

CROSSROADS

Season 1 Episode 01

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Based on the stage play
"Blind Dog Fourie"
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1 EXT. THE STREET CORNER -- MIDDAY

1

The corner of Pritchard and Diagonal Street, Johannesburg.

It's busy with lots of COMMUTERS passing by, and a few INDIAN TRADERS actively soliciting customers from the entrances to their shops.

BLIND DOG is standing next to a large wheelie-bin... crooning to anyone that will listen, occasionally strumming his beat-up guitar which has an old sticker on it that says; "Supertramp - Dreamer".

Next to him is a Vodka bottle with a tiny amount brown liquid in it (it's tea), and in front of him is a cardboard sign that says; "Blind Dog", and a folded Daily Sun newspaper with a couple of coins on it. We can read the headline which says; "Dagga Stolen from the Police."

BLIND DOG

(singing)

She left me in the spring of '84,
Took the kids, ran out the door.
Got in the car, drove away,
If she hadn't crashed, they'd be
alive today.
No wife, no throne, I'm all alone,
A king of blues without a home.
All I need is a little luck,
Then I'd get me a regular Buck!

He delivers the last line with pizzazz, smiling at a PRETTY GIRL as she walks by.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

Thank you thank you thank you. My
names Blind Dog Fourie and I'm
collecting money for my demo CD.
So, if you want to support the
nation, make a donation!

He holds out his hat in anticipation. No donations are forthcoming.

Someone drops a pamphlet into his hat.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

Come on Ladies and gentlemen don't
be shy. I'm so hungry, I could eat
a vegetarian!

Only serious faces...

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

At least it'll be a balanced meal.

He puts down his guitar and hat, takes the bottle and downs the last sip.

A PASSER-BY trashes a "Streetwise Two" and an almost empty Coke into the bin next to him. He quickly rescues what's left of the meal and drink, and wolfs it down.

He looks at the flyer in his hat. It says; *"Tired of being poor?"*

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

It's funny you should say that.

He turns it over and we read: *"Tonight only. Investment guru Colin Bluffit. Live like a pauper, retire like a king!"*

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

Dope ek sê! I'm already living like a pauper, and Bluffit's gonna help me get my throne. I'm gonna be rich.

A passer-by drops a R10 note in the hat and disappears. Blind Dog is delighted.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

I am rich! You see. "Seek and for ye the door shall open".

Calls out to the person who dropped the money in the hat.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

Thank you sir, I'm gonna buy some lekker grub... And I'll invest the rest.

TITLE SEQUENCE

2 EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY

2

The kitchen door of the Jubilee Tearoom leads into a tiny yard that is tidy, concrete and cold.

SAFFRON, JABU & PRAKESH are sitting on upturned crates around a metal dustbin. The lid has been turned up-side down to make a flat surface, on which they are playing poker.

There are 10 and 20 cent pieces on the "table" as well as a punnet of slap chips with achar, from which they're all eating.

PRAKESH

I read in my Business Times this morning that if you invest ten bucks a day in green unit trusts, after only ten years you can retire.

SAFFRON

I know where I'll be retiring...

The others look at him expectantly.

SAFFRON (CONT'D)
Buckingham Palace.

PRAKESH
But you're not Royalty.

Saffron smirks as he places his cards on the table. He has two queens.

SAFFRON
'A pair' of queens?

PRAKESH
It's a sign.

JABU
I'm going to retire in a huge house.
And I'm gonna fill it with books.

Jabu reveals that his hand contains a "full house"

PRAKESH
But you can't read.

Prakesh reveals his cards one at a time; Ten...

SAFFRON
He means comic books; so he can
look at the pictures.

Prakesh reveals the Jack, Queen ...

JABU
I'm going to learn to read. I
already know the letters of the
alphabet: A - C - E...

Prakesh reveals the King ...

JABU (CONT'D)
I just get a bit lost when they
jumble the letters around.

Prakesh reveals the Ace!

PRAKESH
And the Ace!

SAFFRON
Like when they go A - B - C?

SALINA arrives with a tray of drinks which she hands out to each of them. (Jabu gets the Guava juice.) Prakesh collects his winnings.

