

Things to stream

By Tymon Smith



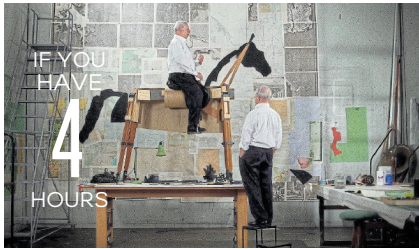
Woman of the Hour Netflix

Anna Kendrick directs and stars in this true crime drama that tells the story of serial killer Rodney Alcala who made an appearance in 1978 on *The Dating Game* television show in the middle of his killing spree. Kendrick stars as bachelorette Cheryl Bradshaw and Daniel Zovatto stars as the man who came to be known as The Dating Game Killer.



Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Rent or buy from Apple TV+

Tim Burton reunites with Michael Keaton, Catherine O'Hara, Winona Ryder and *Wednesday* star Jenna Ortega for this satisfying sequel to his 1988 comedy horror smash classic. When a family tragedy brings three generations of the Deetz family home to Winter River they soon find that an old adversary hasn't forgotten about them and is looking for revenge.



Self-Portrait as a Coffee Pot Mubi.com

William Kentridge's series exploring his process and art-making philosophy offers nine episodes that ruminate in distinctively wry Kentridge style on a wide range of themes, techniques and ideas as he busies himself making work during the Covid lockdown in his Joburg studio.

IF YOU HAVE 5 HOURS



Julia Season 2 Showmax

Sarah Lancashire reprises her role as legendary television chef and cooking TV game-changer Julia Child in the second and final season of this frothy, food-loving dramedy, which explores what happens after Child returns from France to find that she, her show and her kitchen have grown exponentially larger.

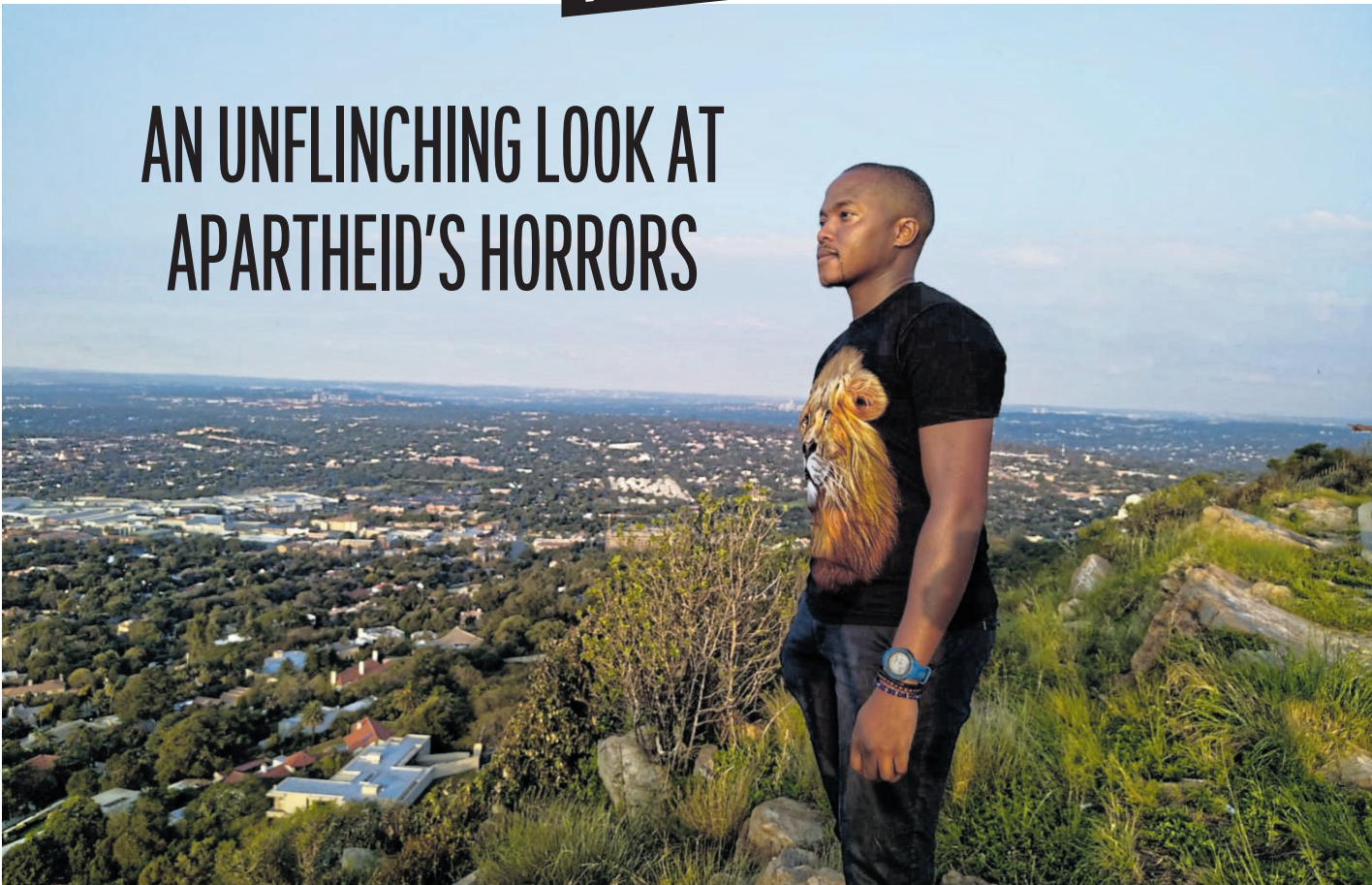


Rivals Disney+

David Tennant enjoys the chance to get villainous in this suitably soapy and campy adaptation of Jilly Cooper's 1980s bonkbuster. In the fictional county of Rutshire, the long-standing rivalry between Rupert Campbell-Black (Alex Hassell) and Lord Tony Baddingham (Tennant) comes to a head and casts its long shadows on the employees of the Conrinium television station.

