



# MRS BIGGS

## PRODUCTION NOTES



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Press Release

Jeff Pope Writer and Executive Producer

Charmian Biggs

Sheridan Smith plays Charmian Biggs

Daniel Mays plays Ronnie Biggs

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## SHERIDAN SMITH AND DANNY MAYS LEAD THE CAST IN ITV STUDIOS' PRODUCTION OF MRS BIGGS



SHERIDAN SMITH stars in the title role of Charmian Biggs in the five-part ITV drama **Mrs Biggs** produced by ITV Studios. She is joined by DANNY MAYS who assumes the iconic role of Charmian's infamous ex-husband Ronnie Biggs.

Written by award-winning writer and Executive Producer Jeff Pope (*The Murder of Stephen Lawrence*, *See No Evil: The Moors Murders*, *Appropriate Adult*), **Mrs Biggs**, will chronicle Charmian's life from the fateful moment that, as a teenager on a train, she first met and fell in love with the flirtatious and worldly Biggs.

Sheridan and Danny are joined by ADRIAN SCARBOROUGH and CAROLINE GOODALL as Bernard and Muriel Powell, Charmian's parents.

Sheridan commented: "When I received the call to say that I'd got this job I burst into tears. Charmian is an incredible woman, and I'm so lucky that she'll be on hand to support me and give me advice during the shoot. I hope that I can do her story justice".

**Mrs Biggs** recounts the story of their struggle to stay together in the face of fierce opposition from Charmian's family - aghast at Biggs' criminal record - and their idyllic life as the parents of young children before money worries forced Biggs to ask for a loan from an old friend to pay the deposit on a house they wanted to buy for their growing family. That friend was Bruce Reynolds, at that moment planning on of the most famous crimes in British history - the Great Train Robbery of August 1963.

The consequences of the robbery were to devastate Charmian's life. Blissfully ignorant of what her husband was up to - he told her he was on a tree-felling job in Wiltshire whilst away on the robbery - she nonetheless went on the run with her husband and children after he'd dramatically skipped over the wall of Wandsworth prison. Shunned by her parents and desperate to keep her own family together, she secretly emigrated with her sons to Australia on false passports. Biggs had already quietly slipped out there and she now managed to help her husband, one of the world's most wanted men, to avoid capture for more than four years.

But she was never to find any real peace and when - at her insistence - Biggs skipped the country for Rio only hours before Melbourne Police discovered where they were living, Charmian and her three boys were on their own, facing an uncertain future in a foreign country.

Tragedy was to follow when their eldest son Nicky was killed in a car accident. Charmian threw herself into building a life for her other two sons, studying for a degree and taking on a job as she pleaded to be allowed to stay in Australia. When Biggs was discovered by Scotland Yard to be living under an assumed name in Rio, she flew out for an emotional reunion. Biggs broke the news to her that that he had a chance of evading extradition as the father of an unborn child by a local night club dancer, Raimunda Nascimento De Castro - and then asked her for a divorce. He told his loyal wife that it would give him a better chance of persuading the Brazilian authorities that he intended to bring up his baby with Raimunda - and therefore be allowed to stay. Although utterly heartbroken, Charmian agreed.

Filmed in London, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Adelaide and Melbourne, **Mrs Biggs** is a co-production with Melbourne based December Media for Seven Network in Australia.

Charmian, who was allowed to remain in Australia, has acted as consultant to the production. She said: "If my story were to be dramatized I wanted it to be done as accurately as possible. It seemed to me this was an opportunity to convey the rollercoaster of emotions involved, rather than just the bare facts.'

Jeff Pope, who has been developing the drama for four years, said: "Charmian's is one of the great untold stories of the 20th Century, set against the backdrop of one of the greatest crimes of all times. But at the heart of it is a simple love story between Charmian and Ron."

Jeff also commented on the fact the drama will be a co-production: "The story is, on one level, about a young family coming to Australia in the '60s, when it was a land of opportunity and discovery. We always knew we were going to need an Australian partner and Seven Network were committed and supportive right from the word go. We are looking forward to working with Seven on this great adventure."

**Mrs Biggs** is produced by Kwadjo Dajan (*Appropriate Adult* as co- producer) and directed by Paul Whittington (*Vera*, *DCI Banks*).

**Mrs Biggs** was commissioned for ITV by Director of Drama Commissioning, Laura Mackie and Controller of Drama Commissioning Sally Haynes.

"**Mrs Biggs** is the heartbreaking story of Charmian's enduring love for Ron Biggs. It's a very moving and emotional narrative, which Jeff has written beautifully," said Laura. The drama was filmed in Manchester and Australia.

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## Jeff Pope - Writer and Executive Producer



*"It all began with a girl on a train..."*

"Charmian's is one of the great untold stories that I've come across," says award-winning writer and executive producer Jeff Pope.

"It gives us a window on to events which we think we know something about - the 1963 Great Train Robbery and Ronald Biggs' time in Brazil. But, in fact, it illuminates so much about crime and punishment and love."

Mrs Biggs starts with the fateful first meeting of teenager Charmian Powell and carpenter Ronald Biggs, 28, on a London commuter train in October 1957 and tells her story through to their parting in Rio in 1974.

"I'm sure there are a lot of women who could identify with the young Charmian as this free spirit, an 18-year-old from an oppressive family background who meets this charming guy on a train and falls in love with him," explains Jeff.

Mrs Biggs charts Charmian's journey through marriage to Ron, her shock when she discovered he had taken part in the £2.6 million Great Train Robbery in Buckinghamshire, his dramatic escape from Wandsworth Prison, their new life in Australia, the tragic death of their 10-year-old-son and the moment she said goodbye to Ron in Rio to seize a new future for herself and their two surviving children.

"I hope the audience come away, like I did, with a different perception of Charmian and Ronald Biggs. I don't think they are perfect. Certainly Ron isn't. It's not about forgiveness and it's not about canonising them. It's about understanding what happened and realising that, certainly in the case of Charmian, 'That could have been me.'"

Jeff's interest was initially sparked seven years ago when he watched a repeat of an Australian documentary featuring an interview with Charmian.

"What hooked me was the letter that Ron wrote to her in Australia after their eldest son Nicky had died in a car accident. It was agonising because Ron was in hiding in Rio and she had to write and tell him that their son had died. Communications weren't as instant then as they are now.

