

THE ACTOR

REVISED DRAFT

MPUJA NJAMBATWA

SHORT FILM

FADE IN:

ESTABLISHING: ARIAL SHOTS OF THE CITY, TALL BUILDINGS ALL OVER.

DJ ZION (V.O)

Yooow, what's up Joburg. Welcome to the afternoon drive, it's your boi, DJ Zion, you already know what it is. I'm bout to play the best, HIP-HOP, tunes, in the country..

(Beat)

but before we start with today's show, I wanna talk about Mandy. Meen-die.

The pregnant woman whom broke out of jail earlier this week.

(Beat)

And I don't wanna sound like a sexist or anything like that. I believe Woman are equally capable of breaking out of Jail. But not a pregnant woman, How does a pregnant woman break outta jail though. The lines are open #letstalkabotMandy, I wanna hear what you guys think about this. But for now let's go for an ad break.

ESTABLISHING: MABONGENG

1 INT. PUB - AFTERNOON

1

The pub is not as busy as usual. Sitting at the Bar, nursing a glass of whiskey, is LUNGA (30) black. He wears a suit, no tie.

He momentarily gazes at the television, where the news headline read "POLICE STILL IN SEARCH FOR MANDY KHUMALO" a picture of Mandy pops up on the screen.

ON LUKE

he walks towards, Lunga.

LUKE (25) a colored dude, he is wearing a nurse uniform.

LUKE

(sitting down)

What's up, you fuckin, porn star.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNGA

(turns to see Luke sitting next to him)

Adult movie director, Luke. Don't fuck up my credentials.

LUKE

Alright, Mr. Director.

They share a smile, it's a sight for sore eyes.

LUNGA

(studies Luke)

I see you finally got the gig as a, gyne assistant. You pussy.

LUKE

Exactly. Guess who my first patient was. Your mama.

(taking his phone out from his pocket)

Dude, she's so bushy. I'm talking, Asian porn type bush. I took pictures. You wanna see?

LUNGA, gives Luke the finger.

The two guys share a smile once again.

LUNGA

It's been a while man. Look at you, y'even got a connecting beard.

LUKE

What you talking about, my beard has always connected.

LUNGA

Bullshit. But fuck your beard. That nurse costume, it looks really cool on you. So? Did you get the gig?

LUKE

(shaking his head)

Apparently, I'm not the guy they're looking for.

LUNGA

Dude, what the fuck are these people looking for? You one of the best in this whole country.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

~~LUNGA (CONT'D)~~  
You literally have the only person I know,  
who actually goes out of their way, to  
buy costumes for an audition. That's  
passion, bro.

LUKE  
(jokingly)  
Maybe I should just do wardrobe, I  
really do have quite a few costumes at  
my place.

LUNGA  
I'm sure you do.

So, who was judging your audition?

ON THE BARTENDER

he walks to the two guys.

BARTENDER  
(to luke)  
Something to drink?

LUKE  
You have water?

BARTENDER  
(points at the alcohol shelves)  
We sell alcohol. Booze.

LUNGA  
(to the bartender)  
Pour some vodka for him.  
(to Luke)  
It looks just like water, no  
difference at all.

Luke, smiles, his friend ain't changed one bit.

LUNGA (CONT'D)  
The panel of judges. Who were they?

LUKE  
A bunch of no name, soap actors, from  
the National Broadcaster.

LUNGA  
No shit?

ALT: What the fuck do they know about  
acting?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Dead serious, bro.

ALT: they've got jobs, actual acting jobs. And I don't. Guess they know more about acting than me.

The bartender is back with the vodka, pours a glass for, Luke.

LUNGA

That's bullshit, Luke.

(takes a sip of his whiskey)

Dude, you need to swallow your damn pride already, come work with me. I have a new movie coming up, I can give you a role.

LUKE

(sips his vodka)

I'm not doing porn, LUNGA. That shit is not for me, bruh.

LUNGA

But you need the money, Luke. I'm just trying to help you out, man.

LUKE

And I appreciate you trying to help, I really do, but I'll pass bro.

LUNGA

Dude, this shit is easy. You are literally just fucking some beautiful women, on camera, for money. How hard can that be?

(beat)

I know a whole lotta guys who'd kill to have this opportunity.

LUKE

I'm not changing my mind, Lunga. I'll get my break-through, I know it. You just said it yourself, I'm one of the best actors in the country. Soon I'll get my big break.

LUNGA

The offer still stands, you just think about it. I'm just a phone call away or a text 'coz your broke ass don't have airtime.

LUKE

(a smile)

You shut the fuck up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The guys share a smile.

