

Locals make it big on silver screen

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"Lights, camera, action! Welcome to Bling Media." With these words, rapper Deepak Panday describes his big screen debut entitled, 'Mob Mansion'. The film is based on a crime-comedy script written by Panday, which reveals a highly influential underworld mob chief known as Marlon Brando who is hiding behind the pretences of being an estate agent who buys and sells mansions. On an average day Brando is paid multiple visits by other characters who survey around his mansion in an attempt to unveil speculations around Brando being a gangster. Shot in high definition with state of the art equipment and directed and produced by students of the Durban University of Technology's City Campus, the film is said to be of superior picture and sound quality. Bling Media 2011 is a production company aimed at facilitating the growing talent in actors, actresses, script writers, musicians and dancers. Backed by leading political and business personalities in Durban, Bling Media's owner Deepak Panday speaks of his experience on set playing the lead as an aspiring new actor.

Panday said, "I have been on movie sets both nationally and internationally due to my work as a script writer and rap musician and I became curious to try out my acting skills. The opportunity arose when student film producers Sumeeth Maharaj and Dinishka Ministry both decided to shoot the movie based on my script called Mob Mansion. I was offered the role and took it with arms open wide. Away from set I just let myself go and really connected with Marlon Brando character." Panday, who has always had an ever growing fascination for the way in which gangs and mobs operate also said, "My character controls Durban's organised underworld crime and finds himself in the centre of a three cornered turf war involving the infamous 'Skollies Gang' from

Cape Town and the 'Supreme White Ducktail Gang' from Johannesburg over a lucrative arms deal Brando secured from the Indian Mafia. In the mist of the gang tension the 'Scorpion Vice Squad' obtain a warrant to search his mansion in the Umhlanga area."

He also said, "The entire objective of the screen debut is to follow Marlon Brando's character in his escapade to evade the law, calm his family friction and confuse his enemies who want him dead by all means possible. Does he achieve his goal in doing the multi billion Rand arms deal with the Indian mafia Ebrahim Dawood or does he get sentenced to life in prison as Durban's top gangster? That question can only be answered after you've watched this ground breaking movie 'Mob Mansion'."

The movie is set to be released early next year and also features new faces in the industry such as, Justin 'Homeboy', Lisa Govender, Larry 'King' Maharaj, Orrin Singh and Pratish Bhikapersad who all made up the cast for Bling Media's debut production release. The soundtrack to the movie is courtesy of 'Chaarlife Entertainment' which features newcomer rapper, Hussain 'Huzzi' Omarsaib and singer Michelle Pillay.

Aside from their first project, the Bling team is said to do a music video on Dpac's best selling track 'Gangster Life' and a documentary entitled the 'Kings of Durban'. The documentary is based on the soon to be published novel by Deepak Panday also entitled the 'Kings of Durban'. This documentary is best described as



Deepak Panday and his film crew on the set of Mob Mansion

a journey back in time for all South African Indians.

"We have a number of projects ahead of us. A special thanks to a few who stood behind me and the Bling crew, A Rajbansi for his loyal support and to Omie Singh for his advice and government alliance together with bestselling author Aziz Hassim and to BP Singh from the education board and chairman of my book club Penwise. Also to the underground members from town, Rolo and Bones from the TDK the SouthSide crew for allowing us exclusive footage of the notorious High Shaparal, to the Phoenix SAP for their assistance, to Mr Mungaroo from KZT Transport for constant motivation and to Prem Balram from RUSA thank you all," said a humbled Panday.

The Bling media group will also be visiting schools promoting their movie and running competitions in the search for new talent. If you think your school has the talent to step up then

you can contact Deepak Panday on facebook or email blingcreation@gmail.com.