

itv



P A R A N O I D

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Introduction



Indira Varma, Robert Glenister, Neil Stuke, Lesley Sharp and Kevin Doyle star in new eight part ITV drama, *Paranoid*, produced by Red Production Company.

Newcomer Dino Fetscher also joins the stellar cast alongside Anjil Mohindra, Christiane Paul, Polly Walker, Michael Maloney, William Ash, John Duttine, Ayda Field, Danny Huston and Jason Done.

A conspiracy thriller, *Paranoid*, tells the story of a female GP who is murdered in a rural children's playground with an abundance of eyewitnesses. A group of detectives embark on what seems to be a straightforward murder investigation, but as they delve deeper into the case they are quickly drawn into the twists and turns of an ever-darkening mystery, which takes them unexpectedly across Europe.

The drama is written by acclaimed writer and producer Bill Gallagher whose previous credits include *The Paradise*, *Conviction*, *Love Life* and *Lark Rise to Candleford*.

Set in Cheshire, in the small fictional town of Marshwell, detectives Michael Niles (Neil Stuke), Nina Suresh (Indira Varma), Alec Wayfield (Dino Fetscher) and Bobby Day (Robert Glenister) begin to piece together what happened on the fateful morning Doctor Angela Benton took her three year old son Luke to the playground.

Watching Luke play alongside other Mums and their toddlers, Angela is set upon and brutally stabbed by a man in a hoody whose face is covered from view. His jerking head movements and disturbingly weird sounds became apparent moments before the attack, and eyewitness and local Garden Centre owner Lucy Cannonbury (Lesley Sharp) is keen to help the detectives.

Introduction continued:

With Lucy's version of events instantly ringing alarm bells with dedicated, compassionate cop Nina Suresh, fellow seasoned detective Bobby Day, is more willing to accept Lucy's account of Angela's tragic murder.

As the investigation unfolds, Bobby is convinced someone is watching them when he catches sight of shadowy figures. Bobby and his colleagues also begin to receive mysteriously worded notes from the 'Ghost Detective' helping them with insightful details about the case.

The team soon tracks the main suspect to the flat he shares with his brother. Jacob Appley suffers from psychopathic schizophrenia with OCD tendencies and the evidence is compelling. But is he the killer they so desperately seek? All is clearly not what it seems and Alec obsesses about why Jacob would commit murder and then apparently kill himself. Little do our heroes know they are on the precipice of a nightmare with this case taking them on a dangerous and beguiling journey across Europe which will inevitably wreak pain and havoc for all involved. When in search of Angela's ex partner the investigation moves to Germany and we're introduced to detectives Linda Felber (Christiane Paul) and Walti Merian (Dominik Tiefenthaler) who work alongside the team from the Cheshire Police Force.

At odds and wrestling with their own demons, Nina, Alec and Bobby, undoubtedly make a good team, but the dynamic becomes further complicated when spurned by her lover and feeling cheated, Nina, seizes the moment and unexpectedly leans in to kiss Alec. Stunned by her actions Alec is quick to reciprocate. And even though he is many years younger than her, this relationship and passion takes them both by surprise. But can they overcome the many obstacles they face? Will their kiss be the end of a potentially beautiful friendship? How complicated could this relationship become? And what part will Alec's mother Monica (Polly Walker) play in trying to keep them apart.

Paranoid is produced by Tom Sherry (*Prey*, *Ordinary Lies*, *Scott & Bailey*) and executive produced by founder and director of Red Production Company Nicola Shindler (*Happy Valley*, *Ordinary Lies*, *Last Tango in Halifax*) and writer and creator Bill Gallagher. Mark Tonderai, Kenny Glenaan and John Duthie have directed the series.

Based in Manchester, Red Production Company is one of the UK's leading independent production companies responsible for globally successful television dramas including *Happy Valley*, *Prey*, *Cucumber*, and *Scott & Bailey*. Red Production Company is a STUDIOCANAL company.

"We're really excited to be working with Bill Gallagher again," said Nicola Shindler. "He's created a conspiracy thriller the audience won't be able to look away from. It's edgy, suspenseful and hugely ambitious as filming takes place in Cheshire and Germany."