PRAKESH
I'll build my dream three cornered
house.

JABU

To honour all of your pyramid schemes?

PRAKESH

No. To honour all the years that I've spent selling samoosas.

SAFFRON

Sa-moosa fantasy that.

JABU

Let's start a joint venture.

SAFFRON

Another Ponzi scheme. We'll get arrested.

JABU

No. We start a syndicate and everyone puts in ten Bucks.

PRAKESH

That's already Forty.

JABU

Thirty.

Doing quick finger arithmetic...

PRAKESH

You're right. Well done.

SAFFRON

How's that gonna make us rich?

JABU

We invest it.

PRAKESH

In a "Green" business. Let's buy a farm?

SAFFRON

With thirty bucks? You won't even get a bunch of flowers to put on top of a grave in the cemetery?

JABU

Hang on! Prakesh is not totally wrong... I'm not ready to "buy the farm" yet, but we could sell a farm.

PRAKESH

Brilliant!

SAFFRON

But, we don't have a farm.

JABU

Hear me out Saffron. How much does Radivan charge for his potting soil?

SAFFRON

Fourty bucks a bag.

JABU

So if we had forty Rand we could buy a farm in a bag, sell it for fifty... and make ten on the deal.

PRAKESH

Excellent! And after three, four... a few sales... the overheads are covered, and we'll reap the rewards.

SAFFRON

But if we each put ten in we only have thirty... We need another investor.

Blind Dog enters the courtyard with his guitar slung over his back and goes to the serving hatch.

JABU

A gullible fourth.

He knocks on the window and sighs when there is no response. The three look at him and then each other.

JABU (CONT'D)

You're gonna wait a while.

SAFFRON

What you buying?

BLIND DOG

A balanced meal.

PRAKESH

You can buy a share in our slap chips.

BLIND DOG

(Seems fair)

Dope.

SAFFRON

Ten bucks.

BLIND DOG

(No longer fair)

Yo!

Enter Sergeant Ntsimbi, who sees the group sitting there, pauses and quickly shoves the remaining half of his doughnut into his mouth.

Blind Dog is still thinking about the ten rand deal.

JABU

I'll sweeten it for you. For ten
Bucks you can share our slap chips
and have a share in our farm...

BLIND DOG

Seems fair. I'm in.

Mouth full but emptying fast, Ntsimbi heads straight for
the poker table.

Blind Dog puts ten rand down on the table, and joins them.
He also puts his guitar down and the cardboard sign that
says "Blind Dog" on top of it.

As Blind Dog reaches for a chip, Ntsimbi picks up the punnet
of chips and starts eating them.

NTSIMBI

Better just check if these meet
the health department's standards.

Jabu picks up Blind Dog's sign. It is up-side down and he
tries to make out what it says...

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)

I'm looking for a blind musician.

Blind Dog looks away quickly. Playing the Ostrich.

SAFFRON

.. And I'm looking for a man with
blonde hair and a tan.

BLIND DOG

What does he look like?

SAFFRON

Tall... good abs... and a big...

NTSIMBI

He's wearing dark glasses.

Blind Dog takes his dark glasses off.

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)

He's also got a cardboard sign
that says; "Blind Dog"

PRAKESH

I thought we were looking for a
man?

Jabu holds up Blind Dogs' sign with the blank side facing
Ntsibi...

JABU
You mean like this?

NTSIMBI
Exactly like that. Are you a musician?

JABU
Of course not. You know I sell newspapers.

BLIND DOG
What's he done?

NTSIMBI
The unsettling of proper order in a public space through his actions.

The group is confused

SAFFRON
You mean disturbing the peace?

NTSIMBI
Yes. That one.

Ntsimbi notices Blind Dog for the first time.

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)
You're new here. What's your name?

BLIND DOG
... Fourie

NTSIMBI
It better not be you.

BLIND DOG
Can't be I'm not Blind. There are four of you, and one of you is a cop who's eating my slap chips. See? I can see.

Ntsimbi eyeballs him, and leaves one chip in the punnet before handing it to Blind Dog.

NTSIMBI
I see you.

