

Showmax announces co-productions: Megan Fox action movie and Canal+ epic in ancient Africa

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- Showmax is co-producing the Megan Fox action movie *Rogue*, releasing 2020
- Showmax is co-producing epic African mythology series *Blood Psalms* with Canal+ for 2021 release
- This follows the announcement of four other Showmax Originals in July 2020

African streaming service Showmax has announced two new international co-productions: Jahmil XT Qubeka and Layla Swart's epic African mythology series *Blood Psalms*, with Canal+ International, and the Megan Fox action movie *Rogue*.

This continues a move towards co-productions from Showmax's parent company, MultiChoice, which partnered with HBO on last year's *Trackers*, an adaptation of the bestselling Deon Meyer novel, which outperformed *Game of Thrones* in South Africa.

Speaking about the move into co-productions, Yolisa Phahle, CEO of General Entertainment for MultiChoice said: "This is a conscious move on our part to ramp up investment in African content. We're already seeing a virtuous cycle in action with more spend on local production yielding higher and higher quality output, which in turn has led to international co-investment and distribution. This is just the start of bringing the Africa we know and love to the rest of the world."

Rogue, premiering 11 September 2020 on BoxOffice by DStv

In *Rogue*, Teen Choice winner and People's Choice nominee Megan Fox (*Transformers*) stars as Samantha O'Hara, who leads a team of mercenaries on a mission to rescue a group of kidnapped schoolgirls. When their plan goes south, the mercenaries find themselves out of ammo and lost in the bush, having to defend themselves against both the kidnappers and an angry lion.

MJ Basset (*Power*, *Strike Back*, *Ash vs Evil Dead*) directs the action-adventure film, which also stars Bafta Rising Star winner Adam Deacon (*Casualty*), Philip Winchester (*Strike Back*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*) and South African stars Jessica Sutton (*Motherland: Fort Salem*, *The Kissing Booth*), Brandon Aurret (*District 9*, *Elysium*, *Still Breathing*),

Sisanda Henna (*Trackers, Griekwastad*), Kenneth Fok (*Warrior*) and Greg Kriek (*Black Mirror*), one of South Africa's busiest actors, with over 50 international screen credits to his name.

Rogue will premiere on BoxOffice by DStv on 11 September 2020, the first of a number of films opting to skip cinemas given the pandemic and launch first and exclusively on the video on demand platform instead.

The SA-UK film is a co-production between MultiChoice, Capstone and Mannequin, with Lionsgate Home Entertainment handling distribution in North America.

Blood Psalms, launching 2021

A co-production with Canal+ International, *Blood Psalms* is an epic series based on ancient African mythology. Currently shooting in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng, *Blood Psalms* chronicles the rise to power of a fierce teenaged princess, Zazi (Bokang Phelane from *Keeping Score, Emoyeni*), who battles a world-ending prophecy to navigate her people through ancient curses, long-standing tribal vendettas and the wrath of the Gods.



Show creators Layla Swart and Jahmil XT Qubeka from Yellowbone Entertainment were responsible for South Africa's 2020 Oscar entry, the boxing drama *Knuckle City*, the most awarded film at this year's South African Film and Television Awards, where it took home six awards, including Best Director for Jahmil and Best Editor for Layla.

The heavy-weight ensemble cast includes South African Film and Television Awards winners Bongile Mantsai (*Knuckle City*), Hamilton Dlamini (*Five Fingers To Marseilles*), Hlubi Mboya (*Isidingo*), Mothusi Magano (*Tsotsi, Hotel Rwanda*), Siv Ngesi (*Knuckle City, Still Breathing*), Thishiwe Ziqubu (*Hard To Get*), Warren Masemola (*The Republic, Tjovitjo*) and Zolisa Xaluva (*Gomora, Knuckle City*), as well as Safta nominees Enhle Mbali Mlotshwa (*Rockville*), Niza Jay (*The Wound*), Richard Lukunku (*Happiness Is A Four-Letter Word, Black Sails*), Sello Maake Ka Ncube (*The Herd*), Thando Thabethe (*Housekeepers*), Thembekile Komani (*Knuckle City*) and Zikhona Sodlaka (*Shooting Stars*), not to mention Faith Baloyi and Thabo Rametsi, the leads in the 2019 Berlinale Panorama opener *Flatland* and *Kalushi: The Story of Solomon Mahlangu* respectively.

More Showmax Originals on the way

This follows on from the recent announcement of four more Showmax Originals: *Life With Kelly Khumalo*, the hit reality series about one of South Africa's biggest music stars, as well as the long-awaited second season of the South African Film and Television Award (Safta)-winning comedy, *Tali's Wedding Diary*; the nightclub-set murder mystery *Skemerdans*; and the small town horror *Dam*, all expected in early 2021. Showmax Originals like *Tali's Wedding Diary*, *The Girl From St. Agnes* and *Somizi & Mohale: The Union* all set first-day viewing records on the streaming platform.



More Showmax Originals on the way, including Kelly Khumalo reality series and *Tali's Baby Diary*

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