Producer Tom Sherry added: "*Paranoid* lays bare the human and emotional story of a group of detectives hell-bent on capturing a killer, but there are unexpected twists and turns every step of the way."

The eight part series has been commissioned for ITV by Victoria Fea.

STUDIOCANAL will distribute *Paranoid* internationally.



Character Biographies

Nina Suresh played by Indira Varma

Nina is 38 and that's going to count really soon. Pot Noodle breakfast. Every day. On the surface Nina is buoyant, cheeky, quick-witted: she loves the banter – most often aimed at Alec, the youngest of the three.

Nina's buoyancy hides a mass of insecurities that come to the fore when she's dumped rather unceremoniously by her boyfriend of 4 years, Dennis. Nina very much wants children, and Dennis's decision to end their relationship floors her. She feels she's wasted vital years with him and can't walk away without a fight. Alec gets caught in the crossfire while Nina tries to work out what and whom she wants.

Flawed and fragile, Nina can come across as spikey and unkind – deliberately taking pot shots at other women who fuel her jealousy and make her feel threatened. But at her best, Nina is loyal and true – she fights to defend Alec from his mother and tries to navigate her way through this complex case with integrity.

Bobby Day played by Robert Glenister

A likeable small-town local boy who finds himself out of time: twenty years ago he'd probably have been fine. Now he crackles with internal tension. His life's purpose is to hide it – no, to deny it. If only everybody would just stop it, Bobby would be fine. That's not going to happen, is it?

Bobby is feeling his age. Struggling with panic attacks, Bobby feels like the world has become very loud and aggressive – people are so quick to hate and it feels to Bobby like life has claws. To his surprise, Bobby finds himself beguiled and soothed by Lucy, the Quaker witness who protected Angela Benton's small boy when his mother was murdered in front of him. Lucy has overcome her own demons and found a peaceful world to inhabit, and she represents a light at the end of the tunnel for Bobby. But as the case becomes more complex, and people's lives are put in danger, Bobby becomes consumed by a ferocious anger that may just prevent him ever finding happiness with Lucy.

Alec Wayfield played by Dino Fetscher

In his twenties, Alec is the kind of smart that's not nerdy. Alec isn't offended by Nina's ribbing – he enjoys it. And he enjoys her feisty defiance. Alec is gentle and kind to Nina, trying to limit the damage she does when confronting Dennis about their split. And when Nina starts to mess him around after they've had sex at his mother's party, Alec shows infinite patience and understanding. He knows that break-ups make people act strangely and he doesn't take things personally.

Alec has a complicated relationship with his mother, a compulsive liar who tries to control her son's life, but he is patient in the face of her insanity. A lover of literature and studying, Alec has a tendency to romanticise and is the only one of our officers who unreservedly believes in the 'Ghost Detective' and what he can offer.



Character Biographies

Michael Niles played by Neil Stuke

Michael is the Police Chief Inspector. He is walking vanity; he just can't help himself. He likes the status of the job and all that deference coming at him – it tastes so good.

Michael met his wife in secondary school and proposed to her when he was eighteen. He joined the police force not long after but as he has risen through the ranks, he has become quite disillusioned with his job. It is no longer about serving and protecting the public; the police are now expected to wrap cases quickly and under budget. It's not what he originally signed up for but it's something he's quite good at, even if handling the budget is like a nail in his head. The pressure mounts on Michael when Bobby, Nina and Alec uncover evidence that suggests that the man that they named as a murderer might be a victim of the lethal conspiracy that threatens their idyllic town. With so much anger and hatred in the town, Michael asks Bobby, Nina and Alec to uncover the truth.

Lucy Cannonbury played by Lesley Sharp

Lucy is a witness to the murder in the children's playground. There is something essentially sunny about her but she is a mystery to Bobby. She does his head in and yet, he is utterly mesmerized by her.