He turns and leaves.

BLIND DOG
I'll have my ten bucks back thank you.

PRAKESH
It's too late now, it's already invested.

JABU

'Should have read the fine print.

Jabu takes the last chip from the punnet. Blind Dog is dumbstruck.

3 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

3

SALINA is in the kitchen humming away to herself. Clearly in a great mood. She's not so much washing the dishes as she's standing at the full sink, wearing rubber gloves and humming a happy tune.

Mrs Van enters carrying a few bags of groceries.

MRS VAN

Who's watching the front?

SALINA

You.

MRS VAN

... And I'm doing this while I'm standing here with you?

SALINA

Oh... Then I suppose no one is.

MRS VAN

Has anyone ever told you you're a genius?

SALINA

Thank you Mrs Van.

Mrs Van starts to unpack the bags.

MRS VAN

Come. Unpack these. I need to be in the front.

Salina doesn't respond. She just stares out into the distance.

MRS VAN (CONT'D)

Salina!

SALINA

Sorry Ma'am. I was just a bit distracted.

MRS VAN

Sorry Princess... I hadn't noticed. Finish the dishes and pack away this pumpkin. It's nearly 12 'o clock.

She exits leaving Salina in her own world.

Moments later she looks back into the room. Concerned.
Salina is working at a snails pace ...

SALINA
(singing)
Some day my Prince will come...

MRS VAN
Wake up Cinderella!

SALINA
I have a secret. But you must
promise me you won't tell...

MRS VAN is sceptical.

SALINA (CONT'D)
I'm in love. I've found my Prince.

MRS VAN
Where?

SALINA
I can't say. He doesn't know yet.

MRS VAN
Then we are in the same boat,
because George Clooney doesn't
know about me either.

Salina is amazed.

SALINA
You know George Clooney?

MRS VAN
Is he local?

SALINA
No. I think he's from America.

MRS VAN
How'd you meet a man from America?

SALINA
On-line dating.

MRS VAN
What's his name?

SALINA
George Clooney.

Mrs Van is exasperated.

MRS VAN
The man you are in love with...
Your Prince.

SALINA

Oh. I can't tell. He's too close to home.

MRS VAN

Good Thinking. Now who is it? You can tell me.

SALINA

OK. You've dragged it out of me. I'll tell, but only if you promise you wont tell anyone else.

MRS VAN

Have I ever broken a promise to you?

SALINA

Okay. It's Jabu.

Jabu appears at the serving hatch

MRS VAN

It's Jabu?

JABU

Yes. It is I!

They both turn and are surprised to see him.

MRS VAN

Jabu, wonderful news... Salina's in love.

Salina's shocked that Mrs Van has revealed her secret.

JABU

That's nice. I'm just taking my unsold papers back to the depot then I'll come sweep the courtyard.

He goes. Salina is horrified.

SALINA

You promised you wouldn't say anything.

MRS VAN

I'm sorry, it just slipped out. Okay, so who is it?

4 EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY

4

BLIND DOG is sitting on a crate with his guitar, working on a song. He's trying out lyrics...

BLIND DOG

(singing)

Mrs Van, Mrs Van
Feeding the nation on bread and
jam.
Mrs Van, Mrs Van...
If she can't help you... nobody
... can.

He thinks about it...

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

No that's too obvious.

If she can't help you.... you better
make a plan.

There's got to be something better.

(singing)

Mrs Van, Mrs Van
Feeding the nation on bread and
jam
Mrs Van, Mrs Van...
If she can't help you, Maybe a
Gupta can.

Yes!!

He takes his pencil-stub and writes it down on the back of
the "Get Rich" pamphlet.

SAFFRON enters carrying a large bag of potting soil.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

What's that?

SAFFRON

Our farm. I'll be back in a while...
keep an eye on it.

BLIND DOG

Dope.

Blind Dog sniffs the air and smiles...

SAFFRON

Ja. Fresh from the farm this
morning.

BLIND DOG

Aaah! Dope.

Saffron puts the bag down next to him and leaves. Blind
Dog continues working on his song again. This time with a
bluesier feel.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

(singing)
Mrs Van, she's so dope.
Giving the nation lots of hope.

