

# JERICHO





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### NEW DRAMA SERIES JERICHO STARS JESSICA RAINE, HANS MATHESON AND CLARKE PETERS

Set in the Yorkshire Dales in the 1870s, the drama from production company, ITV Studios, focuses upon the shanty town of Jericho, home to a community that will live, thrive and die in the shadow of the viaduct they've been brought together to build.

Rough, rustic and remote with a carnival atmosphere, Jericho is a community of pioneers, settlers and outcasts, people with secrets to hide and those looking to start again.

One of the central characters is Annie Quintain, played by Jessica Raine (*Fortitude*, *Wolf Hall*, *Call the Midwife*), a woman who refuses to let tragedy define her. Shattered by her husband's death and penniless as he has gambled away everything they owned, Annie is turfed out of her home and shunned by former friends and neighbours. Together with her two teenage children, Annie leaves for Jericho in the hopes of re-building their lives.

Disembarking from the train at the end of the line, they carry their meagre possessions across a wild terrain. As they reach the brow of a hill a sprawling collection of awnings and huts, bustling with life, lies before them. Beyond that, rising up from the floor of the valley the first two arches of a magnificent railway viaduct teeming with muscled workers. The backbreaking work looks surprisingly majestic as they blast the foundations for the next two arches.

Among those Annie first meets in Jericho is Ralph Coates, played by Clarke Peters (*The Wire*, *Notting Hill*, *Marley & Me*). He is a self-styled railway agent whose finest skill is reading other people and seeing beneath their façade. The truth is he has a past that keeps him looking over his shoulder. He offers Annie a helping hand, and although reluctant, she accepts. It is Coates who makes Annie realise that Jericho is a rare place of opportunity and relying on her only skill as a homemaker, she opens a boarding house for the navy labourers. She and her children will be sharing a home with rough-handed, dirt ingrained men, with a deservedly formidable reputation, who toil to construct the viaduct.

One of Annie's first tenants is Johnny Jackson, played by Hans Matheson (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *The Tudors*); a dark and handsome navy who, despite only just arriving in Jericho, has already got himself into a fight. In the aftermath of an accident on the line, events will bind Annie and Johnny together. Events they will both wish to try and forget, but that will haunt them forever, as their love for one another grows.

Typical of the men toiling at the bedrock is gang leader 'Happy' Jack Laggan, the burly, craggy faced, cracked voice navy labourer played by Dean Andrews (*Happy Valley*, *Ashes to Ashes*). 'Happy' Jack takes no prisoners and works hard for his money.

Jericho's resident prostitute Lace Polly, played by Lorraine Ashbourne (*The Syndicate*, *Public Enemies*, *The Street*) is also a neighbour. Her lace and fineries will dazzle Annie's daughter Martha, played by Amy James-Kelly (*Coronation Street*) and her choice of livelihood will give Annie something to struggle with.

Annie's new neighbours include Joe and Lizzie Capstick (Phil Cornwell and Sophie Thompson), who run the town's Tavern. Their pretty daughter Alma's (Natalie Gavin) irresistible charms have ensured hard working and loyal navvy Davey Sharp has followed them to Jericho.

Across the Dales lives Charles Blackwood, played by Daniel Rigby (*Eric and Ernie, Big School, From There to Here*) he is the visionary behind the viaduct. His dream is to fill a previously impassable gap that falls between railway lines. Railways are the future and Charles hopes his viaduct will bring prosperity to the area. He has invested his family's wealth in the venture and, together with engineer Ezekiel Shaw, he runs the company responsible for the construction. If the railway thrives Charles stands to reap the rewards, but he has taken an almighty risk and he has everything to win or lose. His mission to find investors for the next stage of the build brings feisty Isabella Lambton, played by Jeany Spark (*Wallander, Man Down, Da Vinci's Demons*), a woman he's not seen for nearly ten years, back into his life.

The terrain is hostile and if the land itself doesn't break the colourful community of men and women - navvies, entrepreneurs, street urchins, prostitutes, families, wives, girlfriends and lovers - it will take several years to complete.

Jericho has been created and written by Steve Thompson (*Sherlock, Doctor Who*) who is an executive producer with ITV Studios Director of Drama Kate Bartlett (*Vera, Marchlands*). BAFTA nominated director Paul Whittington (*Cilla, Mrs Biggs, The Widower*) has directed the first two episodes of the series. Lisa Osborne (*Little Dorrit, South Riding, Quirke*) is the producer.

Jericho has been commissioned for ITV by Director of Drama Steve November and Controller of Drama Victoria Fea.

ITV Studios Global Entertainment will distribute Jericho internationally.

## Character biographies

### ANNIE QUAIN TAIN played by Jessica Raine

The untimely death of her schoolmaster husband turns Annie's life upside down. On account of her husband's debts, Annie is turfed out of house and home and forced to start again with not a penny to her name. Just as it looks like she and her two children, Martha and George, will be forced to sleep on the streets Annie hears of jobs going in Culverdale valley. With nowhere else to turn they head for Jericho – a shanty town that has been built for the men tasked to erect a great viaduct joining the two sides of the valley.

Jericho, a place that's vibrant and full of life with a carnival atmosphere, is not for the faint hearted but Annie is proud and determined and is not ready to let this latest turn of events get the better of her. As a single mother in a man's world Annie relies on her inner strength and resourcefulness and against all odds sets up a business providing food and lodgings for the navvies. This new life begins as a temporary measure for Annie. Time enough to get back on her feet and earn enough money to get her and her children back to a version of her old life but she finds in Jericho something that her old life never offered her. Independence.

One of Annie's first lodgers is a handsome and enigmatic navvy named Johnny Jackson. Following a tragic accident on the viaduct events unfold that will rock Annie's world forever and bind Annie and Johnny together in a way they could never have expected. An epic romance is on the cards so long as Annie and Johnny can overcome the obstacles Jericho has in store for them.

### JOHNNY JACKSON played by Hans Matheson

Mysterious and handsome navvy Johnny Jackson has returned from years working on the canals in Africa back to his Yorkshire roots. Arriving in Jericho looking for work Johnny is mocked for his 'fine manners' is affectionately nicknamed 'The Prince' by his fellow navvies. But before long Johnny finds himself an enemy in the shape of Red, a gruff and whiskey soaked navvy.

Johnny and his workmate Skinny are Annie's first lodgers. Johnny and Annie's chance encounter on the train to Jericho sparked a promise of something between them and now they are living under the same roof the chemistry between them is undeniable. However a series of tragic events, sparked by the accident at the viaduct, sends them on a path that will see them brought together in the most unexpected of ways.

Johnny keeps himself to himself, something that bothers the new agent of the line, Ralph Coates. The suspicion is mutual and their guarded animosity towards each other will build and evolve as truths are unearthed and opportunities arise.

## Character biographies continued:

### RALPH COATES played by Clarke Peters

Ralph Coates arrives in Jericho as the foreman of the next mile of railway track. He's distinguished by his years of experience on the Baltimore-Ohio Railway in the US, and by the fact he's the only African-American in this Yorkshire town. Coates unexpectedly helps Annie ease her way into Jericho life but the chances are he will want his kindness repaying.

When a disastrous accident on the viaduct kills two men, leaving others injured and the structure severely damaged, the foreman is fired and Ralph Coates looks to be the perfect replacement. With his feet now firmly under the table Coates sets about making Jericho his own. He's seen opportunity in this town and is determined to make the most of it.

Coates knows railways, it's in his blood, but he also knows people. He knows what makes them tick and he knows how to use this to his advantage. There's a ruthlessness to Coates that makes being in his debt unnerving and being his enemy a mistake, but as events unfurl we'll see there's more to this man than meets the eye.

### CHARLES BLACKWOOD played by Daniel Rigby

Charles Blackwood is the vision behind the viaduct that the people of Jericho are building. As a child he used to play endlessly with his train set and now, as an adult, he is realising his dream, and in his back garden no less because it is his land that the viaduct is being built on. He lives a few miles from Jericho in his family home, with his Antiguan housekeeper and her brother as his manservant to keep him company.

In six year's time Charles hopes his majestic viaduct, connecting two hitherto un-connectable railways lines, will stand as a testament to his great vision and the industrial age. However recently the viaduct has been proving to be a bottomless pit where finances are concerned and Charles has found his time consumed with finding investors to keep his business afloat. Despite this not being his strong point Charles succeeds in getting investors on board only to lose them all in the aftermath of a disastrous accident on the line. He is faced with the questions he hoped never to hear: Where will the money come from now? Will his viaduct never be built? Will its first two arches stand on his land forever, taunting him as Blackwood's folly?

Charles, by nature, is beset with insecurities stemming from an austere father who was never able to see the best in his son and when faced with failure Charles' weakness is finding the strength to carry on. But then an unlikely saviour appears in the form of a ghost from his past. If Charles wants his viaduct to succeed, it means he'll have to be willing to put the troubled past behind him.

