

E'Lollipop stars' story continues in A Million Colours

A Million Colours: e'Lollipop II, currently being filmed in Johannesburg, is inspired by the true story of what happened to the young stars of the original *e'Lollipop* film, Muntu Ndebele (played by Wandile Molebatsi) and his friend Norman Knox (played by 2009 Idols winner, Jason Hartman, in his debut feature role). Stelio Savante (*Command & Conquer: Red Alert - Uprising*) plays the role of Major Dixon.

The film focuses on Ndebele's fall from grace and his struggle to regain hope. "It is a love story filled with adventure, action, intrigue, star-crossed lovers, redemption and courage," says Canadian director Peter Bishai, who also penned the screenplay, which he describes as a mixture of *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

The film is a South African/Canadian co-production with André Pieterse of Ma-Afrika Films (producer of the original *e'Lollipop*) and Michael Mosca from Equinoxe Films (distributors of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*) serving as the South African and Canadian producers respectively. Charles Fries is executive producer. Philo Films, with Johan Kruger as line producer, provides production services.

A powerful story

André Pieterse says, "It is not a remake, a sequel or a documentary, but the powerful story of the ironic twist of Muntu and Norman's journey after they shot to fame following *e'Lollipop*."

Ndebele, who consulted on the screenplay and is on set daily, says he is proud he has such a platform to tell his story. Philo Pieterse (executive producer on *e'Lollipop*) serves as associate producer, along with Ndebele.

The film will be shot on location in and around Johannesburg and KwaZulu-Natal for the next five weeks before being launched at the Cannes Film Festival. The Industrial Development Corporation and the Dept of Trade and Industry support the film and Fries Entertainment will handle world sales, excluding South Africa and Canada.

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