

Online Dating: Love at first click

Yolise Mxale | 31 March 2014 00:08



HAPPILY EVER AFTER: Samantha Watt met Johan Swanepoel online. She says she was too busy to get out and meet people. Image by: JOHN HOGG

Online dating has made finding a lover easy. But, how can you be sure the man or woman you meet is not a creepy herpes-wielding scumbag, the kind your mother always warned you about?

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"The problem (with online dating) is that I could think I'm talking to Mr Right but he's actually Quasimodo," said Tshedi Moleko, 21, a former online dater.

Bonita Grobbelaar, executive matchmaker at Match VIP, an online dating service, echoed this warning.

"Dating isn't for the faint-hearted. There are so many people out there who are not who they seem on their profile, and are not financially stable," she said.

Fortunately, most online dating websites use clever maths and a membership fee to try to weed out the Prince and Princess Charmings from the charlatans.

Match VIP, which only accepts 50% of applicants, tries to weed out the weirdos by having one-on-one interviews with all their prospective clients, and by running through background checks.

"We run a credit check on all our members. We also look for criminal records and make sure all your expectations are reasonable. I always tell people I'm not Santa Claus. I can't make miracles happen," said Grobbelaar.

If you are looking to 'date outside your pete pool', it is best to look elsewhere.

The site believes this stringent screening process helps to ensure that people are who they say they are, and also helps manage unrealistic expectations.

Dreams of finding and being Mr or Miss Right are a significant

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