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NICOLA WALKER AND SANJEEV BHASKAR STAR IN ITV DRAMA UNFORGOTTEN

"Two can keep a secret – if one of them is dead"

"How do you think a person lives a life, having murdered someone, without it....showing? A whole life of relationships behind them, without anyone ever suspecting they did something....beyond awful. How does that happen?"

Nicola Walker (*Last Tango in Halifax, Babylon, Scott & Bailey*) and Sanjeev Bhaskar (*The Kumars, The Indian Doctor, Goodness Gracious Me*) join forces this October to star in Unforgotten, a brand new, six-part crime drama from Mainstreet Pictures.

Further cast includes Trevor Eve (Death Comes to Pemberley, Kidnap and Ransom, Waking the Dead), Bernard Hill (Wolf Hall, Hope and Wire, The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers), Ruth Sheen (Our Girl, The Mimic, Mr Turner) and Tom Courtenay (45 Years, Little Dorrit, Quartet, The Dresser and Doctor Zhivago).

Unforgotten, written and created by Chris Lang (*Undeniable, A Mother's Son, Torn*), focuses on a 'cold' murder case of 39 years ago, when the bones of a young man are found beneath the footings of a demolished house. An investigation begins that will unravel the lives of four people who have been waiting for this moment for nearly forty years, as they discover that the past can't, and won't, stay buried for ever.

Nicola Walker and Sanjeev Bhaskar take the lead roles as DCI Cassie Stuart and DS Sunil 'Sunny' Khan, the modern day police team who gradually unravel deep-rooted and long-forgotten secrets, which will have a dramatic impact on their investigation and the lives of four potential suspects — Father Robert Greaves (Bernard Hill), Sir 'Frank' Philip Cross (Trevor Eve), Lizzie Wilton (Ruth Sheen), and Eric Slater (Tom Courtenay). The slow revelation of these secrets as Cassie and Sunny hunt for the killer will alter the dynamic of the families and their loved ones forever.

But who is the murdered boy and what happened in 1976, which was the catalyst for his murder? And what of his family? The pain and despair of his bereft, inconsolable mother, grieving for a lost child as she still searches for answers nearly 40 years later.



Cassie and Sunny begin to unpeel the layers of the investigation only to discover each of the potential suspects has a past they'd sooner stay buried. Reputations could be lost, relationships fractured irrevocably and beliefs and opinions challenged.

Unforgotten asks difficult questions about our changing society, about how well families ever really know one another, and whether justice can ever be too cold to serve.

The drama is set in different corners of the country, from the outer London suburbs, to Southend, Westminster and the Fens. With each of the characters' stories running parallel, the multi-stranded narrative weaves suspicion and curiosity, connecting each of the principle characters.

The focus of the police investigation will be the red-bricked Victorian Arlingham House, a multipurpose property, formerly a private home, British Rail records office, flats, a hostel for homeless young men and women and DHSS office.

Further cast includes Gemma Jones (*Marvellous, Lucan, Bridget Jones's Diary*) as Claire Slater, Brian Bovell (*Death in Paradise, Holby City*) as Ray Wilton and Cherie Lunghi (*Secret Diary of a Call Girl, Casualty*) as Shirley Cross. Hannah Gordon (*Hustle, Moving On, Doctor Who: Shada*) is cast as Grace Greaves with Claire Goose (*Undeniable, Mount Pleasant, Waking the Dead*) and Tamzin Malleson (*Midsomer Murders, Boy Meets Girl, Teachers*) playing her daughters Ellie and Caroline. Peter Egan (*Downton Abbey, Grantchester*) plays Cassie's father Martin, and Frances Tomelty (*Catastrophe, The White Queen*) as Maureen Sullivan, the grieving mother of the murdered boy.

Unforgotten has been commissioned by ITV's Director of Drama Steve November and Controller of Drama Victoria Fea.

The Producer is Tim Bradley (*Teachers, Primeval, Death in Paradise*) and the Director is Andy Wilson (*Ripper Street, Wallander, Cracker, Kidnap and Ransom*). The Executive Producers are Sally Haynes, Chris Lang and Laura Mackie.

BBC Worldwide is the international partner for Unforgotten and the BBC's commercial arm will oversee the global rights for the series in all territories outside the UK.

Production Details

Mainstreet Pictures is a drama independent set up by joint managing directors Sally Haynes and Laura Mackie in July 2013. Unforgotten is their first commission and they are also in pre-production for a brand new comedy series, I Want My Wife Back, for BBC One starring Ben Miller.



Foreword by Chris Lang, Writer

The starting point for Unforgotten was the recent spate of historic crimes. I kept asking myself what it must like for someone who is convicted of a crime thirty or forty years old, what must it be like to have lived a whole life effectively pretending to be something that you're not. And then also, what must it be like to those close to the guilty – their family, their friends, their work colleagues, what must it be like to discover a person you loved, trusted, admired and respected, had done terrible things in the past. And so the idea of Unforgotten began to slowly develop

I was interested in exploring a number of themes, most of which were related to the unique issues surrounding historic crime. I thought about how I felt about very old crimes, and I realised that actually, I felt that it didn't really matter how long ago something happened, if there were people still alive who were affected by it, or even people still alive who *knew* people that were affected by it, I believed society had a responsibility to try and find out what had happened, and if possible punish the guilty. Notwithstanding all of the problems associated with investigating historic crime, I still believe we have to try and get to the truth. And so I set about creating a character, in Cassie Stuart, who was able to prosecute that view, and push it forward, often in the face of very understandable resistance.

I then started to create possible suspects. I was interested in looking at fairly old suspects (I was surprised at how, despite his crimes, I actually felt sorry for the old man harried by the press pack and was interested in exploring this emotional anomaly) because I wanted them all to have lived very full lives before the police investigation caught up with them, and threw a grenade in to all of the social structures they had spent a lifetime constructing.

I did a lot of research on people who have kept secrets for many many years, and all talked about how unbelievably exhausting it was, and how, when their secret was finally revealed there was actually a tremendous sense of relief, that they could finally stop running from their own lies. All of my characters reflect some of that truth.

I also wanted to explore how, when you have done something heinous in your past, it expresses itself in the life you then live. Does your life become a prolonged expiation of your guilt? Despite never having been judged by a criminal justice system, do you in some way judge yourself, punish yourself, in the person you choose to become?

I wondered which crimes might be forgivable by a wife, husband, child, or friend, and which ones wouldn't. I wanted to explore human frailty, the mistakes we all make, I wanted them always to be people we could relate to, and for none of the characters to be 'monsters', rather that we could look at them and think 'there but for the grace of God' - good people sometimes do terrible things.