"Ron's response was the most beautiful letter. He was articulate, incredibly sensitive and moving and quoted from Shakespeare. I did have preconceptions about Ron. I thought he was a happy-go-lucky lag. Then I realised he wasn't. And the way Charmian talked about him, I realised she wasn't a gangster's moll either.

"They were the love of each other's lives and she was a loyal wife. Charmian was a young, impressionable girl when they met. She had a difficult relationship with her headmaster father and was later ostracised by her family. All she had was Ron. And she went on the most amazing journey."

How did Jeff persuade Charmian to talk to him and become involved in the TV project as a consultant?

"Our producer Kwadjo Dajan found Charmian in Australia. We did our homework before we first spoke to her. There are lots of books about the Great Train Robbery in general and Ron specifically. And lots of documentaries. So before we approached her we made sure that we knew what we were talking about. So that when we had a conversation with her and we said, 'We wanted to discuss this bit of the story, of that bit of the story' we knew what we were talking about, when it happened and who was involved.

"Then it was a question of convincing her that we were headed towards the drama that we wanted to make, which was a sensitive portrayal of her story. She was intrigued enough to meet and was impressed with the amount of detail that we wanted. We weren't going to skim this story.

"Charmian had been planning to write an autobiography and has kept a huge archive. It was incredible. The most comprehensive collection of cuttings, footage, photographs and letters. She just got into the habit over the years of keeping things.

"There was an evening off during the Australian shoot when we went round to Charmian's house. We were chatting away and then she went off and came back with these huge scrapbooks, thrust them in front of Sheridan and Danny and said, 'I thought you might want to look through these.' And for hours they were poring through this window into someone's life.

"We wanted Charmian to come out on set as much as she wanted to and felt comfortable with. We were in Australia for six weeks and gradually as the weeks went by she enjoyed the process more and felt more at home."

Did anyone in the production team meet or consult Ron about the drama?

"No, we haven't. Just as we were getting ready to go into production we heard that Ron was having a book launch. So the producer Kwadjo and I sneaked in and stood at the back, just for curiosity's sake, so that we could say to ourselves that we'd seen him. That we'd been in the same room.

“But Charmian has, in great detail, talked him through the project and he gave her his blessing. Ron has co-written two autobiographies and he’s co-operated heavily with another book about him. I think he feels he’s had a lot of shots at telling his story and it’s time Charmian told hers.

“She found it very liberating to have her voice at last. She has never had the opportunity to put it exactly as she saw it. It was wonderful to go on that journey with her. She’s a very inspiring person with a total lack of bitterness.”

Mrs Biggs includes the death of Charmian’s and Ron’s eldest son Nicky in an Australian car accident.

“We have a duty to let Ron know about what we’re doing and give him the opportunity, should he desire, to see it in advance - or not. He may want to avoid it. Either way he must be warned because it involves the death of his son. But the series as a whole is very much from the point of view of Charmian.”

Jeff adds: “The Great Train Robbery is actually quite a small part of what happens in the series, although we do have an incredible reconstruction of the robbery. But it’s the build up to it and what happens afterwards that we’re interested in.”

Some argue that the death of the Royal Mail train driver Jack Mills in 1970 was linked to the head injuries he received when he was attacked during the £2.6 million raid.

“There are all sorts of misconceptions about the robbery and about Ron’s role. I still meet people who say how awful it was the Great Train Robbers killed the train driver Jack Mills. In fact Jack Mills died seven years after the robbery from leukaemia.”

The drama depicts the attack on Jack Mills, who was coshed after some of the robbers jumped into his cab. The gang member who hit him has never been caught or identified.

“I don’t want to whitewash it,” maintains Jeff. “We show a group of hooded men smash their way into a train and thuggishly strike Jack Mills. The Great Train Robbers argue that the worst injuries were done as Mr Mills fell and banged his head on the driver’s console. It doesn’t excuse it though just because it was done after he fell rather than the actual act of hitting him. It was horrific to have these hooded men burst into his cab, strike him and hurt him.

“The decision we took was to view the robbery through the eyes of Ron. So we see what he saw. And what he saw was from the trackside, because he wasn’t in the cab when Mr Mills was struck.”

Ron was recruited into the gang because he knew a retired train driver and was able to persuade him to take part to move the London-bound locomotive - halted by a fake red light - to a position where the mailbags containing the cash could be unloaded. But in the end the gang forced Jack Mills himself to move the diesel-electric engine.

“Ron was known as a murderer in Rio because the media there constantly repeated the untruth that the Great Train Robbers had killed Jack Mills. But Ron had a fairly minor role in the robbery. In fact he was banished to a Land Rover in disgrace on the night, along with the would-be substitute driver.”

Charmian knew nothing about the robbery, masterminded by career criminal Bruce Reynolds. Ron told her he was going away to earn some money felling trees. Her world changed forever when he returned home with his share of the stolen fortune.



Soon arrested and charged, Ron was sentenced to 30 years in prison, at a time when parole and the hope of early release did not exist.

"All of the robbers acknowledge that they stole from the Queen and they deserved to be punished. But in the grand scheme of things there was a low level of violence used and no guns. There was an element in the punitive sentences of the Establishment sending a message out, putting down this cocksure generation thumbing its nose at authority."

Jeff says everyone involved in the production was aware of their responsibilities.

"As a dramatist these stories illustrate extremes of behaviour and that's what draws us to them. But there is a duty to do it responsibly. You have to think very carefully about what you're saying and why you're doing what you're doing.

"Charmian was an innocent bystander, sucked into this. And to see what she goes through and to understand what happened to her tells a story that we can all connect with. We don't glorify the Great Train Robbers."

Mrs Biggs also explores the concept of freedom.

"It's a theme that runs right through. Freedom from Charmian's oppressive father all the way through to freedom from Ron. And along the way literal freedom, because she's in prison at various points, as is Ron. And it's the struggle to keep Ron free."

Ron and the rest of the Great Train Robbers later came to realise that they had stolen too much money - the equivalent of over £40 million today - and they would never be safe from pursuit.

"It was a staggering amount of money at that time but it didn't last very long. In fact Charmian and Ron were much happier once it had gone. They were swindled and cheated out of some of it and spent a huge amount on escape to Australia. There's a lot of misery attached to that money."

On the run in Rio in the 1970s, Ron fathered a son by a young night club dancer called Raimunda, enabling him to stay on in Brazil for many more years before he eventually returned to Britain.