## Character biographies continued:

### ISABELLA LAMBTON played by Jeany Speak

Some might say that Isabella Lambton was born a century too early. She is an intelligent woman with a keen eye for business but Victorian society says that her place is in the home. Unmarried and decidedly unashamed about it Isabella continues to look for something to inspire her, something for her to sink her teeth into and invest her considerable inheritance in. She's an old acquaintance of the Blackwood family and when she hears about Charles' viaduct, and his need for investors, it seems she might have found that thing that she has been looking for all these years. But her history with the Blackwood's is chequered and going into business with them could mean confronting the past that she has worked so hard to put behind her.

### MARTHA played by Amy James-Kelly

Martha, 17, is Annie's eldest child. She's quiet and hardworking. Having her life uprooted and moving to a world so unlike anything she's ever known is alarming for her at first but Jericho unearths a hitherto unseen steeliness that might just see her through. Martha's reached that stage where she is no longer a child but not quite a woman and has an innocence to her that is out of place in a town like Jericho. Adapting to this colourful and vibrant new world at this crucial time of her life is a challenge but it's a challenge that Martha learns she is ready for. She, unlike her younger brother, understands the pressure her mother is under and feels a responsibility to do her bit to help, even if it means straying out of her comfort zone. For Martha her journey in Jericho will be rife with knocks, struggles and danger but she's made of stronger stuff than she'd ever let herself believe and might just be one of life's survivors...

### GEORGE QUINTAIN played by Sam Bottomley

George, 13, is Annie's youngest child. He's intelligent and bookish with an eye for adventure. He has a promising future that Annie is terrified of jeopardising, so despite their significant change in circumstances she makes him keep up with his schoolwork until she can get him back into education. Losing his father, a man he loved and idolised, hits George hard and that, combined with being uprooted and taken to live in a strange and seemingly distant world, makes George vulnerable. From the moment he arrives in Jericho, he is in awe of everything that he sees. He used to get lost in the fantasy worlds of his books but now there's an actual real life world full of assorted, colourful and vibrant characters and with a hint of danger right there on his doorstep. It's the best playground George could wish for and a good distraction from grieving for his father. But out exploring one day George witnesses something that will bear dangerous consequences for him and for the town, and his mother's hopes to get him back into education and to a version of their stable former life seem more and more unlikely.

## Production interview

# Q&A with Exec producer, creator and writer Steve Thompson

### Q: What was your inspiration for Jericho?

"It was inspired by a true story. Jericho was a real place. It was a little shanty town in the shadow of the Ribbleshead Viaduct in North Yorkshire. Shanty towns tended to be named after famous battles or biblical places. Jericho was the one at Ribbleshead so we chose it for the name of the series.

"These little shanty towns started to appear when they were building the railways across Yorkshire in the 1870s. These places were like wild west towns. So the idea of making a British Western was new and exciting to me.

"We've called it the Culverdale Viaduct but it is based on Ribbleshead. The very first thing we did was go and visit Ribbleshead and stand there and look up at this extraordinary structure. You can still see the foundations of where the huts were built. They finished building after seven years and just picked up the huts and moved to another location. These rather nomadic towns existed for a short time and then because they were all made out of wood they dismantled them and took them elsewhere.

"The industrial revolution created the world we live in now. It's something we tend to take for granted. I was hugely inspired by the London Olympics Opening Ceremony in 2012. That really stuck in my mind when we started developing this series the following year. Danny Boyle's brilliant opening ceremony where those five concentric rings were raised up spewing sparks reminded me the industrial revolution wasn't necessarily just a grimy and miserable place. Actually it was a magical place. It was the cauldron in which modern Britain was created.

"Danny Boyle seemed to be able to breathe that kind of magic into the period. I wanted to do the same and the amazing production and script development team shared that vision. There's some brilliant CGI on this show. We stand at the bottom of this extraordinary viaduct and it's huge. We're making a show about the extraordinary magic and power of the industrial revolution and the fact these great temples were built out of nothing by extraordinary people. It has a real vibrancy and excitement."

### Q: What was life like in these nomadic communities?

"It's an extraordinary lifestyle. Death was ever present. It was part of the rhythm of their lives. One of the reasons it fascinated us was because the stakes are so high. It was life and death every day. We see some wonderful historical dramas but often they are much more parochial, much smaller, based on village or town life. They are great dramas but the stakes necessarily feel lower. But in Jericho death was part of the fabric of their existence. People could go to work and not come back that night."



## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

#### Q: Were places like this well documented by historians?

“There is a certain amount of historical data now, but these towns weren’t as well documented as other parts of society. The navy culture was huge and it existed all over the world. Obviously because we’re in the middle of the industrial revolution, the 1870s, navvies were incredibly important because they were building the new world, building train lines, canals, tunnels, viaducts and whatever.

“Partly because the towns were so nomadic, they didn’t keep a lot of historical records. People drifted in and drifted out without others necessarily knowing who they were. There are no census records for towns, but there are stories passed down and a very rich sub-culture.

“So the script team and I did a certain amount of research but it meant we could let our imaginations run riot. In our drama a woman called Annie Quaintain, played by Jessica Raine, is made destitute after her husband dies and leaves her with no money. She’s got two children and because this is Victorian England there is no welfare system.

“Annie learns about this navy town 15 miles away so they get on a train and go out there. And it is just like being on a wagon train to the wild west. It’s people going out to the frontier. Because the frontier is free. That’s how America was created and it was the same with this culture in Yorkshire at the time. The frontier was the only free place where you could actually go and start a new life.”

#### Q: How would you describe Annie’s attitude?

“I used to know someone years ago who had three young kids and then her husband left her. She’s one of those people who thought, ‘Right, I’m going to build a new life for myself and my kids.’ She was determined to stand on her own and never be reliant on anyone ever again. She learned how to do plastering and wiring and she fitted her own kitchen. She was never going to rely on a tradesman.

“Annie Quaintain is like that: ‘It’s time to dig my heels in.’ For her, the great motivation in her life is her children. My mother was the same. She was a fanatical mum and a Yorkshire woman as well. Whatever her kids wanted she was going to get it for them. She was going to make sure they had the best life possible.

“So this poor woman is in a navy town with no money and she’s decided she’s going to build a business empire. Gradually what you see her do is take control to the point where she invests in a business and starts employing people. She makes certain her children are going to have some sort of decent life.”

## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

#### Q: What themes do you explore in Jericho?

"The main one is identity. When you are freed of the trappings of Victorian England, being a schoolmaster's wife, and you suddenly go out into the frontier, life is much freer and you must find a different person inside you. The fascinating thing about Jericho is everybody becomes somebody else when they are there. It's a place people go to escape, to hide, to become somebody new. That's certainly true for Annie and all of the other main characters. Their identity is changed as a result of being there."

#### Q: Annie is fiercely protective of her children Martha (Amy James-Kelly) and young George (Sam Bottomley)?

"Amy and Sam are great in those roles. Amy has kept a photo log of the whole thing. She's obviously really enjoying the experience and is a very good photographer. Her photos are fascinating because most of them are behind the scenes. Some beautiful shots, including from inside the train as the family travel to Jericho."

#### Q: Who does Annie meet on that train journey?

"Annie meets Johnny, played by Hans Matheson, on the train to Jericho. The chemistry between Jessica and Hans is quite brilliant. One of the things about a first series is you learn from it. You learn what you've got. The minute we saw Annie and Johnny on screen together we thought 'We've got to have more, more, more of them because it works so well.'"

"I had breakfast with Jessica and Hans a couple of weeks ago and they're very casual, just like two mates. But once you get them acting on screen there's a searing chemistry between them. It's amazing."

#### Q: What was your reaction when Clarke Peters was cast as railway agent Ralph Coates?

"You suddenly wake up and think, 'Oh, my God, that's Clarke Peters and he's saying my lines. How did this happen?' Because you dream big and say to ITV, 'Who could we get to play this character? Do you know who would be really amazing? Do you think Clarke Peters would be available? Do you think he'd possibly even consider it for five minutes?'"

"And then suddenly you look around and you're hanging out with him."

"He's a gentle and generous spirit and a very sweet man. Clarke is a fantastic actor and also the spine of the cast. He's very popular with the rest of the actors, a great guy to have on set. Really interested in the detail of what we're doing. At one point he gave me notes because we were filming in the shanty town and one of the chimneys wasn't smoking. So he's got a very keen visual sense."

## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

"I just count myself so lucky. He's a ball of charisma. That's the extraordinary thing about Clarke. He's so watchable. And he got to do a lot of stuff that he likes doing. He's a very good horse rider so we got a lot of horsemanship into the show."

#### Q: Were African-Americans in the north of England at this time?

"Yes. It's surprising it's rarely represented. But there is now available quite a lot of documentation on the black Victorians. A big culture in Liverpool that had come from America, worked on the docks and stayed there.

"There was a black navvy called Six Fingered Jack that we based the character on. Obviously there's a huge debate in television about historical TV drama and characters from ethnic minorities not featuring enough. But this is one place where we were able to say, 'Actually, this ethnic group was represented.' And therefore it was really important to show them. So Clarke's character is based on a real navvy - Six Fingered Jack. But I called him Ralph Coates.

