

The 7 best South African hits to stream on Showmax now

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The 7 best South African hits to stream on Showmax now are: *Gomora*, *How To Steal A Country*, *(Sh)e*, *Loving Thokoza*, *The Beautiful People* and *Kings of Mulberry Street*.

[Gomora | Binge the first 20 episodes - new episodes at 8pm on weekdays from 25 May](#)

Last month *Gomora* dethroned *The Queen* as the most-watched show on DStv, with over 2.5 million viewers for a single episode on Mzansi Magic. The twisty telenovela stars Safta winner Katlego Danke (*Isidingo*, *Generations*) as Thathi, a spoiled trophy wife whose posh Sandton life is stripped away in an instant. With no money and no job, Thathi is forced to pull her teenage kids out of their private schools and enrol them in a public school in Alexandra. They also have to move back in with her mother, Mam'Sonto (Safta winner Connie Chiume from *Black Panther*), a woman whose strict standards and grandmotherly care for her family mask her true nature as the queen of crime in Alexandra.

The all-star cast also includes Safta winners Themba Ndaba (*The Queen*, *Hopeville*) and Zolisa Xaluva (*Sew The Winter To My Skin*), as well as *Blood & Water* star Ama Qamata and Thembi Seete of *Boom Shaka* and *Zone 14* fame, but it's the fresh faces, like Ntobeko Sishi and Siphesihle Ndaba, that have really got Twitter buzzing.

Gomora was created by executive producer Kutlwano Ditsele (*The Herd*) with Gwydion Beynon and Phathutshedzo Makwarela of Tshedza Pictures, who brought us the two most-awarded shows at the 2020 Saftas: Best Drama winner *The Republic* and Best Telenovela winner *The River*, which was also up for an International Emmy last year. Amanda Lane (*Is'thunzi*) is co-creator.

The first 20 episodes of *Gomora* are available to binge now, with new episodes coming to Showmax at 8pm on weekdays from 25 May 2020.

[How To Steal A Country | First on Showmax](#)

With the Emmy-winning *Miners Shot Down* and One World Human Rights Documentary Film Festival winner *Everything Must Fall*, Rehad Desai made the definitive documentaries on Marikana and #feesmustfall respectively. Now, in *How To Steal A Country*, co-directed by Emmy winner Mark J Kaplan (*The Village Under The Forest*, *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*), Desai turns his unflinching gaze to another defining moment in South Africa's recent history: the rise and fall of the Gupta family.

As editor Ferial Haffajee puts it in the documentary: "They came here as traders. They sold shoes out of the boot of their car... And they left here as multi-billionaires." Desai's take on how they accomplished that is a suspenseful detective story uncovering one huge bribery scandal after another, involving the top echelons of political power and several well-known multinational corporations.

Rave reviews have called *How To Steal A Country* "an excellent documentary, one of the best ever made in our country" (Leon van Nierop in *Rapport*); "nothing short of remarkable... the definitive example of speaking truth to power so that this can never be allowed to happen again" (John Harvey, *Dispatch* news editor); and "essential viewing for all South Africans" (*Spling*).

[\(S\)he | First on Showmax](#)

Winner of Best Feature Film at Jozi Film Festival in 2019, *(S)he* is a 52-minute film from Sean Steinberg, who also made the award-winning short *Axis Mundi* and wrote on hit series like *The Girl From St Agnes* and *iNumber Number*.

After qualifying to compete in the 2016 Olympic trials for swimming, Penny Kemp, an intersex teenager, is forced to undergo gender treatment while dealing with being ostracised by one of her teammates. *(S)he* is a coming-of-age drama that speaks to what it means to be a teenager, what it means to be accepted and what it means to stand up for who you are.

Kate Roothman (*Getroud Met Rugby*, *Erfsondes*) stars as Penny, with Fleur du Cap nominee Kate Liqueurish (*Still Breathing*, *Queen Sono*) as her coach and Justin Strydom (*Snitch*, *The Mating Game*, *High Rollers*) as her dad. Fiona Ramsay (*Hard Copy*), Mila Guy (*Wonderlus*) and Daniella Retief (*Song vir Katryn*) co-star.