This allowed me to then tackle the more challenging idea, that very often, forgiveness is the only way forward from the damage caused by crime. Which is a much easier thing to say, than actually do, and I hope the story explores this conflict.

And lastly, I wanted to return to a theme I have explored in a number of my other dramas, which is the idea of how well we can ever really know people, even those closest to us.



Character Biographies

DCI CASSIE STUART (46)

Cassie Stuart is divorced and lives with her father Martin with whom she has a good relationship and a shared passion for doing The Times crossword. She has two sons, both studying at University. Cassie begins to investigate the death of a young man whose body is discovered in the foundations of a Victorian property. She isn't prepared for how much the case touches her, particularly when she breaks the news of his death to the boy's mother.

DI SUNIL 'SUNNY' KHAN (46)

DI Sunny Khan is Cassie's work colleague. A single father of two teenage girls, Sunny is overworked but always does his best to deliver. Sunny and Cassie have a tight working relationship often punctuated with truthful and humorous conversation. They make a good team and their policing skills, attitude and approach to the job complement perfectly.

ERIC SLATER (75)

Eric a former book keeper who worked at Arlingham House in the late 70s, and remembers the victim well. He is the carer of his much loved wife Claire, who has advanced dementia. Now long in retirement, Eric is in the process of organising a 40th wedding anniversary party, and trying to resist his son Les' proposal that he and Claire move to sheltered housing. Eric is wheelchair bound.

SIR PHILIP CROSS (65)

Sir Philip Cross is in very good health for a man in his 60's. He has recently been appointed as the government's entrepreneur Czar. He is happily married to his childhood sweetheart Shirley for over 40 years and they have two grown up children Josh and Bella. As the CEO of a successful retail company, he has always traded on his status as a self made man who started out selling from the back of a van down East Lane market. But as Cassie and Sunny will discover, the truth turns out to be more complicated and Sir Phillip has gone to great lengths over the years to cover up a past that he is deeply ashamed of.

LIZZIE WILTON (55)

Lizzie Wilton lives in Croydon with her second generation Jamaican husband Ray. Lizzie and Ray tragically lost their only son Michael at a young age. They are now both heavily involved in community projects helping local disadvantaged young people. Lizzie has a particularly close friendship with one of their most troubled kids, Curtis, who she is trying to help find his way in life. He's attempting to resist peer pressure to join a gang. Cassie and Sunny will discover that Lizzie is a very different person to Beth Laws as she was known in 1976, a troubled runaway living on the streets.

ROBERT GREAVES (67)

Father Robert Greaves is a priest in a parish of Leigh on Sea on the South East coast. He has been married to Grace for 39 years and they have two grown up daughters Ellie and Caroline. Ellie is in the process of planning her wedding to fiancé Tom and Caroline is pregnant with her first child. Robert acted as chaplain to Arlingham House from 1972-1983, which is the reason he is interviewed as part of the investigation.



Nicola Walker is DCI Cassie Stuart



Q: What was your initial reaction to the scripts for Unforgotten?

"I've worked with the writer Chris Lang twice before. You could tell the subject matter is something he's been considering for a while. Essentially Unforgotten poses the question: 'How do you live when you have done something in your past that you have to completely bury? How do you present this alternative face and personality that you then believe is real?' You re-write your history. When something awful has happened, how do you live?

I thought that was a really interesting thing to try to work out."

Q: Who is Cassie Stuart?

"DCI Cassie Stuart is phenomenally good at her job. But there's been a big change in her life, which isn't dwelt on. There are certain glimpses of her private life that show you this is a woman who is not with her husband anymore. You don't know why. She has two beautiful boys who she clearly adores who have very recently left the family home to go to university. Her father lives with her as her mother has recently died. And she's thrown into this case, when a body is discovered. People appear to think she's mad for wanting to investigate it. But there's something about this investigation and this young boy who lost his life all those years ago. She has to find out who it is, the story behind it and especially when it turns out the case is actually 39 years old."



Q: Your screen father Martin is played by Peter Egan?

"We filmed the scenes in Cassie's house with Peter and it was fantastic to work with him. You immediately believed the father-daughter relationship between the two characters.

Q: Unforgotten is a slow burning puzzle. Is it a coincidence Cassie and her father Martin like to solve puzzles and wordsearches?

"I'm absolutely dreadful at crosswords and puzzles. Whenever the writer Chris Lang has a stage direction saying, 'Cassie's mind is whirring, that great crossword brain,' I try to imagine what that looks like. Because I have no idea. I can't even do quick crosswords, let alone cryptics. I know, as actors, when the crossword comes out we're all meant to gather round. I walk the other way."

Q: Tell us about Cassie and Sunny's relationship?

"We think they've worked together for at least five years. They've both obviously gone through an awful break up with partners in both their lives. His wife has left him, Cassie's husband is not in the home - and I love that you're never told why. I've made my own decision about that but Chris never gives the audience a definitive answer. So they're really intimate at work as colleagues. They know each other incredibly well. They're involved in each other's lives. I think they represent a bit of a sanctuary to each other. I really love how Chris has written both characters"

Q: How is working with Sanjeev Bhaskar?

"From day one it was like we'd worked together for a very long time. That's really fortunate because you have no idea beforehand. I always think on that first day, when you put two actors together who are meant to be a partnership, like this police partnership, with this unseen history, they must stand with their fingers crossed wondering if they've got the casting right. And it was immediately clear, even from the readthrough, that it was going to be fine between me and Sanjeev. We've had a fantastic time. And the pair of us are feeling so relaxed and naughty between takes. This really feeds into the relationship on camera."

Q: Do you and Sanjeev get to work with all of the main cast?

"Cassie and Sunny are the only ones that move through the drama and meet everybody. That has been amazing. Every day we come in and Tom Courtenay sits in front of us, Bernard Hill, Trevor Eve, Ruth Sheen. Every day you have these phenomenal actors literally at the top of their game and we sit and watch. And we get to act with them. It's a terrific cast because the characters are so well drawn. As I read the scripts I believed at various points that each was guilty. And it's good that it's not just a whodunit. There are also sections of the story that Sanjeev and I have had absolutely nothing to do with and I can't wait to see how that plays out."

Q: Is Unforgotten is a modern day drama with a link back to 1976?