Lucy runs Plant Planet on her own. There is nothing prettified about her shop; a café with tables, flowers, raggy patches and half-done jobs. Lucy is a Quaker and the practice of her faith soothes her soul. She tried the route of psychiatry and it didn't work for her. Lucy develops a strong bond with Bobby and supports him as he tries to hide his pain away. She wills him to trust her and surprising them both, he does. But Lucy has got secrets of her own and as the case takes Bobby to Dusseldorf, stories from Lucy's past come back to haunt her...

Linda Faber played by Christane Paul

Linda is a detective in the Dusseldorf police force. She has four boys, or five boys if you count her husband Cedric. She is canny and quick-witted, and not zealous about being a detective... and this tends to make her the sharpest cop on the block.

Linda has an easy honesty about her - some might say overly so. She doesn't stress about offending people because she means no harm - and because she has a winning charm and an endless stream of funnies, people tend not to mind her forthrightness. But it would be wrong to write Linda off as a soft target. Linda lets people underestimate her— she draws them into conclusions about her as a mum and a family woman but you don't get to where she has without steel. Following a Skype call from a team of British detectives trying to track the ex of their murder victim, Linda sets off to tell the poor guy that the mother of his child has been stabbed to death... and their son saw it happen. But when she tracks him down, Ruben Locana, a big shot chemist at a multinational pharmaceutical company, is dead in his swimming pool...

Character Biographies

Walti Merian played by Dominik Tiefenthaler

Walti Merian is a detective in the Dusseldorf police force. He is an astute officer who has risen through the ranks more by accident than by design. He works with Detective Linda Felber and he trusts her policing instincts, although her matchmaking skills have been less successful... Walti is not hindered by the need to prove himself.

Whereas some officers might rush to their guns, Walti puts his head down and utilises his many contacts in order to crack a case. He is incredibly tech savvy and Linda repeatedly praises him for the wealth of information he is able to track down quickly and efficiently. Walti has the dexterity to outfox the best when he needs to as we will see when the investigation into the death of Ruben Locana brings him crashing into a global lethal conspiracy...

Nick Waingrow played by Danny Huston

A one-time FBI careerist, there was always a kind of split about Nick Waingrow: he worked hard for advancement and professional recognition, but he flavoured it with more dubious and ethically ambiguous means.

Proud of his self-made life, Nick believes that the world is basically unjust. Pharmaceuticals appealed because it brought kudos, status and money. And it all came with the sheen of good works. Married to a beautiful woman with a social conscience, Nick liked the idea that he was part of something meaningful.

Nick loves nothing better than being the clean-up man. He loves how good he is at it all. Any moral argument can be pulled apart. The greater good. That's the side Nick believes he is on. But Nick underestimated Detective Linda Felber, and that riles him.

Sheri played by Ayda Field

The latest of Ruben Locana's girlfriends, Sheri is the last person to have seen Ruben alive. Having enjoyed a drunken night of cocktails poolside at Ruben's house, Sheri wakes to find a house-full of police and her lover, dead.

Battling with her own demons, Sheri struggles to stay sober long enough to help the police with their investigation, but Detective Linda Felber believes that she may just hold the key to Ruben's death.

Despite knowing Ruben for only two weeks, Sheri believes he was the love of her life, but desperate for affection, it isn't long before she is seeking comfort in the arms of strangers.

Production interview

Q&A with Producer Tom Sherry

Q: How did *Paranoid* come to the screen?

"Paranoid was pitched to Red Productions by the writer, which is consistent with how the company works.. But this drama is something of a personal obsession with Bill Gallagher. He feels very strongly about the underlying message of the piece and is passionate about it.

"He wanted to tell a story whereby no one person is perfect and everybody has their own individual flaws, foibles, concerns, worries and anxieties. There is something of each of us in every one of these characters. So if you are carrying those anxieties you're normal.

"Bill also wanted to write a conspiracy thriller demonstrating there is, perhaps, a larger malevolent force in the world at the moment. What he's done really cleverly is invested the audience into half a dozen characters we can all recognise, sympathise with and care about. Then when you see this force acting against them, the story becomes less predictable and more human. You know something is amiss but it's some way into the series before it appears.

"There is then a dilemma from the audience perspective. Is someone really a bad person? Or just trying to do the right thing? Making the world a better place? But there is a darker side.

