

Roxi back in the kitchen days after wedding

ARTHI SANPATH

SOUTH African *MasterChef* whizz Roxi Wardman Maclou has had no rest since her wedding to Byron Maclou this past week, not even a honeymoon.

"Honeymoon? There's no honeymoon, this is it," she laughed.

The cupcake queen was back in the kitchen soon after she said "I do" as she opened

her new restaurant Spoonful in Durban.

"We decided that we want to establish ourselves first while we are still young, and grow our business. We went overseas last year so we have had our holiday," she said.

Spoonful is the latest venture of the former train driver's assistant who won the third season of *MasterChef* in 2014 and with the first week of

operation under her belt, it looks set to be a promising culinary journey. "We had been searching for premises for months. When this came up we knew it was perfect."

Wardman Maclou's reputation speaks for itself. "We gained a loyal customer base and people have their favourite meals that they kept coming back for. Now we have our own kitchen set-up and this lovely

setting which is really tranquil and people can come and sit either inside or outside and enjoy their meals."

Wardman Maclou had her wedding at Spoonful and prepared all the meals for the big day. "The area is vibey and central... I think we are ideally placed," she said.

She promised to have plenty of cupcakes and is working on reinventing some old

favourites. "We are still testing the waters and working out what our customers prefer. People love the peanut butter stuffed French toast with the bacon and the banana, so we are really pleased to see the turnout this week."

One of their other popular meals was the bacon, brie and pear jam toasted sandwich, which she has reinvented into a burger.



HANDS FULL: MasterChef winner Roxi Wardman Maclou is proud of her restaurant, Spoonful, which opened this week in Durban, just a day after her wedding. Cupcakes are on the menu, along with old favourites and a few surprises.

PICTURE: ZANELE ZULU

City film studios 'among world's best'

Local facilities are drawing Hollywood blockbusters

HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS

IT HAS been transformed into the dusty streets of Soweto for the Nelson Mandela biopic *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, then set builders turned it into Somalia's war-torn capital Mogadishu.

Hollywood's biggest producers are scrambling to film their blockbusters at Cape Town Film Studios and it has put the local film industry on the map. Big-budget movies and blockbusters filmed at the studios provide a major cash injection for the local economy and develop skills in the film and production industry. The studios have helped put Cape Town and South Africa at the forefront of the international filming world.

Producer Bill Gerber, who used the studios to film a small part of *The Last Face*, directed by Hollywood bigwig Sean Penn, hailed the South African film industry as being "very prolific", with "provocative incentives" in last week's edition of the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Gerber said Penn thought the South African crews were "kick-ass".

Gerber also used words such as "extraordinary" and "spectacular" to describe the South Africans working

on the film.

The Last Face features Charlize Theron and Javier Bardem in the lead roles.

Cape Town Film Studios chief executive officer Nico Dekker said: "All the major American studios are raving about the studio."

General manager Makkie Slamong, who deals with client expectations, said the studio's turnaround time was attracting foreign producers.

"Production requested a hill to be built almost immediately, hoping it would take 14 days. They could reasonably expect it to be built in two months but the studio provided it in nine days."

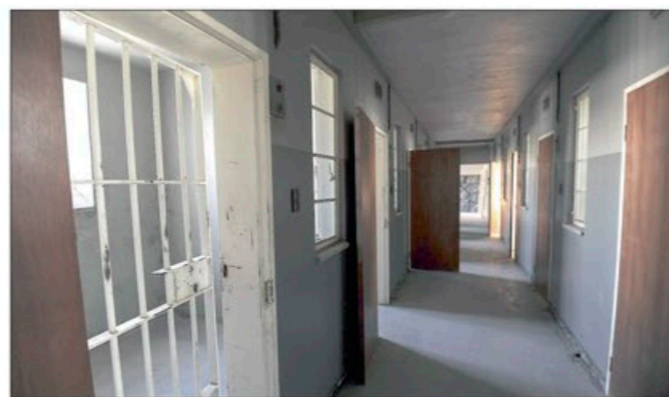
A fifth studio at Cape Town Film Studios, which is near Khayelitsha and Stellenbosch, opened in February and extended the production space to 20 000m² but it would need to double in size to accommodate the demand, said Dekker.