"I was six in 1976. My brother had a Chopper bike around that time. He still says it was one of the most important lessons he ever had in life. A boy up at my nan's flat said, 'Oh, that's a great Chopper bike, can I have a go?' And my brother said, 'Yeah, of course you can.' And he never saw his Chopper bike ever again. So for us the mid-seventies was about learning not to lend your Chopper bike to the local boys. It was that hot summer in '76 as well. My brother set fire to a field of stubble. I remember that also. He got in to big trouble."



Q: Tell us about how Cassie forms a bond with Maureen (Frances Tomelty), the mother of the young man who has been missing since 1976?

"I had a really good note from the Director which was Cassie isn't overly emotional. She's very good at her job and she's not frightened to show she's been moved by something during an interview. This happens in her relationship with Maureen because a mother has lost a son. There's a mainline connection between the two women.

"If Maureen was a different person maybe that wouldn't happen. And if Frances Tomelty, who plays her, was a different actress maybe that wouldn't have happened. But Frances did something early on. We were showing Maureen pictures of Arlingham House where her son was before he was murdered. And at the end of the scene - it's not scripted and I don't know if it will make it to the final edit – I crouched down listening to her talking and Frances held me around the head, like you would a baby, and pulled me towards her. That was incredibly moving. A really beautiful piece of intuitive acting from Frances. She's an actress who isn't frightened to explore emotion."

Q: Is Cassie is determined to get justice for Maureen and her son?

"That's Cassie's clear view of the investigation from the beginning. A crime has been committed and if anyone is still alive who is affected by that then it should be investigated and if they are found guilty they should be punished. A very moral conviction about justice. What's really interesting is it all gets a bit more complicated than that. Like life. Cassie has to accept things are not as straightforward as she would like them to be."

Q: Cassie is not the usual strident police officer in charge of a case.

"The director Andy Wilson said from the beginning that he wanted it to feel very real. We've all seen those documentaries like 24 Hours In Police Custody and The Detectives. There's a lot of stuff out there now about the police. And you have to incorporate that in some sense into the drama. That's been fascinating.

"The thing that drew me in when I read Unforgotten is that it was a far more realistic representation of a police force investigating a crime. The police involved seem to be real characters. They're not perfect. They're not mavericks. There's not a maverick in sight in the show. That really appealed to me. It's not just a whodunit. Sometimes people say that and then say it's a 'why they did it'. But Unforgotten is not that either. There's not a hook to hang this on. It's what happens when your past is raked up and the lies you've told yourself and the people you love are revealed."

Q: People can be tortured by the secrets they have to keep.

"They can. But in quite a specific way. It is fascinating that all four of the suspects, with varying degrees of success, have survived their past. But there is a cost to having secrets. You think something would give, surely, in all those people's lives. You can't maintain those secrets and lies forever. It's impossible."

Q: Unforgotten shows how ripples from events can spread across the years?

"Cassie throws the stone and the ripples that causes is really not her concern. She's going after the truth and she wants justice. It is a blind faith in justice to begin with. That's really fascinating and it's so beautifully complicated. It's just not as straightforward as she would like it to be.



"Everyone is suspected. The fall out for all the families is incredibly destructive. My sympathies as a viewer lie with those people who are completely innocent. All they have done is fall in love with somebody. Or love their parent and believed that person. And to have that revealed as an untruth must be utterly destroying."

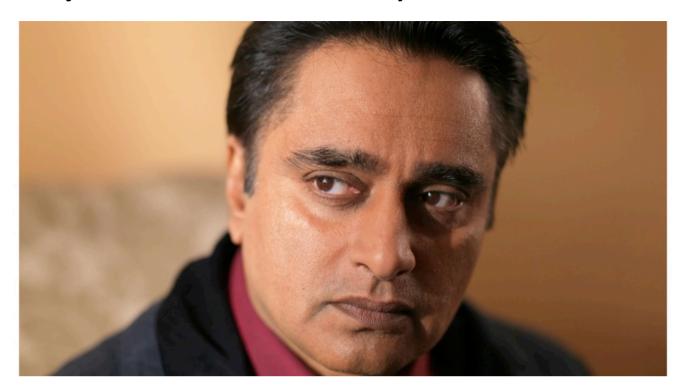
Q: Today's location is in the centre of London with repeated takes for various scenes due to interruptions from city noises - buses, sirens, planes, helicopters and so on. How has it been filming in London?

"I don't mind that. It's really helpful sometimes. By the time you've done it that number of times you start finding new ways to deliver your lines. You can jazz it a bit when you know it really well. So I never mind repeating and repeating scenes.

"It's always worrying to me that the lines don't fall out of your head as quickly as you imagine they would. So you carry them around for a few days.



Sanjeev Bhaskar is DS Sunil 'Sunny' Khan



Q: How did you become involved in Unforgotten?

"When I was approached I said, 'They're not going to cast me but great. I'll go and audition.' So they sent me the scripts and about half way through the first script I forgot I was auditioning for a part and I just started reading as one would read a novel. I was engrossed. The fact I was auditioning became slightly secondary at that point. It was only when I finished reading the scripts I thought, 'Wow, it would be great to be a part of this.'

"I said to the writer Chris Lang at the audition, 'I'd better say this now because I won't get the chance. I won't see you again. This is fantastic. I can't wait to see it.' Fully expecting not to get the role. So to meet and work with all these people for the first time has been an extraordinary experience."

Q: What did you make of DS Sunil 'Sunny' Khan?

"What I found remarkable about both of the detectives was quite how unremarkable they are. There's a genre of detective dramas in which your detective has a hang up of some kind. It's the obstacle to solving a case that comes from the detective. So they have a drink problem, gambling or whatever it is. And the fact both detectives are devoid of that in Unforgotten means your focus is on the story. Also in detective stories generally, the audience - the reader, the viewer - is the detective because you discover the clues as they unfold. You're trying to guess who did it. The viewer will be detective watching Unforgotten. There's an excellent mix of procedural drama and what happens to the suspects from the moment they get a knock on the door."



Q: What is the relationship between Sunny and DCI Cassie Stuart, played by Nicola Walker?

"They've worked together for five or six years and know each other well. There is a kind of comfort and familiarity between us. A chemistry, and that can be difficult to find sometimes. But I found that with Nicola on day one by the end of the first scene, we'd never met before, but there was this immediate familiarity and comfort, which was lovely. Sunny and Cassie get on and empathise with each other. They look out for each other as well. Which was replicated in the way we work."

Q: Tell us about working with Nicola Walker?