"No matter how small and insignificant a dot on the rural English landscape your village or small town is, you can't escape. There is a darker menace and the stakes are very high."

Q: The murder at the outset of *Paranoid* is particularly shocking. Why?

"It is shocking. There's nowhere you should feel safer than a children's playground? We very deliberately picked the most idyllic setting, a landscape that was not urban or suburban but a rural idyll."

Q: You filmed in both Cheshire and Germany?

"The Cheshire we've gone for is not Wilmslow or Alderley Edge. It's Nantwich or Great Budworth. A properly rural, agricultural-type landscape.

"Because we didn't want it to feel like it was a suburb of a bigger city. We wanted to create the sense big cities are a long way away. That was very much in Bill's original writing. He wanted it to be England, not just somewhere in the UK.

"We also filmed in Dusseldorf where we looked for somewhere that felt authentic with a large industrial landscape as its background. The Rhine runs through Germany like a motorway. That's why we picked there. The industrial heartland."

Production interview

Q&A with Tom Sherry continued:

Q: What challenges did that present?

“Filming abroad is always a challenge. It elevates the piece in aspiration and I think it’s right and justified within the writing. Whatever it is you do, you’ve got to do it from the right standpoint and for the right reasons. And we’ve definitely got a good story reason for being in Germany.

“Yes, you lose time in travel and there are elements that are more expensive or have different legislation and rules and so on. But that doesn’t really portray itself on the screen. That’s just part of the joy of being involved with a production that has that scale and aspiration.

“Filming out in the Cheshire countryside is a delight and we’ve had some lovely weather there. So actually it hasn’t been difficult. Because the locations we’re filming at have been right for the script. Once you’ve got that, then it’s easy because you’re not trying to shoehorn something into a space that isn’t true.

“It’s nice to be able to show that visual contrast between the two worlds on a larger landscape. That you’re not just doing it between, say, Manchester and Cheshire. Which perhaps would be what we’d have done a few years ago.

“Being able to expand and explore Europe and shooting over there is adding scale to the piece. That’s exciting and interesting to see from a viewing perspective but not gratuitously because it is there in the story. That’s the best sort of reason for doing something abroad. When you go, ‘I know exactly why you’re there.’ It feels germane to the piece.”

Q: Tell us about the characters - they all have something to be paranoid about?

“Nina, played by Indira Varma, is a woman hitting a certain age and questioning who she is settling down with in her life. She wants a baby and has got that enormously loud ticking clock in her head.

“Bobby, played by Robert Glenister, is another police detective. Can he cope with the stresses and strain of work? Is it just all too much? And is his work unpleasant? Is it actually what he wants to be doing? Are they people he wants to be involved with? We can all recognise that in the police.

“He is approaching the end of his career and looking back on it, his feeling is it just keeps coming. It isn’t that you’ve solved the problem. It just keeps coming. Every day there will be another problem. He’s frustrated by humanity.

“Alec, played by Dino Fetscher, is a colleague of Bobby and Nina. He wants to make his own way in the world. But when you’ve grown up in a small town and you then work there, you are always slightly hampered by everybody else knowing a little bit too much about your own business. This is a very big case and a big opportunity for him. But he can’t get away from his own past.

Production interview

Q&A with Tom Sherry continued:

“What I love about Lesley Sharp’s character Lucy is she starts off as the perfect reflection of what everybody’s life should be. She is centred and has found calmness within her life and her world. She has found a working environment that suits her character. She is happy in her existence. Everything about her looks perfect. Until you learn a little bit more about her.

“Lucy represents the public face so many people present. And yet the skeletons we have hidden in our wardrobes are no less for them than they are for anybody else. She’s a fascinating character.

“Linda, one of our German detectives played by Christiane Paul, appears as if she would never believe there was anything wrong with her life. She’s got the perfect husband and fabulous kids. She enjoys her job, she is funny, everything about her life is perfect. And then something bites her in the back.”

Q: Were there any other major production challenges?