"Clarke is massively interested in research. The very first conversation I had with him was talking about which part of America Ralph would have come from. Clarke was adamant his character would have come from Vermont and he had good reason for that based on the culture there at the time. So it's important for him to get the research right.

"Coates is a man running from his past. He's just young enough to have been caught by the draft during the Civil War, so he would have fought with the North. He is a refugee from America and gradually you learn some of his secrets."

#### Q: Where did the name Ralph Coates come from?

"When I wrote the character's name I didn't consciously link it to this but my father is a lifelong Spurs football fan and one of their legendary stars, who also played for Burnley, was called Ralph Coates. My dad took me to their ground, White Hart Lane, when I was very young and I think I saw Ralph Coates play. So I suspect his name was sitting in my subconscious and it just came springing out.

"My dad came to watch the final week of filming and met Clarke Peters who said, 'I'm playing Ralph Coates.' And my dad had this big broad grin across his face and said, 'Did you realise he was a Spurs player?' But it was just an accident."

## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

#### Q: What did you make of the town of Jericho built for the series?

"I had probably the most extraordinary experience of my entire career. In February 2015 I walked into an empty field in Yorkshire with the producer, the director and the designer. They basically turned to me and said, 'Where would you like us to put your town?' They didn't say it quite like that but that was the sense of it. I stood there and watched them drive the very first stake in the ground and pace out the main street and using stakes and rope, start to stake out where the tavern, office and shop would be.

"Then I went back four months later when they had built it and that was a real gasp-making experience. Hairs on the back of your neck standing up time. Incredibly thrilling to have a town built from nothing.

"You have this strange responsibility as a writer. It's a bit like being some kind of industrialist where people would say, 'Right, we're going to build this thing in the middle of nowhere.' I was the one saying to an entire cast and crew, 'Come on, let's go and build this town in the middle of nowhere.' Then they did it. For me it was very exciting seeing it take shape like that."

#### Q: Was it important to film this series in Yorkshire?

"Half of my family are from Yorkshire so it's really nice to have been involved in something which is so bound up in the fabric of the place. I wanted this to be filmed in Yorkshire. There's a certain poetry in the language. I don't think we ever spoke about it being anywhere else.

"We were always particularly drawn to Ribbleshead and to the work they did there. Particularly because the Yorkshire moors felt like a proper frontier. It felt like this was a place nobody had visited. Jericho was entirely filmed on location in Yorkshire which made a huge difference."

#### Q: Were you a regular visitor to filming?

"I have been on set in Yorkshire fairly regularly to see it all take shape. David Moore, who directed the last block, was fantastic to my family. I've got five kids and my three eldest, my three teenagers, came with me to watch the filming. David said, 'Come on, get them in costume.' So boys playing with swords and girl skipping in the back of a shot are my three kids. They took it incredibly seriously as background artists. They were rehearsing for ages to get it right."



## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

#### Q: Is visual storytelling important?

"That's the joy of television. I started as a playwright. But in television some of the greatest scenes have no dialogue in them at all. You're just describing a sunset. Jericho has impressive pre-title sequences. We've got Annie leaving this busy, bustling village and going out on a train into the middle of nowhere, walking across the moors and suddenly coming across a half built viaduct. All of this before the opening titles roll. Most of that is just descriptive writing.

"One thing you are aware of as a writer, because we've got an incredibly good crew and the art department are amazing, is you can alter one single word and, of course, that's going to affect what they do. They scour the scripts, every single syllable, to try and recreate what you have suggested. So I think the visual vocabulary is an important part of this show.

"There's a huge amount of exteriors. At the beginning you watch a bunch of industrialists having dinner, overlooking the viaduct, and they've just laid the table in the middle of a field. It has that slightly surreal, almost Alice In Wonderland quality to it."

#### Q: Why is Jericho such a different kind of period drama to the ones we might be used to seeing?

"There are different sorts. A great drama like Downton Abbey is very aspirational. We look at it and we say, 'How extraordinary and how wonderful these people lived in these very opulent times with servants,' and that has its own kind of magic and potency. You get a drama like The Mill, which is equally great but it has a shock value. You think, 'Thank goodness I didn't live there. These people lived under extraordinary oppression.' And yes it's very dramatic.

"Jericho is a drama about working people, like The Mill. But it has a completely different flavour. I think it makes you want to go and live there. It makes you want to go out on the frontier because it was truly exciting. It was an adventure to go there and to become a part of it.

"I watch Oliver Twist and think, 'Yes, I know they were pickpockets living in London squalor. But actually it looked quite exciting and I'd quite like to go and visit.' That's how Dickens makes me feel. I wanted to try and capture a tiny bit of that spirit and say, 'The audience might look at this and think - what a great place to be, to be free.' To go out there and live with that sense of freedom is extraordinary. Encouraging the audience to want to be there and spend time there was, for me, part of the magic of it."

#### Q: How long might it take to build the great Jericho railway viaduct?

"Ideally what we're talking about is five series. That would be the amount of time, roughly, that Jericho was standing as a town. We're talking about a town finding its own identity and becoming itself. Seeing it rise and then being gradually dismantled and taken away at the end. That's a really interesting journey. This is a community that decides it has to have its own laws. To see a place, almost from scratch, try to create its own legal system is also truly interesting. What makes Jericho interesting is those things we take for granted every day just did not exist in that place and they have to build them out of nothing."

## Production interview

### Q&A with Steve Thompson continued:

#### Q: Do you have a favourite train journey?

“I really want to take my kids on the sleeper train to Scotland. We travel to Scotland a lot on holiday and every year I say to the kids, ‘Next year I will take you on the Caledonian Sleeper.’ It’s expensive when you’re a family of seven, but what the hell. So at some point we’ll do that.

“I proposed to my wife at Penzance station. She had just got off the train at Penzance and I presented her with an engagement ring. So railways do feature in my life.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jessica Raine



#### Q: What attracted you to the role of Annie?

“My initial thoughts were that the scripts were different, which is a good thing! I knew it needed a good strong vision, and so had a couple of meetings with Paul Whittington (the director of the first 2 episodes) to make sure we were on the same page. I remember the audition ending with me saying, ‘She’s amazing!’ in reference to Annie, and I loved that the dialogue for her is quite minimal in that first ep. It read as a very visual piece of story telling.”

#### Q: Did you do your own research into this period?

“I very much wanted to, and I thought a lot about the day-to-day rituals of food, and tried to find Victorian recipes and the equipment they had. By the time we meet Annie, of course, she has nothing so would have had to make do with what she had. Most of the research I could get my hands on was very much from the male perspective, about the navvies and the building of the viaducts, the awful sacrifice a lot of men made to building it. All incredibly interesting, but it made me keen to show the female perspective truthfully from this time.”

#### Q: Who is Annie and what’s your take on her as a character?

“Steve Thompson had written a great back story for Annie, which really helped. She is a schoolmaster’s widow. But her husband was a gambler and the family proved to be in massive debt, leaving her with nothing when he dies. So we meet her at this crucial ‘sink or swim’ moment in her life. Literally getting thrown out of the family home and rejected by neighbours who are perhaps influenced by Victorian values and snobbery. I found Annie inspirational from the start... surviving, just. Determined, head strong, resourceful, vulnerable.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jessica Raine continued:

#### Q: What challenges does Annie face in Jericho with two children to feed?

"I loved the line, 'A hard town for a woman, have to scratch to find your place.' I'm not sure it's made it in to the final cut, but that was crucial for me in terms of how it was for the people in Jericho. Having decided to open lodgings, she is pretty determined to keep up her lifestyle of fine china saved from the family house, and good manners, which in a town like Jericho would seem pretty irrelevant. I love how she tries to keep up that side of her life and wants the children to keep reading their books. Her life has clearly taken a turn for the worse - in the eyes of Victorian society - but she refuses to be beaten by it.

"At first she is determined to make money so she can leave Jericho but pretty quickly sees how liberating life in Jericho can be. Annie discovers she is actually a very capable business woman and Jericho is the only place that that could have been made possible."

#### Q: What sort of town is Jericho?

"Jericho is full of navvies. A rag tag bunch of tough workers used to a rough life on the road and settling wherever they can earn a wage. The lodgings are basic, the first buildings to go up are the tavern and the whorehouse. So you get the idea...! This is all completely shocking for Annie, but she sees a gap in the market for good lodgings and good food. It's not that she's trying to better these people, I think she knows that if there's tasty food and comfortable lodgings they'd be glad of it."

#### Q: Does Annie have a good relationship with her children Martha (Amy James-Kelly) and George (Sam Bottomley)?

"It's clear from the start that Martha and George come first for Annie, but she hasn't necessarily told them everything about their father. Neither is very happy about leaving Settle but Annie tries to make the best of it for them. I feel very lucky with the casting of 'my children'. Amy brought a level of professionalism that was wonderful to work with and Sam brought almost the opposite...just a raw instinct for it all. Sam particularly had a hard storyline for someone so young and I cannot praise him enough! I always looked forward to our scenes together as it felt like the camera's disappeared and it was just him and me, rare for child actors. He's got a bright future ahead I'm sure."

