

## Big Issue's bold cover supports emerging SA film

*The Big Issue* makes the bold move of featuring up-and-coming actor Jafta Mamabolo on the cover of the latest edition. An image of a semi-submerged Mamabolo is accompanied by the tagline, "The emerging face of SA film".



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"Jafta stars in *Otelo Burning*, which hits the big screens around the country on 11 May, the same day the magazine comes out," explains Melany Bendix, editor. "We decided to feature him on the cover as we have a well-founded hunch that *Otelo Burning* may be as big as Oscar-winner *Tsotsi*, judging by the rave review and string of awards it has already garnered."

She adds that *The Big Issue* has a reputation for supporting the local arts and the latest magazine proudly continues this long-standing tradition by showcasing the unique South African film about three township teens who find freedom through surfing during the dying days of apartheid.

Readers can find out more about the motivation behind the film through an in-depth interview with writer/director Sara Blecher, while Mamabolo shares his experience of making *Otelo Burning*, including his challenge of learning how to surf in just two weeks.

Another exceptional local talent featured in the magazine is jazz prodigy Kyle Shepherd. At just 24, Shepherd is widely recognised as one of the most influential and accomplished jazz pianists and composers in South Africa today. The issue also includes a photo essay documenting the 2012 Afrika Burn art festival.

### Not all entertainment

It's not all entertainment, however - though you will need to buy the issue to see what other heavyweight topics the issue covers.

"By buying this magazine for only R18 from vendors in and around Cape Town, you're getting an informative, entertaining and original read at the same time as doing your bit to alleviate poverty. It really is a win-win," says Bendix.