“There have been exciting ones. We’ve had a lot of fun along the way with filming action scenes at the Anderton Boat Lift. Bill Gallagher originally wrote the scene for a seaside pier. Then he said, ‘But we haven’t got piers in Cheshire, have we? We’re not by the coast. What are we going to do?’ And I said, ‘I do know somewhere.’ I took him to Anderton Boat Lift and he said, ‘It’s amazing. It’s a pier in the middle of the landscape.’ There’s a menace about it. With something foreboding about its industrial scale. That was a fun one to film.

“We also filmed a fire in a hut in a quarry. You’d be amazed how difficult it is to construct a building that you’re then going to set fire to in a place that doesn’t upset the owners. It’s those sort of challenges that keep you awake and make the job exciting.”

Q: Red Production Company rather unusually accepts unsolicited scripts. Why?

“We always have done. Maybe it’s a bit unusual but right from the very beginning we’ve always done that. Company founder Nicola Shindler has always felt very strongly that if people are out there wanting to tell stories and write stuff and you can help them by reading something and giving them a little bit of advice, you never know how they’re going to progress and what’s going to come of it.

“There is an element of social responsibility to that. That you can’t just be lazy. You’ve got to give something and put something back. People’s scripts have taken a huge effort on their part in terms of the amount of time and creativity they’ve put into every sentence. So you’ve got to treat that with respect. The least you can do is read it.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Indira Varma – Nina Suresh



Q: What can you tell us about Paranoid?

"I'm fascinated by the theme we can't reveal in Paranoid. It feels like a modern problem in society that needs exposing and discussing. That was exciting to me and the initial draw.

"I'm not usually a massive fan of procedural dramas, however, despite now playing a cop in a conspiracy thriller, Paranoid feels very character driven, which is what appeals to me as an actor. Having an emotional roller coaster to ride.

"That's what I did it for- and the opportunity to play someone like Nina who is a little bit bonkers. She's mouthy and not always very likeable. A bit of a nightmare. She's jealous, impulsive; wears her heart on her sleeve; doesn't mince her words and can be pretty insensitive. But thankfully she redeems herself with a laugh and her honesty. I wish I had the courage to behave like that sometimes.

"What I also really like about the series is that these are human beings struggling with being human. And that is something that connects us all. Everyone goes through a crisis at some point in their lives but how does each individual cope? That is something that is explored in Paranoid.

"You have three detectives at the centre of it, tying the story together. Along with the wider themes. Three human beings trying to make the best of life whilst trying to solve a murder!"

Cast interviews

Q&A with Indira Varma continued:

Bobby, (Robert Glenister) seems to be a bit of a depressive near the end of his career who internalises everything. Whereas Nina externalises. She can be inappropriately vocal and prone to self sabotage.

Then you have Alec (Dino Fetscher) who's more cerebral. He over thinks and over empathise. It's how they interact and cope with all that life throws at them. That's what intrigues me. It's also beautifully written. The more you work on it the more layers appear. Generally I've experienced that more with plays than television scripts.

You see how each character has their own form of paranoia. Nina is paranoid about getting older and missing the boat when it comes to having a baby and being loved. And of course she worries about what other people think of her, which we never really know. It is a waste of time and energy even thinking about it. But we can't help it, can we?

Q: Do you always count to 10 before you say something?

"I wish I did. Oh god no, I'm terrible. A friend will look at me appalled and say, "I can't believe you just said that!" But we can't be controlled all of the time and we do say inappropriate things. We should be more tolerant of one another's foibles and gaucheness, I suppose."

Q: One of the characters in *Paranoid* is a Quaker and sits in silence. Do we live in a world now where people find it difficult to be silent and listen?

"Yes, I think we do. We live in a world that seems to be all about connectivity. Social media and all that. I feel like I'm watching it go by as I'm no good at all that and prone to say things I might regret later.

"And yet it feels like it is a monologue of opinion. It's all outward going. There seems to be little time for reflection anymore, of absorbing and listening. I don't think we really know how to listen anymore.

"My mum has recently found a case of old letters. A correspondence between her and her mother spanning 30 years. Reading it has been so intimate, informative and evocative. The whole exercise of writing a letter to someone in longhand is so reflective and requires proper thought and consideration. Also, if you knew your letter would be read days later you can maybe reveal things you wouldn't face to face. I'm probably romanticising this dying art form. It's so convenient to text or email someone but so easy to misinterpret.