#### Q: What choices did you make about Annie's accent? Is she 'prim and proper'?

"I'm a bit allergic to the phrase 'prim and proper'. It's not how I see Annie at all. I wanted her to be earthy and have that dry Yorkshire wit that I see in a lot of northern women. But she has to get to this point...so I worked with a dialect coach and made an effort to not drop my h's in the first couple of episodes, but as the series progresses I decided to use more of the colloquialisms that Steve had scripted. So by the end she uses a lot more 'lasses' and 'happens'...to show that she has truly settled in to Jericho. It is such a beautiful accent, I really hope I've done it justice."



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jessica Raine continued:

#### Q: What was it like filming the family's steam train journey to the valley?

"Those opening shots really were a case of 'no acting required'. I remember looking over to Hans Matheson, who plays Johnny, lying amongst some hessian sacks in his costume and just feeling like we were in a western. Wonderful!"

#### Q: You filmed in a remote part of Yorkshire. Did that help with the feeling of a new community all but isolated from the rest of the world?

"The town of Jericho has been built from scratch, really in the middle of nowhere. Apparently the buildings have to be pinned down with huge tarpaulins at the end of each filming day so they don't blow away. It was also a real feat to get us all up there every day. It is a world away from everything, and it is a real help in terms of character. We were pretty lucky for the most part with the weather, and it looked like an American Frontier town in the blazing sunshine which was just perfect.

"I must also say what an incredible group of supporting artistes (extras) we had. They would be acting their socks off alongside us and some camped out to be there. So that gypsy-like community feel also informed it all."

#### Q: What sort of relationship develops between Annie and Johnny?

"Hans and I discussed at length what Johnny and Annie's relationship was. We both thought it a good idea if neither is particularly interested in a relationship at this point in their lives. Both are up to their neck in what life has thrown at them, so it's the last thing they are concerned with. But there is a huge attraction between them, and it is almost inconvenient.

"We also liked the idea that these two are mature, they are not innocents when it comes to love and relationships, so they are wary. Circumstance keeps throwing them together, and I found it really fun to play with that idea of Annie being resistant yet attracted to Johnny. We were also determined it should be epically romantic. I love watching those kind of relationships on film, so my references were Holly Hunter in *The Piano* and *Days of Heaven*. I wanted the audience to long for these two to get together."

#### Q: How would you describe Annie's relationship with prostitute Lace Polly played by Lorraine Ashbourne?

"Annie is pretty shocked that her lodgings are right next door to the brothel. She is concerned on the influence this will have on George and Martha, and has probably been indoctrinated with the snooty Victorian values of the time. But, as with all things, once she actually gets to know Lace Polly she begins to understand and eventually respect and become friends with her. It's a great arc to play."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jessica Raine continued:

#### Q: Does Annie trust American Ralph Coates, played by Clarke Peters?

"I think Annie instinctively never completely trusts Coates. She knows that he is a clever watchful man and that nothing comes for free in this town...which is all delicious to play! Clarke has got Coates' slipperiness down perfectly. When working with him I always felt Annie never left a scene knowing whether she had won or not, that off kilter feeling was useful for her."

#### Q: Tell us about Annie's outfits.

"We are introduced to Annie in her finest mourning dress. Or the tightest dress known to man as I like to call it. It is beautiful, but I had to get sewn in to it every time so you can imagine the constriction.

"Her costume journey is wonderful though, as is her hair and make up. The audience can watch her physically relax, the clothes become more practical, the hair comes down and becomes softer. It is like a releasing of all those strict Victorian morals. I was thrilled with all aspects.

"By about half way through, Annie's signature top would always be the same shape, high neck, belled sleeves with tight cuffs, strong jewel like colours and very shapely. It's like she finds her style and knows who she is. Very clever."

#### Q: Do you think Jericho will remind viewers of the huge effort and sacrifice that went into building our railways?

"I think we just take it for granted now that these viaducts got built, but when you look at the engineering and sheer man power that went in to it, it's almost unbelievable. I'm really glad we are shining a light on it and I hope it is a tribute to all those who helped build it. I had no idea that these shanty towns popped up while the viaducts got built and it's such a rich and different life we've not seen in costume drama before."

#### Q: In the opening scene we see Annie packing a few precious things into a suitcase. What single thing would you pack if you had to leave home in a hurry?

"My cats! Although I'm not sure they'd like being in a suitcase."

#### Q: Annie is a civilising influence in Jericho. Is there an example of bad manners in everyday life that really annoys you?

"I'm pretty chilled out, I get a bit annoyed when people butt in and don't let others finish a sentence. Generally the more informal and relaxed the better for me!"

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jessica Raine continued:

**Q: Jericho is a raw, new community. Do you think we have lost our sense of community today?**

“I think it’s very easy to look back with rose tinted glasses, I’m sure there was a great sense of community in those times. But I also think it’s up to individuals to create a community. So if you want one, muck in and make it happen!”

**Q: What do you hope the appeal of Jericho will be to a television audience?**

“The sense of something different. A period drama with a bit of grit to it, a frontier town rising from the dust, a woman surviving against all odds and a cracking thriller amongst it all. It’s so full of vivid characters and stories, which is all you want from a good bit of telly really.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Hans Matheson



#### Q. What was the appeal of Jericho?

"I read the scripts for the first two episodes and thought, 'They're really good.' Then when I met the director Paul Whittington I instantly felt a connection. We spoke about films he was going to be referencing in terms of the look - There Will Be Blood, Days Of Heaven and things like that. So immediately I just felt, 'This could be really good.' But I didn't know what would happen across the whole series. So it's both been exciting and kept us on our toes as the scripts have arrived.

"Jericho is about secrets and betrayal. It's about what secrets do to relationships and how secrets bring people together. It's about revealing the truth and the consequences of those things. And how people can be forgiven, and how they can learn and move through things. It's a great story with really interesting characters."

#### Q. Who is Johnny Jackson?

"Johnny is an honourable guy but he is flawed. He likes to fight and I think he likes to womanise. But his heart is in the right place. Life happens to him and he finds himself in situations where he just has to cope with what's thrown at him. He is very good at adapting.

"Deep down he wants to belong somewhere and belong with someone. These are the things that are missing in his life. A home and a heart and someone to be with. The things that have happened to him in his life means he is suffering. Love is an outside force, if you like, and it happens to people. What it wants him to do is to open up, let go and find what really matters."



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Hans Matheson continued:

#### Q: Did you do any research into this period?

"I know these viaducts and shanty towns were built during this time and there are a lot of unmarked graves. A lot of these people were forgotten. They built the viaducts but their story is not known to us. And what happened within those communities? I don't think we have an insight into the exact movements of what was happening. But we can imagine. And I imagine it was pretty grim.

"You could liken Jericho to a western town. It has its own rules. It's not governed by anyone and is still evolving. The community formed out of the workers and then necessity to have beds to sleep in, food to eat and places to drink.

"These places were just established along the way. It's like a gypsy life. Navvies and people come and go. A number of people would stay and keep the community going. But it's all dependent on whether or not the viaducts are getting built and the money is in place for the project to continue. In our story that brings in the aspect of the Blackwood Estate which is owned by Charles Blackwood, played by Daniel Rigby."

#### Q: Are people happy to have Johnny in Jericho?

"There are always different types of characters weaving themselves into positions in these sort of communities. Ralph Coates (Clarke Peters) sees very quickly that Johnny is a rival. Immediately he senses something about Johnny. A secret. And something threatening to him.

"For whatever reason Johnny and Coates don't like each other. But Johnny doesn't feel as threatened. He doesn't understand where Coates came from and what he wants. But Johnny has secrets of his own."

#### Q: What was it like working with Clarke Peters?

"Working with Clarke is just incredible. It's like working with Clint Eastwood or Morgan Freeman. He is absolutely amazing that guy. In every way. He's an inspiration to every single one of us.

"He does not care what people think. And that sounds like a strange thing to say about an actor. But a lot of people are very concerned about how they are coming across and they need approval. He needs none of that. He's not afraid of making mistakes. And it's so great to see. It's like watching a great athlete at work. Just watching him walking across the set is fantastic. He's a great guy too."

#### Q: When does Johnny first meet Annie (Jessica Raine)?

"They meet on a steam train when Annie is taking her children to Jericho. Those are the kind of days you wonder why you're getting paid for what you do. You're just lying in a steam train wearing a cowboy hat. We filmed it on a heritage railway line and it was absolutely gorgeous scenery. That was a lovely day."

## Cast interviews

### Q&A with Hans Matheson continued:

#### Q: Can you describe the relationship between Johnny and Annie?

"There is a spark between them but it's not as simple as that. It's not preconceived. I don't think he wants this to happen at this time in his life. He's not looking for it, certainly not consciously anyway. And nor is she. Annie is recently widowed. Suddenly they find there is a chemistry there and they're not quite sure what to do about it. They do try to push it away. But that's the power of this other force which is bringing you together.

"Johnny has come to work in Jericho for a while. Then life happens. People aren't always initially aware they're falling in love. It creeps up. Then it's almost a compulsion. But the idea of them being together is not going to be easy for either of them because they're from different worlds.