"Nicola is a fantastic actress. We've also had a long line of great actors who have come into Unforgotten and Nicola and I have sat there going, 'Tom Courteney, that was incredible. Gemma Jones, wasn't she great? Ruth Sheen was brilliant.' Nicola said, 'How lucky are we?' And I said, 'No, you're one of them. To me you're one of them.' You couldn't ask for someone better. She's brilliant at what she does and I'm a great admirer of hers. Nicola is down to earth, friendly, open and generous. All the things you would want from working with somebody. We've both got sons about the same age and so we talk about that and we laugh a lot."

Q: Do you feel the pressure of a high profile drama?

"In the last few years I've done things like Silent Witness, Lewis and Midsomer Murders. When I did Spamalot on stage in London, many of the interviews I did were around, 'Asian King Arthur? Asian King of the Britons?' And I said, 'If people are still thinking about my ethnicity when they leave the theatre, I haven't done my job. I haven't convinced them I'm the character.' It's similar to this. In the first 10 minutes people might be thinking, 'When is he going to try to be funny?' If they're still thinking that by the end of episode one I just haven't done my job.

"Somebody said to me, 'You've done a lot of comedy. What's the difference between this and a comedy?' The difference is, in a comedy you start being funny when the director says 'action'. On this you start being funny when the director shouts 'cut'. Working on Unforgotten has been absolutely wonderful."

Q: Do the four main Unforgotten "suspects" ever meet?

"Nicola and I are the only ones who get to work with all four suspects. That's been fantastic. It's an extraordinary cast. What has been most striking is you admire people's work and love what they do. Then you get to work with them and that's a joy. I've been struck by how generous they all are as people and as actors.

"I said to Nicola at one point, 'Those are choices. They've made choices to be like that. It's not some act of fate that has made them nice.' And equally, if you have someone on a set who is awkward and belligerent - not on this job, thankfully - those are choices too. You don't have to be that. You could be Tom Courtenay, Bernard Hill, Trevor Eve, Ruth Sheen and so on. A stark but profound lesson in terms of longevity, first of all. That's what I was so struck by. The fact they have nothing to prove yet their joy of being part of something, and including you, is obvious. Which I found really humbling. 'You're letting me be part of your world, your scene? What an honour.'

"Unforgotten is unlike anything else, firstly, because of its historic nature. The 'suspects' are older than you normally find and they have lived lives. The drama of what happens to a life and the people surrounding you is as important as the resolution of the crime. The impacts of one crime are numerous. They are like aftershocks."



Q: The story links back to a young man who went missing in 1976. The seventies were a very different time to today.

"I was 13 in 1976 and the National Front used to try and recruit outside our school, Cranford Community near Hounslow in west London. We would have 'NF' painted on our door. We lived above a launderette and that happened regularly. My dad would have to go down and paint over it. Then there was a big riot in Southall when a teacher called Blair Peach was killed during an anti-racism demonstration. Cranford School was just on the edge of Southall and I remember the tension at that time was absolutely palpable. You could feel it in the air. There were regular fights at school and numerous rumours of a mob of skinheads waiting in the estate across the road to get you on the way home."

Q: A murder robs a family of decades of life with their loved one.

"It's a life sentence. You never get over it. It doesn't ever stop. I look at people and I go, 'I don't know how you cope with it.' And it must be torture if a body is never found. People need that closure. My uncle was murdered. He was my mum's brother. And they never found out who did it. You move on because you have to but you never forget. It's like untimely deaths. Friends of mine who have died young. You don't get over it. It's always there. And if you take the why and how away, particularly for people who go missing, how do you cope with that?"

Q: When historical crimes come to light, people assume others must have known.

"The world is a strange and fantastical place. You only have to look at certain cases to realise how murky and difficult they must be to unravel. Your experience of people is what you get directly from them and what you hear. Those are the only two things you've got to go on."

"Scrutiny now occurs due to social media. Now you have opinions voiced online. And people who say, 'I don't care what the jury said. I don't care what he said. I know in my heart that he's guilty.' You get those arguments. There's that notion now, I think particularly through social media, that everyone's opinion is important and has equal weighting."

Q: Punk and The Clash are mentioned in the drama. Were you a fan?

"I didn't get punk at the time, at all. I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Elvis and Beatles man and was as a kid as well. But many years later I got to be friends with Joe Strummer of The Clash, who was just one of the loveliest people I've ever met. I didn't know him for that long before he tragically died but he was so supportive.

"We met at a music awards ceremony and hit if off. There have been two proper rock 'n roll moments in my life. That was certainly one when he came up to me. I was staring at Johnny Depp and Joe said, 'Oh mate, I love your work.' I went, 'Thanks, thanks,' and didn't look at who it was. And he said, 'Yeah, it's great, it's really good stuff. My name's Joe Strummer.' And I looked at him and went, 'You're Joe Strummer!' And he went, 'Yeah, I know.' At which point he said, 'Let me introduce you to Johnny Depp.' And like the Red Sea, it parted for him. I then chatted to Johnny Depp for 20 mins or something. That was extraordinary.

"Anything I did on TV or bits and pieces on film, I'd get a call or message from Joe the next day. He lived in Somerset and went to see a film I was in and I thought, 'Wait a minute? It only came out yesterday.' And the next day he was ringing me saying, 'Well done on the film. You were great.' He was just lovely. And, in a way, I understood more about the whole punk thing through just knowing him.



"When punk first arrived I was obviously a lot younger and it just seemed like undirected anger. I didn't get it. But by the time I met Joe - and he was obviously older then - I could see the anger wasn't aimed at life. It was aimed at authority generally. And actually the humanistic thing was very much a part of who he was.

"And the other rock 'n roll moment I had was Stephen Fry introducing me to my big hero Roger Moore. Who is just wonderful. I said to him, 'Roger, look, I have to come clean. Watching The Saint and The Persuaders when I was growing up was probably what made me want to be an actor.' And he said, 'Well, of course you thought, 'If he can get a job, anyone can.' What isn't there to love?

"The last time I went to Roger's one man show I saw him afterwards. He was signing a Live And Let Die script for someone and I said, 'Live And Let Die was the first Bond film I saw at the cinema, Roger. In the days of continuous programming, I watched it and thought I'd watch the first 15-20 minutes again - and then watched the whole thing again. So I ended up watching it twice in one sitting.' Roger's comic timing was perfect. It was two seconds before he said, 'You owe me £4.50.' How great is that?"

Q: One of the Unforgotten filming locations was in Hayes, west London, just across the road from where your father worked as a machine supervisor at the old Nestle factory.

