



15th Annual SAFTAs Nominees Announced

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How to Ruin Christmas: The Wedding, The River, The Legacy and Still Breathing top nominations list

Johannesburg, 30 April 2021.

Following Covid-19 disruptions on productions, and with numerous delays as a result, the 15th SAFTAs Nominees were announced yesterday. In an effort to reach maximum audiences, the hybrid announcement kicked off on S3 on the show *Expresso* and on the SAFTAs Social Media pages. The announcement proved to be a testament of the efforts of the South African audio-visual industry that held firm even against the odds of disrupted productions due to Covid-19.

The show leading this year's nominations tally is the Netflix Original Series "*How to Ruin Christmas: The Wedding*" starring Thando Thabethe, Busiswe Lurayi and Yonda Thomas. The series received 13 nominations across various categories including Best Achievement in Directing, Best Achievement in Scriptwriting, Best Achievement in Sound & Best Achievement in Wardrobe to name a few. Netflix received a further nod for their first Original Series "*Queen Sono*" with 5 nominations, "*Blood & Water*" also received 5 nominations, and Oscar winner "*My Octopus Teacher*" receiving a nomination for Best Natural History and Environmental Programme.

M-Net once again sweeps the nominations board with the combined success of "*The River*" and "*The Legacy*" raking in a formidable nominations total count of 24: receiving 12 nominations each. Tight on the heels of these top achieving nominees with 9 nominations, is South Africa's 2020 Official Selection to the Oscars, "*Toorbos*". The story explores the uprooting of a young forest woman and her community during the time of the last forest inhabitants of South Africa's Knysna forest of the 1930's. "*Still Breathing*", the deeply moving drama series which has taken South Africa by storm received 10 nominations.

"Congratulations to all the thespians and producers that received nominations for this year's awards. Our business prides itself as African's best storyteller; MultiChoice continues to prioritize the African film and production industry by continuously

15TH SAFTAs

SOUTH AFRICAN FILM & TELEVISION AWARDS

investing across the continent,” said Yolisa Phahle, MultiChoice Group CEO - General Entertainment & Connected Video.

“As MultiChoice Group we pride ourselves in being the leader in Africa storytelling and are committed to prioritizing the growth of the African film and production industry by continuously investing in it. We have been working under very difficult and unpredictable circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, that did not deter our people from delivering world class work in the different genres we offer. Congratulations to all the SAFTA nominees, whom we are excited to celebrate on Mzansi Magic on the 22nd of May @18:30. Let us remain relentless in taking African stories to the world,” concluded Phahle.

New to the SAFTAs & bringing in the highest number of submissions this year, the Online Content Category announced: *“AFI Fashion Week”, “Duiwelspoort” & “Noko Mashaba – Lockdown Shandi’s”* as the first-ever nominees for the new category.

Commenting on the nominations, Makhosazana Khanyile, National Film & Video Foundation CEO said: ***“Despite delayed timelines this year, we are once again proud as the NFVF that the judging process has once again been without challenges. That the industry is at this point of announcing this year’s nominees, is truly an exciting milestone. We are looking forward to a show that will both delight and redeem the awards from the 2020 award show”.***

Themed *“Still Shining”*, this year’s celebration will be a simulcast on Mzansi Magic and S3 on 22 May 2021 from 18:30 – A first for the SAFTAs. ***“The team is putting together an amazing show and we are excited to have partnered with the S3 & Mzansi Magic, making sure we bring this amazing show to all South Africans who enjoy and continuously support our local talent,”*** said SAFTAs Executive Producer, Anneke de Ridder.

“With the recent relaunch of S3, we are very happy and thrilled to be partnering with the SAFTAs. This partnership with the NFVF is important to us because we have a shared mandate in the growth & development of the film and television industry. With 44 nominations the SABC is assured that, we are very serious about continuing to grow & diversify this industry. This achievement is especially commendable given the difficulty the industry had to work under due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore

15TH SAFTAs

SOUTH AFRICAN FILM & TELEVISION AWARDS

congratulate all the nominees and encourage South Africans to watch the awards live on S3 on the 22nd of May @18:30,“ said Pat Van Heerden, Head of S3 bouquet.