"In the end, Ron put his freedom in front of Charmian and their family. Charmian had sympathy for him. But once freedom took precedence over the boys, that was when she knew they'd reached their end."

Jeff was stunned by the performances of the two lead actors in Mrs Biggs.

Sheridan Smith was the last actress we saw at audition for the role of Charmian. "She'd done something with her hair that was like Charmian. We didn't ask her to. She just wanted to do that to get herself in the right pitch.

"And then proceeded to give the single best audition that I've ever seen. We all walked out and thought, 'Well, that's it.' We were thrilled to give her the part. She gives an incredible performance in Mrs Biggs. I honestly do think we're witnessing something special with what she found with this role.

"Danny Mays is also a clever actor. Physically there was something going on there. Charmian noticed it as well. When Danny was in make-up as a young Ron it was quite

uncanny. We went through her photos and he matched that lean, tall physique and dark curly hair. The thing that really sealed it was when Danny put blue contact lenses in. Because Ron has these very piercing blue eyes.”

Charmian herself has what Jeff describes as “a little Hitchcock moment” when she appears in the background of one of the scenes. “Sheridan - as Charmian - is in court after Ron has escaped from Australia and gone to Rio. Charmian was arrested and there is a scene where her lawyer is arguing for her to be released. And in the public gallery, the real Charmian is watching.”

He says Charmian is a “formidable, intelligent woman” who stood by her man until it became clear he had other priorities in Rio ahead of her and their children.

“She’s from the generation that believes if you truly love somebody you will do anything for that person. That extends to even letting that person go if you felt they’d be better off without you. That, for her, is the absolute yardstick of true love - to love somebody enough to free them from you.

“The really moving thing was that if you asked her, ‘Would you put yourself back on that train again now?’ - she would.”

*Jeff’s credits include Appropriate Adult, See No Evil: The Moors Murders and The Murder of Stephen Lawrence.*

## Charmian Biggs



“My life has been a rollercoaster. Some tremendous highs and some awful lows,” explains Charmian Biggs, the former wife of Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs.

“But you need the lows to appreciate the highs. Looking back, it certainly wasn’t boring.”

Charmian was originally approached about the Mrs Biggs project in 2010, the first drama to tell her story, and acted as a consultant to the production.

“I did an interview for ABC TV in Australia in 2001 and I made it quite clear that was the last interview I wanted to do on the subject. That was supposed to be my final word.

“But I was very impressed with the homework ITV had done. They’d done it all. Read all the books, watched all the documentaries. They thought it would make an interesting story to tell it from my point of view. So that people know what happens to the families that surround people who make the news in a big way.

“I was also reassured from the track record of the team that the quality would be very good. Then once I started talking they couldn’t stop me.

“I didn’t want to be known as someone else’s wife. I’m somebody in my own right. Because I am more than just a wife. I’m not a shadow in the background. I have a mind of my own.

“And I always felt that there was far more to the story than just the guys that were involved. It’s like ripples in a pond. There’s a whole lot of things that affect lots of other people and other stories to be told.

“But it certainly wasn’t an ego trip. ITV approached me. I’d never sought any publicity. It’s given me many sleepless nights re-living it all. Now I think I’ve come to terms with it.”

Charmian recalls her early life with Ron after meeting him on a London commuter train when she was an 18-year-old office clerk.

“I’d just started work in the West End. I had hoped to go to university but you had to have three A-levels and I had failed my Latin by two marks. I could have sat it again but my father was very angry that I had failed so we had a bit of a row and he said I should get a job.

“I answered an ad in the Daily Telegraph the very next weekend and got the job. So I was travelling on the train from Reigate, where I lived, up to London Bridge. And Ron got on the train at Merstham because that’s where he was living.

“He was working as a carpenter in Edgware Road in London. He sat down next to me, found out where I was working and asked if I’d like to have coffee with him one morning.

“I suppose there was an immediate mutual attraction. He invited me to a jazz concert and it flourished from there.

“I was totally in love with Ron. He was the answer to all my dreams. He was quite a clever man, I thought. Very well read. And just had bad luck. That’s how I viewed it then. I realise now that you make your own luck to some extent.

“His mother died when he was about 12. His father remarried within the year and the woman he married had a boy the same age as Ron. So Ron was then pushed aside and not really wanted. He lived rough on a bomb site with other youths of his age and from there got into trouble and eventually wound up in borstal.

“I thought he needed a family and people to care for him. That’s what I thought I was doing. When we got married he promised me faithfully that he wouldn’t go back to crime. He’d been fairly unsuccessful as a criminal and he was a very good tradesman. A perfectionist. We had a business building extensions of people’s houses, staircases, painting and decorating and things like that.”

When the owners of the house Charmian and Ron were renting decided to sell, they offered them first refusal. But the couple did not have enough cash for the deposit. Which is when Ron was drawn into the Great Train Robbery by Bruce Reynolds, the criminal who masterminded the raid. The two men first met when they were both behind bars in Lewes Prison and had become friends.

Charmian had no prior knowledge of the £2.6 million robbery and no idea Ron was involved. He had told her he was going away to earn money tree felling. “When I heard about the robbery I suspected it was a Reynolds’ enterprise. But I didn’t think Ron would be on it because I didn’t think he would betray me.

“Ron had gone to see Reynolds because he thought he might lend us the money. Ron came back and told me it was a no go. But he didn’t reveal that he had agreed to be involved in the enterprise. Simply because Ron had done some work on an old guy’s house who happened to be a train driver. And they were looking for somebody who could drive a train.”





She was stunned when Ron arrived home with his £140,000 share of the stolen money - the equivalent of over £2.5 million today. "I felt as if I were glued to the wall up near the ceiling somewhere watching it all happen. That happens to you in situations when you're in shock. My immediate thought was that we should get rid of it out of the house. I saw it as a betrayal of trust."

Despite that betrayal, Charmian decided to stand by her man.

"He convinced me at the time that he had participated in the robbery because it was a chance he would never get again and that the idea was to make a better life for his family. He was full of enthusiasm about how it would change our lives. We would be careful and plough it into the business and ultimately it would all be legitimate. He was always the eternal optimist and would never, ever, contemplate things going wrong.

"I'm fairly loyal and reliability is high on my list of essential characteristics. If you give your word to somebody that you'll stick with them, you do, no matter what. Even if it doesn't go well. If you commit yourself to somebody you have to be prepared to stand in front of the firing squad instead of them. And you would expect them to do it for you."