TRANSITION TO:

2 INT. CORRIDOR OF AN APARTMENT - NIGHT

2

Two out five lights are working in this nearly dark passage, we see a man smoking a cigarette.

It's MAZEVEN (30), black. The typical don't fuck with me, I won't fuck with you, type guy.

He's talking with HONEY, mid twenties, hot tattooed chick.

HONEY

So what's your plan? Huh? What the fuck is your plan ,Zeven.

MAZEVEN, remains in though his eyes studies someone behind Honey.

MAZEVEN

God always has a plan,Honey. He always Does.

She turns to see whom Mazeven is looking at.

ON LUKE

he's a bit drunk, walks past MAZEVEN, a nod, they greet.

Luke, is standing outside his apartment door, searching himself for his keys, he can't find them.

ON MAZEVEN

eyes still on ,Luke. He finishes his cigarette, walks towards Luke who is still searching himself for his keys.

As he walks past, MAZEVEN stops, turns.

MAZEVEN (CONT'D)

Ola mjita .

Luke turns.

MAZEVEN(CONT'D)

You a nurse?

Luke, studies his costume for a second,then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Yeah, I am. I'm actually a gyne  
assistant.

MAZEVEN nods, there is definitely something about the look he  
has.

He continues walking to his Unit.

Luke, finds his key,  
opens the door.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(drunk smile)

A fuckin Gyne assistant. Go fuck  
yourself,Lunga.

He enters his apartment.

ON MAZEVEN

he looks back to find Luke entering his flat.

TRANSITION TO:

3 INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - PAST MIDNIGHT

3

Luke, is sleeping,when he's woken up by a knock on the door.

ON THE ARLAM CLOCK NEXT TO LUKES BED

it's 01:43, Luke wakes up, looks at the clock, he's not sure  
who'd wake him up this early in the morning.

The knocking continues at the door.

He gets off the bed.

He exits his bedroom.

Luke, is standing at the front door, ready to open.

LUKE

Who is it?

VOICE (O.S.)

Security!!

LUKE

(a thought)

What do you want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE (O.S.)  
Open the fuckin door!!

Luke, thinks, he decides to open.

The door opens.

A pistol is pointed on Luke's forehead.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
This will go smoothly, if you do as I  
say.

CU:ON LUKE

scared shitless.

VOICE (O.S) (CONT'D)  
(calm)  
I need your help, man.

CUT TO:

4 INT. MAZEVEN'S FLAT - MOMENTS LATER

4

The flat is lit with some red and blue fluorescents, pictures of some naked playboy girls fill the walls. Luke, walks in with, MAZEVEN.

LUKE'S POV:

two girls, early twenties, both wearing night dresses , are looking at him.

A guy in his thirties, holding an Ak47, stares right into Luke's eyes.

BACK TO SCENE:

Mazeven and Luke walk towards a bedroom, we can hear a woman moan/scream from inside the bedroom.

MAZEVEN  
(to Luke)  
Inside here.

Mazeven, opens the door to the bedroom, the moans get louder.

5 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

5

Laying on the bed, A PREGNANT GIRL is sweating, moaning, about to deliver a baby.



Her name is MANDY, she's in her late twenties. A thick, classically beautiful African lady.

ON LUKE

freaking, the fuck out.

He looks at Mandy, the gaze moves to, Mazeven.

MAZEVEN

(to Mandy)

It's all good baby, I brought my friend. He's a nurse, he's going help us deliver the baby.

(to Luke)

Isn't that right, my friend.

CU: ON LUKE

eyes wide open. Freaking out.

LUKE

You need to call an ambulance.

MMAZEVEN

No fuckin ambulance. No hospitals...

You deliver that baby.

(a beat)

And Pray to however the fuck you pray too, that you deliver my child safe.

One of the girls from Luke's POV, walks in the bedroom.

GIRL

(to Luke)

What do you need?

Luke, has no fuckin idea, whatsoever, as to what he needs.

ECU: ON LUKE

he's aware of the fact that he'll be in deep shit, should he mention that he lied to Mazeven about being a nurse.

He thinks about what he needs, then.

LUKE

(mumbling)

Google.

GIRL

(confused)

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE  
I said, I need, Google.

ON MAZEVEN

stares at Luke, "what the fuck are you talking about" ?

LUKE (CONT'D)  
(off mazevens reaction, whispery)  
I told you I was an assistant to a  
gynecologist. I've never delivered no  
baby before. I need to watch some  
tutorials, on how to fuckin deliver a  
baby.

MAZEVEN  
Mjita, you better know what you  
talking about. For your sake.

