

Our Gagiano just goes gaga over his Tinseltown tour

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KIMBERLEY'S own international actor Edwin Gagiano has taken a break from local screens and is touring Hollywood to learn more about the industry.

He has taken it upon himself to follow in the footsteps of Hollywood actors who have come out of South Africa such as Oscar winner Charlize Theron, Sharlto Copley and Arnold Vosloo.

Gagiano said it had been proven that South Africa had the level of competence in the entertainment industry by producing Oscar-winning and world-renowned actors over the past two decades.

"My visit to Hollywood has seen me taking a private tour of the Sony Pictures studio lot in Culver City while I took a vacation in California in August.

"I visited the Wheel of Fortune set, which is one of America's all-time favourite game shows," Gagiano said.

Gagiano is on a five-month holiday before returning to South Africa on December 28.

Once here he will start with pre-production on a new film commitment, including working on his lead role on Snake Park's anticipated second season.

His role in the SABC series made him popular with his portrayal of Zack Verwey in the TV series.

The series has more than 1.1 million weekly viewers in the national box office ratings at the SABC. His commercial success as Zack Verwey on Snake Park has mainly contributed to the organisation and the show's success.

The series can be seen in its Friday 5pm slot on SABC2. Shooting dates for the second season have yet to be announced.

"Since my portrayal in Snake Park, I have been booked to work with Hugh Jackman, Sharlto Copley and Sigourney Weaver on director Neill Blomkamp's sci-fi blockbuster, Chappie, set to be released on March 6."

He also stars as Marius in the Academy Award nominated director Darrell Roodt's new movie, Seun (Son), that has been screened at the annual Silwerskerm Film Festival in Camps Bay, Cape Town on August 28.

Gagiano also played deputy John JR in Run or Die, directed by Eugene Koekemoer.

Gagiano and Koekemoer will work together once again on a movie called The Brutes in 2016.

He grew up in Kimberley and started



HARD WORK: Filmmaking in the hot sun is all part of the fun for Edwin Gagiano.

acting at the age of 16. He then landed his first role as Alf Bueller in the Northern Cape Theatre production, Back To The '80s in 2007, after his drama teacher recommended he audition.

"I got a supporting role and was awarded with full academic colours for arts and drama after the production concluded as well as best actor in 2007 when I graduated from the Technical High School, in Kimberley."

Earlier this year, he played Prince Charming in the Disney production, Cinderella, at the Civic Theatre in Roodt-poort, Gauteng.

His portrayal as Marius in Seun was received as a multilayered performance.

He played an 18-year-old soldier who fought in the Angola-Boer War to return as a survivor, directed by Darrell Roodt.

Roodt is known for directing Jennifer Hudson and Terrence Howard in Winnie Mandela in 2011, Patrick Swayze and Halle Berry in Fatherhood in 1993 and has won numerous awards, including an Academy Award nomination in the best foreign language film category for Yesterday in 2004.

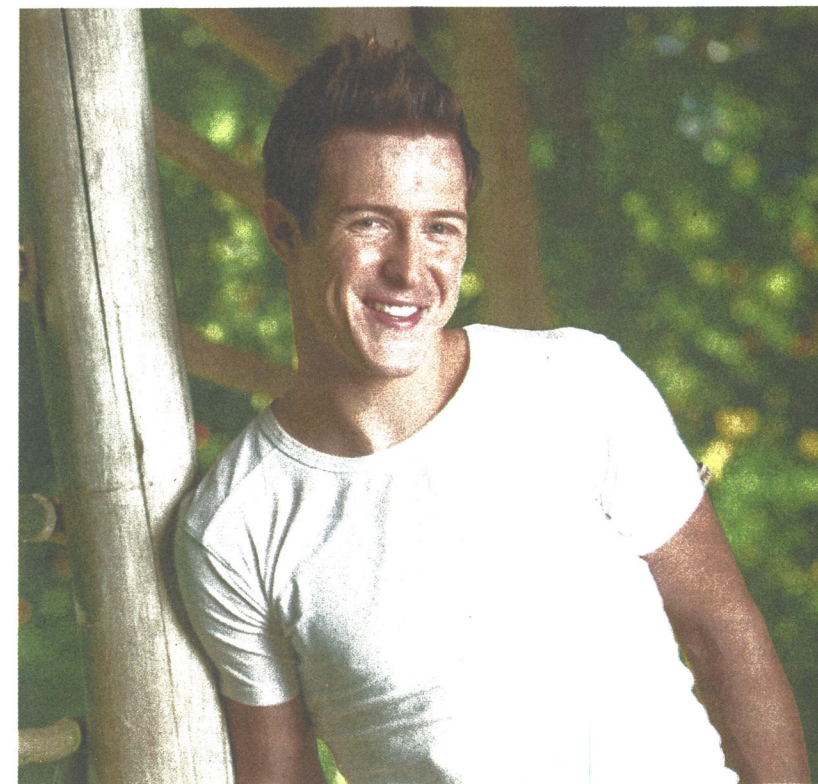
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ON SET: Gagiano is happiest in front of the camera.



POSES: Gagiano poses for a picture in Hollywood.



CLEAN CUT: Gagiano is sizzling hot and could be our next Hollywood poster boy.