

Gay killings task team makes arrest

Suspect has apparently already confessed to one murder

SHAIN GERMANER

JUST days after the formation of a task team to investigate the murders of eight gay men across Gauteng, a man has been arrested over one of the killings.

The 29-year-old was arrested in Orlando on Friday morning for the murder of Siphwe Nhlapo, who was found bound and strangled in his Kliepfontein apartment in September last year. Nhlapo, 36, was one of eight men killed in Gauteng in similar circumstances over the past two years.



VICTIM: Siphwe Selby Nhlapo

According to provincial police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Lungelo Dlamini, another man suspected of killing Nhlapo is yet to be arrested.

The 29-year-old was due to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court today in connection with the murder.

According to a source close to the investigation, the man is said to have confessed to Nhlapo's killing, as well as other crimes. But it is unclear if the man is in any way related to the other seven deaths over the past two years.

When The Star originally reported on the first four deaths in October last year, the police said there was no reason to believe there were links between the crimes.

However, four further deaths were uncovered in the

intervening months. They each involved gay men murdered in similar ways – all were found bound and murdered in their homes.

The latest victim, theatre manager Rulov Senekal, was found bound and suffocated in his home on February 26 after a meeting with two men in his apartment the night before.

Police have CCTV footage of the two men leaving the building. They appear to have taken with them a laptop and a plastic bag with some other goods. Manolis Veloudos was the first to be killed, in April 2010. His death was followed in 2011 by the deaths of Jim Cathels, Oscar O'Hara, 33, an unnamed landlord. In September, Nhlapo and Barney van Heerden, 39, were found dead.

HIV activist Jason Wasseenaar was murdered in his home in December and Senekal was found dead last month.

Another gay man has also gone missing. Thebe Mogamisi had met a potential love interest online late last year, and travelled from Bloemfontein to Joburg to meet a man known only as Siphon on New Year's Eve.

Mogamisi's family last heard from him on December 31, when he said he would finally be meeting his new friend in person. That was the last his family and friends heard from him.



SHINING STARS: The sixth annual SA Film and Television Awards ceremony was held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand at the weekend. Some of the cast of *Isidingo* won the public vote for best TV soap and best ensemble in a TV soap. PICTURES: HUSH NAIDOO / JADE PHOTOGRAPHY

'Intersexions' steals the limelight with 11 awards

STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS glitz and glamour at Gallagher Estate on Saturday, when the South African Film and Television Awards (Saftas) were handed to the country's top actors, actresses and behind-the-scenes crews.

As television stars were honoured for their acting skills, it was the TV series *Intersexions* that stole the show, scooping 11 Golden Horns.

The series explores the stereotypes surrounding HIV/Aids and contracting the HI virus.

Among the stars who shone brightly was *The Wild's* Tumisho Masha, who tweeted after his win: "Thank u thank u! It feels so good to win best actor in a soap!"

Rolie Nikiwe, who won an award for his direction of *Intersexions*, said: "It felt great. It

(the awards) was important on two levels.

"It's important to say to everyone involved – well done. It's the best performance in a long time in South Africa that came out of *Intersexions*. It's not just an ordinary drama series but one that deals with the HIV pandemic in South Africa. It was important to have people dialogue it. It's amazing to have the industry recognise us."

The series deals with the concept of six degrees of separation and how we are all inter-linked, making it easy for most people to contract the virus.

"As a creative director I was... not sure we had enough actors to fill all 26 episodes, but we made individually amazing episodes. We've got so much talent in terms of acting in South Africa that we didn't have any problems," Nikiwe said.

The team are already working on *Intersexions Two*, which is expected to hit the screens some time next year.

Below is a list of the big winners of the day:

BEST TV DRAMA SERIES: *Intersexions* – Winning 11 Golden Horns after the much talked-about series, which had an HIV/Aids storyline, received 23 nominations.

BEST DIRECTOR OF A DRAMA SERIES: Rolie Nikiwe – *Intersexions*

BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES: Siyabonga Radebe

BEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES: Lungelo Dladla

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR AND ACTRESS:

Ronnie Nyakale and Harriet Manamela

BEST SOAPIE: *Isidingo*

BEST ACTOR IN A SOAPIE: Tumisho Masha – for his character Modise Tladi on the M-Net soapie *The Wild*

BEST ACTRESS IN A SOAPIE: Karin van der Laag – for her character Maggie in *Isidingo*

BEST DIRECTOR OF A SOAPIE: Alex Yazbek – *The Wild*

BEST COMEDY: *Gauteng Maboneng* (SABC1) with nine nominations

BEST ACTOR IN A TV COMEDY: Boiki Pholo – *Ratau in Ga Re Dumele*

BEST ACTRESS IN A TV COMEDY: Meme Ditshego – *Josephine in Ga Re Dumele*

Re Dumele

FEATURE FILM: *Black Butterflies* with nine nominations – received R50 000

BEST ACTOR IN FEATURE FILM: Deon Lotz for his role in the feature film *Skoonheid*

BEST DIRECTOR OF A FEATURE FILM: Oliver Hermanus for *Skoonheid*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

● Athol Fugard – for his contribution in the field of writing and development

● Humble Mhlongo for sound and design

● Roberta Durrant for her role in the production and development of local TV comedy

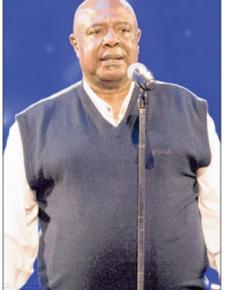
BEST DOCUMENTARY: *The Dawn of a New Day* received



Best actress in a TV soap – Karin van der Laag in *Isidingo*.