"It's something that hits me quite regularly, this extraordinary journey I've been on. I forget sometimes what I do for a living because I always have remained, primarily, a fan. I remember the posters I had on my wall, with my dad smelling of coffee when he came back from his shift work. And now I've met some of the people who were in those posters. I had a Monty Python Life Of Brian poster and now I think, 'Actually, I'm friends with some of them now.' That's the point where I go, 'Oh my God. What happened?' It's just such a series of extraordinary twists of fate that it leaves me in wonderment.

"Then on Unforgotten you find yourself sitting opposite someone like Tom Courtenay. And you go, 'Bloody hell, I watched you in Billy Liar, Doctor Zhivago and you're here. And I'm here. This is extraordinary.' I get an email from Roger Moore and think, 'Oh my God.' Those are the moments that really strike me because I'm primarily still a fan."

Q: Unforgotten is a slow burn puzzle. Would you make a good detective?

"I think I would. I'm observant and I can be lateral. So I think those two things would make me a good detective. The uncovering of the puzzles in Unforgotten is much more like real life. The Sherlock-type thing is fantastic, which I love and it is a great TV series. But it is not police work. Sherlock is a buddy show about their relationship with some really interesting stuff thrown in. But this is about police work. Because, as detectives, we're unremarkable, we don't have that hook, it means the focus is on the story. And it means we have to be as authentic as we can and not look like we're acting as detectives."

Q: People can keep terrible secrets.

"They do. You can keep a secret. You can lie. But I remember talking to a barrister once and he said, 'It's very difficult to sustain a lie under cross-examination. That's the thing. You can keep a secret. You can not say anything. But once you're questioned on it, that's when it's very difficult.' And he said, 'You can't be caught out on the truth.' I think that's part of what would make me a good detective. People shouldn't worry about any questions I'm firing at them if they are telling the truth. And if they are not, I will pick up on the inconsistency."



Q: Is Unforgotten a police duo that might return?

"Nicola and I have both talked about how the series will come back with the other replaced by someone better looking. It's also funny how the role can overtake you. Away from filming I was filling up with petrol one day and getting a coffee. There were a couple of policeman in there and I almost, inadvertently, nodded to them as I went past..."



Tom Courtenay is Eric Slater



Q: What did you make of the Unforgotten scripts when you first read them?

"I was fascinated. I didn't see the various twists coming. Unfortunately I read episodes four and five in the wrong order, which didn't help me. Then I went to see them to talk about the production and they held back the final outcomes in episode six. There are mysteries and they wouldn't tell me. So I found out about all the characters as I went along and they all feel very real. It's so rich in characters. I was intrigued. The writing is so accomplished. You've just got to know what happens next. I certainly didn't guess."

Q: Who is Eric Slater?

"Eric is wheelchair-bound and married to Claire, played by Gemma Jones. She suffers from dementia and it is getting worse. They have two sons Les (Dominic Power) and Matt (Adam Astill) who are very concerned about them. Will he be able to look after her? Will she be able to look after him? But Eric is determined they should not go into sheltered housing. He wants to stay where they are in their own home. Eric wears large glasses that I brought myself because I like to have my own glasses with my own prescription in and with the anti-flare coating."

Q: Is there a skill to wheelchair acting?

"It was tricky on the first day. They gave me an electric wheelchair and I had to go straight down a corridor, which is not easy. I had first day nerves anyway. But I got the hang of it. I was spinning around. There's a party scene where Eric does some wheelchair dancing. That worked very well."



Q: Claire's dementia is challenging for Eric and his sons and it's a fact of everyday life for many families.

"We all get forgetful, naturally, as you get older. You walk into a room and you can't remember why you've gone in there. But I'm told that is a very natural and normal thing. You just have to go back in your memory to the room you've just left. That's unavoidable. But it's not the same as dementia. It's a terrible situation for Eric and Claire.

"During filming I had to do an 11-minute take of one scene, which I didn't forget. Mostly me talking the whole time. I had a long time to memorise it but I would say it takes longer now than it used to when I was younger. But I can still do it. I find application is the answer. I quite like getting up in the morning and doing my lines. I still enjoy that. I would miss it. You know of actors who can no longer remember lines anymore."

Q: The core of the present day story dates back to a young man who moved to London and later went missing.

"It was a very different time then. Some 40 years ago. My first year as an actor was 1960. So that's 55 years already. I left drama school in 1960."

Q: Did it bring back memories of when you first moved to London?

"I was at University College, London in 1955. I was three years at university, two years at drama school and in 1960 whilst at drama school I first got recognition for my acting. I remember arriving in London and just being homesick. At the end of the first term, the joy of going back home to my mother. Really I wanted to go to drama school, that was the trouble. But, of course, my parents wouldn't have understood that. How could they? And they thought education was the key. Which was wonderful of them. They thought if I got an education - the education they'd never had - that would help set me on my way."

Q: Is it true no-one can truly keep a secret?

"Some manage to. But if I'd committed a terrible crime I wouldn't be able to. I don't know how you would live with that. It would be unbearable. I can't even keep the simplest thing from my wife. Like buying another watch or something like that. I can't hide it. It will out."

Q: People often assume family and friends must have known or suspected wrongdoing when a historical arrest is made.

"Well, they say, 'You can't touch pitch and not get mucked.' So if you're connected in any way you will be besmirched. People assume you would have known what was going on, whether you did or not. We don't know what's gone on between other people or what other people have done."

Q: How well do you think we can ever know another human being?

"It's all guesswork. No wonder the world is a difficult place - it is just for two people to live together and muck along."



Q: Have you ever encountered anyone who turned out to be completely different to what you thought they were?

"Occasionally, somebody was a friend and all of a sudden I didn't want to be a friend anymore. It happens now and again. The characters in this drama have also caused me to think of a couple of people who had a double sort of life."

Q: Are actors better at keeping secrets?

"No. Definitely not. People say, 'Oh, you'd be good at playing poker, you can put a face on.' But the best actors don't hide things. The trick of it is not to hide feelings. You show them. That's absolutely the point of it. That's about the only thing I think I can do, is show feeling. Not hide it."

Q: Eric was a book keeper and accountant. Are you as organised as he is?

"I'm not, no. You should see my den. All these papers spread out. My wife keeps looking at it. But once I spread them out that means I've started to have something done about them. That spread on the floor. We call them my piles. I couldn't find the spare batteries for my hearing aids. That really annoyed me. I hardly use them and I'm supposed to. But I can't use them when I'm working and I can hear perfectly well then. But it's in some circumstances I need them, like in a restaurant with loud background noise."

