



CHEAP AND CHEERLESS

Film critics have savaged a new movie of the late Princess Diana’s relationship with a Pakistani doctor as an intrusive and embarrassingly cheap soap opera. Actress Naomi Watts plays the jilted princess trapped in a gilded cage. The movie, Diana, held its world premiere in London on Thursday. Reuters



NEW YORK BITES TLALE

Top SA designer caught in another payment debacle ahead of Big Apple show

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David Tlale was caught up in a public relations nightmare in New York this week when a top US PR firm ditched him because he hadn’t paid up.

Tlale, one of the country’s top fashion designers, showed a collection in New York to rave reviews from the city’s fashionistas.

But PR firm People’s Revolution, headed by US reality TV star Kelly Cutrone, issued a statement on the eve of Tlale’s show at the Box in Lincoln Center on Thursday saying they were pulling out and announcing their displeasure at not being paid.

“You don’t go to Air France and ask to fly for free to Paris saying you’ll pay them later,” shot Cutrone, owner of People’s Revolution.

The agreement between Cutrone and Tlale stipulated that half her fee be paid when they signed the contract and the remainder 48 hours before the show. But by Thursday she had not received her \$15 000 (R150 300).

“The only remaining service industry that gets paid after the service has been delivered is the restaurant business. Everyone else gets paid ahead,” Cutrone said. “It’s nothing personal. It is just business and this is how it is done.”

Speaking from New York, Tlale was unfazed and his show went on as usual.

“I’m actually fine and feel a great sense of relief now that the show is done. The drama just before it almost gave me a rash, but I knew that between me and my capable team, we would salvage the situation,” he said.

“People’s Revolution were only one aspect of a bigger team that was working on pulling off this show. And we did it. It’s unfortunate it came to this, but these things happen for a reason. God always has better plans for me.”

But the row has now moved closer to



David Tlale poses with Fern Mallis (above), co-founder of New York Fashion Week. Tlale and his posse of models (main picture) after showing at the Box at the Lincoln Center in New York

home, with Tlale’s design colleagues and debtors clicking their tongues.

World-renowned milliner Albertus Swanepoel, who lives in New York and collaborated with designers like Alexander Wang, Tommy Hilfiger and Carolina Herrera at New York Fashion Week on shared runways, said: “South Africa already has a fragile fashion image internationally and with an incident like this, it just pulls the country’s name through the mud.”

Cutrone said: “We had an agreement that was not honoured, even though I had secured everything from tickets to RSVPs to free shoes to personally helping with the styling.”

Speaking for Tlale in Joburg, his

with the media and buyers. They would bring value to the brand. On the other side, it (the publicity) has brought attention to David Tlale,” said Kalipa.

The story made it to international TV networks such as E! Entertainment, Fox, Fashion One and WWD (Women’s Wear Daily).

He said it was unfair to paint Tlale as a bad payer.

“That is based on old stories and the financial difficulties David had, but since then the company has turned around and the finances are well-managed.

“We look forward to Africa Fashion Week in Joburg next month, where David has partnered with a big brand.”

Tlale was announced last week as an ambassador for Harley-Davidson and will be raising funds for the Southern Africa Trust and the Blue Train.

But one of Tlale’s local debtors, Eben Keun, who has still not been paid the R40 000 he is owed for work on Tlale’s 2010 Midnight Show, says he should have done the same thing as Cutrone.

“What I find particularly disturbing is Tlale’s show was sponsored by Brand SA. So our South African tax money is spent on parading bad business ethics on an international platform,” he fumed.

Lihle Z Mtshali, Brand SA’s US programme manager, said via email that Tlale’s rise from a humble background to one of the biggest names in African fashion was “the kind of success that embodies Brand SA’s mandate to build the country’s reputation in order to improve its global competitiveness abroad.”

“David represents the success of South Africa’s democracy and the successful showcase of his expertly Made-in-South Africa garments on an international stage is a great advertisement for the country’s fashion industry,” she said. “It was natural for us to assist this talented designer to make inroads in a difficult and often cut-throat market. Our PR and digital support started before David landed in the USA. It was not a last-minute scramble as has been suggested.”

