

## Production on South African drama *Reyka* begins with lead cast named

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Kim Engelbrecht and Iain Glen

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*Reyka* follows a flawed but brilliant criminal profiler, Reyka Gama (Kim Engelbrecht). Haunted by her past, she investigates a string of brutal murders committed by a serial killer in the sugar cane fields of KwaZulu-Natal. Having been abducted as a child by a farmer named Speelman (Iain Glen), Reyka is traumatised by the experience but this also helps her enter the minds of Africa's most notorious criminals and turn them inside out. Manipulative and charming, his hold on Reyka, 20 years later, forms part of the backbone of the story, as does Reyka's relationship with her mother Elsa, played by Anna-Mart van der Merwe (*Binnelanders*, *Kanarie* and *Poppie Nongena*).

*Reyka* exposes the secrets and lies, truth and trust, damage, healing and forgiveness. With a dramatic backdrop of sugar cane fields, tropical beaches, stifling heat, dangerous wildlife, a criminal underworld, and shadowy politics - each place is connected by sugar but divided in so many other ways.



Kim Engelbrecht plays Reyka Gama

“MultiChoice continues to lead the continuous productions of high-quality African television content that goes beyond our borders,” says Nkateko Mabaso, CEO of M-Net.

“Our first co-production on this sort of scale was *Trackers* that we co-produced with HBO’s sister channel Cinemax and ZDF and has received great reviews in the US, Australia, France, and the UK. This partnership with Fremantle is a brilliant way to showcase our prowess as DStv is Africa’s most-loved storyteller, and we particularly relish pairing our local talent with international stars.”

Kim Englebrecht, Iain Glen and Anna-Mart van der Merwe are joined by a cast of some of South Africans, including Hamilton Dhlamini, Kenneth Nkosi, Nokuthula Ledwaba, Desmond Dube, Gerald Stein, Ian Roberts, Fiona Ramsey, David Butler, and Jessica Hayes. The series is directed by Zee Ntuli (*Hard to Get*) and Catharine Cooke (*The Girl from St Agnes*).

“ Introducing [#Reyka](#), our first South African crime drama starring [@KimEngelbrecht](#) as Reyka, a brilliant criminal profiler haunted by a traumatic incident with master-manipulator Speelman played by Iain Glen coming to [@MNet](#) July 2021! [#MadeByFremantle](#) <https://t.co/QdCqljd4uX> [pic.twitter.com/APqD80DOdZ](https://pic.twitter.com/APqD80DOdZ)— Fremantle (@FremantleHQ) [December 1, 2020](#) ”

Julie Hodge, editorial director, Global Drama, Fremantle said “As production commences on our first ever South African drama, this is a proud moment for Fremantle and M-Net. The series has been in development for many years, and we hope it will be the first of many successful projects in the region. *Reyka* is a rich and compelling story and we couldn’t

be happier to have Kim and Iain onboard to bring these complex characters to life - we are confident it will be one of our standout international dramas for 2021”.

The series is created and written by award-winning screenwriter Rohan Dickson (*Husk* and *Welcome to Hawaii*). Dickson has worked with South Africa’s major broadcasters and has been showrunner on highly successful dramas, including *Scandal*, *Zone 14*, *Jacob’s Cross*, and *High Rollers*. He was also the executive producer and showrunner of *Isidingo*, a long-running multi-award-winning drama series with a huge fan base across the whole of Africa.

*Reyka* is jointly produced by Serena Cullen for Serena Cullen Productions in the UK (*Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, *Cold Feet*) and Harriet Gavshon for Emmy nominated Quizzical Pictures in South Africa. Executive Producers are Serena Cullen, Harriet Gavshon and Rohan Dickson. Yolisa Phahle, Nkateko Mabaso, Allan Sperling, Jan du Plessis will executive produce for M-Net, and Julie Hodge for Fremantle. *Reyka* will be distributed globally by Fremantle.

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