

PRESS RELEASE 3 MAY 2010 Schuster is back with Schuks Tshabalala

Leon Schuster's long-awaited new film Schuks Tshabalala's Survival Guide to South Africa, opens in cinemas nationwide on 28 May. With soccer fever having taken hold of the country, it was to be expected that our most prolific filmmaker and SA's best-recognised big screen star would be back to delight moviegoers with a new range of gags and antics. Schuks Tshabalala's Survival Guide to South-Africa will be the biggest release of a Leon Schuster feature film of all time (111 prints)

Schuster is South Africa's foremost comedian and the mastermind behind the phenomenally successful comedy feature, Mr. Bones which broke all local box office records to become the highest grossing South African film of all time when it was released in 2001. Other blockbusters featuring Leon Schuster includes Mama Jack, Mr Bones 2, Panic Mechanic and Oh Schuks I'm Gatvol

In his new film, Schuster plays Schuks Tshabalala, a teacher and tour guide who, along with his trusty sidekick Shorty (Alfred Ntombela), produce a movie as a visual guide and aid for foreigners coming to South Africa for the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

"The story is filled with all sorts of mishaps and belly laughs, in line with what fans have come to expect of Leon Schuster over the last few decades," says director Gray Hofmeyr.

The comedy combines traditional narrative with a set of candid camera gags which the two unleash on a group of unsuspecting victims and is shot largely on location in Cape Town and surrounds. Schuks and Shorty go all out to ensure that the travellers get a true taste of life as lived by the rainbow nation.

The tour group – made up of foreigners and students who are attending class with Schuks – are a motley crew of all kinds of characters from all over the world. They are genuinely eager to learn about SA, so Schuks and Shorty are only too happy to oblige. The visitors are very impressed with the friendly and helpful duo as they sightsee around Cape Town and get to know more about South Africa and its people. What follows is a series of hysterical demonstrations of life in South Africa.

Some of the country's most famous celebrities and politicians get to have their moment on the big screen, all of them unsuspecting victims who are taken in by Schuster in his various guises. In one hilarious scene, filmed in a stadium packed with soccer fans, Schuks tests the supporters' vuvuzelas to ensure they meet with noise level restrictions.

"Because of the weather, making a candid camera film in Cape Town was a great challenge," Hofmeyr says. "It's an interesting medium because you never know what you are going to get. All you can do, as a team, is to work out the various outcomes and possibilities, then plan how best to cover them with the tools available. You have to focus on people, visuals and sound."

Hofmeyr says the operation was probably bigger than any other candid camera movie done in South Africa, with a huge number of cameras, operators and mobile hides positioned where filming was taking place.



However, almost all the pressure is on the person in the firing line. "As one example, Leon's day would start with a four-hour prosthetic makeup session to turn him into a 60-year-old black male. The cameras would be positioned and he would lead a group of 25 people to the Sea Point foreshore. There they would start to erect a squatter camp, much to the absolute consternation of the residents. You never know how people are going to react in this kind of scenario, and all things are possible. That's what makes this kind of movie a whole lot of fun."

Schuks Tshabalala was made possible by Out of Africa Entertainment, The Industrial Development Corporation, The Department of Trade & Industry, Indigenous Film Distribution, SFX Special Effects, Esquire, Kia Motors, KitKat, Keg Pubs and Restaurants, Mango, Pick n Pay, PG Glass, Phoenix Rising Media, The Bay Hotel, Afrisam, Aida, Bondiblu, Emperors Palace, FishAways, Global Brands Group, Home Hyper City, Johnson Crane Hire, Meltz, Nando's, Next Entertainment, Oasis, Sasol, Stellebosch Golf Course, Tabasco and Safact

Billing: OUT OF AFRICA ENTERTAINMENT and INDIGENOUS FILM DISTRIBUTION in association with THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (South Africa) and LEON SCHUSTER presents An OUT OF AFRICA Production Starring LEON SCHUSTER & ALFRED NTOMBELA "SCHUKS TSHABALALA'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA 2010"

Costumes designed by MARIA HOFMEYR Line Producer ANGELA PHILLIPS

Edited by JOHAN 'LADS' LATEGAN Production design by GARY SMITH

Director of Photography CHRIS SCHUTTE Original Songs by LEON SCHUSTER & DON CLARKE

Executive Producers BASIL FORD GEOFFREY QHENA KATINKA SCHUMANN PIET

BADENHORST KWEKU MANDELA Co-Executive Producers DR KWAME AMUAH SHABIR

CARRIM AHMED OMAR CARRIM LAL BHARWANAY Associate Producer ELLIOT BORKUM

Screenplay by LEON SCHUSTER & GRAY HOFMEYR

Produced by LANCE SAMUELS Directed by GRAY HOFMEYR

Visit <http://www.schuks.co.za> for more information regarding the feature film itself, watch the trailer and view the music video for Khutala Bo! Performed by The Crutch Mullets featuring Leon Schuster & Alfred Ntombela

Visit <http://www.outofafrica.info> or <http://www.indigenousfilm.co.za> for information regarding the distribution and production of the feature film

For press interviews, media information and publicity stills contact Taryn Fritz PR, Lisa Kalk on lisa@tarynfritzpr.co.za or Sam Nthuli on sam@tarynfritzpr.co.za or call + 27 11 888 8548

Schuks Tshabalala's Survival Guide to South Africa is releasing nationally on 28 May at Ster-Kinekor Theatres, NuMetro Theatres and various independently owned cinemas. For more information regarding the distribution of the feature film contact Indigenous Film Distribution, Helen Kuun on helen@indigenousfilm.co.za or Jana Erasmus on jana@indigenousfilm.co.za or Bianca Mpahlaza on biancam@indigenousfilm.co.za Or call + 27 11 719 4080

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