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Our House Takes Home SAFTA Award Best Reality Series

ZenHQ Films and Binary Film Works reality series *Our House* has been awarded a Golden Horn for best reality TV series at the 4th SAFTA awards held this past week in Pretoria.

Our House, which aired on SABC 2, revolves around building proper houses for people living in shacks over a 7 day period. Eight families from Freedom Park in Cape Town participated in the series. Each family was paired up with volunteers from the Niall Mellon Township Trust, and together they built their own homes while another 200 homes were built around them, also in 7 days.

Our House is the brain child of ZenHQ's Chris Roland, who directed and produced the series with Lee-Ann Cotton, Cecil Matlou and Pieter Lombaard, in association with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and spearheaded by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille. The 13 episodes were shot using multiple cameras over a 7 day period during the annual building blitz by the Niall Mellon group.

Roland, who is currently in Los Angeles setting up his next film and was not on hand for the awards ceremony, expressed his gratitude for the award. "It's significant, and greatly appreciated that the SAFTA's awarded a reality series that was both entertaining and socially responsible. It sends a message that inspirational shows have a place in society."

The *Our House* format has been sold to India and is expected to go into production there in 2010. ZenHQ is marketing the format to other countries with impoverished communities.