

AUDITION MONOLOGUES - ROOM 13 SERIES CAST

CASTING & ACTING DIRECTION NOTES

AYANDA MOKOENA 20 - 25 Female

Tone:

Urgent, intelligent, controlled intensity. Never chaotic—her power is in precision.

Emotion:

Driven by conviction, frustration with silence, growing moral pressure. Underneath: fear she rarely admits.

Pacing:

Starts measured and reflective → gradually increases in intensity → ends with sharp emotional certainty. No rushed delivery; every word feels chosen.

Physicality:

Upright posture, grounded stance Minimal movement, but strong eye focus Subtle hand gestures when emphasizing truth or contradiction Leans forward slightly when she becomes emotionally invested Stillness is her power—she “contains” emotion rather than showing it fully 
Performance Note:

Ayanda should feel like she is *thinking while speaking*, not performing. Intelligence must lead emotion.

1. AYANDA MOKOENA (Investigative Journalism Student / Lead)

Bio:

Ayanda is a sharp, determined journalism student who believes truth is the only form of justice that matters. She is intelligent, observant, and stubborn in a way that often isolates her. Once she sees corruption or dishonesty, she cannot ignore it—even when it puts her life and relationships at risk.

MONOLOGUE:

People think truth is simple... like
it just sits there waiting to be
found. But truth hides. It adapts.
It learns how to survive in places
where it is not wanted.

(MORE)

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

I used to think journalism was about asking the right questions. Now I know it's about surviving the answers. Every time I get close to something real, someone tells me to stop. "It's dangerous." "It's not your business." "You'll ruin your future." But what future are they talking about if everything is built on lies?

I've seen files disappear. I've seen people change their stories in the middle of a sentence, like their words are being rewritten in real time. I've learned that silence is not empty... it is paid for.

And maybe I should be scared. Maybe I should step back like they say. But something in me refuses to accept that powerful people get to decide what the rest of us are allowed to know. If the truth destroys everything... then maybe what it destroys was never strong enough to survive in the first place.

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KABELO DLAMINI **25 - 27 Male**

 **Tone:**

Conflicted, analytical, internally fractured. Controlled exterior with growing emotional cracks.

 **Emotion:**

Confusion, disappointment in the system, fear of choosing the wrong moral path.

 **Pacing:**

Starts structured and academic → gradually breaks into emotional questioning → final lines slow down, heavy reflection.

🕒 Physicality:

Slightly stiff posture (law student discipline) Adjusts clothing or collar when stressed Looks away when confronting uncomfortable truths Hands often clasped or behind back Small pauses before key moral questions 🎬
Performance Note:

The transformation is key—he should visibly “lose control of certainty” as the monologue progresses.

2. KABELO DLAMINI (Law Student / Moral Conflict Character)

Bio:

Kabelo is a law student from a disciplined, middle-class background. He believes in structure, fairness, and rules—but his worldview begins to crack when he realizes that the justice system is not as clean as he was taught. He is torn between ambition and morality.

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

I studied the law because I believed it was the closest thing we had to fairness. Not perfection... just fairness. But no one tells you what to do when the law itself starts to feel like a performance. When the right signatures matter more than the right truth. When justice depends on who has power in the room.

I wanted to be someone who protects people. Someone who makes things right. That was the plan. Now I sit in lectures and I listen differently. Not to what is being said... but what is being avoided. Because silence has become its own language.

And I'm starting to realize something I don't want to admit: knowing the law doesn't mean you understand justice. Sometimes it just means you know how to navigate the cracks where justice disappears. So tell me—if the system is broken, am I supposed to fix it from inside... or will it break me first?

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THULI NKOSI 19 - 24 Female

Tone:

Soft, emotionally layered, deceptively calm.

Emotion:

Loyalty, fear of betrayal, internal guilt, emotional suppression.

Pacing:

Gentle and steady throughout → slight hesitation before emotionally dangerous truths → quiet intensity rather than loud emotion.