The Sony production *The Dark Tower*, facilitated by Cape Town's Moonlighting Films and starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey, was the first to use Stage 5.

British actor Elba flew into the city this week for the shoot. And actress Katheryn Winnick, who stars in the TV series *Vikings*, posted a picture of herself on the set



MANDELA MOVIE: Idris Elba as Nelson Mandela in *Long Walk To Freedom*.



PRISON RECREATED: Nelson Mandela's cell in Robben Island prison was part of the set that was replicated at the Cape Town Film Studios for the film *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom*.

on Instagram.

Dekker said when Stage 5 opened, five productions were booked there. He was turning huge productions away. The biggest the studio had ever hosted was the Emmy-

winning pirate adventure TV series *Black Sails*, which is filming its fourth season at the studios.

Dekker said *Black Sails* was "one of the top 10 series in the world and for them to come



RUNNING THE SHOW: Cape Town Film Studios chief executive Nico Dekker and general manager Makkie Slamong on a set that recreates Soweto. PICTURES: LEON LESTRADE

back to shoot here multiple times... it's remarkable".

Stage 5 has a unique vertical, sliding door, which was designed from scratch in South Africa.

"Sound is like water - it's

always looking for a place to escape. I sat with the engineers to design an affordable, massive sliding door that can disappear into the roof and seal properly," he said.

Stage 5 boasted another

innovative element - a sound wall dividing the stage into two parts.

Dekker said the studio had helped to show the world South Africans could be "nifty, innovative and hard working"

and they were fast building a reputation for being meticulous.

When Cape Town Film Studios bought the 200 hectare property in 2003, nobody believed an empty field could be turned into a world-class film studio, said Dekker.

At that time, people were renting warehouses and "fixing them up a bit" to create film facilities.

"People thought we were crazy and 95 percent of the film industry had no trust in us. We were the big joke of the industry. It was originally called Dreamworld and everyone said: 'Dream on.'"

But since opening its doors in December 2010, it has hosted production companies that have employed over 50 000 people and created R2 billion in direct investment and R6bn in indirect investment for the Western Cape and South Africa.

"I feel so proud because in five years, we have helped change the international perception of South Africa from a location-based country to a film manufacturing country.

"Leading Hollywood producers described our studios as among the best designed and managed in the world. We are the most successful film studio in the developing world. Our hi-tech sets are comparable to those in London and Los Angeles."

"We are building worlds." henriette.geldenhuys@inl.co.za

One movie shot in the city brought in R66.5m

WEEKEND ARGUS REPORTER

THE production in Cape Town of one Hollywood film, *Safe House*, which starred Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds, contributed R66.5 million to Cape Town's economy.

The city's mayoral committee member for tourism, Garreth Bloor, said

this included:

- R40m spent on 860 local staff
- R3m spent on 5 000 extras
- R1m worth of "invaluable on the job" training provided to 22 students
- R11m spent on accommodation
- R6m on rentals of cars

and trucks

- R5.5m earned by Cape Town catering companies
 - R6m spent on local restaurants, bars, shopping centres and cinema complexes by foreign crew and cast.
- The 2012 thriller was filmed in Cape Town over five months.
- Reynolds played a rookie CIA agent charged with

guarding Washington, a CIA agent turned traitor, in a safe house in Cape Town.

Scenes shot in Langa created jobs for production assistants, security guards and consultants in the township.

Bloor said other movies and TV series recently filmed in Cape Town included *Black Sails*, *Dominion*, *Wallander*,

Grand Theft Auto with Daniel Radcliffe, *Detour*, *Honey 3*, *The Gunman* with Sean Penn, and *Odyssey*.

Filming is also under way on *The Dark Tower*, an adaptation of the Stephen King series of fantasy novels. Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey star in it and Elba has been spotted shooting around town this

week, including on location in Athlone Stadium and in Epping.

The city has issued close to 3 000 filming permits over a three-month period since January, contributing R3.5m to the city's economy, he said.

About 4 000 filming permits were issued in 2014/15 compared to about 6 000 in 2015/16.

January - March 2016

Production type	Number of permits issued
Micro-shoots	1 066
Commercials	846
Still photography	769
Television series	51
Television films and productions	30
Music videos	27
Feature films	11