5 **EXT. THE STREET CORNER -- DAY** 5

SAFFRON is sorting flowers in buckets. His phone rings. He answers.

SAFFRON

Mr Radovan? Thanks for the
delivery... What do you mean it's
not potting soil? But it's a sealed
bag. You mean ...? Ooh we've
just moved to Kaka... Mas!

6 **EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY** 6

BLIND DOG is still sitting on the crate with his guitar,
working on his song.

BLIND DOG

(singing)
Mrs Van once had Stan,
He made a plan, then he ran,
Into the arms of another man.

MRS VAN enters from the kitchen with a metal bin full of
garbage, she's on her way to the dustbins.

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

(singing)
Mrs Van, has a can,
But she really needs a man.

Mrs Van hasn't seen the potting soil and trips over it -
garbage flies everywhere.

MRS VAN

Volk en Vaderland! What the f...
flour?

BLIND DOG

No it's pot. Er... Potting soil.
You grow flowers in it!

MRS VAN

And what's it doing here!

BLIND DOG

Saffron put it there.

MRS VAN

Why?

BLIND DOG

We started a business selling farms.

MRS VAN
I need potting soil for my herb
garden. How much?

BLIND DOG
Not sure 'bout the price. I'm just
a silent partner.

MRS VAN
Nou ja toe. Not as silent as I'd
like you to be.

SAFFRON enters in a panic.

BLIND DOG
I've sold the potting soil.

He panics more!

SAFFRON
No! It's not potting soil.

MRS VAN
It says "Potting Soil" on the bag!

Saffron looks at the bag speechless.

SAFFRON
I know.

They stand there in silence.

SAFFRON (CONT'D)
It's a potting soil bag... but
they made a mistake ... And...
And... and they filled it with...

BLIND DOG
...pot?

SAFFRON
Shht!

BLIND DOG
And it smells like good shht too!

MRS VAN
So it's fertilizer. That's even
better for me. It's sold!

SAFFRON
But fertilizer is more expensive.

MRS VAN
I understand. How much?

SAFFRON
and... its passed the sell by date.

Mrs Van is confused.

SAFFRON (CONT'D)

It's vrot!

MRS VAN

That's what fertilizer is lovey.

BLIND DOG

It's not fertilizer it's weed.

MRS VAN

Well if it's full of weeds I don't want it.

SAFFRON

No. It's not full of weed! It's just not for sale anymore.

MRS VAN

Obviously, because I've just bought it. And I'm not selling. I'll give you fifty bucks.

Mrs Van picks up the bags of garbage and walks off towards the bin area - pleased with herself.

SAFFRON

But...

Sgt NTSIMBI enters, and as Blind Dog sees him he moves the "potting soil" out of sight and then surreptitiously tries to hide his guitar.

SAFFRON (CONT'D)

You and your big blerry mouth.

Sgt Ntsimbi sees the guitar.

NTSIMBI

Aaah so you are a musician you old dog. Even if you're not blind.

Blind Dog now tries to hide his hat and glasses by putting them behind the bag. Sgt Ntsimbi watches him.

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)

What's this?

SAFFRON

Can't you read? It's Potting Soil.

Sgt Ntsimbi moves forward and picks up the hat and glasses.

Mrs Van walks back into the courtyard on her way back to the kitchen

BLIND DOG

Its "Saffrons" potting soil.

NTSIMBI

You wanna tell me you aren't the
blind musician?

MRS VAN

It's mine!

SAFFRON

No!

NTSIMBI

Oh I see.

Saffron is beside himself... Ntsimbi hands the hat & glasses
to Mrs Van who takes them reluctantly.

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)

I think he might have stolen them
from you. I can arrest him if you
want.

MRS VAN

Get off your high horse Sergeant.
Sit. I'll send you a cool drink.

7 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

7

SALINA is standing at the sink, day-dreaming. She's hardly
washed anything.

MRS VAN

Wakey, wakey Princess. The day's
nearly over and you still haven't
finished.

SALINA

I'm finished.

