



LAND OF DREAMS: General manager Rashay Magan and chief executive Nico Dekker at the cleared site for Cape Town Film Studios in Faure. Phase one of the development is valued at a quarter of a billion rands and is scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2010

Team chosen to drive city's film studio

Foundations in place to start building

Anant Singh, chairman of Cape Town Film Studios, has announced the management team that will drive operations of the long-awaited film studios.

Nico Dekker, the former head and CEO of Table Mountain Motion Picture Studios, has been appointed CEO of Cape Town Film Studios and will be assisted by experienced general manager and deputy Rashay Magan.

Singh said Cape Town Film Studios was fortunate to acquire Dekker's services as he is South Africa's most successful studio manager to date.

"His extensive experience in managing a profitable studio will be invaluable as we get underway with phase one of the multi-million-rand film studios."

Commenting on his appointment, an enthusiastic Dekker says: "This is a 10-year, multi-million-rand project that has no equal in South Africa. It is the greatest investment in the South African film industry to date and the studios will establish a home for film in South Africa that will benefit everyone.

"Our vision is for Cape Town Film Studios to be the bridge between the South African and the international film industries. Through active partnerships, we envisage bringing productions into the country that couldn't previously be accommodated, as well as unlocking financial opportunities that were not available in the past."

Cape Town Film Studios are the first custom-built, Hollywood-style

studios in South Africa.

The ownership structure of the studios is made up of a team of shareholders including Videovision Entertainment (Anant Singh), Sabido Investments/etv (Marcel Golding), the Rico Trust, the Helderberg African Chamber of Commerce and Wesgro, the Western Cape's investment and trade promotion agency.

Other new members of the Cape Town Film Studios team appointed include Fadiel Martin as accountant and Diana-Jane Weaver as administrator and personal assistant.

As the management team settles in, phase one of construction is already underway.

Foundations at the site in Faure have already been laid in preparation for the commencement of work on the main building.

Phase one is valued at a quarter of a billion rands and includes four stages of varying sizes – one 2 100m², one 1 200m² and two 1 850m² – as well as 1 500m² of production offices and workshop space of more than 2 800m².

The first phase is scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2010.

Negotiations for the tender for the construction of the internal boulevard and the supply of civil engineering services are in the final stages and the winning tenders will be announced soon.

Tender information is available at www.capetownfilmstudios.co.za

In preparation for the construction of the studio buildings, earth-

works used about 180 000m³ of filling material during June, July and August to create building platforms and berms.

A portion of the earthworks originated on-site and the rest was imported from commercial sand mines close to the site.

"Cape Town Film Studios will be a part of a mixed-use film city that includes commercial and light industrial spaces," says Singh.

"We have taken Pinewood Studios in the United Kingdom as one of the models for a self-sufficient, fully integrated film city".

"The industry in the Western Cape is going from strength to strength.

"Not only has a new local television station been launched but we continue to attract top-notch productions each year. We compare very favourably with locations like Miami, Buenos Aires and Atlanta."

Singh also announced that a waiting list for future property owners and tenants had been opened and emphasised that the film studio would do its best to achieve the tenant mix best suited to meet the demands of the industry and the productions that use the studios.

"Anyone interested in property purchases, becoming involved in establishing a business on the studio site, renting premises, or the use of the studios for production purposes can contact me on 021 462 1838 or they can e-mail enquiries to nico@capetownfilmstudios.co.za," says Dekker.