

South Africa's got talent!

FORMER Durban actress Josette Eales, who left South Africa a year ago to make a name for herself in Los Angeles, is doing just that.

Not only did *The Wild* star land a role in the Adam Sandler romantic comedy *Blended*, due for release in the US in May and in South Africa in July she has also been named international brand ambassador for the Bio-Therapeutic skin care range.

She will be using the top-notch products and equipment to ensure her skin is a flawless advertisement for the brand when she is photographed on the red carpets of Los Angeles.

Her association with Bio-Therapeutic began without fanfare in September.

"They delivered some products to my door and I had no clue who they were from," she says. "I began using them and noticed that my skin was more hydrated and the texture smoother, so I wrote to David Suzuki, president of Bio-Therapeutic, thanking him for the products. His response was to invite me to Seattle to discuss my becoming an international ambassador for the brand. I flew there and was given star treatment."

"My role involves using the range of products (a huge bonus, as I am 30 and noticing changes in my skin), appearing on all their branding and marketing both online and in publications, being available to attend functions and be a spokesperson for the brand."

She is also thrilled to have landed a small part in *Blended* and have worked with Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

"I play a couples massage therapy teacher, over-the-top and very funny woman who takes her job far too seriously."

"We shot on location in Atlanta and the experience was amazing. I had the full treatment from a car service to the airport and first-class flights to five-star accommodation. Being on set of a Warner Brothers picture means no money is spared ... I've never seen set lunches and breakfasts like that."

"I was incredibly intimidated to work with Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler. I have grown up watching them on screen and suddenly I was on set and



Former Durbanite Josette Eales, now based in Los Angeles, is marketing material for the Bio-Therapeutic skin care range. Right: As she appeared with Tristan Van Reenen (James Alexander) in M-Net's show *The Wild*.

acting opposite them.

"But that disappeared the second I met them, the crew and director Frank Coraci. They were lovely down-to-earth people and made my job so easy even complimenting my work and sharing jokes. It just felt that we were actors doing our jobs and that was awesome."

"It was wonderful to know that no matter how high up you go, there is always room for humility and a good laugh."

"All my work was done with the two of them and

actor and comedian Kevin Nealon.

"The movie comes out in the US in May so I'm sure I will see them all again at the premier here in LA."

Deciding to move to Los Angeles a year ago was a brave move considering *The Wild* was at its height and her career was going well.

But Josette thrives on challenges – including jumping out of a plane for the African Conservation Trust's Skydive for Rhinos in 2012, which raised R30 000.

Local beauty Josette Eales has been named brand ambassador for a skin care range and you'll also see her in the new Adam Sandler movie *Blended*, due for release this year, writes **Lindsay Ord**



Her yearning to work in American television and film was getting stronger. She had won a green card in a lottery but it came with a deadline.

"I agonised over what to do – stay and work in South Africa or give up everything and take a huge leap off a cliff. I decided to resign from the show and two weeks later it was announced that the show was to be cancelled."

Searching for acting work in LA is tough, says Josette. "Imagine you are in the

Olympics competing with the world's top athletes. LA is like the Olympics of acting. Actors from around the world descend on this city with a dream, hoping it will happen, all striving for a piece of the pie. I have been blessed with amazing people and fantastic new friendships that have helped me through tough times."

"When I arrived I began training with an acting coach and spent about four hours a day for three months talking in an American accent. I



Eales will appear alongside Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore in the romcom *Blended*, due for release in South Africa in July.

think I have got it now and it is also about learning what not to say – it's gas instead of petrol, trash and not rubbish – those are dead give-aways."

"In terms of work, I've booked a role on a multi-cam comedy produced by Martin Lawrence called *Love That Girl* and, besides *Blended*, I've shot a short film produced by an Emmy award-winning team."

"I also just signed with an

amazing manager who reps Jackie Weaver and Vinnie Jones among many other impressive people. Life is good!"