Mrs Van looks at the three huge piles of dishes, and two
clean plates on the drying rack.

MRS VAN

Oh yes, I can see that.

SALINA

I'm exhausted Mrs Van. It's hard
work being in love.

MRS VAN

How would you know? You've never
worked a day in your life! Never
mind I'll do the dishes, you put
your feet up and relax and tell me
about your new love.

SALINA

Thanks Mevrouw.

She sits down and dries her hands with a towel.

SALINA (CONT'D)

I don't wanna jinx it...he doesn't know yet.

MRS VAN

Before you rest your tired tootsies... pour a juice with ice for the Sarge please.

Mrs Van takes over the washing. Salina gets ice from the fridge puts it into a glass and pours a guava juice.

MRS VAN (CONT'D)

You still haven't told me who it is. I bet it's Blind Dog?

SALINA

What! No. I'm not telling!

MRS VAN

Blind Dog's not going to find out if you don't tell anyone...

SALINA

I said it's not Blind Dog!

MRS VAN

I still think it is.

SALINA

Don't put Blind Dog in my mouth.

In the courtyard we hear a rooster crowing.

MRS VAN

And that's the third time you've denied it.

8 EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY

8

Jabu is sweeping. Blind Dog is sleeping on a crate with his hat over his eyes. Ntsimbi is sitting watching. Salina enters with the glass of Guava juice.

SALINA

Hello big boy.

Jabu and Sgt Ntsimbi look up.

JABU & SGT NTSIMBI

You talking to me?

SALINA

I brought you some juice.

Jabu is bemused.

JABU

Thanks.

Ntsibi grabs it from Salina and downs it.

NTSIMBI

Uuugh! You know I don't like
guava...

He turns and leaves.

JABU

I do.

Salina and Jabu look awkwardly at each other over an empty
tray and the empty glass!

SALINA

Sorry...

JABU

What for?

SALINA

Isn't it written all over my face.

JABU

You know I can't read!

SALINA

You are so cute.

Then the penny drops for Jabu. The two stare at each other
and we think they might kiss but the tray and glass are in
the way.

Mrs Van appears at the window as Salina moves the tray to
the side and starts to lean forward.

Prakesh walks in with his unsold samoosas and interrupts
the moment..

PRAKESH

Anyone hungry?

MRS VAN

Aren't you supposed to be selling
those?

PRAKESH

They've passed their sell by date,
so I'm defraying the costs.

He shoves one in his mouth...

PRAKESH (CONT'D)

Talking about selling, has our
potting soil arrived?

MRS VAN

Yes. I bought it from Saffron for
fifty bucks.

She whips out a fifty from her bra...

PRAKESH
Our first sale. Fantastic!

Prakesh takes the fifty from her.

MRS VAN
Jabu please put the potting soil
in the kitchen for me... and Salina
what are you doing out there. Get
inside and finish the dishes.

Mrs Van disappears back into the kitchen.

Jabu and Salina carry the bag inside.

Saffron appears in time to see, but not to stop the bag as
it disappears into the kitchen.

PRAKESH
If you got here thirty seconds
earlier, you would've witnessed
our first sale.

SAFFRON
(pained)
No.

PRAKESH
(proudly)
Yes.

SAFFRON
No!

PRAKESH
Oh. Is this our second sale then?

SAFFRON
NO!!

The commotion wakes BLIND DOG up.

BLIND DOG
What's going on?

SAFFRON
Prakesh has sold the "potting soil"
to Mrs Van.

BLIND DOG
No he didn't. I did!

SAFFRON
But you know it's not potting soil!

PRAKESH
Don't be a dope, of course it's
potting soil.

Blind Dog and Saffron look at each other...

SAFFRON
The supplier dropped off the wrong
bag, dope.

PRAKESH
What do you mean wrong bag?

BLIND DOG
It's Bobbejaan Twak.

PRAKESH
You mean Durban Poison?

BLIND DOG
Giggle Weed.

JABU
Wacky-backy.

BLIND DOG
Zol.

SAFFRON
(frustrated)
It's dagga!

The penny finally drops...

PRAKESH
You mean it's pot? I didn't know
she smokes that stuff.