Q: Isn't an untidy office a sign of creativity?

"The best one I heard was that all the negative thoughts which one gets, they're creative. They urge you on. I thought, 'That's all right, then.' Because I get plenty of negative thoughts. And it does spur you on. You get up in the morning and learn all these lines."

Q: Negative thoughts about what?

"Whatever I'm doing. You go up and down. You've got to ignore both the excitement and euphoria if you like the part you've got. And also ignore the other thing, when you think, 'What am I doing this for?' Because there's not a job you have that you don't sometimes think that. But you've got to ignore the waves and just plough on. And I've really enjoyed my role in Unforgotten."



Trevor Eve is Sir Phillip Cross



Q: Who is Sir Phillip Cross?

"Sir Phillip Cross is a self-made multi-millionaire. He's about to be given a peerage by the government and become their entrepreneur Czar of industry and business. But other than that there's no political connection. He's a man that has lived his life with his family and his wife Shirley, played by Cherie Lunghi, who has known him since his early days. But in those early days in London he fell in with the wrong people and developed a history in his late teens and early twenties. That past starts to unfold in the story. His wife certainly knows about it. And there is an interesting twist in his story."

Q: What was your initial reaction when you were approached about Unforgotten?

"I've worked with the director Andy Wilson before on a production called Kidnap and Ransom and I'd worked with the writer Chris Lang on an ITV drama called Lawless. So I knew them both, read the scripts and thought they were really good. Initially I only got the first five scripts because they didn't want to give us the sixth. But I was tipped off as to who did it and then pretended I knew from those first five scripts. They went, 'How did you guess?' Then I told them I was just teasing them.

"I've worked with Cherie Lunghi before and I think she's wonderful. I was really thrilled that she accepted the role. My grown-up screen kids - Bella (Zoe Telford) and Josh (Tom Austen) - are fantastic too. While Nicola Walker (DCI Cassie Stuart) and Sanjeev Bhaskar (DS Sunil Khan) are great. Nicola is amazing. I've always thought that. It's a fantastic cast."



Q: Does Sir Phillip has a Cockney accent?

"Chris Lang wrote tremendous biographies for all the characters and mine went back to the fact that his parents surname was Krauss and this was changed to Cross. They were in the rag trade, so there's a north London, east London ethnicity about it. I think it's crucial to the part that he is a rough diamond and he's been polishing it for years."

Q: He is one of four characters connected in some way to a young man who vanished in 1976.

"The story is a thriller. These four people obviously all have their own pasts. It's a long life. I suppose if you look back on your life you're not proud about everything you've done. These are stories that motivate and trigger a six-hour drama. Unforgotten is very well written. I really like the director, the people doing it are fantastic and I'm glad to be part of it."

Q: Due to the nature of the story, these four characters - Sir Phillip, Father Robert (Bernard Hill), Lizzie (Ruth Sheen) and Eric (Tom Courtenay) never meet. But you worked with Bernard in the 1970s.

"Yes, in 1974. He played John Lennon and I was Paul McCartney in a play called John, Paul, George, Ringo and Bert which transferred from the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool to the Lyric Theatre in London. I have great memories of that. It was extraordinary. I remember the first night. It was a Robert Stigwood production and at that time he had everybody from The Bee Gees to Eric Clapton under his label. So they were all there. I loved it. It was fun."

Q: Unforgotten is linked to that story of a young man who came to London and went missing in 1976. Did it give you pause for thought to think about when your first arrived in London and also that year in particular?

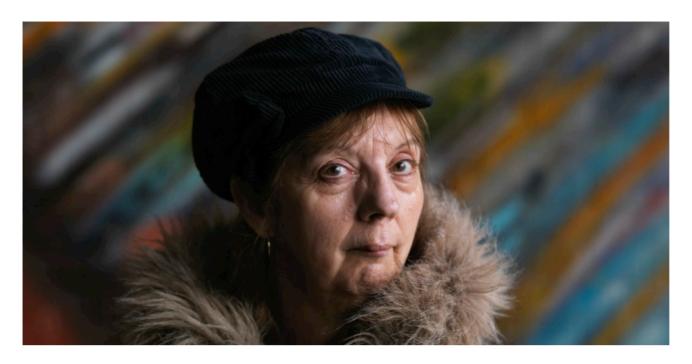
"Before I went to RADA I'd studied architecture, so I was in London in 1968, 1969. I left RADA in 1973 and then I was at the Everyman in Liverpool. When you start out as an actor you have no idea whether you're going to earn a living. So I remember thinking in the seventies, 'Am I going to be able to earn a living? Am I going to be able to get any work?' Of course there were no mobile phones then. You had to wait in for a phone call from your agent. Or you had to make sure you got to a phone by close of day to phone in.

"I've always followed music. It's been one of my great joys. So I was well aware of punk and The Sex Pistols, who I did see.

"1976 was the year I auditioned for Laurence Olivier and worked with him. He directed me in a film version of Hindle Wakes for ITV. Then I went to do a play with Franco Zeffirelli. So it is a period of time I remember very well."



Ruth Sheen is Lizzie Wilton



Q: What appealed to you about Unforgotten?

"They sent me the first three scripts to look at and when I read them I was like, 'Oh my God, what happens next? And I really want to play that character.' That's how I felt. I was quite excited, which you don't get very often. Of course I then wanted to read the rest and I did. I really liked the character of Lizzie Wilton, her story, the complexity of her and I loved the script and the way the four stories intertwine but never meet. They have this link with the young man who went missing in 1976 and I found that very interesting.

"The script is really special. It feels real. That's what I liked about it. The director Andy Wilson is brilliant and very easy to work with. It's just been a really lovely job. We've all really enjoyed ourselves. And you don't always get that on jobs. I really look forward to coming in to work."

Q: Does Unforgotten deal with sensitive issues?

"Different issues are raised throughout the series and everyone has a secret. They all have something they have hidden in their past that they don't want their loved ones to find out about. Also, if you've carried a secret for 40 years it would be very difficult to finally tell someone about it. If you've always covered it up and become who you are now."

Q: Who is Lizzie Wilton?

"Lizzie is a very energetic, late 50s woman who helps run a youth football team with her husband Ray (Brian Bovell). A woman who has tried to encourage one of the young football players, Curtis (Ade Oyefeso), with his education. Curtis has a difficult family background. She's not taken the place of his mum but she is encouraging him to do his exams and to learn. So Lizzie comes across as quite optimistic, friendly and energetic. Ade is a brilliant young actor. He's really got something about him.