ENTERTAINMENT

AN UNFLINCHING LOOK AT APARTHEID'S HORRORS



Thabang Ndwandwe in a scene from six-part docuseries 'Truth Be Told', on screens weekly from November 3 on SABC2 at 9.30pm. Picture: SUPPLIED

The tales of torture and murder in 'Truth be Told' can be difficult to watch, but it's a credit to director Enver Samuel and his subjects that they allow for some hope, writes Tymon Smith

He cries that escape from the large man are terrible, heart-wrenching, uncontrollable. They are tears he's been waiting to shed for decades and they will finally allow him to make the difficult journey from living as a "prisoner in my own mind" to fully embracing a future, if not unshackled from, then at least less burdened by the horrors of his past.

The man who breaks down so achingly is Tshidiso Motasi, a 40-year-old father of two who, in 1987, when he was five, witnessed the murder of his parents Richard and Irene by members of the apartheid security branch.

Motasi's terrible but ultimately cathartic tears come towards the end of the fifth episode of the six-part docuseries, *Truth Be Told*, which examines the stories of several notorious deaths during apartheid through the eyes of the children and relatives brutally robbed of their loved ones.

Motasi's tears are not only his, but also those of a nation which – despite the miracle of democracy, the lauded work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and public pronouncements about moving on from a violent past – bears the deep, still raw and far-reaching scars of the trauma of a brutal history.

The series, directed by Enver Samuel whose previous award-winning films have examined the life, death and long quest for justice for murdered activist Ahmed Timol and the still unsolved mystery of the Paris assassination of anti-apartheid fighter Dulcie September, takes an unflinching look at six cases from apartheid's long history of murder and mayhem to ask difficult questions about the post-apartheid state's failure to deliver on the promises of justice that it made to the relatives of victims during the TRC process.

Thankfully it's screened weekly, giving audiences time to decompress between episodes, because to watch all six in one sitting is to be gut punched by an unbearable sense of despair and fury that doesn't dissipate once the final credits of the last episode have rolled.

While there is much in the series to make it difficult to watch, it's a credit to Samuel and his subjects that each of the stories maintains some hope and celebrates the resilience and courage of those who have survived to keep moving forward.



The Motasi family at Freedom Park.



Mandla Mlangeni holds an image of Bheki.

Standard Bank Young Artist Award winner, jazz trumpeter Mandla Mlangeni, has carved out a path for himself as a musical innovator and acclaimed performer on stages around the world despite the fact that as a five-year-old in 1991 he was in the house in which his father, activist and lawyer Bheki, was blown to pieces. Bheki had pressed play on a booby-trapped Walkman sent by Vlakplaas commander Eugene de Kock to kill his predecessor, Dirk Coetzee, who spilled the secrets of the apartheid regime's death squads.

Thabang Mabuza, a chartered accountant in his 30s, who on the surface seems to live a successful post-apartheid middle-class life, is still haunted by the death of his mother Phila Portia Ndwandwe, who, when he was only five months old, was tortured and murdered by

KwaZulu-Natal security police at the age of 23 in 1988. The subsequent exhumation of the bones of the woman he calls "The breastfeeding warrior", during the TRC process, gave him some long-sought answers while leaving many mysteries.

Amandla Madaka is the son of activist Topsy Madaka, who was tortured, killed and burnt on a fire while members of the notorious Eastern Cape security police under Gideon Nieuwoudt braaied meat and drank beers a stone's throw away from the gruesome pyre. He is now a father to six children of his own, to whom he must try to tell the story of their grandfather while hoping that they can be a part of the generation that will finally and truly free themselves from the traumas of the past.

In 1977 at the then John Vorster Square police station in Joburg, activist Matthews Mabelane, fell to his death from Room 1008 on the building's infamous tenth floor. It was alleged by security police that he had escaped through a window during his interrogation and had tried to make his way along the outside of the building to the M1 highway before slipping and falling to the parking lot below. His father Phillip, a reverend, went to the TRC to ask for an investigation into his son's death and, together with Matthews' brother Lasch, pleaded with the NPA to investigate the case.

But both father and brother have since died without the answers they fought for, leaving the long battle for justice for the Mabelanes in the hands of younger brother Steve who, in the series, makes an eerie pilgrimage with his family to Room 1008, the scene of the crime.

These are a few examples from the series, which ultimately serves as a fitting and timely reminder of the soil on which South Africa's democracy is built, the shattered corpses that lie just underneath it and the ghosts that still haunt not only the consciences and psyches of those closest to them, but also the nation as a whole.

Acknowledging this remains necessary because without delivering on the promises made to put those ghosts to rest, they continue to walk among us, calling out for a reckoning that's still so depressingly and frustratingly owed to too many.

*Truth Be Told* screens weekly from November 3 on SABC2 at 9.30pm.