Physicality:

Warm eye contact, but avoids prolonged direct confrontation
Slight head tilts when listening internally Gentle hand movements (protective, self-soothing gestures) Occasional downward gaze when revealing deeper emotion Stillness used to hide emotional weight  Performance Note:

Thuli should feel like she is *protecting two truths at once*—what she says and what she hides.

3. THULI NKOSI (Friend / Emotional Anchor / Secret Keeper)

Bio:

Thuli is Ayanda's closest friend. Warm, grounded, and emotionally intelligent, she represents loyalty and human connection. But she is also hiding something that ties her to the central conflict, making her both protector and potential threat.

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

People always think I'm the safe one. The calm one. The one who listens.

(MORE)

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

The one who doesn't get involved.
But silence is not the same as
innocence.
I see everything Ayanda sees... I
just don't always say it out loud.
Because once you speak certain
truths, you don't get to take them
back. They change things. They
change people.

She thinks she's alone in this. She
thinks she's the only one carrying
the weight of what's happening.
But I've been carrying my own
weight too.

There are moments where I want to
tell her everything. Every piece of
what I know. Every connection I've
seen. But then I ask myself—what
happens after that? Because truth
doesn't just expose systems. It
destroys relationships.
And I'm not sure I'm ready for what
survives after the truth comes out.

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LINDIWE KHUMALO **Age 23-25 Female**

 **Tone:**

Polished, persuasive, intellectual dominance with controlled calm.

 **Emotion:**

Belief in system stability, emotional detachment masking moral justification.

 **Pacing:**

Slow, deliberate, and controlled → almost lecture-like → slight rise in intensity when defending ideology.

🕒 Physicality:

Strong upright posture (authority presence) Minimal unnecessary movement Controlled hand gestures (open palms when explaining, slight emphasis on key ideas) Direct, unwavering eye contact Never appears rushed or uncertain
 📋 Performance Note:

She should never "argue emotionally"—she *explains* power as logic. The danger is in how reasonable she sounds.

4. LINDIWE KHUMALO (Institution Insider / Corporate or Political Link)

Bio:

Lindiwe is polished, articulate, and highly intelligent. She works within the system that the students are trying to expose. She believes she is protecting stability, not corruption. Her morality is complex—she justifies difficult decisions as "necessary."

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

You keep calling it corruption.
 That word is easy. It makes
 everything simple. Good and bad.
 Right and wrong. But the world
 doesn't operate in simple.
 Sometimes what you call corruption
 is what holds everything together.
 Do you think systems survive on
 honesty alone? Do you think
 institutions run on ideals?
 No.

They run on compromise. On
 decisions people don't want to
 make. On sacrifices no one thanks
 you for. I'm not asking you to
 agree with me. I'm asking you to
 understand that truth... without
 structure... becomes chaos.

And chaos does not create justice.
 It creates collapse.
 So before you decide to expose
 everything... ask yourself if you're
 ready for what breaks when it all
 comes down. Because I am not the
 villain in your story.

(MORE)

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)
 I am the reason your story is even
 stable enough to be told.

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JABU SITHOLE Age 20 - 27 Male

 **Tone:**

Charismatic, competitive, slightly provocative.

 **Emotion:**

Ambition, insecurity masked as confidence, hunger for recognition.

 **Pacing:**

Fast, sharp delivery → controlled confidence → slight slowing when revealing philosophical justification.

 **Physicality:**

Energetic presence, constantly “aware of the room” Uses hands actively to emphasize persuasion Shifts weight often (restless ambition) Smirks or half-smiles when making controversial points Direct eye contact used as dominance tool  Performance Note:

Jabu should feel like someone always “performing even when not acting.” He is aware of being watched.

5. JABU SITHOLE (Rival Student Journalist / Ambitious Challenger)

Bio:

Jabu is a journalism student like Ayanda, but with a very different approach. He is ambitious, strategic, and willing to bend ethical lines to get ahead. He believes truth is important—but visibility, success, and control over the narrative matter just as much. He sees journalism as power, not just responsibility.

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

People think journalism is about truth. That's what they teach you on day one. "Seek the truth. Protect the truth." Like truth is some sacred thing that always rewards the honest.

