

AFDA in the district

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AFDA Alumni students have hit the district with the internationally renowned box office movie, *District 9*. The young, skilled and passionate group of filmmakers have created entertainment products within the growing film industry of South Africa.



Stephanie Macrides and Richard Ray have been involved with *District 9* from its early conception. In 2007, a friend of theirs and ex-school mate, Sharlto Copley, had discovered Stephanie via a family friend. "I was fresh out of AFDA and looking to start working in my industry," Stephanie says. Together with Niel Blomkamp and Sharlto Copley, she began her venture on *District 9* whilst shooting the Halo Xbox trailer.

A year later the group were informed that Peter Jackson would be producing the movie. "We availed ourselves for free with Kalahari pictures through Sharlto and within a couple of weeks we had worked our way into higher, paid positions," Stephanie said. The group was fortunate as they watched a small, low-budget short movie evolve into an astounding high-budget international feature. Stephanie explains that it was an amazing opportunity and the knowledge she gained during the course of the year was immeasurable.

District 9 created new dimensions for the enthusiastic filmmaker. She has produced a short film in association with Sharlto Copley, which is soon to be released, where Jason Cope and Eugene Khumbanyiwa of *District 9* stars in. Stephanie pleasingly says that she is currently directing a short and in pre-production on another film.

The AFDA Alumni District 9 crew:

Stephanie Macrides - Travel and Accommodation Co-ordinator/Production

Richard Ray - Second Assistant Camera

Lesedi Siswana - Production Secretary/Production

Amy Yeats - Clapper/Loader B Camera

De Villier Fourie - On set P.A.

Jamie Ramsay - Doco Unit DOP

Basiami Segola - Doco Unit Sound

Ncee van Heerden - Behind the Scenes Camera/Production

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