Police quickly identified many of those involved and arrested Ron, leaving Charmian as a single mother of, then, two children. Her father had already refused to speak to her and she was cut off from her family.

"The first night after he was arrested was pretty horrible. Shining lights in the windows. I had nobody to call to help. I spoke to my mother the next day. They were horrified. It was beyond anything that they could comprehend or understand and they didn't want anything to do with it."

In April 1964 Ron was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. "There were 20 people involved and 15 got caught. I think they probably thought they might get 15 years. 30 was a bit over the top, considering you might only get 12 years for murder."

Mrs Biggs recreates Ron's escape from Wandsworth Prison in July 1965, which Charmian did know about in advance. "The alternative was awful. How can you contemplate sitting in prison for all that time at a time when there was no parole?"

Charmian and Ron were reunited in Paris before he was smuggled to Australia under a new identity. Six months later she emigrated on false passports with their children to join him, arriving at Darwin Airport in June 1966.

"Although I loved London and didn't want to leave, I didn't quibble about going to Australia because it seemed like a new start."

A large part of Ron's share of the robbery cash went on plastic surgery to change his looks and getting the Biggs' family to the other side of the world. The rest was spent or swindled and cheated from them.

"I had brought the remains of the money with me to Australia, which was about £9000. We bought a station wagon and drove across Australia to Adelaide in three weeks. It was like going to another planet. The scenery and huge flocks of budgerigars. And then when you get to the coast and the sand is all white. It was like Robinson Crusoe. Just beautiful. We didn't spend our time looking over our shoulders. We felt pretty safe."



Charmian had just given birth to the couple's third son in Adelaide when word arrived that their new life was under threat of discovery. "We decided to cut and run and moved to a rented house in Melbourne, where life began again."

Eventually, yet again, they feared the long arm of the law was about to stretch across the world to take Ron back to prison.

“There was a report saying that Ron could be in Australia, possibly in Melbourne, and gave his name, my name and the name of the boys. Ron said he was going to give himself up. And I said, ‘We haven’t got this far for you to do that. But you can’t have the three children and I with you this time.’”

Ron left the family home on what was to be the first stage of his journey to Rio in Brazil. He was nowhere to be found when armed police swooped. Recalls Charmian: “I was arrested and held for a weekend. It was awful. They took the children away and put them in a home. I was hysterical.”

Later released and reunited with her three sons, Charmian adds: “Fate had some pretty nasty things in store. Crossing an intersection, where I had right of way, this car came out of the blue and whacked my car up in the air. And that was it.

“The ambulance took about twenty minutes, half an hour, to get there and was in a collision itself on the way to hospital. My eldest boy was dead on arrival.”

By this time Ron was in Rio and still hiding from the authorities. Charmian had to write and tell him the devastating news about their son Nicky.

The long term plan has been for Charmian and the children to possibly join Ron in Brazil.

“But there was part of me that thought I could manage on my own. There was something enticing about not being on the run anymore.”

When Charmian eventually visited Ron in Rio he told her he had a young night club dancer girlfriend who was pregnant with his child. He also explained that if he was the father of a Brazilian child, he would be allowed to stay in the country and not face the prospect of returning to Britain to serve the rest of his prison sentence.

“He wanted me to divorce him because it was a Catholic country and he thought they might want him to marry her. It seemed like a terrible betrayal to me after all I’d put up with on his behalf right from the start.”

Ron voluntarily came back to Britain from Rio in 2001 and served eight years behind bars before he was released on compassionate grounds, having suffered a series of strokes. He now lives in a London nursing home.

Charmian flew to Britain in February 2012 just before filming for Mrs Biggs began and visited Ron. The couple divorced in 1976 but remain on good terms.

“It’s very difficult to communicate with him now. He can’t speak and his concentration lapses. But I told him exactly what period this drama covers and the events it contains. And he smiled. I think he has enough faith in me to know that I wouldn’t jump into something that wasn’t suitable. That he would trust my judgement.”

Charmian was “flattered” when Sheridan Smith was cast to play her and in Daniel Mays saw a distinct resemblance to a young Ron. She visited the set several times during the Australian filming and invited them to her house, showing them scrapbooks full of detail about her and Ron’s lives.

What conclusions does she think viewers will make after watching Mrs Biggs?

“Crime doesn’t pay,” she replies. “That there’s always another side. And don’t believe what you read in the newspapers most of the time. You need something from a person

who was involved, like this, telling the truth. But even then that's subjective. It's only how I saw it and how I felt it."

She knows some people will criticise her and the role she played helping Ron evade justice.

"Everybody is entitled to their opinion. I can't persuade them otherwise. I did what I thought was right at the time."

Charmian worked closely with writer and executive producer Jeff Pope.

"Jeff said his mum thought I was just as bad as Ron because I was with him after the event. So I was tarred with the same brush.

"I never see myself in quite the same light. I am not of a criminal turn of mind and don't think it pays off in any way, shape or form. In fact I'm conceited enough to think that I have enough brains to get by without doing anything illegal.

"Jeff persuaded me to tell him things that I didn't intend to tell him. He asked very probing questions of a very personal nature. But in such a way that I felt I could tell him. Because I wanted him to know it all."



## Sheridan Smith plays Charmian Biggs



Sheridan Smith shed plenty of tears when she played the role of Charmian Biggs.

“I remember bawling my eyes out just reading the script before I even auditioned. It’s such a moving story,” she says.

“I’d heard about Ronnie Biggs and I thought Charmian would be a gangster’s moll type character. Then I read the script and realised she wasn’t. I was fascinated by how Charmian and Ron were world’s apart and met - ironically - on a train and fell madly in love.

“I’m such a hopeless romantic and at the heart of Mrs Biggs is a love story. I just could not put the scripts down. I’ve never read something that I’ve wanted so much to play. I don’t think anyone really knows her story.”

Sheridan was working on another job when she went for the audition. “I was still really blonde but a lovely make-up lady on this other job gave me a little mini beehive hairstyle to give the illusion of, ‘Look, I can do period,’” she laughs.

"I don't think I've ever been that nervous before an audition. I was terrified and really didn't think I'd get it. I thought, 'A role like this, they'll be seeing so many brilliant actresses and I don't stand a chance.'

"When I got the phone call I almost burst into tears because it was something I was really passionate about and so wanted to do it. I was thrilled that they chose me."

Daniel Mays plays Ronnie in the drama.