No sour grapes at the annual exclusive Nederburg Auction

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Buyers from as far afield as Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda flocked to the 39th Nederburg Auction of rare and exclusive South African wines on Friday and Saturday.

About 130 local wines went under the hammer as sunshine washed over the Nederburg Estate outside Paarl in the Cape Winelands.

South African wines appear to be a hit with buyers from the rest of Africa. Record sales included R22 000 for three bottles of Zonnebloem 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon, by a buyer from Lagos in Nigeria.

The man also forked out R22 000 for three bottles of 1971 Oude Libertas



This year’s Nederburg Auction in the Cape Winelands was another success, with bidders coming from all corners of the mother continent. The auction ended yesterday || PHOTO: SHARIEF JAFFER

Pinotage. Sebulikoko Jean from Kigali in Rwanda jetted to Cape Town especially for the auction.

Speaking from behind his Ray-Ban sunglasses on Saturday, Jean said he was too scared to disclose the amount he had spent on wine as his wife might disown him.

“We are breeding a culture of wine-drinking in Rwanda. It is interesting as Rwanda was a Belgian colony and wine is associated with the French,” he said.

Carina Gous, business director at wines and spirits producer Distell, said: “The auction aims to provide a platform for South African wines to be exposed to the world.”

The fashion highlight of the day was British Consul General in Cape Town Chris Trott’s shirt, which was embellished with rows of tiny cars. He said it was from Paris, France.

Teko Modise in a papgeld pickle again

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Teko Modise, one of the Premier Soccer League’s highest-paid football players, was dragged to the maintenance court this week.

The Mamelodi Sundowns attacking midfielder appeared before the Namakgale Maintenance Court near Phalaborwa in Limpopo on Tuesday. The mother of one of his three children applied for an increase in the amount of money he pays her each month.

Modise fathered the now school-going child when he was still playing for a first division club in Limpopo. His relationship with the woman ended when he moved to Johannesburg in 2007 to join SuperSport United.

A local resident in court, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the child’s mother filed the case after Modise failed to pay school fees and buy groceries.

The resident said Modise had been paying more than R1 000 a month towards the little girl’s maintenance and refused to increase the amount when asked to do so.

It was revealed by Kick Off magazine that Modise was earning a monthly salary of about R150 000 at The Brazilians.

Kabelo Mosito, spokesperson for Sundowns, said on Friday the club did not discuss player salaries as it was a “private matter”.

Modise has also earned a bit from his endorsement deals with brands such as Shield deodorant, electronics company Samsung and fast food chain McDonald’s.

The midfielder has a taste for fine wheels, having been seen driving around in a BMW X6, M3

and 1 Series coupé, an Audi RS4, a Range Rover, Aston Martin and a Bentley. He lives in a R5 million property in the affluent suburb of Ruimsig, west of Joburg.

The local resident in court said the child’s mother “decided to take the legal route” after her request for more money was refused.

Modise, dressed in a white shirt, black-and-blue blazer and black pants, arrived at court in a tomato-red BMW 1 Series coupé accompanied by a friend.

The court ordered him to increase his maintenance payment to R5 000 a month.

After proceedings, Modise spoke to the child’s mother before



Teko Modise appeared before the Namakgale Maintenance Court in Limpopo on Tuesday

getting into his car and driving back to Joburg.

The woman, who cannot be named to protect the child’s identity, confirmed that she filed a case against Modise, but declined to discuss the details.

Another source close to Modise said he had been paying maintenance, but the child’s mother demanded an increase after learning that he was paying more for the children he has with his ex-wife, Felecia.

“He suspects the two have been ganging up against him,” he said.

When called for comment, Modise denied ever appearing in the maintenance court on Tuesday. His agent Jazzman Mahlagane, however, said Modise and the child’s mother agreed that he would increase his maintenance payments to R5 000.

This is not the first time the football star has found himself in a papgeld pickle.

Kick Off also reported that Modise previously faced jail time after failing to honour a court order to pay R31 000 in maintenance for his two children with Felecia.



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