"Ray and Lizzie set up the football team after the death of their teenage son Michael. To lose a child is one of the worst things in the world and the team was part of their way of trying to do something positive after that terrible loss. She has put all her energy into the football team and Curtis."

Q: The death of a child can sometimes lead to couples splitting up.

"Lizzie and her husband Ray have a very strong relationship which survived the death of their son. Instead of letting the death of a child consume you and kill you slowly from the inside, you try and be positive and use it as a motivation to help other youngsters.

"Education is very important to her because of her upbringing and she sees something in Curtis that, if it's nurtured, he could be somebody and not fall by the wayside. It's not a case of him being a surrogate son because she lost hers. But she cares about him and can see he could go somewhere. Lizzie just wants to encourage him and supports him. And Curtis is receptive to that. He's bright and wants to get on and doesn't want to go down that road of drugs and so on that his mates may be going down."

Q: Lizzie is one of the four characters linked to the young man who went missing in 1976. Did you reflect on what you were doing then?

"Yes, in a funny sort of way I did. I'd just passed my driving test in 1976. I was never into punk. I was more into flower power. I remember going to drama school then and they said, 'What do you hate?' And I said, 'The National Front.' It was the only thing I could think of that I hated. So they made me be a person in the National Front. And they brought a black guy in and I had to do this speech as a National Front supporter, which was horrendous. The 1970s was a different world."

Q: Unforgotten focuses on a 'cold' murder case dating back some 40 years?

"You read about cases where someone is arrested for a murder that happened decades ago and you just think, 'They have lived a whole life making out they were innocent.' It was horrendous at the time but it almost seems more horrendous now. The thought that somebody could live their whole life with that secret. How could you live with yourself? How could you just get up and go to work? How could you forget about it? I suppose the mind is a maze but it's hard to understand. How something like that would not consume you and play on your mind every single day of your life."

Q: All four characters linked to 1976 have a secret of some kind?

"Lizzie was very young when she first came to London and, obviously, has a past of some kind. As do the other three. I don't like secrets. I hate people telling me their secrets. I think, 'Don't burden me with secrets.' Because it's a responsibility, isn't it? If you know something."

Q: The nature of the story means you don't film any scenes with Bernard Hill (Father Robert Greaves), Tom Courtenay (Eric Slater) or Trevor Eve (Sir Phillip Cross).

"I've seen Tom and just met Trevor today. But all our hours are different. We're in make-up at different times. I saw Frances Tomelty, who plays Maureen Sullivan. We passed each other and had a long chat. But I've not bumped into Bernard. I would have liked to have done something with all of them but it's just the nature of the story. It happens all the time."



Q: Tell us about location filming?

"We've filmed in central London, including on the South Bank by where they do the skateboarding. There were quite a lot of tourists about taking photos but it was quite early in the morning before it got too busy. We also filmed the football training scenes under the Westway flyover at Shepherd's Bush. That was a great location with the traffic going across. And their house was a place at Kingston in Surrey."

Q: Tell us about working with Nicola Walker (DCI Cassie Stuart) and Sanjeev Bhaskar (DS Sunil Khan)?

"Their on screen relationship has really grown. As police officers they've definitely become a force to be reckoned with. It's a really good pairing with things going on in the background in both their lives. That just adds to the whole series. It's not like a normal police drama. It's got lots more edges to it, which I found really interesting."



Bernard Hill is Father Robert Greaves



Q: What was your initial reaction when approached about a role in Unforgotten?

"I was working on a British feature film called Golden Years and the two productions overlapped. So I had to make a decision quite quickly and also couldn't go to the script read through for Unforgotten. Eventually I finished work on the film on a Friday and started this on the Monday.

"I crammed all the information in when I could really focus on Unforgotten. There are so many different layers to it as the story unfolds. All the characters have great depths and I think the audience will be carried along by it, week by week. You go along with certain things, believe certain things and are deceived by certain things. Viewers will enjoy the conversations within families about who may, or may not, be guilty. That will raise a few debates."

Q: Who is Father Robert?

"Father Robert is a very nice guy and everybody likes him. He runs a small community centre and his church in Southend is a big part of the community. A person who is massively sympathetic to everybody's causes. He has a great family with two daughters, Caroline (Tamzin Malleson) and Ellie (Claire Goose), and a wonderful wife Grace, played by Hannah Gordon."

Q: Have you played a priest before?

"I played an Abbot once in an American film. You see Father Robert in the full regalia and in the dog collar. But I pretend I'm not wearing the uniform. If you're playing a priest the worst thing you can do is to play a priest. I think priests are like that anyway. The priests that you get on with, it doesn't matter what they're wearing. They don't go around saying, 'I'm a priest."



Q: Father Robert is one of four suspects. But you never meet the other three?

"That's right. Tom Courtenay (Eric Slater), Trevor Eve (Sir Phillip Cross), Ruth Sheen (Lizzie Wilton) and I don't overlap. Trevor is an old mate of mine. We started out at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool together. He played Paul McCartney to my John Lennon, if you like. And I haven't seen him while filming this. All four characters are linked to a young man in the 1970s but they are four different storylines going right through the series.

"I remember Tom Courtenay in Billy Liar and, as young lads then, we all identified with that kind of attitude. A downtrodden young man wanting to make his way in life, threatening to go to London. I was in Manchester and we used to do that. We'd have a few beers and romantically go down to Piccadilly station and say, 'We're going to get on this train! We're going down to London like Billy Liar!' And at one point we did actually get on the train. Until it started to move and we all jumped off. So Tom was definitely an influence."

Q: Unforgotten reflects back from the modern day on the story of a young man who came to London in the 1970s.

"The first time I stayed overnight in London was when I came down from Manchester for a RADA audition. I hitch-hiked down on a truck and got to London in the early hours of the morning. I fell asleep in a doorway standing up. It's great preparation for doing an audition for RADA. Then I went to the Westminster Catholic Cathedral, because I was raised a Catholic, and fell asleep in the pews. I went into the YMCA and had a wash, spruced myself up a little bit and then set off for the audition at RADA. I failed, obviously.

"The next time when I actually did stay in London, I'd stopped being involved in religion and believing in God but I still used our local parish connections. I came down and stayed in Waterloo because the parish there was run by Franciscans. So my father arranged for me to stay overnight. That's when I saw the Old Vic Theatre on the corner nearby. I was romantically standing there thinking, 'I'm going to play there some day.' And I never did.