"We'd met before but hadn't worked together," explains Sheridan. "Working with Danny was a joy. He's a phenomenal actor and we got on really well."

They bonded over early filming in and around Manchester including scenes where police are chasing them after Ron and an accomplice have committed a crime.

"Danny and I had to lie flat in a freezing cold stream. They filmed it and said, 'OK, great, let's get you out...oh, can we just keep you there for a minute to do some stills.' We'd just started to get up and the water took us under and we almost went downstream. Danny was hanging on to the side and I was nearly under the water. All just to get a quick still shot. It was very funny," she laughs.

Sheridan plays Charmian from an impressionable teenage girl to a mother in her thirties.

"It's a huge age jump over the five episodes but it was really clever how they aged both Danny and I. The hair, make up and costume also helps you get into the feel of each period. Lesley Brennan was my brilliant make up artist. She did so many different looks for me. From aged 18 when I had this little short hairstyle to then a big beehive and big back-combed hair later on in the Seventies.

"That was the fun of it because it went from Fifties' outfits to all the Sixties' and then into the Seventies. You feel so completely different to yourself and hold yourself differently. I loved wearing the dresses and the hairstyles and make up. It all made me feel much more like Charmian.

"Of course you never film a drama in order. It's all out of sequence. So we'd have quick changes. One day I gradually aged down scene by scene from 33 to 18. I was like, 'I could get used to this. I'm getting younger by the scene!'

"We also had many different age groups of children because they go from babies to toddlers to early teenagers. I became quite broody by the end of it because they were all so gorgeous."

Her hair was dyed red to play Charmian but she had to revert to blonde for other work once filming was finished. "I would have loved to keep the red hair. I loved it. My favourite yet. Maybe I'll be able to go back to it for another job in the future."

Sheridan felt an extra responsibility playing a real person who is still alive.

"I think Charmian's story is one of the greatest untold stories. There's an added layer of pressure when you're playing somebody real. It's their life and you want to do it justice. I was very nervous about meeting Charmian. Because I'd read the scripts and about her life I felt so close to her. But she was just amazing and such a help during the whole process. What she went through touched me so much that I wanted to make her proud."

Charmian acted as a consultant to the production.

“Charmian was next to me at the script read through in London before we started filming. I was so aware that she was sitting next to me and how surreal it must have been for her to hear these actors saying lines that were her life.

“She was just the loveliest lady and put me completely at ease. And we became really good friends. We saw a lot of each other during the filming and I was in tears on the last day when I had to say goodbye.”

Charmian was a teenager on her way to work in London when she met Ron on that train in October 1957.

“She was from a middle class family and her dad was a headmaster. Ron was a cheeky-chappie charmer and this different world, which was exciting for her. She had a hard time with her dad and Ron wanted to take her away from it all. And she ran away with him.”

Charmian’s father did not approve of their relationship and she eventually found herself cut off from her family. “I have a very northern family and we’re very close. So I can’t imagine that. She had nobody but Ron then and must have felt so alone at times, especially when he went to prison.”

Ron’s involvement in the Great Train Robbery was to change her life forever.

“A lot of people will probably think she knew about the robbery. But she had no idea and then had to make a decision. Charmian wanted her children to have a father, so she went on the run with him.

“Of course Ron was involved but most people don’t really know the details of what happened. I think this series will explain a lot of things.

“I understand why she did what she did. When you know her side of the story it’s heartbreaking. Because they were in love, she was an incredible mum with a lovely little family. But they were always looking over their shoulder. They were never free.”

Sheridan stresses that this is Charmian’s story, being told in a drama for the first time.

“It is called Mrs Biggs. Her husband committed a crime and was on the run from the law. But she’d made her vows to him and was incredibly loyal. It may be partly because she’s of that certain generation. But also because of her love for him and the fact she wanted their children to have a father.

“My interest is in the fact that Charmian is an amazing lady and when I read her story I wanted to tell it and was honoured to be asked to do it. I hope that people will understand more about Charmian’s side of things.

“It’s important to me that people see what she had to go through. Charmian was trying to be a loyal wife and mother. You can’t know what you would have done in that situation at that time, being that woman. She was a single mum a lot of the time when Ron wasn’t around. I was inspired reading her story.”

The first part of the series was filmed in the UK before production switched to Australia.

“Suddenly we’re in the boiling Outback covered in flies and doing this sunset shot with nothing for miles around. At the time we said, ‘This is insane. We were on Blackpool Pier two days ago.’

"It gave you a feeling of how they must have felt all those years ago. You're in this strange country where you don't know a soul. It must have been scary for Charmian when she arrived on her own with the children.

"It was amazing filming in the Outback. I'd never been anywhere like that. That was one of the highlights because it was so alien to me. We stayed in this little hotel in the middle of nowhere."

Adds Sheridan: "Charmian made Ron want to be a better person. When they got to Australia he got regular jobs and worked hard. For all his faults he had many good points as well. That's the reason she loved him. She saw the good in him and how, because of his upbringing, he had got into the wrong crowd.

"Once they were on the other side of the world they made the best of what they had and tried to be happy for the sake of their kids and each other. I'm such a worrier, I don't know how they got on with that. But they did."

Sheridan and Danny visited Charmian's home during filming where she showed them her personal archives.

"We got to read the letters between her and Ron and them corresponding once he had gone to Rio. Danny and I were both crying. It was just so wonderful to let us have a window into that personal world and see the real handwriting - when we had been reading out some of those lines in the script. It was really moving."

Charmian and Ron's eldest son Nicky, aged 10, was killed in a car accident in Australia. Sheridan found those scenes particularly emotional to play.

"No mother should have to experience that. I lost my eldest brother so my mum went through that. Because I don't have children, I tried to use that, I guess, when I was playing those scenes. It was really traumatic because I felt for Charmian so much."

Ron was by this time living in Brazil, having been forced to leave Charmian and his children behind in Australia to evade arrest.

In 1974 Charmian visited her husband in Rio where she learned he had a young girlfriend who was pregnant with his child. Both Sheridan and Danny found these later scenes especially challenging.

"She'd been so good and so strong and they'd been so in love up to that point. Then when he started misbehaving and womanising in Rio, I found that quite difficult. But she's still trying to make it work and hold on to that little glimmer of hope. He'd changed so much by that point. He'd become another man."

Looking back, Sheridan concludes: "I'll never forget the day I first read the script. It was a really special job to work on plus the fact that we all went away to Australia together and became like a family.