This year’s judging process took place online with a total of 213 judges compared to 205 judges in the previous year. The judges were spread across the countries Provinces including Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo & the North West, proving a more diverse range of industry experts & officials participating in this year’s process. The credibility of the SAFTAs judging process remains a top priority to the SAFTAs and as such Nexia SAB&T, auditors have been present throughout the judging process.

“Last year we received over 300 entries for the SAFTAs and this year we have broken that record again with a confirmation of 402 eligible entries that went through the rigorous judging process. The credibility of our judging process remains top priority and this growth is a result of the efforts taken to create an inclusive industry celebration that the country can be proud of and confidently participate in,” concluded Khanyile.

Again, the power to decide the winners of the Best Presenter & the Most popular Soap/Telenovela categories is in the hands of the public. To vote for their favourite in these two categories, viewers will need to dial *120*32020# and follow the prompts on their screens. Voting lines open on 30 April 2021 and will close on 19 May 2021. Voters will be charged R1.50 per minute.

Follow us on all social media platforms for regular updates.

SAFTAs: Twitter: @saftas1 Facebook & Instagram @saftassa

Mzansi Magic: Twitter: @Mzansimagic FB: Mzansi Magic Instagram: mzansimagic

S3: Twitter: @SABC3 FB: SABC3 Instagram: sabc3

The public can vote for the following:

Best TV PRESENTER:

1. Devi Sankaree Govender, The Devi Show

15TH SAFTAs

SOUTH AFRICAN FILM & TELEVISION AWARDS

2. Dineo Ranaka, Yimlo
3. Entle Bizana, Hectic on 3
4. Katchie Nzama, Come Again
5. Katlego Maboe, Tropika Island of Treasure Curacao
6. Palesa Tembe, Afternoon Express
7. Waldimar Pelser, KN Verslag in gesprek

Most popular SOAP/TELENOVELA:

1. 7de Laan
2. Arendsvlei
3. Binnelanders
4. Durban Gen
5. Getroud Met Rugby
6. Gomora
7. Imbewu
8. Isibaya
9. Isono
10. Legacy
11. Lithapo
12. Rhythm City
13. Scandal!
14. Skeem Saam
15. Suidooster
16. The Queen
17. The River
18. Uzalo

- Ends -

About SAFTAs

The South African Film & Television Awards (SAFTAs) were established by industry representatives and the National Film & Video Foundation (NFVF), as an event that honours,



celebrates, and promotes the creativity, quality & excellence of the South African film & television talent. They also serve to encourage the development of new talent, fostering a generation of filmmakers united in the collective mission of telling authentic South African stories.

About NFVF

The National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) is an agency of the Department Sport, Arts and Culture that was created to ensure the equitable growth of South Africa's film and video industry. The NFVF does this by providing funding for the development, production, marketing and distribution of films and also the training and development of filmmakers. In addition, the NFVF commissions research and produces industry statistics that provide both the public and stakeholders with valuable insights into the South African film industry.

About S3

SABC 3 is transitioning to S3. We want our viewers to open up to this journey and receive it well. We want them to take in all the new programming that is on offer; we want them to accommodate the schedule changes; and to make room for a refreshed prime time. Opening up should be synonymous with being switched on; unlocked and having the courage to see beyond what is presented at face value.

Ultimately, our vision is to foster the spirit of curiosity and spearhead a generation of free thinkers. S3 is opening itself up to new viewers. These viewers, who fall under the millennials umbrella, are more socially conscious and environmentally aware than their predecessors. They are progressive and open-minded.

About M-Net

Since 1986, M-Net has brought audiences the very best in video entertainment. M-Net's channels are a source of compelling and captivating content, offering a mix of authentic South African programmes and the best international movies and series. We continuously strive to grow the film and TV industry by developing talent in front of, and behind the camera, and help launch local and international careers.



About Multichoice

MultiChoice Group is Africa's leading multi-channel digital satellite and pay-television destination, offering its 14 million customers access to a world of entertainment, anywhere, anytime. MultiChoice has been in operation for the past 20 years and through its flagship product brand, DStv, the company delivers the latest and most compelling local and international content to millions of households across Africa. The company's ongoing commitment to innovation and technology advancement resulted in the creation of its iconic high definition PVR decoder, the DStv Explora – which won the Product of the Year for 2015.

Through its corporate social investment, MultiChoice actively participates in social transformation, ongoing investment in local content, job creation and skills development - which in turn strengthens the television and broadcasting industry and contributes to the South African economy.