[Loving Thokoza | First on Showmax](#)

Lockdown's award-winning creator Mandla N makes his eagerly anticipated feature film debut with *Loving Thokoza*, set in the chaotic months leading up to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

Enhle Mbali Mlotshwa (*Isidingo*, *uHambo*) stars as Charlotte Grootboom, a recently graduated English teacher who comes to Johannesburg to stay with her uncle (Safta winner Hamilton Dlamini from *Isithembiso* and *Five Fingers For Marseilles*), while she looks for a job at a Model C school. Unable to find work, she instead takes a teaching job at an Apartheid-ravaged school in Thokoza, where she fights to set up a debating society.

Loving Thokoza is also a love story set in a time of uncertainty, as Charlotte falls for ex-APLA comrade Moscow (Safta winner Mduduzi Mabaso from *Rhythm City*), who is struggling to find his place in this unstable new South Africa.

Loving Thokoza was shot in just nine days with all new heads of department promoted from within Black Brain Pictures.

[Madam & Mercy | Binge the first six episodes; new episodes at 9pm on Wednesdays](#)

Evodia 'Madam' Mogase and her daughter, Mercy, walked off the set during *The Real Housewives of Johannesburg* reunion – and into their very own Mzansi Magic reality show, now streaming on Showmax.

With a touch of glam, a lot of love and Madam's trademark wit, the 13-episode reality format follows 'the Versace girls' and their uncompromising love for the finer things, from surprise birthday boat cruises to Versace charity parties to shopping sprees. But it's also an intimate glimpse into fertility struggles, lobola negotiations, and their unique mother-daughter bond.

The first season of *Madam and Mercy* also features those closest to the duo's heart, including Madam's baby girl, Princess, as well as her other half, Peter.

[The Beautiful People | First on Showmax](#)

Five models. Three months. One city.

The Beautiful People is a 10-part documentary series that follows a group of American, British and Brazilian fashion models as they follow the sun to Cape Town for the summer season. Each episode delves into the reality of their day-to-day interactions as they attempt to find work, make friends and build their careers over a three-month period. The show goes behind the scenes into the day-to-day, real-life business of modelling – the auditions, the challenges, the insecurities and the fierce competition for work over the peak season. Featuring appearances from *The Model Agency's* Carole White and *America's Next Top Model's* Aminat Ayinde, *The Beautiful People* offers viewers a true reality check on the business of selling your looks.

Directed by entertainment journalist Nicky Greenwall, *The Beautiful People* screened at many of the world's top fashion film festivals, including The International Fashion Film Festival, London and La Jolla.

The Kings Of Mulberry Street | First on Showmax

In 1980s Sugarhill, gangsters reign supreme, taking what they want and bullying the local Indian community. But two nine-year-olds - cheeky Ticky and timid Baboo - decide to go up against the crime lords and protect their families.

Directed by Judy Naidoo and shot largely in Verulam and Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal, *The Kings of Mulberry Street* was the ninth biggest South African film at the local box office in 2019 and also screened at Schlingel, one of the main children's film festivals internationally.

2020 Safta winners

Nearly 66% of the 2020 Safta winners in the TV categories are available to binge now on Showmax, with more to come soon. This includes all the telenovela winners, 12 of the drama winners out of 13, and the best reality show (*Living The Dream With Somizi*), natural history (*Stroop*), lifestyle (*Elders: Japan*) and variety shows (*Mooi*), as well as the best documentary (*Buddha in Africa*) and short film winners (*The Letter Reader*).

With 10 awards, *The River* was the most-awarded series overall at the Saftas – for the second year in a row. This follows its International Emmy nomination last year.

Set against a backdrop of the dirty business of diamond mining, 1Magic's thrill-a-minute telenovela *The River* sees two different but interdependent worlds collide in spectacular fashion. One side of the river is home to exquisite mansions populated by society's upper crust, like the Dlaminis, who will go to any lengths to maintain their wealth; the other by those, like the Dikana family, who have little to show for their hard work.

