

# Nyambi Dextrous

Versatile Shakespearean thespian and television comedy sensation Nyambi Nyambi stars on the television sitcom "Mike & Molly" airing Mondays at 9:30pm (8:30 Central) on CBS. The show's title characters are played by Billy Gardell and Emmy Award-winner Melissa McCarthy as a working class couple from Chicago who met at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting.

Nyambi handles the hilarious breakout role of "Samuel," a Senegalese waiter working in a diner to whom dieting is a foreign concept. Earlier in his career, he shared the stage with Hollywood legend Al Pacino in productions of "The Merchant of Venice" and "The Winter's Tale" for the New

York City Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park.

A true film buff, Nyambi watched 365 movies in 365 days last year. Here, he talks about life and about what it's like to be on "Mike & Molly."

**Kam Williams:** Hi, Nyambi, thanks for the interview.

**Nyambi Nyambi:** No doubt. Let's have fun.

**KW:** What interested you in Mike & Molly?

**NN:** What interested me in Mike & Molly was the hilarious script and the idea of playing a West African char-



**CELEBRITY INTERVIEW**

by Kam Williams

acter that was the smartest guy in the room... and I was broke.

**KW:** Tell me a little about the show?

**NN:** Mike & Molly is a show about two people in love and the work it takes to keep it that way.

**KW:** What would you say is the show's message?

**NN:** The message of the show is that love is out there and, if you want the baggage it comes with, it's yours.

**KW:** How would you describe your character, Samuel?

**NN:** Samuel is a dry-humored, highly-educated immigrant from Senegal, who speaks five languages, studies English Literature



Nyambi Nyambi

at The University of Illinois and is a waiter at Abe's Hot Beef. Nothing gets past him. He's family.

**KW:** Marilyn Marshall, who's a fan of the show notes that Mike & Molly has one of the most racially-diverse casts on primetime network TV. She asks: Who is responsible for that diversity?

**NN:** Hello, Marilyn. Mark Roberts, the creator

of our show, and the writers have done an incredible job of creating and writing for these amazing actors.

**KW:** Marilyn is also wondering how has a series about two overweight people managed to become a hit in our weight-conscious society where most TV and movie stars are thin?

**NN:** The truth reigns supreme and the love that all of these characters share is what people ultimately connect to. They see themselves in these characters or in their dilemmas. Plus, the hearts of Billy Gardell and Melissa McCarthy are deeply genuine and infectious. It begins with their genius together.

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