



#### TERESE OWEN

**T**HE LIST of MTN Sama nominees was announced last night in what is their sweet sixteenth year. The party was held at Taboo in Sandton and, of course, almost everyone in the industry was there.

Unlike last year when Goldfish dominated with six nominations, this year they were evenly spread out with over 25 artists getting between two and three nominations.

Thandiswa Mazwai received four nominations, which is not surprising because she has always been a firm favourite with the music industry. Black Coffee also received four nominations, which again is no surprise because his is one of the most popular albums of 2009.

His numerous nominations also reflects just how popular house music is in this country, and how

much it has evolved from the back room to a sophisticated sound.

Big Nuz are the third artists to receive four nominations. Theirs is a brilliant kwaito album that has fans across music genres acknowledging that fact. The album is also a lifeline for the ailing kwaito genre.

They are nominated for Best Duo or Group of the Year along with aKing, Jaziel Brother, Joyous Celebration and Teargas. They are also nominated for Album of the Year with Busi Mhlongo, Selaelo Selota, Teargas and Blk Jks. Controversially, Blk Jks' alternative hard rock sound pipped the commercially successful Parlotones

to the post in that category. Finally, Big Nuz received nominations for Best Kwaito along with Spikiri, TKZee, Zola and Mzambiya

Busi Mhlongo received three nominations, which is encouraging for the legendary diva as she has been courageously fighting breast cancer.

In another heart-warming move, 22-year-old Capetonian Kyle Shepherd received a nomination for Best Newcomer and Best Traditional Jazz. He is the youngest person to be nominated in the latter category, as jazz is traditionally dominated by the more established folk. In that category he goes up against Anna Davel, Brian Thusi,

Tutu Poane and Jazzing and Jiving.

In Record of the Year, which contains twenty of the country's top songs for the year, a surprise omission was JR's *Show Dem, Make the Circle Bigger* which is so hot right now.

The list includes Prime Circle's *Consider Me*, Goldfish's *Fort Knox* and The Parlotones *Push Me To the Floor*. But the competition will be stiff between Liquideep's *Fairytale*, DJ Cleo's *Good Music* and Nutty Nys smash hit *Nka Mo Diru*.

On a negative note there were very few traditional music entries, so much so that the Best isiZulu, Best isiXhosa, Best seTswana, Best isiSwati, Best Sepedi and Best

isiNdebele categories just don't exist this year.

This begs the question – are traditional artists so fed up with the Samas that they have chosen to ignore them in favour of the South African Traditional Music Awards?

The Samas have only been in existence for three years and were started in protest against the Samas after they separated the traditional music categories from the main televised event.

● The MTN Samas will take place on April 7 and 16 at the Sun City Superbowl. Saturday's event will be broadcast live on SABC1 from 8pm.

# Samas honour best of local