Sindi Dlathu won the Best Actress Safta as mining magnate Lindiwe Dlamini-Dikana, following on from DStv Mzansi Viewers Choice Awards Favourite Actress in March 2020. *The River* also won Best Telenovela, Best Supporting Actress (Mary-Anne Barlow) as well craft awards for Directing, Script, Editing, Sound, Cinematography, Wardrobe, and Hair and Makeup.

New episodes of *The River* start again from Monday, 25 May 2020.

With seven awards, *The Republic* was the most-awarded drama series, and the second-most awarded series overall. Set in an alternative present-day South Africa, where presidents are jailed for corruption, *The Republic* follows the country's first female president, Lufuno Zandile Mulaudzi (Africa Movie Academy Award winner Florence Masebe in a Safta-winning performance), who's kidnapped by the Dogs of Soshanguve while trying to apologise to the township residents for her government's failings. Four-time Safta winner – and 2020 DStv Mzansi Viewers Choice Awards Favourite Actor winner – Warren Masemola (*Tjovitjo*, *Vaya*) was nominated again as Thabang Manaka, a fallen hero trying to make amends for his past mistakes, Seputla Sebogodi won Best Supporting Actor as a leader of the Dogs of Soshanguve, while Hlomla Dandala (*The River*) was also nominated as the deputy president.

In addition, *The Republic* took home Best Drama as well as craft awards for Directing, Scriptwriting, Cinematography, Sound and Music.

Other Safta winners you can stream now on Showmax include:

- *Suidooster* – Best Actress: TV Soap (Denise Newman)
- *Arendsvlei* – Best Actor: TV Soap (Roberto Kyle), and a craft award for Art Direction
- *The Queen* - Best Supporting Actor: TV Soap (Loyiso MacDonald) – new episodes start again on Monday, 25 May 2020
- *eHostela* - Best Actor: Drama (Wiseman Mncube)
- *iThemba* - Best Supporting Actress: Drama (Brenda Ngxoli)
- *Getroud Met Rugby* – Best Scriptwriting: TV Soap
- *Isibaya* - Best Music: Telenovela
- *Ifalakhe* - Best Wardrobe: Drama and Best Makeup and Hair: Drama
- *Die Spreeus* – Best Editing: Drama
- *The Fun's Not Over - The James Phillips Story* – Best Editing: Documentary

More from Nosipha Dumisa, Daryne Joshua and Gambit Films

Before creating *Blood & Water*, Nosipha Dumisa made her name directing [Nommer 37](#), an edge-of-your-wheelchair Cape

Flats homage to the Hitchcock classic *Rear Window*.

Randal Hendricks (Irshaad Ally from *Suidooster*) is a recent paraplegic, trapped in his apartment. After being given binoculars by his devoted girlfriend, Pam (Monique Rockman from *Die Spreeus*), he witnesses a murder committed by a powerful criminal, Lawyer (David Manuel from *Noem My Skollie*). In debt to a sadistic loan shark (Danny Ross from *Suidooster*), Randal initiates a treacherous blackmail scheme...

Nommer 37 was the only African movie in competition at SXSW in 2018 and went on to win Best Director at Fantasia and Best Editor at the Saftas, among other accolades.

A *New York Times*' Critics Pick, *Nommer 37* was hailed as "a gripping, well-constructed thriller" by *The Los Angeles Times*, as "richly satisfying... a singularly crafty and strikingly well-crafted thriller that signals the arrival of a promising filmmaking talent" by *Variety*, and as "exhilarating" and "heart-stopping" by *Shadow & Act*.

Other classics not to miss on Showmax include the movies *Ellen* and *Noem My Skollie*, directed by Dumisa's fellow *Blood & Water* director Daryne Joshua, and the hit Kyknet soap opera *Suidooster*, created by *Blood & Water*'s production company Gambit Films, which won Best Actress in a TV Soap for Denise Newman at last month's Saftas.

To see everything on Showmax in May, click [here](#). Please note this release schedule is subject to change.

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