"Annie is from what I would term the middle class. So that comes with certain conditioning. Johnny comes from a different type of community but he is drawn to places like Jericho. There's a rawness, a truthfulness about it. He's more comfortable with it."

#### Q: How was working with Jessica Raine?

"It's been great. She just has something and I think we work together really well. There's a lovely chemistry there and it makes my job a lot easier watching her and what she's doing when we're working together. Once a director said to me, 'You should judge yourself on how much other people enjoy working with you, rather than how good you think you are.' And I really do enjoy working with her."

#### Q: What was your reaction when you saw the exterior set built for the town of Jericho?

"When I first walked up to it I was like, 'My goodness me. This is fantastic.' What a setting. I've since got used to it. This is home now. I've even fallen asleep in a bed on set between takes. It feels very natural and normal."

#### Q: Can you tell us about some of the set piece scenes?

"There was one involving a large number of cast which was frightening for everybody because it's like being on stage. Everyone is there. It's theatre. It's the real thing. So you get a good energy from that. One set piece took three days to film. That was great to shoot and lovely to watch all of the different actors coming up. You have so many characters bringing a lot of light and fun to the series."

#### Q: Does Johnny try his hand at tag wrestling?

"I loved doing that. The wrestling scene was such a good day. Males are males. We do like sport and fights and all of that. We had great fun filming that. The guy I was wrestling was four times the size of me.

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Hans Matheson continued:

"You do get bruised and hurt. I hurt my knee really badly when we had a fight scene in a river. But luckily I had a week off and I needed it because I had to get physio on my knee. But that's all part and parcel of a physical role."

#### Q: Do you have to work hard as Johnny, digging and mining with a pick and shovel?

"We do what we can. We're not miners. I'm not going to try and pretend I could be a real navvy. They just give me a shovel and say, 'Dig here,' or, 'Pull this up there,' and that's what we do. The first director Paul Whittington and I laughed a lot because it is quite funny. We make it look as if we're working but we're not really."

#### Q: One scene sees Johnny dancing on a hillside. Are you a natural dancer?

"You'll have to ask other people about that. I might think I am but they might think something else. I'd give Strictly a go but I'd probably embarrass myself and everybody else."

#### Q: Some of Jericho's cheap lodgings look like lively places to stay?

"I searched for these kind of places as a student, where these things were happening, but I could never find them. So we'd end up in a really nice hotel where everyone was very civilised and quiet...and you're looking for the raucous party."

#### Q: How would you cope if you were transported back to a real navvy town?

"I don't think I would survive. It's extraordinary what people can do, given the challenge. But I don't think I would last very long."

#### Q: How has it been filming Jericho?

"It's been an amazing journey. We've been so lucky. We've had such great relationships with directors, the cast, the costume and make-up departments."

"We've been really lucky with the weather. At times, because this has shades of a western, it's felt like we're in America somewhere. It's been so hot. It's also nice to have the truth of the Yorkshire, English weather. Misty and dark and rainy. I like that too. It gives us less to do as actors because the weather is authentic and helping to tell the story."

#### Q: Do you have a favourite railway journey?

"My first holiday experiences were in the Outer Hebrides because that's where all my family are from. We used to travel from London by train and then get a coach and a ferry. So it seemed like we were going to the other side of the world. It was a long journey."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Hans Matheson continued:

“We used to get the sleeper train. And I loved the sleeper trains. Waking up in the morning on a train and you’re in a different country. It’s just wonderful. It’s so expensive now but then it was more affordable. I don’t really like flying. I will fly. I didn’t used to. But I will now. But the truth is I would much prefer to go on a train any day. Train journeys are great. And if you do get to go first class, which I don’t that often, it’s even better.”

#### Q: Jericho portrays an emerging community. Have we lost our sense of community today?

“I think it’s coming back. People fundamentally want that in their lives. It’s a difficult thing. People don’t realise how hard it is to have a thriving community that’s working economically and culturally. There’s so many things that have to come together. We’ve tried our hardest and we’ve got it wrong quite a lot. But it’s quite a simple thing, really. It’s not out there somewhere. It’s quite close.

“Music and the arts and all of that can be a real help to communities, more than people think. It has to work economically, obviously. But we have to also embrace the issues that we’ve run away from and pushed away. We’re all part of this. We’re more compassionate and we’d be more understanding and more open now to learning from the mistakes we’ve made. I get a strong sense we can get back there.”



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Clarke Peters



#### Q: Why did you want to play Ralph Coates?

"We took a look at the first couple of scripts and I contacted the writer Steve Thompson to see if an African-American in England in the 1870s was credible. Also whether there was enough factual information to develop a character. It turned out there was and I thought, 'OK, I will do this.'"

#### Q: Who is Ralph?

"When you first meet him, Ralph Coates is a man who, motivated by the aftermath of the American Civil War during the years of reconstruction, travels to England to seek work. He arrives in Jericho to secure a job as a railway agent. Well versed in his craft he discovers incompetent management and feels he can do a better job and establishes himself as a foreman. But he also has a secret."

#### Q: So you discovered people like Ralph Coates really did live and work in England at this time?

"Oh yes. Before the Civil War there were more African-Americans here than post-Civil War. And a lot of them did work in the north, in agriculture, weaving and in factories. We spoke at length to an expert at Manchester University about the historical connections."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Clarke Peters continued:

#### Q: Coates comes to build both the railway viaduct and his own empire?

“What he discovers is an opportunity to make money. He finds a small town of navvies, women and small families that’s just beginning to thrive. And he sees he’s able to bring some order to it and in doing so able to cream off some profits.

“Every town needs supplies. Every demand needs to be met. And so as the middle man between these two positions he’s able to profiteer. So all of the market suppliers have to come through him as the railway foreman for the town in order to get their wares sold.

“I’d say he was an opportunist. He was initially given the appointment of railway agent supervising the work being done but realising no one else had the expertise to do this, or the means to pull it together, he takes on the role of foreman. I don’t think he came to this town thinking, ‘I’m going to get as much as I can from these people.’ I think he came looking for a job, saw an opportunity and thought, ‘They have no idea. There is a gold mine to be had here.’ And he went for it.”

#### Q: What is life like for the people of Jericho?

“They’re like crabs in a barrel. Everyone is trying their best to survive. You have men who have girlfriends. You have men who have families. You have single men. You have men who are just transient, who might be there for two or three weeks and then move on. So we have all manner of working men and life in a navy town.

“Navvies went all over the place. They didn’t just build viaducts, they built canals, railways, bridges and so on. These are hard-core men who are doing their best to just survive or keep their families afloat.

“So life is tough. This is real working class. They are being paid but they’re not being paid much. There are jealousies and envy going on. There’s a lot of drinking and brawling. For the employers, life is cheap. ‘He died? Well let’s see if we can get someone else to replace him.’

“But at the level these men are working, life is very precious. You fight daily to hold your ground, to hold your place, to hold your position in the work structure. Whether you’re engineering, cutting stone, laying pipe, masonry - you want to survive. It’s harsh.”

#### Q: How does Ralph view Johnny, played by Hans Matheson?

“When somebody like Johnny shows up in Jericho, he thinks, ‘Where did he come from?’ He doesn’t even smell right to Coates. He knows Johnny is hiding something. He doesn’t know who he is. He just knows this man is not telling the whole truth and sees him as a rival.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Clarke Peters continued:

#### Q: Coates helps Annie (Jessica Raine) when she arrives in Jericho. Why?

"He sees a bit of himself in her. His wife has gone and here is this lady trying to pull her family together and survive. That's what he did in his life and he admires Annie's spirit because of that. They are both outsiders to Jericho and he feels she could be an ally. As he says at the beginning, 'Maybe you can do me a favour later down the line?' That's how he operates. She's enterprising and she wants to set up her own place and so he says, 'OK, fine. We could run this town.' He sees that. But that's the last thing on her mind. She really has no idea."

#### Q: What did you make of the exterior location built to depict Jericho?

"I really dig Jericho. And looking at it from above, looking down on to it, you see how it could easily grow. You have to use your imagination to see the viaduct over on the other side of Jericho, because it's not physically there. But that's where it's to be."

#### Q: Are you a railway fan?

"I like train journeys. I would love to do the Orient Express. It wasn't until after we started filming Jericho that I really began to appreciate the architecture of the railway and the work that went into building these viaducts."

"We ride over them on trains without a second thought. They are magnificent pieces of work. It's not just the structure of it, it's the way it's clad. It's got an aesthetic that you have to admire. Look at the way each stone is laid and the mortar between each stone and the way it's bevelled. And they rise hundreds of feet."

"There's one we pass on the way to work which is amazing. We just take this stuff for granted. We've got into a whole other phase of life with our technology that we fail to appreciate what has gone before. We won't find the men to build these kind of things again. They're gone. That whole chapter of life in the western world is gone. You won't find these people again."

#### Q: Jericho is an emerging community. Have we lost a sense of community today?

"No. I think there are small pockets of it. We have a nice community where I live in London. We know each other and look out for each other. As a community we're active in its preservation."

