

Filming wraps on Showmax's first original drama

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The Girl From St Agnes, [Showmax's](#) first original drama, wrapped this week after filming in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and Johannesburg. The eight-part whodunnit premieres on Showmax on 31 January 2019.

“Our first Original – last year’s light-hearted comedy, [Tali’s Wedding Diary](#) – had the most successful launch day of any series on Showmax ever,” says Candice Fanguero, head of content at Showmax. “This is a complete change of direction: *The Girl From St Agnes* is a dark murder mystery that will keep you guessing and taps into the current conversations in South Africa about #metoo and teen sexuality.”

***The Girl From St Agnes* is a Showmax Original**

At St Agnes, a prestigious all-girls boarding school in the Midlands, a popular and beautiful student is found dead at the base of the old mill. Fearful of the scandal it might cause, the school is quick to declare the death of Lexi Summerveld a tragic accident.

But drama teacher Kate Ballard doesn’t believe it. On the night of her death, an upset Lexi had been trying to contact her, and Kate had ignored her. Now wracked with guilt, Kate attempts to piece together the terrible truth.

The more she investigates, the more Kate realises that she didn’t know Lexi or the school at all. Behind the imposing walls of St Agnes, Lexi’s killer won’t be the only person exposed...



Jane de Wet as Lexi. Patrick Toselli, Showmax

Newcomer Jane de Wet was handpicked to play Lexi by legendary South African casting director Moonyeenn Lee (Tsotsi), who’s been nominated for two Emmy Awards in the last three years, for *The Looming Tower* and *Roots*.

Kate is played by Nina Milner, who modelled for Vogue Germany and at Paris Fashion Week last year, and most recently starred in *Troy: Fall Of A City* as Penthesilea, queen of the Amazons.



Nina Milner as Kate. Patrick Toselli, Showmax

Jane and Nina are joined by an impressive supporting cast that includes internationally recognised South African talent like Robert Hobbs (*District 9*), Tyrone Keogh (*24 Hours To Live*), Tessa Jubber (*Wallander*), Karl Thaning (*Dredd*) and Shamilla Miller (*Troy: Fall Of A City*) opposite local favourites like Celeste Khumalo ([The Queen](#)), Richard Lukunku (*Happiness Is A Four-Letter Word*), Zakeeya Patel (*High Rollers*), Graham Hopkins (*The Lab*) and three-time South African Film and Television Award (SAFTA) winner Jerry Mofokeng (*Heist*, *Tsotsi*), not to mention hot new talent like Paige Bonnin and Tristan de Beer.

The Girl From St Agnes is being produced by Quizzical Pictures, winners of the SAFTA for Best Drama for six of the last eight years, as well as a Peabody. Producer Harriet Gavshon, Quizzical Pictures' managing director, is drawing on her own private school experiences, which sparked the original idea for the show. This is the first time Harriet has produced a series, rather than just executive producing, since 2009's *Hopeville*, which won Best Drama and Miniseries at Rose d'Or, was nominated for an International Emmy, and was a finalist at Monte Carlo.

Catharine Cooke, who won this year's Best Director In a TV Drama SAFTA for *iNumber Number*, co-directed the shoot with Cindy Lee, a commercials director helming her first drama series, having previously worked as the social media director on the Emmy-winning *Black Mirror*. Double SAFTA winner Gillian Breslin (*Umlilo*; *4Play: Sex Tips For Girls*) is head writer. This makes *Girl From St Agnes* a rare TV series commissioned, produced, written and directed by women.

"What links *The Girl From St Agnes*, [Tali's Wedding Diary](#) and the other Showmax Originals in the pipeline is our aim to work with the best South African talent and be the home for brave, quirky and at times edgy local stories you wouldn't find anywhere else," says Candice. "Creating new characters that audiences come to love and follow is an incredibly rewarding experience and we want to establish a platform for more 'Tali's' across varied genres."

Binge all eight episodes first and only on [Showmax](#) from 31 January 2019.

Cast and crew of *The Girl From St Agnes*:

- Catharine Cooke: Director
- Cindy Lee: Director
- Harriet Gavshon: Producer
- Moonyeen Lee: Casting Director

- Jane de Wet: Lexi
- Nina Milner: Kate
- Robert Hobbs: Gary
- Tyrone Keogh: Shane
- Tessa Jubber: Philippa
- Karl Thaning: Dylan
- Graham Hopkins: Chris Whittaker
- Zakeeya Patel: Sharon
- Paige Bonnin: Megan
- Tristan de Beer: Jason
- Shamilla Miller: Jenna
- Celeste Khumalo: Kholwa
- Richard Lukunku: Kgalala
- Jerry Mofokeng: Mr Gwala

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