Best actor in a feature film – Deon Lotz for *Skoonheid*.



Lifetime achievement award – Humble Mhlongo.

two Golden Horns for a documentary which tells the complex story of access to healthcare in Africa.

BEST NEWS AND ACTUALITY PROGRAMME: *Speak Out* (SABC2)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Intersexions* – Rolie Nikiwe

One in three Soweto teen girls has weight problem

THANDI SKADE

ONE IN every three teenage girls in Soweto is either overweight or obese, while another study found that one in every five rural teenage girls is overweight, according to a study conducted by the Medical Research Council and Wits Development Pathways for Health Research Unit.

Less than 20 percent of 13-year-old teenagers took a packed lunch to school, while about 85 percent of participants bought food from their school tuck-shop.

Scientific researcher and first author of the study Alison Feeley says teens who bring a packed lunch to school generally eat healthier items, including cheese, brown or whole-wheat bread, fruit juice and fruit.

A stark contrast to the sweets, crisps, cold drink, fried chips and white bread which accounted for 62 percent of

tuckshop purchases.

The study followed 1 450 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 and found that children ate more snack items as they grew older and fewer teens ate breakfast.

A separate cross-sectional study found that 17-year-olds ate fast food items at least seven times a week, with the "kota" proving the most popular item.

At just R9, the kota – a quarter loaf of white bread with "slap" chips, cheese, processed meats and sauces – is affordable for teenagers on a tight budget, but a composition analysis showed that an average kota contains around 5 369kJ, and 52g of fat, of which 13g is saturated fatty acids.

This is more than 50 percent of the recommended daily intake of 10 000kJ. The kota contained 2 280mg of salt, a quarter of the 6g maximum salt intake requirement.

Research conducted locally and abroad shows that chil-

dren have already established good or bad eating habits before they even start primary school.

"Adolescents do not change their eating habits as they grow up. If they started off with bad eating habits, that sets the scene for later on in life" Feeley says.

Obese people are at an increased risk of suffering from cardiovascular disease and developing type 2 diabetes at an accelerated pace.

Paediatric dietician Deborah Jacobson says South Africans have adopted a "very American way of being", including an increase in restaurant portion sizes.

Gabi Steenkamp, a registered dietician, says that getting your children to eat fruit and vegetables daily had to be established from when a baby is first introduced to solid foods – and getting them to eat these should not be a negotiation.



WHAT PARENTS SAY

● Lesego Modibedi packs her son Lethogonolo, 6, a sandwich made with brown bread, with either cheese, eggs or peanut butter, with a fruit and a yoghurt or Yogi Sip. Her father has type 2 diabetes and her mother suffers from high blood pressure, so Modibedi is cautious about living a healthy lifestyle. She occasionally gives her son R2 to spend at the tuckshop.

● No matter what fruit Michelle* packs for John*, 9, it comes back uneaten, and her 16-year-old son refuses to take a lunchbox to school.

"For the little one I pack a wholewheat sandwich with peanut butter and jam or cheese or chicken mayo. I pack a fruit, but he never eats it. My older son refuses to take lunch to school because it's uncool," she says.

● At just 13, Precious* is 1.5m and already weighs 60kg. Her mom Kgomo* used to pack her lunch, but she now refuses to take a lunchbox. Once an active gymnast at school, she has stopped being active and eats more. "She eats cereal in the morning, but then just takes water and fruit to school. But

when she comes home she makes herself food and then eats supper."

Some healthy lunchbox ideas

Registered dietician Brigitte Oswell says children need to eat smaller meals more often. A basic, healthy lunchbox should include starches, protein, fruit, vegetables, dairy products and fluid.

● Starches: wholewheat bread or rolls, pita bread, wraps or pasta

● Protein: skinless chicken, thinly shaved cold meats, tuna, cheese, peanut butter, egg or meatballs

● Dairy: yoghurt, cheese or cottage cheese

● Fluids: water, homemade ice tea or fruit juice

An example of a healthy lunchbox, Oswell says, is a wholewheat sandwich with chicken and light mayonnaise, sliced cucumbers and baby tomatoes, a smoothie made with fresh banana and milk or water, and a bottle of water.