#### Q: Why is Jericho relevant to a modern audience?

"Because they won't necessarily know about this period of history and this story. We need to stop and think about our world and all the different people that made it."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly



#### Q: How did you become involved in Jericho?

"I had already made the decision to leave the role of Maddie in Coronation Street to do other things. The chance to play Martha came up after that. I actually left in May and it was a week or so before that when I knew I'd got the part. So I had two weeks off after leaving Coronation Street before I started on Jericho."

#### Q: What was the appeal of playing her?

"They gave me the scripts for the first two episodes before my audition and I was really excited by them. I liked the fact Martha is so different to anything I'd done before. And that's exactly why I wanted to leave Coronation Street. I wanted to do something completely different."

"It just fell out of the sky. I wasn't expecting anything that soon. Then when I got the part my agent said, 'OK, now we can tell you who else is going to be in it and who you are going to be working with.' I just thought, 'Oh my God, why am I here? What a fantastic cast.'"

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly continued:

#### Q: Who is Martha?

"The key word in my character description when I went for the audition was 'demure'. She's a proper lady. You can tell by the way Martha has been brought up that she's been told to sit up straight. And despite being from Yorkshire she has been told to 'speak properly' - not posh, obviously, but you can tell she's been brought up speaking a certain way.

"So when Martha arrives in Jericho with her mother and younger brother it's the shock of her life. At first she absolutely hates it. Not in a snobby way but because she's never known anything like this. She's never had to deal with the rowdiness of the people."

#### Q: Does 'demure' come easily to you?

"I don't know. I can either be really out there and just completely insane and people go, 'All right, calm down.' Or I can be really shy. There's no middle ground with me. The one thing about playing Martha is that it's taught me that being shy is okay.

"Because I used to see it as a weakness. I would never want anybody to see that side of me. I'd deliberately try and be overly confident to compensate. But I think playing Martha has taught me that being shy and reserved is okay. It's helped me as well for that reason."

#### Q: What has it been like working with Jessica Raine, who plays your screen mother Annie?

"It's been really amazing working with her. Every time Jessica and I are in a scene together, Clarke Peters, who plays Ralph Coates, just stands and looks at us and says, 'That casting is so good. You two should be related.'

"It's weird that Jessica and I have never met before because some of our mannerisms are really similar. Like the way we'll tell a story and our facial expressions. So it's been eerie but good. Jessica is ace. I love her."

#### Q: What is the relationship like between mother and daughter?

"Martha is a young girl growing up very quickly. But Annie still sees her as a child. In Victorian times it's all about respecting your mother. There's no backchat. Yet in Jericho all the women go out to work as well as the men.

"She wants some independence and then starts challenging her mother. She is growing up and her mother is just going to have to deal with it, having put them in that situation in the first place. I don't think they are the closest of mother and daughter. But in those days you weren't.

"Martha gets a job in Jericho's tavern. I've worked in a cafe before. That's as close as I've got to that. It's Martha's first sign of proper independence."



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly continued:

#### Q: Does Martha's arrival in Jericho impact on anyone else?

"I love the relationship between Martha and Alma Capstick, played by Natalie Gavin. Alma has never had any competition. Alma is the girl all the lads chase and she loves that. And then Martha comes along. Martha likes the fact that Alma is a little bit scared of her. I've loved working with Natalie. It's been fun to have a really close relationship off screen and then go to town and be at each other's throats on screen."

#### Q: What choice did you make about Martha's accent?

"It's not too strong because she has not grown up in a navvy town like Jericho and has not travelled extensively. We all tried to match Sam Bottomley, who plays Martha's younger brother George, because he's from nearby in Yorkshire. So every now and again on set we'd be like, 'Sam say this. How do you say that?' That way the family sounds the same."

"Sam is so mature and had so much work experience. He's grown up around adults because he's been working from such a young age. He's brilliant."

#### Q: Martha sings traditional folk songs in one scene. How was that for you?

"That was really nerve-wracking. I was very nervous because I've never sung professionally before. I've done musicals at school and college but that's as far as I got. I was practising 24/7. I had the songs on in my car, on repeat on my phone, listening again and again."

"Then it came to the day of filming. First we had to do what's called a 'line run'. Natalie also has a part to sing and she goes first in the scene. So she went for it and actually sang it. So I felt obliged to sing my part as well. But I'm glad I did because by the time we came to film it I was into the swing of it and was used to it."

"I'm happy I did it. I think I would like to have a go at musicals. Although I'm really dreading listening to it. I really am so excited about watching Jericho when it comes out but I'm dreading watching the episode where I sing. The make-up girls were joking, saying, 'That'll be Christmas number one, then!'"



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly continued:

#### Q: Would Martha have many choices of clothes in Jericho?

"I was told they'd change their clothes a couple of times a day. They would have their work dress for chores and then would get changed for when their men came home and they'd have dinner. Then on Sundays they would have a separate dress for church.

"The costumes definitely help with playing the character. The corsets force you to stand up straight. I wasn't used to wearing a corset and I nearly passed out in my third corset fitting. That was an experience in itself. I just went, 'Guys, I think I'm going to go...' And they said, 'Have some tea, have some biscuits - it's okay.'

"You learn a trick when you're putting a corset on for the first time. You breathe out and you tense so they get the corset as tight as they can then. Then when you relax you've got room. But I didn't know that. So I just went, 'Oh my God...' And then the more they tightened it the more I breathed in.

"My favourite costumes include a beautiful blue and white silk dress in episode two. It's my tightest dress but I think it's the prettiest. Although it's not very practical for a town like Jericho.

"When we come off set you've constantly got somebody chasing you trying to pin up the top layer of your skirt around your waist so the bottom doesn't get all dirty. Then you walk about bundling up your petticoats just to walk around and avoid the mud."

#### Q: What did you make of the exterior set for Jericho?

"I got so giddy when I first saw it. It's so tucked away and when you drive up there you realise how far away it is. You have to go up over the hill, then round a corner and you think, 'Where are we actually going?' You come over the hill and you can just see all of the roofs sticking up.

"You can also see for miles from the location. It was like, 'OK, first one to spot Blackpool Tower.' We just got really excited walking around. It was weird because it's exactly how I pictured it when I was reading the scripts."

#### Q: Could you survive in a navy town?

"I think I'd have been all right. I did the scouts so I'm used to mucking in and building a tent and stuff like that. That's why Martha struggles, because she's so far removed from everything like that. I'm adaptable."

#### Q: Annie, Martha and George travel to Jericho on a steam train. How was that to film?

"That was one of my favourite days of the shoot. I loved it. That was the first time everyone felt, 'We're doing this. This is happening now.'"

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly continued:

“There’s an awesome shot as the train pulls away. You gradually see people walking through the clearing smoke down the hillside. I was stood there, just before they shouted action, holding these bags, in my costume, and I looked around and went, ‘Yes!’ That day was when it really started for me.

“It was filmed at the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. A really gorgeous place and the staff were brilliant as well. We just went up and down on this steam train over and over again all day.

“We were riding at the back of the goods van. That was really cool. You have the sheets that come down the sides and they were all flapping in the wind and making the light come in at really nice angles, like beams. It looked really beautiful.

“On one of the takes, getting down from the train, I did actually fall. The director Paul Whittington told me he was going to use that! There should be a montage of all of my falls in this series, because I’ve fallen over so many times.

“I’m fine. I’ve got used to it now but walking in the dresses on really uneven ground can be tricky. And we did this shot up on some marshland. One minute your foot is up here and the next it’s down there. We were also carrying all these bags. So trying to hold my dress, I just went.”

#### Q: What have you learned working on Jericho?

“I’ve learned an insane amount. It’s been really overwhelming. Every now and again, like the train day, something has made me stop and go, ‘Whoa, I’m actually doing this now.’ Like Martha, it’s almost a rite of passage.

“I’ve learned the technical side of it, the time it takes to film a scene and the lighting. I like to listen to that side of things and pick up on what the Director of Photography is saying, learn about what all the different lights do and all the different shots that they’re going to get. I like to know what’s going on. So when they’re setting up a scene, I like to pay attention and pick up on what they’re doing.”

#### Q: Have you been in touch with any of your former Coronation Street co-stars?

“Yes, we keep in touch. We keep trying to meet up but then, obviously, they had the live episode when we were filming Jericho. So I left them to it. I didn’t want to walk in when they were preparing for that. But I have been talking to them.

“They think my costume and hair is pretty cool. I have big hair extensions. The hair and costume shows a transition in her growing up because everything changes within the first couple of episodes.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Amy James-Kelly continued:

#### Q: Where will you watch the first episode when it goes out?

"I'll watch it with my family. My mum and my boyfriend are planning a little mini-premiere at my house. We're actually really excited. My mum knows most of what happens. I come home and I tell her what I've been doing that day. But my boyfriend doesn't want to know anything until he watches it."

#### Q: Are you happy to watch yourself on screen?

"I never used to be. But I love Jericho and have been watching it back on the monitor. It looks so artistic. So I'm excited to see how the finished series looks. I'm yet to get that used to watching myself. I used to hate it. So I guess we'll see. This is so different. I am really excited to see how it's turned out. I'm just not quite looking forward to seeing myself. Especially not listening to myself singing!"

