

BOLD & DISTINGUISHED AT ANY AGE
PRODUCED BY PAPAMA MTWISHA & LEIGH TOSELLI

Meet four stylish men in the world of entertainment as they share their journey and success secrets

BOLD & DISTINGUISHED

at any age

MPHO OSEI-TUTU
ACTOR, WRITER AND DIRECTOR

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND. I was born in Paris, France to a Mosotho mother and a Ghanaian father. I grew up mainly in Lesotho and SA, though my early years were spent globetrotting. We moved to Johannesburg in 1992 and I attended Hurlyvale Primary School and Edenglen High School (both on the East Rand) before enrolling at Wits University to pursue a degree in drama.

YOU'VE WORKED IN TV, THEATRE AND FILMS. HOW DID IT ALL HAPPEN AT SUCH A RELATIVELY YOUNG AGE? Young age? I feel really old sometimes! I'd love to give the stock answer of "hard work and perseverance", but a lot of it simply involves being in the right place at the right time. My love for acting began at the age of eight, when I played King Moshoeshoe I in a school play, but it was only in 2000 (my first year in university) that my professional acting career took off. I got my first acting gig on e.tv and SABC1's *Phat Joe Live* and this later opened doors for my writing and directing careers. I guess the harder you work, the more the universe conspires to help you out.

WHAT OTHER TV SHOWS AND MOVIES HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF? As an actor, in e.tv's *Rhythm City*, SABC3's *Font*, SABC1's *Mzansi 2* and *Home Affairs*, the movie *Catch a Fire* and the forthcoming *A Million Colours*. As a writer, I've worked on *Rhythm City*, SABC3's *The Lab*, *A Place Called Home*, *After Nine*, *Hopeville* and SABC1's *Zone 14*. As a director, I worked on *Zone 14*.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO LEARN FROM YOUR FILMS? Nothing – I just want them to be entertained. Anything extra is a bonus.

WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS? My family. They're fearless, charitable, funny, enterprising and the best cheerleaders ever!

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? I'm acting in *Radio Vuka* (a radio soapie for SAFM), directing *Zone 14*, doing TV and radio voice-overs and writing two feature films.

THE OUTFIT

Mpho wears a woven tinsel tuxedo jacket with satin collar, R2 200 and black taffeta pants, R950, both C-Squared @ Carducci, 021 442 9400, www.carducci.co.za. White shirt with top-stitching detail, R500, Ephymol, 083 746 6323. Black woven mesh lace-ups, R1 395, Kurt Geiger @ Spitz, 011 783 4653, www.spitz.co.za