"I eventually went to the Everyman in Liverpool and we transferred The Beatles show from there down to the Lyric on Shaftesbury Avenue in London's West End. That was the first time I'd spent more than four weeks away from Manchester in my life. And I was 30 at that time. I'd been away a lot and I'd travelled away for days, a week and so on. But never for more than a month. So I stayed in London for seven weeks and then ran back to Manchester."

Q: It was a different time with no mobile phones or social media like today.

"Communication has totally changed since the 1970s. You're never alone now because people are constantly in touch with each other via things like Facebook. Back then it would be a letter or a call from a phone box. If there's anything good coming out of this massive level of communication, social media, it's that. To a certain extent young people have more of a safety net in terms of family and friends knowing what they may be up to."

Q: A murder robs families of decades of life with a loved one.

"It's indescribable. And it's that quote, 'The flutter of a butterfly's wings can ultimately cause a typhoon half way across the world.' The consequences of people's actions in other people's lives."



Q: There are secrets and lies in Unforgotten.

"I don't think it's difficult to keep a secret. You've just got to keep your mouth shut. But guilt and fear are massive, powerful emotions. Even in something as simple as finding a wallet on the floor containing money and credit cards. There's the name and address of the person whose wallet it is. What will you do?"

Q: Are actors good at keeping secrets?

"Not really. Actors are blabbermouths. We do have secrets. But we never keep them to ourselves. We always tell people in confidence. And that's how it gets out."

Q: Why do you think viewers should watch Unforgotten?

"There are grown up layers to hold the audience's attention. It's a grown up story. It doesn't shirk away from sensitive issues that may be avoided in other series. The layering of the stories and the characters is compelling."



Episode Synopses

Episode 1

A skeleton found in the cellar of a building being demolished prompts investigation from DCI Cassie Stuart and her colleague DI Sunny Khan into the murder of a young man that could potentially span back thousands of years.

Discovery of what they believe to be a car key near the body not only dates it to within the last 65 years, but also leads them on a trail in the hope of identifying the victim.

At the end of the trail is a diary belonging to Jimmy Sullivan, a young man missing since 1976 who appears to be the victim. The final pages of the diary contain several names and addresses, amongst them are Beth, Father Rob, Frankie C and Mr. Slater. Four seemingly unconnected people living very separate lives. It is now down to Cassie and Sunny to find out what happened to Jimmy and to finally get him home.

Episode 2

Having identified the body in the cellar as Jimmy Sullivan the search for his murderer begins, Cassie and Sunny investigate, starting with identifying the names featured in Jimmy's diary.

Cassie travels to Liverpool to see Maureen, Jimmy's mother to get a sense of who Jimmy was, she is met by a woman who is in fact relived that she might finally find out what happened to her son 39 years after he went missing.

'Frankie C' is identified as Sir Phillip Cross, the governments recently appointed entrepreneurial czar who denies ever having met Jimmy. 'Beth' is identified as Lizzie Wilton, living in Croydon and married to Ray, a second-generation Jamaican man, Lizzie also denies knowing Jimmy but is clearly a very different woman from who she was in the 70s before her marriage.

'Father Rob' is Robert Greaves who at the time of Jimmy's death was working in the local church to Arlingham House. And 'Mr. Slater' is Eric Slater, a wheelchair bound, retired bookkeeper living with his wife Claire in Cambridgeshire.



Cast and Production Credits

Cast Credits

Character Name	ACTORS NAME
DCI Cassie Stuart	NICOLA WALKER
DS Sunil Khan	SANJEEV BHASKAR
Eric Slater	TOM COURTENAY
Sir Philip Cross	TREVOR EVE
Father Robert Greaves	
Lizzie Wilton	RUTH SHEEN
Tom	DUNCAN POW
Caroline	TAMZIN MALLESON
Grace Greaves	HANNAH GORDON
Shirley Cross	CHERIE LUNGHI
Bella Cross	ZOE TELFORD
Josh Cross	TOM AUSTEN
Ellie Greaves	CLAIRE GOOSE
Ray Wilton	BRIAN BOVELL
Curtis	
Martin	PETER EGAN
Claire Slater	GEMMA JONES
Les Slater	DOMINIC POWER
Matt Slater	ADAM ASTILL
Sean Rawlins	JONATHAN HARDEN
Geoff	DAVID TROUGHTON
Sheila	TESSA PEAKE JONES
John Burton	DOMINIC COLEMAN
Gough	MATTHEW COTTLE
Brandon	VALENTINE OLUKOGA
Kelly	YASMINE AKRAM
James	SIMON WILSON
Meredith	PAUL CAWLEY
Mary White	RITA DAVIES
Lassiter	CLIFFORD BARRY
Mark Bennett	BENEDICT TAYLOR
DC Jake Collier	LEWIS REEVES



Cast and Production Credits

Cast Credits Continued

DC Karen Willets	PIPPA NIXON
DS Murray Boulting	JORDAN LONG
Maureen Sullivan	FRANCES TOMELTY
Colin Leeming	NEAL BARRY
Brian Kendrick	JOHN SALTHOUSE
Jessica Leeming	
Jimmy Sullivan 1976	HARLEY SYLVESTER
Mark	
Tommy Pinion	ALAN FORD
Carlton	BURT CAESAR
Teacher	NAOMI WATTIS
Marcus Archer	
Alice West	
Alan McKay (Mackie)	
Joanna Bridges	
Custody Sergeant	
Asil	
Dog Handler	
Dezzie Simms	
Adam Stuart	
Thea	
Reporter	
Duty Solicitor No 1	
Big Issue Salesman	
Copper / news of Lizzie	CHRIS MICHAEL HALL
D.SPT Clive Andrews	
CPS Lawyer – Harding	
Annie	GAY SOPER
D.S. Keane	SULE RIMI
Nurse – Care Home	
Duty Solicitor No 2	KERRI MCLEAN



Cast and Production Credits

Production Credits

Executive Producer	SALLY HAYNES
Executive Producer, Writer	CHRIS LANG
Executive Producer	LAURA MACKIE
Producer	TIM BRADLEY
Line Producer	GUY DEGLANVILLE
Director	ANDY WILSON
Production Designer	TOM BOWYER
Costume Designer	MATT PRICE
Make up and Hair Designer	MARELLA SHEARER
Location Manager	RUPERT BRAY
Sound Recordist	RUSSELL JEFFERY
Editor	
SFX Supervisor	ED SMITH
VFX Producer	MEG GUIDON
Stunt Arranger	TOM LUCY
Casting Director	KELLY HENDRY
Casting Director	