#### Q: What's next after Jericho?

"I only realised the other day that I've actually never stopped working. Because Corrie overlapped my A-levels and then I started this. So it might be nice to have little bit of a break. I'm saying that now but I'd hate it if I was just sat doing nothing. I'd get stir crazy. So, hopefully, something else will come along."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Daniel Rigby



#### Q: What appealed to you about Jericho?

"I really liked the idea of Jericho. I couldn't remember seeing anything similar to it. I'm a bit of a history geek and the fact it was set during the industrial revolution and geographically in a space which I hadn't seen represented before was great. I didn't really know much about this era. The period I get super-geeky about is earlier: 17th century, the Whigs and all that. So it was exciting to investigate this period.

"The funny thing about history is it's quite often rich people who kept records. The first detailed national census didn't take place until 1841. That's when they took a record of the population and tried to get information about everyone in the country. But a lot of working class history is, unfortunately, lost.

"I did do some of my own research. They used to produce these handbooks for the etiquette of Victorian gentlemen. It's not great for acting because it just means you can't really do a lot with your hands and your face because they were quite buttoned up."

#### Q: Who is Charles Blackwood?

"Charles is an entrepreneur who has invested in building the railway viaduct and created the town to house the workers. He's an ambitious man who really wants to prove himself to the memory of his dead father and in general as a man. He's trying to get this viaduct built but has hit an impasse and needs an influx of new money.

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Daniel Rigby continued:

“He is a visionary and a well meaning man. But Charles doesn’t have a lot of luck. He also doesn’t have a lot of technical expertise. He relies on other people for that. He is man with ideas and vision who loved railways and trains as a child.

“Charles doesn’t get fair treatment. I don’t think people quite acknowledge the fact he is essentially a good man who occasionally makes bad decisions and has really tried his utmost to keep everything afloat. He doesn’t get his due.”

#### Q: What is the relationship between Charles and Isabella Lambton (Jeany Spark)?

“Charles planned to marry Isabella and he was well and truly jilted. That hurt him very deeply. The thing I love about the scripts is the ambiguity a lot of the characters have and also in their attitudes towards others. You don’t quite know whether Charles is still in love with her or not.

“As in life, it’s true you can hold mixed emotions and two feelings at once. He’s very conflicted about Isabella. He feels hurt by her and is now guarded when dealing with her. But there is also still a candle flickering.”

#### Q: Who are Epiphany (Martina Laird) and Easter (Elliot Barnes-Worrell)?

“Epiphany and Easter are Charles’s house servants. But they are also very much members of the family. Charles’s father owned a plantation in Antigua and the family spent a lot of time there when Charles was young.

“That’s where Epiphany and Easter come from. Charles defers to Epiphany. It matters to him whether she likes Isabella and believes in what he’s doing.”

#### Q: Charles lives in Blackwood House. What sort of property did you use for filming?

“It’s a beautiful and typical country house. That lovely greyish Yorkshire stone. It’s much less muddy and wet than Jericho gets. We filmed the interiors and exteriors there. It always intrigues me - who actually lives there and what’s their story?”

#### Q: How would you describe the exterior set built for the town of Jericho?

“It looks brilliant. Very similar to a western-style of town. It’s all wood and saloons which have popped up in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales. An amazing place. It’s such a beautiful area of the world. I’ve never really spent that much time in Yorkshire. I’m from the other side of the Pennines.

“Our Jericho is very atmospheric and totally unlike your typical British period drama. The scale of it is impressive. I’ve not worked on a job before where they have actually built a town. It definitely helps get into character.”

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Daniel Rigby continued:

#### Q: Does it feel real when you are filming?

“When you fill it up with people playing navvies and there’s a big crowd and you’re walking through the streets, it really helps the feel of it all. One of the set pieces involved a lot of the cast and supporting artistes. Whereas I, as Charles, just popped in now and then.

“The whole thing took three days to film. For those guys, when you’re doing the same 18 minutes of dialogue over and over again for three days, it’s a feat of mental endurance to keep it all fresh and alive.”

#### Q: How would you cope if you were transported back to a real navy town?

“I think I’d be run out of town within half an hour. I don’t think I’d survive.”

#### Q: Jericho is a new, emerging community. Have we lost our sense of community today?

“It depends what you mean by community and how you define it. I think community, or a sense of it, shifts. I’ve lived in London for 13 years and I can’t really think of a time where I’ve been round to the neighbours for a cup of sugar or whatever. But I guess communities are more your Facebook and Twitter today. Social media communities.”

#### Q: Do you have a favourite train journey?

“In the past I’ve done the Edinburgh Festival as a comic. And whenever I’d go up to Edinburgh there’s a bit of railway between Berwick-on-Tweed and Edinburgh which is just fantastic. Right along the east coast. Amazing views.

“You enjoy it on the way there but by the time the festival is finished you’re too hungover to really enjoy anything on the return journey.”



## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jeany Spark



#### Q: What were your initial thoughts about the role of Isabella?

"I was hugely excited to be asked to play Isabella, and my first thought was, 'Wow! What a lion-hearted woman!' She's such a formidable player in the game of life with her intelligence, quickness and laser vision; and more than a match for the menfolk in the Victorian world of business. It was an awesome challenge to step up to that plate. I wanted to do her justice."

#### Q: You've described yourself as a 'real history geek'. Is that the case?

"Ah yes I did say that I'm a history geek, and I am! Before I became an actress I studied English at Oxford University and their syllabus basically goes right through the history of English Literature from the Anglo Saxons and Beowulf onwards right up to the present day. It's a detailed study of ongoing social history, fashion, politics and spirituality, as well as the literature that comes out of that melting pot. I suppose I love history and acting for similar reasons - they are stories about people. History isn't a dry, dusty old thing to me. It's very much alive. It's all about people. It's the story of us. As luck would have it, I love the world of Victorian England - I wrote my thesis on Charles Dickens, who is my all-time favourite writer - so the joy of Jericho is multiplied for me."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jeany Spark continued:

#### Q: Did you know much about this specific chapter in our history?

"Yes I did know something of the period in which Jericho is set - starting with my long-held love of Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell and other Victorian writers, and working outwards from there through history books. However, the world of a navvy town was a new concept to me, and so I did a little research into that."

#### Q: Who is Isabella and what's your take on her as a character?

"Isabella is a modern woman in a man's world. She's smart as a whip, compassionate, eagle-eyed and complicated. She is pretty extraordinary: she has the means, intelligence and chutzpah to fashion her life according to her own choices - an uncommon thing for many women around the world today, so no mean feat for a girl one hundred and forty years ago! She's educated, confident and fashionable - as her frocks on the show will attest - well-travelled and sociable.

"However, her interior life is much more complex. Her heart is a wild animal and definitely doesn't always make the right choices. I like that - the challenge of playing this woman who's so self-assured and controlled out in the world of business but much less cut-and-dried on the inside. There's a well-worn saying that women in Victorian times were seen either as angels or whores. Isabella is absolutely neither. She's a lioness.

"As a woman of business, Isabella is absolutely fearless. She is driven by a desire to DO something: something meaningful with her opportunities, her money, her resources. She wants to stand up and be counted. If she lived in today's world, I think she'd either be at the forefront of a powerful international aid agency, or else she'd be an MP in Parliament. An independent candidate, of course."

#### Q: How would you describe the women of Jericho?

"All human beings - men and women both - have qualities of strength and of weakness inside them and at the end of the day actors are in the business of playing real people in all their complicated colours. I would say that the women of Jericho are vibrant, vital, emotionally muscular beings - and that the men of Jericho are as well."

#### Q: What sort of challenges did women face in this world?

"The Victorian world was a hard world for women, even within the relative safety of a controlled urban environment, so in the Wild West of Jericho that's magnified a hundred-fold. Jericho is a lawless frontier town without any real home comforts and while the menfolk are hard at work building the viaduct, it's up to the women of the town to keep the machinery of life in place so that building the viaduct can be possible at all. If the men are the muscles of the Jericho body, the women are the blood in its veins. They need ingenuity, thrift, stamina, boldness, and above all have to pull together in a community, despite their differences. I think they are amazing women. I salute them!"

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jeany Spark continued:

#### Q: Can you describe Isabella's relationship with Charles Blackwood, played by Daniel Rigby?

"Isabella and Charles's families are close. As a result the two of them spent a lot of time together as youngsters. They know and like each other of old. When they were in their early 20s they became engaged to be married but the engagement was broken off unexpectedly. Neither of them have seen each other in the eight years since. Like all friendships forged in our crucible years, I think it runs deep for Isabella. She admires Charles for his steadiness, his devotion to his family, his desire - like hers - to do something ambitious and worthwhile with his fortune. He is a kindred spirit. He is also in her eyes one of the very best of men: principled and kind, solid and reliable. A true gentleman. Although they have not been close in recent years, he has always been the best man she knows."

#### Q: What was it like working with Daniel Rigby?

"It's not so much been working as playing. He's totally wonderful. God only knows how he's put up with me!"