But nobody talks about what happens when truth doesn't get you seen. Nobody cares about the reporter who found the story first if someone else publishes it louder, faster, cleaner.

I respect Ayanda... I do. She believes in purity. In doing things the "right way." But the right way doesn't always win. And in this world, if your truth doesn't reach people... then what exactly did you protect?

I don't manipulate stories because I'm dishonest. I do it because I understand something she doesn't yet. Power decides what becomes truth. Not the other way around. And if I have to choose between being right... or being heard... I know which one survives.

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SIPHO MAHLANGU Age 19-25 Male

 **Tone:**

Quiet, observant, detached but emotionally intelligent beneath surface.

 **Emotion:**

Isolation, moral anxiety, curiosity turning into fear.

 **Pacing:**

Slow, deliberate, slightly fragmented thinking → pauses feel natural → words feel “processed internally” before spoken.

🌀 Physicality:

Slightly closed posture (introverted energy) Avoids eye contact initially, then locks in when revealing truth
 Small, precise hand movements (like analyzing invisible data)
 Stillness dominates—movement is minimal and intentional
 Occasionally looks down or sideways as if processing invisible information 📺 Performance Note:

Sipho should feel like someone whose mind is louder than his voice.

6. SIPHO MAHLANGU (Student Hacker / Digital Truth Seeker)

Bio:

Sipho is a quiet, highly intelligent computer science student with hacking abilities that allow him to uncover hidden digital evidence. He is socially withdrawn, observant, and morally conflicted. He believes information should be free—but fears what happens when it is exposed without control.

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

People think deleting something means it's gone. But nothing is ever really gone. It just gets buried deeper. Renamed. Hidden behind layers of permission and security and lies. I see things others don't see. Emails that were never meant to exist. Files that were erased too quickly to be innocent.

Conversations that stop mid-sentence like someone realized they were being watched. At first I thought I was helping. Pulling the truth into the light. But the more I see... the more I understand that some truths don't want to be free.

They want to be safe. Because once you release information into the world, you don't control what it becomes. It spreads. It mutates. It destroys.

(MORE)

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)
 And now I'm stuck asking myself— Am
 I exposing corruption...
 or am I just the person opening a
 door I can never close again?

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PROFESSOR NTSHANGASE **Age 35-40 Male**

 **Tone:**

Authoritative, weary wisdom, emotional restraint with deep undertone of regret.

 **Emotion:**

Protective fear, lived trauma, disappointment in institutional reality.

 **Pacing:**

Slow, reflective → controlled authority → emotional weight increases subtly toward the end.

 **Physicality:**

Calm, grounded posture (mentor presence) Hands often behind back or lightly folded Slow movement across space (teacher presence) Long pauses before difficult truths Eye contact used carefully, not aggressively 🎬 **Performance Note:**

He should feel like someone who has *already lived the outcome of this story*. His restraint is emotional exhaustion, not lack of feeling.

7. PROFESSOR NTSHANGASE (Academic Mentor / Ideological Gatekeeper)

Bio:

Professor Ntshangase is a respected journalism lecturer who once believed in radical truth-telling but has since become more cautious. He mentors students like Ayanda, but also tries to protect them from consequences he has already experienced. He is conflicted between inspiring truth and preserving safety.

MONOLOGUE: (CONT'D)

I used to think courage was enough.
That if you were brave, if you were
honest, if you were committed to
the truth... the world would
eventually make space for you.
I was wrong.

The world does not reward truth. It
tests it. Breaks it. Watches to see
how much it can destroy before you
let go. I've seen students like you
before. Bright. Determined.
Unwilling to look away. And I've
also seen what happens after.
Opportunities disappear. Doors
close quietly. Careers end before
they begin. So when I tell you to
be careful... it is not because I
don't believe in truth. It is
because I have buried too many
people who believed in it without
understanding its cost.
You think you are chasing truth.
But truth... when it is too heavy...
starts to chase you back.
And not everyone survives being
seen by it.