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TUMI MORAKE AND HER PERFECT FAMILY **'IT'S NOT EASY RAISING** THREE CHILDREN...'

CEE DACE 44

THE PERFECT TEAM

Tumi and her husband share a glimpse of their marriage and family life with Tshepiso Makhele

HEY have been married for six years and have three children together; not to mention Tumi Morake and her husband Mpho Osei-Tutu's demanding careers in the arts and entertainment industries.

When it comes to playing the balancing act, this family has it sorted out.

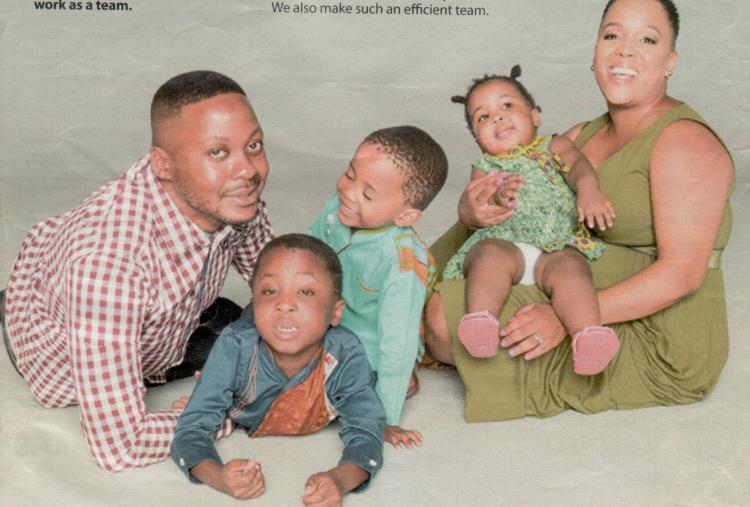
Smitten with each other, they explain that they could not have done this so well if they did not work as a team.

TEAM WORK

Tumi is a presenter, actress and comedian while Mpho is an actor, writer and director. They say that having each other's back and understanding their industry works in their favour.

"We have a balance and a lot of support. We also know how to prioritise," Tumi says. Mpho adds, "The support system we have is amazing. We have our parents and the person we have hired helps us. We also make such an efficient team. Tumi and I know exactly what we want and have a clear idea about keeping the balance between what needs to be done and what is beyond our means".

Mpho says he knew about Tumi long before they met at Wits University in 2000. "We went to the same school in Thaba 'Nchu in the







The dynamic duo have been married for six years and say knowing exactly what they want is an important part of their relationship and family life

Free State, which I found out when we met at Wits," he says.

He adds, "We started dating about two years after that. It was around the time she broke up with her then boyfriend". The drama students, who moved in the same social circles at Wits, fell in love while working on the same production.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION

"What I like most about my husband is his humility and his massive respect for women," Tumi gushes, while Mpho says Tumi's mind is a wonderland.

"I love her mind. She is the wittiest person I know. She is able to joke about even the darkest of things and she is obviously very beautiful. She is quite a catch."

The lovebirds got married in 2009. "I just knew that Mpho was the man I'm meant to be with because everywhere I was with him felt like home," says Tumi.

Mpho says the day he proposed was perfect. "When I woke up that morning everything looked brighter. I woke up and felt that day was the day, it was as if the universe was trying to tell me that it was the right time," he tells *Movel*.

Mpho was on his way to pick Tumi up at the airport when he stopped at a mall to buy an engagement ring. He knelt down and proposed at the airport's parking lot.

BEING MOM AND DAD

Mpho and Tumi have three children; Bonsou, Lesedi and Afia, aged six, three and two respectively.

"I'm very lenient with the children," Tumi confesses," she says.

"I'm the one they know they can push their boundaries with and get away with a lot."

When it comes to his wife's parenting style, Mpho tells *Move!* that, "She is a great mother. She is loving and generous and spoils the kids too much, but she is also very real with them and does not sugarcoat issues and her messages always get across".

Tumi says, "Mpho is a very present

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father who knows how to change a nappy. Having him as the father of our children is a blessing and gives me assurance that the children are well taken care off even when I'm travelling because of work. He has found a balance between being our kids' friend and being their dad.

I love motherhood and being Mpho's wife because I don't have to work so hard to be liked in these areas of my life. I know I'm doing it right".

THE PERFECT MATCH

They enjoy watching movies and soccer together, as well as travelling.

Mpho jokingly adds that they enjoy creating together, be it making babies or art. Even though they love socialising, Tumi says, "I try to keep my family as generic as possible and should the public show interest, I give them just a sufficient glimpse to quieten their interest."

WORKING IN ENTERTAINMENT

They believe that even with the industry better than it was years ago, there is still a lot of room for growth. "Money will always be a problem in television," Tumi says.

Mpho says the industry needs to be more diverse and inclusive.

"There are not enough voices and not a lot of opportunities for people who don't speak Nguni languages. It makes their stories go untold."