ON MANDY

she's moaning even louder. Sweating (I don't know how the  
fuck a girl looks like during labor but Mandy looks exactly  
like that.)

MANDY  
(screaming)  
The baby Is coming, do something.  
Ah, huu, ah (more huus and haaz).

INSERT: ON LUKE'S PHONE

he types on Google "how to deliver a fuckin baby".

BACK TO SCENE:

He's panicking, heart beat going at a 1000 kph.

Mazeven, lights up a cigarette, hoping Luke knows what he is  
doing.

The guy we saw earlier, walks in the room, still carrying the  
AK47.

LUKE  
(panicked, reading from Google)  
I need water. Warm water...

MAZEVEN  
(shouting)  
Lebo! Warm water. We need Warm water!!

LEBO (O.S.)  
OK!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Warm water and a towel.

MAZEVEN

(to the girl next to him)

Get the towels.

The girl rushes out the room to fetch the towel.

LUKE

Scissors, I also need scissors.

Luke, has now walked up to Mandy, he's shivering with fear.

MAZEVEN

(out of curiosity)

Don't you cut that Thang,man. I still  
intend on using it. What d'you need  
scissors for?

LUKE

(reading on his phone)

To cut the umbilical cord. Get me  
scissors!!

The two girls enter with some warm water and fresh towels.

Mazeven, walks out to go find some scissors.

Mandy, is now moaning/screaming louder then we've heard thus  
far.

ON LUKE

he kneels at the edge of the bed, enough to be eye level with  
Mandy's legs.

He takes a deep breath, then proceeds to opens her legs.

Mazeven, rushes back into the bedroom.

MAZEVEN

I can't find no scissors. This will  
have to do.

Mazeven, opens an OKAPI, gives it to, Luke.

Luke, takes the Okapi, ain't no time to be picky.

LUKE

(to Mandy)

I need you to push. Push!!

Everyone has faith in Luke, he seems to have this under  
control.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mandy , pushes. She pushes more. Screaming while at it.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 (jumps up, in shock)  
 I see a head!! I see a fuckin head!!

Everyone gives him the, "what the fuck did you expect" look.

He realizes how unprofessional that shit was, he moves back to where he'd seen the head.

AK47 GUY  
 (to luke)  
 Is it boy?

LUKE  
 (to Ak47 guy)  
 I only see the head.  
 (to Mandy)  
 Keep pushing, don't stop. Keep pushing.

Everyone watches eagerly. Eyes fixed on all proceedings.

CUT AWAY:

6 EXT. JOHANNESBURG CBD/STREET - PAST MIDNIGHT

6

The street is dead, not a single person in sight. Silence is the only thing we hear.

SUDDENLY

we hear an infant cry.

7 INT. MAZEVEN'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM

7

The infant is crying, Luke has done it, successfully delivered the child.

CU: ON MAZEVEN

he's in tears of joy, a proud father.

ON LUKE

he's holding the infant, wrapped in a towel.

He gives the infant to the, Mandy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luke's also emotional, teary eyes.

Proud of himself.

AK47 GUY  
(to luke)  
Is it a girl or boy or other?

LUKE  
It's a boy.

AK47 GUY  
(walking out of the bedroom)  
I knew it was going to be a boy or a  
girl. I told you'll.

The two girls walk to the bed where the mother is holding her  
child.

Luke walks to, Mazeven.

LUKE  
It's 2am: you don't wake a man up this  
early in the morning to deliver a  
baby. That shit is not cool.

MAZEVEN  
(teary-eyed, giggles, a smile)  
That you man. Thank you so much.

LUKE  
You welcome. See you around, mate.

Luke, walks out the bedroom.

He's at the front door, about to leave.

Mazeven, walks behind him.

MAZEVEN  
Mjita.

Luke turns.

MAZEVEN (CONT'D)  
I did not get your name.

LUKE  
It's, Luke.

MAZEVEN  
You can call me, Mazeven.

LUKE  
Mazeven?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAZEVEN

Yeah, Mazeven.

LUKE

Cool.

Mazeven takes out a stack of cash from his pocket( a whole lotta cash, it doesn't matter how much it is).

He gives the money to, Luke.

MAZEVEN

The Constitution doesn't allow me to let you work for me and not pay you.

Luke, takes the cash.

LUKE

(a smile)

Didn't think you were a law abiding citizen. Thanks man.

MAZEVEN

No, thank you brother.

They shake hands.

Luke turn, opens the door and leaves.

Mazeven smiles, walks back to the bedroom.

FADE OUT:

THE END.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: