

South African Film and Television Awards  
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## Press Release

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### **The Golden Horns Glitter at the 8th Annual SAFTAs**

Over 30 Golden Horn statuettes were awarded to the crème de la crème of South Africa's film and television industry on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2014. The 8th Annual South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTAs) were attended by celebrities and entertainment industry leaders as well as being screened live on SABC 3. The glittering event truly lived up to its democratic theme of *20 Years of Freedom* as the TV audience engaged all evening via Twitter, using #SAFTAs2014, and commented on Facebook throughout the show.

The SAFTAs MC's, comediennes Alan Committie and Tumi Morake, kicked off the evening by reminding people to exercise their right to vote for their favourite TV Soapie via SMS. In the running for this hotly contested Golden Horn were *Isidingo*, *Generations*, *Scandal*, *Villa Rosa*, *Isibaya*, *7 de Laan*, *Rhythm City*, *The Wild* and *Binneland*.

The first award of the evening went to the very funny Tsholo Monedi for Best Actress in a Comedy for her role in *Skwizas: Season 2*. The hugely talented Obed Baloyi took away the Golden Horn for Best Actor in a Comedy.

The SAFTAs certainly lived up to Madiba's legacy of authentic storytelling as the nominees in all the categories demonstrated, and how better to showcase South African diversity than through music and dance? Evening one of the SAFTAs saw an amazing line-up of artists performing, including Professor, Chiano Sky and the Mahotella Queens. Saturday night was no exception as Pretty Yende, Kabelo, Chiano Sky and Zoe took to the stage and dazzled the guests and audience. Later in the evening they were followed

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by MiCasa who also had the audience rocking in their seats to their massive hit *Turn You On*.

The stunning set design and stage layout also reflected the *20 Years of Freedom* theme by incorporating the audience into the music and the awards as much as possible. "For us, as part of the film and television industry, twenty years of freedom literally translates into an open and all-surrounding approach to the staging, an unfolding audio-visual story and the show creation as a whole," Genna Lewis, Creative Director from Clive Morris Productions, said, explaining how the production house conceptualised the SAFTAs set. "This year the SAFTAs celebrated the industry as one community and we were pleased with all the great feedback we received from the audience!"

All the Golden Horn nominees and winners were of the highest industry standard with the SAFTAs also celebrating a new category, Made for TV Movie. The Best Director nominees in this category were Felicia Molusi for *Isithembu*, Rolisizwe Nikiwe for *Inside Story* and Kalumbu Kapisa for *The Wall*. Congratulations to Rolisizwe Nikiwe who won the Golden Horn and to the production team who supported the making of the made for TV movie. This is definitively a category to watch out for in the future.

With all the excitement surrounding the SAFTAs those who actually make the event possible are sometimes overlooked. In her role as CEO Zama made sure that the SAFTAs judges, under the leadership of the Overall Judging Chairpersons, Jerry Mofokeng and Roberta Durrant, were publically acknowledged. She also thanked the outgoing NFVF Council; under the leadership of Ms. Mmabatho Ramagoshi, who have spearheaded the overall vision of the SAFTAs for the past three years. The importance of the SAFTAs partners can't be underestimated and fitting tribute was also paid to the Department of Arts & Culture (DAC) and the other generous sponsors: The Department of Trade and Industry , SABC 3, Mzansi Magic, the Film and Publication Board (FPB), e.TV, StarSat, (DTI), Open View HD and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

The popular awards for Best Actress and Actor in a TV Soap are highly prized statuettes to win... The nominees for Best Actress were Thembi Nyandeni - *Isibaya*, Celeste Ntuli - *Isibaya* and Masasa Mbangeni - *Scandal*. Congratulations to Thembi Nyandeni who was the overall winner in this category. For Best Actor in a TV Soap all the actors nominated were from *Isibaya*: Sdumo Mtshali for his part as Sbu Ndlovu, Bongani Gumede as Mandla and Siyabonga Thwala who plays Mpiyakhe Zungu. Siyabonga Thwala won this coveted Golden Horn, but the sheer popularity of *Isibaya* also makes it the big winner of the evening.

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Other award highlights include the highly contested Best Director of a Feature Film Award, which was won by Jahmil X.T Qubeka. The high profile Best Feature Films went to *Of Good Report*, a Spier Films & New Brighton Pictures production.

In line with the theme of *20 Years of Film and Television* a moving tribute was paid by the younger generation of artists to the older generation, celebrating the wisdom of age and highlighting the legends of the past. In a moving performance talented young musicians, including the violinist Neo and pianist Tebogo collaborated with the much adored musician Victor Msondo and paid homage to the memory of Madiba through song.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Abigail Khubeka, whose career commenced in 1957 at the age of 16 when the late Miriam Makeba invited her to join her Skylarks ensemble. As an acclaimed actress, she has featured in films including *Hijack* and *The Line*, SABC 1's *Generations*, and her stage roles including *Des and Dawn Lindberg's King Afrika* with Henry Cele and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* with Judy Page. In 1986 Abigail was honoured with Woman of our Time Award, which was later followed by the Presidential honour, The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver.

The SAFTAs evening continued to hit the high notes with unforgettable performances by The Mahotella Queens as well as Uhuru, Oskido and Professor who all mesmerised the guests and viewing audience with their uniquely South African music. "The 8th Annual SAFTAs event has been the most vibrant and inspiring awards we've held so far, with the amount of industry participation and support, the awards have grown from strength to strength", commented the NFVF CEO and SAFTAs Chairperson, Zama Mkosi. "One of the highlights this year was definitely having the public engage with what we're doing on the SAFTAs before, during and after the show on Twitter and Facebook. That's true democracy!"

### ***About the SAFTAs:***

The first SAFTAs were held in 2006 under the National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa ([NFVF](#)) banner. The Awards honour talent in the South African film and TV industry by celebrating and promoting home-grown creativity, quality and excellence - as well as encouraging talent, entrepreneurship and development within the industry. A SAFTA winner is presented with a [Golden Horn](#) which symbolises Circularity as an organising principle in African thought and, like a continuous reel of past-present-future, speaks to endless creativity.

SAFTA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/safilmandtvawards>

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SAFTA Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SAFTAS1>

SAFTA Website: <http://nfvf.co.za/saftas/the-golden-horn-story>

**/Ends.**

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