SAFFRON
She doesn't.

JABU
Then when she opens the bag she's
gonna flip.

PRAKESH
We'll all end up in jail.

SAFFRON
Only if Radovan doesn't kill us
first!

9 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

9

SALINA is day dreaming at the sink reading an advertising pamphlet for white goods, when PRAKESH, SAFFRON and BLIND DOG "wake her up"!

PRAKESH

How'd you like to get back into
Mrs Vans good books?

SALINA

But I am in her good books.

SAFFRON

Not from what I hear...

SALINA

Why? What have you heard?

Blind Dog grabs the pamphlet from her and points out a
dishwasher...

BLIND DOG

Mrs Van's getting a new dishwasher.

PRAKESH

I haven't heard that.

SAFFRON

I have.

BLIND DOG

You don't want to be replaced by a
machine do you?

SALINA

Is she replacing me?

PRAKESH

Not sure, but if you do the
physics...

BLIND DOG

The maths...

SAFFRON

Whatever. It's not looking good is
it?

SALINA

I can't afford to lose this job.
You've gotta help me!

PRAKESH

What's it worth to you?

SAFFRON

This seems like about 50 bucks
worth of dishes to me.

Prakesh takes the pamphlet from Blind Dog and looks at
it...

PRAKESH

These are really nice dishwashers.

SAFFRON
Exactly. 50 Bucks is cheap.

SALINA
But I don't have 50 bucks

BLIND DOG
OK tell you what... if you let us
replace this bag of potting soil
tomorrow, we'll give you 50 bucks.
Then you give us 50 bucks to do
your dishes. Fair swop.

PRAKESH
It'll save you 50 bucks..

SAFFRON
... and your job!

SALINA
OK

PRAKESH
So which one of us is going to do
the dishes?

BLIND DOG
If you take the potting soil, and
you give me the 50 bucks... I'll
do the dishes.

PRAKESH
Deal.

Saffron picks up the bag of potting soil.

Prakesh takes out R50.00 and gives it to Blind Dog.

BLIND DOG
Thanks. Salina I'll be back to do
the dishes tomorrow.

SALINA
But what about today?

PRAKESH
But you didn't pay. I did.

SALINA
Oh. You're right.

BLIND DOG
Nice doing business with you.

They all walk out with the potting soil.

10 EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY

10

SAFFRON is hiding the "Potting Soil" under the table.

PRAKESH
What are you doing?

SAFFRON
Hiding it from Mrs Van until Radivan
arrives with the real thing.

NTSIMBI arrives and overhears...

BLIND DOG
For 50 bucks I'll get rid of it
for you.

PRAKESH
This is the most expensive bag of
potting soil in the history of
gardening.

NTSIMBI
I don't think 50 bucks is expensive
for potting soil. I'll take a
bag.

NTSIMBI picks up the bag...

SAFFRON
Nooooo!

NTSIMBI
Why not?

No-one can think of a reason... In the silence MRS VAN
puts her head through the serving hatch.

BLIND DOG
Cause it belongs to Mrs Van.

MRS VAN
What's my potting soil doing outside
again?

No-one can think of a reason...

MRS VAN (CONT'D)
Bring it back in.

NTSIMBI
I'm on my way Mrs Van.

She puts her head back inside.

SAFFRON
Hang-on Sarge. Jabu took Mrs Vans
bag inside earlier. This bag is
for my "friend" Radavan. He's on
his way to fetch it now.

Saffron grabs the bag from a confused Ntsimbi.

11 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

11

SALINA is crying and MRS VAN is towering over her.

SALINA

But I needed the fifty bucks, AND
you'll still get your potting soil
tomorrow. That's a sweet deal. I
thought you'd be proud.

MRS VAN

What did you need 50 bucks for?

SALINA

To wash the dishes.

MRS VAN

What?

SALINA

I don't want to be replaced by a
machine.

MRS VAN

What machine?

SALINA

The dishwasher.

Salina pushes the advertising pamphlet towards Mrs Van

MRS VAN

I can't afford one of these Salina.
YOU are my dishwasher.