"Charmian has a great outlook on it all today. She's a very positive lady. You see her growing from this young girl to an incredibly strong woman. It's a very empowering story.

"They were so much happier when they had no money at the beginning of their relationship when they were struggling and also when they first got to Australia. The money didn't make them happy.



“There’s a real big lesson in that. If you love each other that should be enough.”

*Sheridan’s credits include The Scapegoat, Jonathan Creek, Gavin & Stacey and Two Pints of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps. She’s also won Olivier Awards for her West End stage roles in Legally Blonde and Flare Path.*

*Sheridan plays the title role in Hedda Gabler at London’s Old Vic Theatre from September and in the autumn of 2013 is due to play Titania, co-starring with David Walliams in a West End production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream.*

## Daniel Mays plays Ronnie Biggs



“If there was ever a story that typified that crime doesn’t pay, this would be it,” says Daniel Mays.

“It’s a controversial story. Ronnie Biggs divides opinion, even to this day. To some he represents a folk hero. But others said, ‘Lock him up and throw away the key.’

“My biggest challenge is to test people’s pre-conceived ideas of who he is. It’s such an incredible story and it merits being told.”

Danny plays the Great Train Robber from aged 28 to 44.

“Ronnie tests your opinion of him all the time. Sometimes you like him. Sometimes you don’t. The great thing about this drama is you really get a chance to play a character from late twenties to his forties, showing the audience how he evolves.

“Even having played him and done all the research, he is still very much an enigma to me. You can’t dispute the fact that he was a loving and devoted father and all of that. And yet at the same time he got involved in the Great Train Robbery.

“It was naive to think that he would get away with it. To attempt something of that magnitude was bound to have consequences. So as much as he built his family life, he was quite destructive in getting involved in the robbery in the first place.”

Danny explains that the drama focuses on the relationship between Charmian Powell, played by Sheridan Smith, and Ron, the man who was to make her Mrs Biggs.

"He was very much in and out of borstal and a petty crook to begin with. But there's no doubt that he mellowed once he met Charmian, fell in love and had kids.

"Jeff Pope has written a brilliant script with a love story at its heart. That's the thing I latched on to most. It was about Sheridan and I trusting one another to get that chemistry going. There was a huge responsibility on our shoulders, which we didn't take lightly.

"Sheridan is one of the most naturally talented actors I've worked with and I think there are a lot of similarities between us. She puts an enormous amount of hard work and pressure on herself and she wants the piece to be incredibly memorable and strong.

"She's done a lot of comedy in the past but I think she's going to blow people away with the amazing performance she's delivered as Charmian. Her talent shines through.

"It was a very demanding shoot. Every day, particularly for Sheridan, there's this massive scene after massive scene. She was put through the emotional wringer day after day. I've nothing but admiration for the way she handled it.

"You try not to take the characters home and Ronnie Biggs wasn't necessarily an intense character - there wasn't any malice in him. But the circumstances he and Charmian found themselves in were very intense.

"That thing of being on the run, of constantly looking over your shoulder and the paranoia that would give you. It really did stay with me after I finished filming. I've just come back from holiday and I definitely needed two weeks away to try and get out of it. But as much as the filming was hard work, it was also incredibly enjoyable."

How much did Danny know about Ronnie Biggs before he got the role?

"I knew about the Great Train Robbery. Also that image of Ron in Rio, sticking his fingers up to the Establishment. That he was this kind of fugitive celebrity. But this delves beneath the headlines."

The real Charmian acted as a consultant to the production and saw in Danny a physical likeness to the young Ron.

"She kept saying that," laughs Danny. "She said, 'I would look round at you occasionally on set and you were him. You resembled him.' Wearing blue contact lenses certainly helped.

"It was great having her there but sometimes strange. There's one heart-breaking scene between Charmian and Ron where he knows he's going to prison for 30 years. I looked up and the real Charmian was there at the monitor. I thought then that it must be an extraordinary thing to see her life played out like this. It must have been an incredibly emotional experience for her.

"Charmian is a fiercely intelligent woman. She's a natural fighter and that's the thing that will also come through in Sheridan's performance. It was obviously a really cathartic experience for Charmian, to get her story out."

Jeff Pope's scripts put Ron's role in the robbery into context but don't absolve him of blame.

"There's a real tragedy to it as well," reflects Danny. "He got 30 years even though he never actually touched a mailbag. He brought the substitute driver in but at the time he

couldn't move the train. They were told to go and sit in the back of the van. So he didn't unload any money.

"Of course they all took their cut but I think the prison sentence was excessive and there was no parole at the time. You wouldn't get that for murder now."

Danny points out that there is still confusion about Ron's role.

"I went to my doctor's before I started the job and he asked me who I was playing next. I told him and he said, 'Oh right, yeah, he murdered someone, didn't he?' Many people have just got this completely wrong idea of what he did."

Scenes of the Great Train Robbery were recreated on the East Lancashire Railway using a locomotive from the same batch of as the engine involved in the 1963 raid.

"Definitely one of the stand out moments was when the locomotive was sent down the track on the first take and all the guys are lined up, laying on our bellies, face down in the pitch black.

"They shouted 'action' and you could just feel this train coming. Before you even saw it come over the ridge you could feel the whole ground shaking underneath your body. The sense of anticipation in that take was unbelievable. It felt very close to how it must have felt at the time."

Adds Danny: "Charmian was completely unaware of what Ron was doing on the night of the robbery. He told her he was going tree felling. Then he turns up with this fortune in cash.

"She said, 'It just reeked. It stank.'" I thought, 'That's such a wonderful detail that we can use in the drama."

Ron and some of the other gang members were arrested a month after the robbery and in 1964 given those 30 year prison sentences.

The next year he was free again after a dramatic escape from Wandsworth Prison in London, another event depicted in Mrs Biggs.

"We had to scale up rope ladders and there's a great shot of me leaping over the wall. In actual fact, he was so full of adrenaline that he ran in the opposite direction to where the getaway car was. It's a brilliant sequence.

"Then he was shipped around the East End, went to Bognor Regis and escaped to Paris where he had plastic surgery. He had a nose job and a facelift and it was incredibly painful for him. A lot of his share of the robbery money went on the operation, a change of identity and the tickets to Australia.





“For filming they were able to tape my two temples, pull it back with elastic and tie it underneath my hair. They also did a lot of work on my eyes. Then for the first scenes in Australia we kept the eye make up on but the facelift had gone by that point.”