#### Q: How does Epiphany (Martina Laird) feel about Isabella?

"Ooooh it's a feisty pairing. Epiphany has been a member of the Blackwood household since forever and was like a second mother to Charles growing up. As such she is deeply protective of him. She was also a witness to Isabella and Charles's engagement and his subsequent broken heart. So when Isabella comes back on to the scene, the fireworks begin. Epiphany makes no secret of the fact that she doesn't like Isabella one bit. And for Isabella's part, she can acknowledge a fellow lioness when she meets one! She wants to eventually get Epiphany onside, but she also knows it's a dangerous game and it's going to be an uphill struggle."

#### Q: What was it like filming both in the property used for Blackwood House and in the town of Jericho?

"The experience of filming in the Blackwood House and in our Jericho location could not differ more if they tried. The house we use for Blackwood House is very austere, with high ceilings and a great hallway with a big staircase - it's very grand. But it's also chock-full with dark wood furniture, books, chairs, embroidery, paintings and ornaments. It's cluttered and stately - almost overpoweringly so. There's an air of the museum about it: it's oppressively quiet and grandiose and staid. The air feels heavy and still.

"By contrast, Jericho is a free-flying phoenix of a place - out in the open moor under a huge sky, barely holding on by its claws to the earth. There isn't a lot of 'stuff' in it, but what there is, is life and people and noise and things happening. It feels wild and young and free; where Blackwood house feels bound and old and buttoned-up, full of secrets."

## Cast interview

### Q&A with Jeany Spark continued:

#### Q: Can you describe Isabella's look and also her accent?

"Isabella's costumes reflect her wealth and her experience. She perhaps more than any other character in the show has a finger on the pulse of Victorian high society. She spent much of her twenties in London, where she had a front-row seat in terms of witnessing the fashions of the day - not just in terms of costume, but also literature, politics, economics, social mores. She is always elegant, dressing in colourful, flowing silks and velvets complete with hat, jewels, gloves and parasol. I love that. She's like a painting in her dress, carefully and artfully composed. As for her accent - she has just a touch of Yorkshire still about her, but the accent of her childhood has been softened by her class and by living in London for many years."

#### Q: The construction of a railway viaduct provides the backdrop to Jericho. Are you a fan of train travel?

"Travelling by train is one of my favourite things. I am never happier than when setting off on a train journey with a coffee in my hand. I love that feeling of racing through a landscape; it's unravelling right there before your eyes. One Christmastime I took the train from Milan to Paris, and travelling through the snow-hung Alps was absolutely breathtaking. Quite, quite magical. The journey that I really want to do though is take the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Beijing, through Siberia and Mongolia...that would be quite some adventure. I'm getting excited just talking about it! It's definitely on the to do list for 2016."

#### Q: Viewers will see a raw community forming in Jericho. Do you think we have lost our sense of community today?

"Do I think we have lost a sense of community today? No - but I do think we need to consciously work to care for it. We live in such a consumerist, throw-away society nowadays. I remember as a kid, if something got broken, dad would take it into the garage and spend hours trying to mend it or patch it up. Replacing it was an absolute last resort."

"Now, it's all too easy to just chuck something damaged away and get a new one. I believe we should cherish the things we have, love them - and that includes intangible things like friendships, relationships, our personal communities. They need our love and attention and time; and if they get dented or broken they need a few hours of ingenious repair in the garage of our soul."

#### Q: What do you hope the appeal of Jericho will be to a modern day television audience?

"Its guts and its magic. Jericho is the story of a newborn community - it's a tale of struggle and love and hardship and friendship and adventure. It is vital and raw and all about survival."

"I have absolutely loved being a part of this production. I have had a magical time making a wonderful story with a bloody lovely bunch of people, and I feel absurdly lucky."

## Synopsis

### Episode one

Yorkshire, 1874. Annie Quintain (Jessica Raine) is turfed out of home when her schoolmaster husband's death leaves her widowed and penniless. Shunned by society, and with no family to turn to, Annie is desperate for a place for her and her children, Martha (Amy James-Kelly) and George (Sam Bottomley), to stay. When she hears of jobs going in Culverdale Valley, where an enormous viaduct is being built, Annie, Martha and George have no choice but to set off for the promise of a new life in the vast expanse of the Yorkshire dales. Their journey takes them to a remote shanty town in the middle of a valley, the home to a community of navvies. A town called Jericho.

Jericho is rough and ready, bustling with life and a wild, carnival-like atmosphere. But life there is tough, and Annie wonders how she'll make ends meet. She manages to find a roof for her family, but at a price - she'll be forced to take in grubby and rowdy navvy workmen as lodgers. It won't be easy, but Annie needs to make as much money as she possibly can to provide for her children and get their lives back on track.

Handsome and enigmatic navvy Johnny Jackson (Hans Matheson) returns to his native Yorkshire from Africa and soon finds work on the gang building the viaduct. But before long Johnny makes fierce enemies with a violent-tempered navvy on his gang. Fearing for his safety, Johnny is forced to find new lodgings and arrives, bloody-faced, on Annie's doorstep. She agrees to take in this dashing stranger, but is unaware of the consequences it will have.

Annie and Johnny aren't the only new arrivals in Jericho. Ralph Coates (Clarke Peters), an experienced African-American railwayman is in town, hired as foreman of the next stretch of the line. Seeing Annie's struggle, Coates helps her out with a few provisions, but is there a motive behind his act of kindness? Coates is a quiet bystander in this small navvy town, but it soon transpires he might not be all he seems.

The viaduct is the vision of Charles Blackwood (Daniel Blackwood). His plan is to join two different railway networks separated by the valley, but Charles needs to raise money for the project to proceed. He gathers a group of investors, and is surprised when Isabella Lambton (Jeany Spark), a figure from his past, arrives amongst them. What could she possibly want after all this time, and can Charles forget old wounds in the name of business?

Back at the viaduct, the navvies prepare to blast for the foundations of the viaduct. But what they find in the bottom of the blast-pit sets off a chain of events that will threaten the future of the viaduct for Charles, and jeopardise the new life that Annie, Martha and George are anxious to forge. In need of protection, Annie desperately looks to Johnny and Coates for help. But with secrets of their own to protect, will they be her saviour or her undoing?

## Cast and Production credits

### Cast credits

Annie Quaintain.....	JESSICA RAINE
Johnny Jackson.....	HANS MATHESON
Ralph Coates.....	CLARKE PETERS
Charles Blackwood.....	DANIEL RIGBY
Martha Quaintain.....	AMY JAMES-KELLY
George Quaintain.....	SAM BOTTOMLEY
Davey Sharp.....	STEPHEN THOMPSON
Bamford.....	MARK ADDY
Lizzie Capstick.....	SOPHIE THOMPSON
Joe Capstick.....	PHIL CORNWELL
Alma Capstick.....	NATALIE GAVIN
Isabella Lambton.....	JEANY SPARK
Lace Polly.....	LORRAINE ASHBOURNE
Epiphany.....	MARTINA LAIRD
Easter.....	ELLIOT BARNES-WORRELL
Hatty Laggan.....	LUCY BLACK
Hawker.....	TONY PRITCHARD
Shay.....	DARREN MORFITT
Songbird.....	JOHN TAMS
Happy Jack Laggan.....	DEAN ANDREWS
Red.....	ANTONY BYRNE
Skinny.....	KENT RILEY
Dagger Wilkins.....	TOMMY MCDONNELL
Ezekial Shaw.....	SEAN BLOWERS
Devon Sam.....	PAUL LOUGHRAN



## Cast and Production credits

### Cast credits continued:

Thornhill.....	RICHARD RIDINGS
Lambton.....	JAMES CAMERON STEWART
Albert Bottomley.....	COLIN R CAMPBELL
Ethel Bottomley.....	MARTINE BROWN
Calvert.....	STEPHEN CASEY
Moses Kemble.....	SEAN GILDER
Mr Claybourn.....	MICHAEL CULKIN
Jonas Sorsby.....	DAVID WESTHEAD
Giles Sorsby.....	LUKE ALLEN-GALE
Rory McCleod.....	JACK HICKEY

## Cast and Production credits

### Production credits

Executive Producers.....	KATE BARTLETT
Executive Producer, showrunner & writer.....	STEVE THOMPSON
Writers.....	CHRIS DUNLOP
.....	CAROLINE HENRY
Producer.....	LISA OSBORNE
Co-Producer.....	ANGIE DANIELL
Directors.....	PAUL WHITTINGTON
.....	ROBBIE MCKILLOP
.....	DAVID MOORE
Directors of Photography.....	MARTIN FUHRER
.....	MAJA ZAMOJDA
Casting Director.....	ANDY MORGAN
Editors.....	BEN YEATES
.....	ANNIE KOCUR
.....	FIONA COLBECK
.....	PAUL BANNER
Script Executive.....	CAMILLA CURTIS
Production Designer.....	SUSIE CULLEN
Costume Designer.....	LORNA MUGAN
Make Up Designer.....	KONNIE DANIEL
Composer.....	TIM PHILLIPS
Location Manager.....	JAMES MUIRHEAD
Sound Recordist.....	GRANT BRIDGEMAN
Production Co-ordinator.....	JAMES YOUD