12 EXT. THE COURTYARD -- DAY

12

NTSIMBI is sitting on the bag of "potting soil" conducting
a kangaroo court. BLIND DOG is the accused. SAFFRON,
PRAKESH, and SALINA are the audience and jury.

NTSIMBI

You've been accused by the
honourable, highly respected, very
gifted Sgt Ntsimbi, of disturbing
the police. How do you plead?

BLIND DOG

Not guilty! You were disturbed
before you heard me play.

NTSIMBI

Not accepted. In the absence of a
defence attorney, I hereby pronounce
you guilty and confiscate your
guitar.

BLIND DOG

Anything but the guitar... take
the potting soil!

NTSIMBI

Okay.

Saffron panics.

SAFFRON

Nooo! He deserves a defence. I'll
do it. I'll defend him. What's
the charge?

NTSIMBI

Possession...

PRAKESH

My cousin's Auntie's sister son
was charged with possession once!

JABU

Just for owning a guitar?

BLIND DOG

I nominate Jabu as my defence
attorney.

SAFFRON

But I want my day in court!

Jabu steps up...

JABU

Your high-ness... I call our first
witness; Saffron.

Saffron eagerly steps forward.

SAFFRON

Your honour... I'm honoured.

NTSIMBI

What do you have to say in Blind
Dogs defence?

SAFFRON

He can't help it. He was born
that way.

JABU

But Judge... shouldn't I be asking
the questions?

NTSIMBI

No more questions.

JABU

Yes your worship. The defence calls
Prakesh.

Prakesh steps forward.

NTSIMBI

Do you have anything to say in the
accused's defence?

PRAKESH

Well if I take everything into
account, weigh up the options,
negotiate objectively... I can't
think of a thing.

JABU

No more questions.

BLIND DOG

This isn't going very well.

JABU

It'll go much better now.

(announces)

Your Lordship... we call our star
witness, the beautiful, stunning,
gorgeous... Salina.

Salina steps forward like she's just won the Miss World
pageant. Everyone applauds. Salina waves to the crowd...

SALINA

Thank you. Thank you.

JABU

You're looking very pretty today
Salina.

SALINA

Thank you Jabu. You're looking
very handsome.

NTSIMBI

Get on with it.

JABU

What do you have to say about Blind
Dogs guitar playing?

SALINA

Thank you for asking that question
Jabu. I believe in world peace.

NTSIMBI

I do too. Guilty as charged!
Hand it over.

Saffron grabs the guitar from Blind Dog and gives it to Ntsimbi.

BLIND DOG
This is unconstitutional.

NTSIMBI
Call the police!

13 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

13

SALINA is sitting on her knees, contemplating whether she is going to scrub the floor.

JABU enters

JABU
Salina I need a pair of scissors

SALINA
What for?

JABU
I want to cut this thread that's hanging between my legs.

SALINA
Whaaat?!!

JABU
This piece of cotton.

SALINA
Ooh! Come here.

JABU
What for?

SALINA
Come closer so I can help you.

He reluctantly goes closer... until his genitals are close to her face

JABU
What you gonna do?

SALINA
We don't have scissors, so I'll use my teeth

JABU
Whaaat?!!

MRS VAN enters. SALINA & JABU are in a compromising position. Mrs Van can't see the thread from where she is standing and it looks a little lewd.

SALINA

I'll just bite it off.

Salina leans forward and bites off the thread.

MRS VAN

Not in my kitchen!

Jabu & Salina are surprised and look very guilty.

MRS VAN (CONT'D)

I bet this isn't what it looks
like

SALINA

Yes it is!

JABU

No it isn't!

SALINA

Yes it is. Here see. I got the
thread.

MRS VAN

I would never have guessed Jabu -
small enough to fit through the
eye of a needle.

14 INT. THE COURTYARD -- NIGHT

14

JABU, SAFFRON, PRAKESH and BLIND DOG are in the courtyard
around a big bonfire.

SAFFRON

When Radivan gets here let me do
the talking. He's a mean mother!

JABU

In that case I'm leaving now.

SAFFRON

If he thinks you're sneaking out
to alert the cops - we're all dead!

