been there for 34 years, without any stimulation. Some have even died in there because of the non-stimulation.”

Martin said the group lived on a vegan diet in order to empathise with the food that animals in enclosures are forced to eat.

“The abuse, ill-treatment and freeing of animals is for all of us. God created animals and gave us humans dominion to look after the animals, not to ill-treat them,” Martin said.

He said the activists wanted the zoo to be transformed into a recreational botanical garden of remembrance.

Varty, who added his voice to the cause of freeing the enclosed animals, said a zoo was a representation of how the human species forced their dominance over all other species.

“An outdated zoo like the East London one is the past and should become obsolete.”

Attempts to reach the mayor’s spokesperson, Luzuko Buku, were unsuccessful.



Lawyer at centre of Lotto award scandal

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Dinosys signed a R10m contract with the Lottery in November 2018 for the “construction of sanitation facilities” at 15 schools. Both the Lotteries Commission and Liesl Moses, the “chairperson” and a director of the company and an employee of Ramulifho, refused to say where the schools were, whether Dinosys had any experience in construction projects, or who would build the facilities.

●Another non-profit, Zibisufusion, signed a grant agreement in November 2018, for the “implementation of sanitation in ten public schools”.

The “physical address” for the company is given as a post office box in Malamulele in Limpopo in the grant agreement signed with the Lotteries Commission. The “registered office” of the

company is that of Ramulifho’s law offices.

The agreement was signed by “chairperson” Louisa Mangwagape, an employee of Ramulifho. She failed to respond to e-mailed questions about the grant and Ramulifho’s relationship to the company.

CIPC records reveal that Mangwagape, Moses and Tshabalala are all active directors of the company and list Ramulifho’s law offices as their postal address. Ramulifho became a director of the company in May 2017 and resigned in March 2018, a few months before the Lottery funding grant was signed.

●A third non-profit, Denzhe Primary Care was dormant when it was hijacked and used to receive about R28.5m between June 2017 and January 2018 to build and run a drug

rehabilitation centre near Pretoria.

The project is the subject of litigation and is facing allegations of shoddy, incomplete construction, and claims that as much as R20m in Lottery funding is unaccounted for. The brother of the Lotteries Commission’s chief operating officer Philemon Letwaba was sole director of a construction company at the time it signed a R15m Lottery-funded contract to build the rehab. He subsequently resigned his directorship.

●I AM MADE 4 GOD’S GLORY (IAM4GG), a Limpopo-based project “to provide infrastructure in order to advance

R20m funding unaccounted for

sport, recreation and physical activity in communities across the country”, signed a R11,37m grant agreement with the Lotteries Commission in April 2018.

In its application, IAM4GG said the project was aimed at sports “transformation” and athletes from “disadvantaged... especially rural communities”. In its funding application, IAM4GG lists Ramulifho as chairperson and Moses as “Treasury”, and gives the lawyer’s offices as the company’s address. According to the funding application, the project would create 60 full-time and 40 part-time jobs and benefit over 16,000 people.

Ramulifho has also confirmed that he used more than R555,000 of Denzhe’s Lottery funding for two Ocean Basket franchises he purchased in Gau-

teng. He made this admission in a sworn affidavit confirming a confused and contradictory affidavit by Denzhe’s founder, Takelane Tshikalange, who had earlier laid a complaint with police that her organisation had been “stolen” and used to apply for Lottery funding.

The affidavit contradicts the sworn affidavit she had earlier made to police. It came after a GroundUp investigation revealed the Ocean Basket payments.

In her statement, Tshikalange confirmed that Ramulifho had used the company’s money to pay for the Ocean Basket franchises, but claimed he had “repaid it”. The Lotteries Commission ignored a request from GroundUp for comment on whether this was an acceptable use of grant funding. © 2019 GroundUp

Roleplayers respond

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you write more constructive stories around our black school pupils dying in the toilet pits.”

Denying that Ramulifho was involved in the two latest non-profit companies to receive Lottery funding, she said: “We cannot speak on behalf of Mr Ramulifho and you will be better served if you refer any questions relating to him directly.”

Lotteries Commission communications head Ndivhuho Mafela also avoided answering specific and detailed questions about the funding and the relationship between Ramulifho and the people involved, saying: “It is bizarre for you to expect the Lotteries Commission to answer questions about people’s private personal relationships due to the fact that they are mere beneficiaries. “The Lotteries Commission

deals with registered organisations, a fact that you deliberately ignore at all cost. The three organisations listed in the query (IAM4GG, Dinosys and Zibisufusion) are beneficiaries of the Lottery, and funding was recently granted to them.

“These projects are under way, and the normal National Lotteries Commission process of monitoring progress reports and monitoring and evaluation are also being implemented as per each organisation’s grant agreement.

“It is important to note that the Lotteries Commission does not fund individuals, but organisations in the form of NGOs, NPCs and other Public Benefit Organisations and that relationship with a beneficiary is governed by a grant agreement which is a civil contract.” ©GroundUp

SA attempt at ice dive record

NICO GOUS

South African free diver Amber Fillary, 46, is trying to break a Guinness World Record of diving under ice in a lake in Finland, after struggling with an eating disorder, alcoholism and bouts of suicidal depression.

“I am under no illusion that this is going to be easy.

“In South Africa I managed to swim underwater for up to 135m without taking a breath, but in near-freezing tempera-

50m

The current world record for under-ice diving, held by Johanna Nordblat

tures your muscles are slower, so swimming is much more challenging as you use more oxygen,” Fillary, whose record for holding her breath under water is six minutes, said on Wednesday.

Johanna Nordblat is the current record holder. She dove 50m under the ice in 2°C temperature water in March 2015 wearing only a swimsuit, mask and cap.

Fillary finds that diving calms her mind. – TimesLIVE

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