Ron and Charmian tried to blend in like any other young English family embarking on a new adventure by emigrating to Australia in the 1960s.

“For the first scenes we shot in Australia we flew to Adelaide and then had a five hour drive into the Outback. Ron and Charmian are in a station wagon car with the young kids and they’re driving over this wide expanse. The sense of scale and colour was vastly different to the London scenes. The whole thing just opens up.

“They said their happiest time was when they first arrived in Australia because it was a new start. It was the family back together again. I’d never been to Australia - even today it takes so long to get there. Back in that time they must have thought, ‘No-one is ever going to catch us out here.’ But gradually it all started to close in on them.

“They started out living in Adelaide and then went to Melbourne. I think that sense of dread of someone finding out must have been, at times, unbearable for them. I don’t know how much they could fully relax. Charmian was the one who was always wary of mixing with people. Ron was the one who said, “Oh don’t worry about it. It’s all going to be fine.”

Danny and Sheridan spent an evening at Charmian’s house in Australia where she showed them her archive of personal letters and scrapbooks.

"I found it really emotional and got quite upset reading the letters. Ron had written one to their youngest son when he was seven-years-old and simplified the handwriting so the kid could read it. It was a really beautiful letter from a father to his son saying how much he missed him and would always love him.

"Because of Ron's actions, because of the robbery and how he behaved...to throw that all away is a terrible thing."

As the police closed in on his location, Ron fled to Brazil, where at first he was still hiding from the authorities. He later received a letter from Charmian with the devastating news that their eldest son Nicky had been killed in a car accident.

"I think that's the thing that tipped him over the edge. The fact that his son dies and he's a 'prisoner' out in Rio. He starts to spiral out of control and sinks into drugs and booze. There's this erosion in him. Those darker moments were really interesting to play."

Danny had to age for the later scenes, especially when Ron was in Rio.

"I had to wear a hair piece and they started all the grey hair at a later stage. You do as much as you can to change him physically. Because at the start of the story he is such a man about town and so full of life."

Ron's attitude to his wife and family change when he sees them in Brazil.

"I talked to our director Paul Whittington a lot about that. When people go to prison it's a survival technique. You have to cut all ties with your loved ones in order to survive and get through it.

"He was capable of doing that. He had hooded eyelids and could close off behind his eyes like he wasn't even listening to you or you weren't even in the room with him."

Neither Danny or Sheridan met Ron.

"He's had so many strokes that I don't know how helpful that would have been. I think they were also worried that there would be some sort of influence on me as to how I would play him if I met him.

"The thing about Ronnie Biggs was that he was able to get the best out of most people and was an incredibly charismatic and likeable guy. He was a very astute human being, street smart and able to manipulate a situation.

"People think he's going to be this cockney wide boy robber. He wasn't that. He loved jazz and had a bit of sophistication about him.

"The conundrum about his involvement in the robbery is that he said he did it for his family, to give them the life he never had. That's what he said at the time. But Charmian would say now, in hindsight, that he did it for himself. He did it for self-gain and his ego.

"It's all dependent on who you want to believe. I think it would probably be the latter."

*Daniel's credits include Public Enemies, Made In Dagenham, Ashes To Ashes, Outcasts and Treasure Island.*

## Synopsis

'Mrs Biggs' is the true story of the woman behind Britain's most famous villain, Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs. Over five, hour--long episodes we go on an astonishing journey with her, from naïve young woman to reluctant gangster's moll; from a stifling, choking life at the hands of an overbearing father, to the joy of freedom and motherhood. 'Mrs Biggs' gives us the inside story on one of the most infamous crimes of the twentieth century; but more than anything it is a sweeping love story told across three decades and from one side of the world to the other.

### **Episode One (90 Minutes)**

Charmian Brent is a young girl on a train. Unable to take up the place she won at university because her father has refused to support her any more, she works as a clerk at a bullion dealer's in Soho. Frustrated and disillusioned with life, she is chatted up on the train by Ron Biggs, a tall handsome Londoner nearly ten years her senior. He conceals that he is actually a carpenter by wearing smart clothes and carrying his tools in a briefcase. But Charmian is smitten, and they start dating. When her father Bernard finds out that Ron has convictions for petty crimes he hits the roof, forbidding Charmian to see him any more. But the young couple decide to elope with £200 Ron has forced her to steal from her employers to fund their escape. They hide out on the Dorset coast but are eventually caught after a dramatic car chase and pursuit through a forest. Ron is given six months imprisonment, Charmian a suspended sentence. She waits for him and when he is released she becomes pregnant to force her father to consent to her getting married. Charmian gives her whole life to Ron but asks only that he never becomes involved in crime again. Ron agrees and, for a while, life settles down into domestic bliss. They have two sons in quick succession and Ron's building business is doing well. The only cloud on the horizon is that their rented home is about to be sold. They have first refusal but need to scrape together £500 for the deposit. All their money is tied up in the business so, desperate, Ron goes to see an old friend to ask if he can borrow it. The friend is Bruce Reynolds, at that moment planning the biggest robbery in British history. Reynolds' money is tied up in a plan to rob a Royal Mail train, packed with used bank notes, on its journey down from Glasgow to London. He offers Ron a place on the job but Ron refuses. Reynolds learns Ron is friendly with Peter, a retired train driver --- the missing piece of the jigsaw for Reynolds' master plan. He offers Ron £40,000 to bring Peter in on the job and Ron's resistance is worn down. The episode concludes as Ron, Peter and Reynolds' gang head towards the location where the heist is to take place.

### **Episode Two (60 Minutes)**

With Charmian completely in the dark, Ron takes part in the robbery and the gang net slightly more than £2.5m --- giving them each shares of £140,000. Ron is rich beyond his wildest dreams. But Charmian is distraught; as he tips his share out in front of her she can't believe Ron would put their life in jeopardy in this way. Without a family to support her, she feels she has no option but to stick with Ron and help him disperse the money to safe houses. For a while she enjoys the good life, but the police soon come calling and Ron is arrested. Charmian struggles to keep it together as the press descends on her and fringe villains threaten her for a slice of Ron's money. She is helped by Ruby and Alan Wright, a mother and son who are friends of Reynolds. But when Ron is found guilty and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment her world collapses. She is forced to move into a dingy flat, cut adrift by her family and friends. Entirely alone.