● The Bio-Therapeutic skin care regime combines products and equipment to rejuvenate and improve the quality of the skin. Products are applied with a hyaluronic gel mask for maximum absorption and LED lights are

used to boost circulation and collagen production, shrink pores, reduce hyper pigmentation and control acne.

This is followed up at home with the Bio-Therapeutic Cocktail of three products: an ampoule, serum and cream, to stimulate collagen and elastin production and minimise skin thinning, dehydration and solar damage. See www.bio-therapeutic.co.za

This stylish room, right, is the work of interior designer Tessa Proudfoot. Tranquil bedrooms like this one, far right, from Slic Interiors will be on show. PICTURES: MAT BANKS



Home decor: it's all about you

TAILORING designs in your home to what suits you, your family and your lifestyle is what decor is all about this year, and Decorex Durban will showcase trends, designs and products at the Durban Exhibition Centre next week.

Themed "Design Your Life", it will show visitors how to mix and match styles to suit their lifestyles and budgets.

Sian Steyn, general manager of the Decorex SA Portfolio, said design and decor would move away from sweeping trends and focus on the needs and styles of the individual.

"Being confident in our own design choices is trending across the globe and people are feeling empowered to make their own style statements in all aspects of the home," she says.

Plascon's annual colour forecast

will be unveiled, showing the four colour palettes that will be hot news for interiors this year. Most vibrant of the palettes is the warm, African-inspired Urban Tribe mix of oranges, violets and gold. They're the colours of the developing world and with the World Cup taking place in Brazil in a few months' time, we are seeing more and more of these contemporary brights in décor solutions.

Marc Shotland of St Leger & Viney says they will also showcase the bold colours of Africa in the installation they are creating with KZN designer Helen Byloo of Suda-West, for the Decorex Designer Spotlight feature.

"We'll infuse trendy contemporary geometric shapes and bold straight lines. It's a funky quirky look, and suited to the theme

of the show," says Marc.

Durban design duo, Urban Lace, will create an installation at the show's entrance. Chantelle Moss and Sarah Reynolds emphasise they will not be creating a cookie cutter décor look, but rather a highly individual design, in keeping with the theme of the show.

At the Belgotex Trend House, five decorators will design rooms inspired by the latest in flooring trends, with luxury vinyl being a favourite this year.

Outdoor living will feature braais, pools, gardens and verandas and the tongue-in-cheek Manscape project will be an attraction this year. Inspired by the success of the Mancaves feature two years ago, the exhibition has invited male celebs to create an outdoor living space that men would enjoy

Win Win Win!
We are giving away 10 double tickets to Decorex Durban. SMS "DECOREX DN" to 33963 before 9am on Monday. SMSes cost R1.50 and winners will be phoned.

□ Decorex Durban takes place at the Durban Exhibition Centre from March 20-23, from 10am-8pm on weekdays, 10am-6pm on Sunday. Visit www.decorx.co.za or Facebook: Decorex SA or Twitter: @decorxSA

DIARY DATE

□ Mended Hearts, a support group for people who have had a cardiovascular event, will focus on salt and the importance of restricting its intake for good heart health at its next meeting at Life Entabeni Hospital conference room on March 31 from 2pm

– 4pm. Christelle Crickmore, science and programme development manager at the Heart and Stroke Foundation will speak about healthy eating, salt intake and blood pressure. Entry is free. RSVP Yvonne at 031 261 9055.

□ Thato Tsautse, president of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be

the speaker at the next meeting of KZN Women in Business at the Tsogo Sun Maharani Hotel's Tugela Room on April 3 from 8am to 10.30am. The cost, R160 for members and R180 for non-members, includes limited free parking, breakfast, gift, meeting list, networking and speaker. Booking and payment by Friday March 28. Visit www.kznwib.co.za

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RULES: Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The prize is valid for the winner's class of 30 children as well as another class of 30 children from a nominated school.

DailyNews