● For healthy lunchbox recipes see Angela Day's suggestions on: www.iol.co.za/the-star/angela-day-healthy-lunchbox-recipes-1.1215641

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR JOHANNESBURG

Today	Tue 14th	Wed 15th	Thu 16th	Fri 17th
15 24	14 26	14 27	14 25	14 26
60%				

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

SA Weather Service Tel 082 162

GAUTENG PCloudy/Rain

EXPECTED UVB INDEX: DANGEROUS

Today's Temps Max Min °C

Pretoria ... 17 26 T/Showers
Klerksdorp ... 15 25 T/Showers
Vereeniging ... 13 25 T/Showers
Polokwane ... 16 27 T/Showers

MAIN CITIES Minimum Maximum °C

Cape Town	19	24	Durban	21	30	Nelspruit	17	30
Bloemfontein	14	31	East London	20	26	Port Elizabeth	18	26
Polokwane	15	32	Kimberley	15	33	Rustenburg	17	31

WORLD TEMPERATURES Minimum Maximum °C

Amsterdam	3	13	Cloudy	Cairo	18	25	P/Cloudy	Paris	6	14	P/Cloudy
Athens	3	9	Rain	Chicago	11	19	Rain	Perth	17	30	Clear
Auckland	16	23	Rain	Geneva	2	16	P/Cloudy	Rome	4	19	P/Cloudy
Barcelona	7	17	Clear	Lisbon	8	21	Clear	Sydney	17	25	P/Cloudy
Beirut	17	22	Cloudy	London	2	15	Cloudy	Taipei	11	14	Rain
Berlin	6	10	P/Cloudy	Mecca	24	39	P/Cloudy	Tel Aviv	17	21	P/Cloudy
Brussels	2	11	Cloudy	New York	3	20	P/Cloudy	Tokyo	2	9	Clear

Usher wows wet fans

KUTLWANO OLIFANT

THEY were the lucky ones, the 30 000-odd fans who crammed into Orlando Stadium to see top US R&B singer Usher in the flesh and on stage.

At 9pm on Saturday, the man himself made his entrance dressed in a black Robocop suit.

There had been plenty of rain, and many people had waited from midday to get into into the stadium, but it was worth it.

Not only did the live performance catch the attention of the fans, but Usher's many wardrobe changes kept his female admirers eyeballing his honed physique.

There was more for the ladies when he slipped off his leather jacket and then took off his vest.

Some snapped pictures on their cellphones while others tried to catch a recording of the music.

While he performed songs from his new album,

Usher also entertained the crowd with some of his better-known songs, like *My Boo*, *Let it Burn* and *Lover and Friends*.

"I really didn't like the track *Oh My Gosh!* before, but after his awesome performance, I fell in love with the song immediately," said Tlotlane Setshele, from Daveyton, Ekurhuleni.

Another admirer in the crowd was Bongzi Ngema-Zuma, the fiancée of President Jacob Zuma, who was spotted at Hansa's hospitality suite.

"The performance was long awaited. We had long waited for him to arrive. He did not disappoint as we had thought the performance would be short. We had fun," said Lindokuhle Windvoel, who attended the concert with her cousin.

Earlier, fans could be seen flocking into the stadium, ignoring the heavy rain that pounded Soweto on Saturday afternoon.

Before Usher's appearance, they were entertained

by Hansa's Legends in the Making – Mo and the Dark Knights from Gauteng, Busi M from Western Cape, Shoelace from the Eastern Cape, Mapak'shop from Limpopo, Mo Klaassik from the Free State and Abdus from KwaZulu-Natal.

Local musicians Gang of Instrumentals, Liquideep, Teargas, Zakes Bantwini, Oskido and L-Tido kept the fans in the mood as they danced in the rain.

"It was raining when I started performing but the crowd showed up with much love," said L-Tido.

"I was humbled by the fans – they had so much energy," he added.

Bantwini performed his hit song *Clap your Hands*, which bowled over many fans in the audience.

"(Saturday night's) performance was one of the best performances I have ever done. I gave the crowd my best. The fans enjoyed it and came in numbers, which was really good," he said.



ROBOCOP: American R&B sensation Usher performs live on stage during the Hansa Festival of Legends at Orlando Stadium in Soweto.

TV funnyman found hanged in his home

SHAIN GERMANER

ANDREW Thompson's fiercely ironic sense of humour will no longer be bringing smiles to South Africans. He is believed to have committed suicide at the weekend.

His was a face known to fans of Afrikaans comedy across the country, a Kyknet staple who helped produce some of the most successful Afrikaans films and television series of the past 10 years.

Police spokesman Constable Thabo Malatjie said Thompson's body was discovered in his home in Darrenwood, Randburg on Saturday by his girlfriend, hanging lifelessly in his bedroom doorway.

It is believed the 26-year-old had used a necktie to hang himself on Friday. Malatjie said no suicide note had been found and an inquest into the death was set to be conducted.

As news of his death spread yesterday, tributes began pouring in on social networks for the *Molly en Wors* actor:



IN CHARACTER: Andrew Thompson

"Sending all my love & prayers to Andrew Thompson's loved ones, 1 of South Africa's BEST actors who passed away yesterday! RIP Andrew!" said Jay Werner on Twitter.

"RIP Andrew Thompson. What a sad, sad day for television and film in SA," tweeted fellow fan Janis Ellis.

Thompson had appeared in numerous ads, many of SA's most popular soaps, and a number of theatrical productions and films. Earlier this year, he was nominated for an SA Film and Television Award for his role in the film *Roepman*.