JABU

Well you're dead to me already for
getting me into this mess.

SAFFRON

I'm not kidding. The mortuary is
littered with bodies.

PRAKESH

Who buries all these bodies? I
smell a business opportunity.

SAFFRON

We could start a cemetery just for
the people that Radivan kills.

BLIND DOG

Who exactly is this Radivan?

SAFFRON

He's Russian Mafia. He's a little
mad... he's a little bad...

A bag of potting soil enters, with RADIVAN underneath it.
(He's a little person!)

SAFFRON (CONT'D)

and a little...

RADIVAN

...dad! I've got three kids.

He dumps the potting soil on the ground and pulls out a
picture from his wallet and shows it to them proudly. It
has 4 kids in it.

JABU

But there are four kids in that
picture?

RADIVAN

I didn't say they were all still
alive! Now where's my pot?

PRAKESH lifts the bag of pot onto Radivan's shoulder.

RADIVAN (CONT'D)

Good. This is the end of the road
for you...

He puts the photo back into his pocket - the group think
he's going for his gun and dive for cover, leaving him
looking like he's standing there alone.

RADIVAN (CONT'D)

... from now on you stick strictly
to selling flowers.

He turns around to go... but NTSIMBI is walking out of the
kitchen towards them... an orange juice in one hand and
Blind Dogs' guitar handcuffed to his other wrist.

It's Radivan's turn to panic. He looks around for a place
to hide the dagga but there is nowhere. Ntsimbi is getting
closer. Radivan in desperation puts the bag on the fire...

RADIVAN (CONT'D)

I'll see you in a little while!

Radivan dashes off as Ntsimbi gets closer and the others
reappear from taking cover.

NTSIMBI

That was a short visit. Who was that?

BLIND DOG

The Russian mafia. Thought you would have made a big arrest.

NTSIMBI

I smell something burning.

SAFFRON

Makes sense... so can I.

PRAKESH

You do know that you're standing right next to a fire?

Ntsimbi takes a deep breath through his nose...

NTSIMBI

It's dagga.

SAFFRON

You mean marijuana?

Ntsimbi takes another deep breath through his nose... as do the others.

NTSIMBI

No. It's definitely dagga.

JABU

Like wacky backy?

Ntsimbi takes another deep breath...

NTSIMBI

No.

They all take a deep breath through their noses...

NTSIMBI (CONT'D)

It's definitely dagga.

BLIND DOG

If you sniff again, you'll see that it's bobbejan twack!

Ntsimbi, now pretty high takes one more deep breath through his nose... and giggles.

PRAKESH

It must be giggle weed... They all laugh together.

NTSIMBI

I think it's... sorry what was the question?

BLIND DOG

I don't know, you where the one
who was talking.

NTSIMBI

Ag Forget it. I'm hungry. Who's
got money for chips.

No-one offers.

BLIND DOG

I've got a fifty. I'll buy the
chips if you let me hold the key
to your handcuffs.

He weighs up the deal - can't see the problem...

NTSIMBI

Deal!

Blind Dog holds out his hand and Ntsimbi places the key in
it. Blind Dog shouts...

BLIND DOG

Fifty bucks chips please Salina.

INTO TIME LAPSE

The camera losses focus on a close-up of the fire...

15 INT. THE COURTYARD -- NIGHT

15

OUT OF TIME LAPSE

The camera finds focus on a close-up of the fire...

The group are all sitting around the fire. Salina arrives
with the chips. Everyone starts digging in. Ntsimbi is
being hindered by the guitar around his wrist.

NTSIMBI

Blind Dog release me from this
damn guitar

BLIND DOG

That'll cost you 50 bucks

NTSIMBI

Okay but then you have to play us
a tune

Ntsimbi gives him R50.00 Blind Dog produces the key and
releases the guitar.

BLIND DOG

(singing)
Sarge Ntsimbi, he's the hero of
the day,

(MORE)

BLIND DOG (CONT'D)

He scared the little man away.
He smelt the zol in the fire,
Then we all got a little higher.
Now we've leant that he's no fool,
We all think that he's super cool.

NTSIMBI

Oh yeah!