### **Episode Three**

Urged by Ron to do 'whatever it takes' to keep herself happy, Charmian embarks on an ill advised affair with Alan. When she falls pregnant she can't risk an abortion at a clinic and has to use a back street abortionist. She falls seriously ill but manages to pull through. Then she hears the news she's been waiting for --- Ron is planning to escape. She helps organize the attempt, getting money to the gang helping Ron and giving herself a cast iron alibi by taking the boys to Whipsnade Zoo. The escape attempt succeeds spectacularly and Ron becomes Britain's most wanted man. Charmian is put under close observation but she bides her time and finally, after being separated from him for almost a year, meets up with Ron in Paris. His appearance alarms her --- he has undergone crude and largely unsuccessful plastic surgery. They talk about the life they had together and Charmian wonders if they will ever be able to return to it. Ron tells her she must keep faith. He is planning on them all starting a new life in Australia. It will cost him over half of his robbery money, but they will be able to turn over a fresh leaf in a country that asks no questions. A country big enough for them to lose themselves in. Six months later Charmian arrives with the boys in Darwin, but Ron is not there to meet her. Forced to spend the night on camp beds in the airport toilet, she considers getting the next plane home. But then Ron turns up at her hotel – it's all been a misunderstanding. He was at the airport but she looked right through him (in fact she hadn't seen him), and he thought she was giving him a signal. The family buy a car and set off through the outback to Adelaide, where Ron has lined up work and a rented home. Charmian soon falls pregnant again and the family live a tightrope, constantly trying not to let slip their true identities. But Ron gets a job and when baby Farley arrives they appear to be settling back into normal family life. Then Reynolds is arrested in the UK... bringing sharp focus to the fact that their past could catch up on them at any moment.

### **Episode Four**

Ron's picture appears in an Australian magazine. They decide he doesn't look different enough and feel they have no alternative but to up sticks again. They pack themselves into a battered old van, the last of the robbery money gone, and set off for Melbourne. Resourceful and determined, Charmian is now working in a biscuit factory and Ron is foreman at a building site. The boys are at school and the 'Cook' family live unobtrusively in a Melbourne suburb. But the past is never far behind and a London 'grass' lets slip to the authorities that Ronnie Biggs is hiding 'somewhere in Australia'. Ron's picture flashes up on the evening news in Melbourne. Surely, now, the game is up. But still Charmian won't allow him to give in, and insists he hides out for the night at a motel. As she is on her way to take him a change of clothes the police pounce – if they'd followed her for another ten minutes they'd have found him. She is arrested and the boys are taken in to care. It is the lowest point for but she agrees to sell her story to the Packer organization in exchange for a lawyer to represent her in court. The lawyer wins her freedom and helps her get the boys out of care. With Ron still in hiding, he and Charmian risk it all by meeting one last time before he skips the country, on a steamer heading to Rio De Janeiro. It's an emotional farewell with the couple facing an uncertain future and aware that this could be their last encounter.

### **Episode Five**

Having used the Packer money to buy a new house for herself and the boys, Charmian misses Ron desperately. He is lonely too, barely scraping a living as a roofer in a dingy Rio suburb. Then, tragedy strikes when their eldest son, Nicky, is killed in a car crash. Charmian has to smuggle out a letter to Ron telling him of the terrible news.

Charmian and Ron are broken by the death of Nicky, but each deals with it in a different

way. Charmian resolves to keep herself as busy as she can – maniacally so – by taking on a degree as a mature student. Ron slides into a pit of drink, drugs and women. It is at this point he meets a beautiful young Brazilian dancer by the name of Raimunda. But jaded by life, Ron decides to arrange one last payday then turn himself in. He meets up with a Daily Express journalist in Rio to sell him his life story. The journalist betrays Ron by tipping off the police and an old adversary, Detective Chief Inspector Jack Slipper, arrests Ron in Rio. He is thrown in prison in Brasilia, facing extradition, and without even the comfort of a cheque from the Express for Charmian and the boys. Then he discovers that Raimunda is pregnant, and that if the baby is his, the Brazilian authorities might not deport him. Charmian flies out to Rio for an emotional reunion, only to be told by Ron that he wants her to divorce him. He tells her it is for cosmetic reasons only – so that he can be ‘free’ to marry Raimunda, but she is badly shaken. However, when Ron’s extradition is refused, she busily plans for life in Rio as a family unit again, and this time there will be no need to hide. When she takes her sons Chris and Nicky out to meet their father for the first time in nearly five years, Ron is cold and distant; he is curt with Charmian too. Tension builds until, in an emotional confrontation, he admits to her that his freedom has become more important to him than his family. That he wants to stay free whatever the cost; and that with the Brazilian media watching him for signs of a weakening of commitment to Raimunda, his ‘English family’ are the price he must pay. He asks Charmian to live with him and Raimunda in Rio as one, big happy family but she refuses and walks out on him forever. She knows she must put the boys first now. On the way back to Australia she goes to see her family for the first time in over a decade. Her father is overjoyed when she tells him she and Ron are to divorce, and that he was ‘right’ about Ron all along. But when her father assumes she will now move back to the UK, she tells him her life is now in Australia, a country that wants her, and where she won’t just be ‘Mrs Biggs, the wife of the Great Train Robber’.

## CAST CREDITS

Charmian Biggs .....	SHERIDAN SMITH
Ronnie Biggs.....	DANIEL MAYS
Mike Haynes .....	TOM BROOKE
Eric Flower .....	LEO GREGORY
Bernard Powell.....	ADRIAN SCARBOROUGH
Muriel Powell.....	CAROLINE GOODALL
Gillian Powell .....	FLORENCE BELL
Jack Slipper .....	PHIL CORNWELL
Mr Kerslake.....	ROBIN HOOPER
Gordon .....	LUKE NEWBERRY
Bruce Reynolds.....	JAY SIMPSON
Charlie Wilson.....	IAIN MCKEE
Buster Edwards.....	MATTHEW CULLUM
Goody .....	JON FOSTER
Peter .....	RON COOK





## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Executive Producer & Writer ..... JEFF POPE  
Producer ..... KWADJO DAJAN  
Producer (Australia) ..... TONY WRIGHT  
Director ..... PAUL WHITTINGTON  
Line Producer ..... DAN WINCH  
Director of Photography ..... FABIAN WAGNER  
Production Designer ..... PAT CAMPBELL  
Costume Designer ..... AMY ROBERTS  
Hair & Make-Up Designer ..... JANET HORSFIELD