"You receive a text message whilst emailing someone else, you reply before realising that you've misread it. There's no time to formulate these lovely thoughts."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Indira Varma continued:

"I love the fact that Bill Gallagher has got a Quaker in there. I had a friend at school who was a Quaker and my parents were Buddhists so the importance of creating space and time to reflect was important for me. However, the whole spiritual dimension seems to have become quite unfashionable. I like it, it's thought provoking."

Q: What was your reaction to the shocking murder at the outset of *Paranoid*?

"These are the things that remind us that we are mortal. It is shocking. These three detectives are working in quite a small, safe community where you imagine everyone knows everyone at least at face value. So the idea that something like that can happen is horrific because it's so random. For the detectives, it is also a chance to use their training. That's their job. They're not really prepared for it. It's a bit beyond them, they're slightly out of their depth. But who doesn't like a challenge?"

"The case is also wrapped up in politics. The boss wants the investigation sewn up quickly so we look good. And if the suspect fits the picture why look further?"

Q: Nina has to talk to the father of the victim. That must be a very difficult job to do?

"I spoke to Lisa the police advisor. Her descriptions of what it really means to be a detective are tough. Essentially you put your life on hold for your job. It's all 'hurry up and wait' with very unsociable hours. You can sit in a car for hours observing, hours on paper work, instead of being at home with your family. Nothing happens and then suddenly it's all go.

"Then you have the responsibility of breaking tragic news to someone. How do you do that?"

"I did a play at the Hampstead theatre by Nina Raine called *Tiger Country* about NHS hospitals. These public service jobs are about helping people and involve a tricky balance between empathy and objectivity. You can't get so involved that you are a gibbering emotional mess nor can you become so indifferent that you are callous. Hats off. It's really tough.

"Depending on the day you've had, whether the bloke reminds you of your dad, there could always be something that might trigger an emotional response. You might be caught off guard and break down.

If you've become too hardened by the job you might stop caring the way you need to to break the news in a sympathetic way. But if you're too empathetic you're in danger of breaking down every time. You're human and training can only take you so far."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Indira Varma continued:

Q: How do you view the relationship between Nina and detective colleague Alec (Dino Fetscher)?

"Initially I think Nina is threatened by Alec. He's academically cleverer than she is. He's also really good looking. But there is a chemistry there. It's a very human, messy relationship. Dino and I get on really well. We spent a lot of our time trying not to laugh. And playing Bananagrams."

Q: Did you enjoy filming Nina's action scenes?

"Nina has to run after and then kick a suspect off a motorbike. That was great fun to film. Dino and I had to run around Delamere forest all day chasing Rich our stuntman. Dino takes 2 steps to my 4 because he is incredibly fit and has ultra long legs so I was exhausted."

"Thankfully Rich our stuntman did the real hard work of falling and making us look cool! I also had to get a wet suit on and wade into a lake in mid March. Freezing and filthy but fun."

"There was a bit of work with fire when Nina gets locked into a burning building. Tom our stunt coordinator had to repeatedly tell me not to get too close to the flames, but it's so alluring."

Q: How did you and costume department approach her look?

"Ian and I were limited as Nina is in a sort of uniform for work, so we felt that trouser suits and flat shoes or boots was the obvious way to go."

"I don't think Nina has a scrap of vanity. She is a practical woman with a job to do that can involve racing about and getting dirty. So we went practical and safe. That's part of who she is. She hasn't got time for clothes shopping, looking your best, scrubbing up well or any of that nonsense. I enjoyed the freedom of that. But my own vanity kicked in every now and then... Does my bum look big in this? etc... But Nina wouldn't care."

Q: Bobby says: "what's wrong with being nice?" Why do you think people are so quick to hate?

"It's easier to hate. Isn't it partly the fear of the unknown? It's easier to pick holes in things than to be encouraging, open and enthusiastic."

"I read somewhere recently about fear during exam time. The symptoms of fear- sweating , heart palpitations, dry mouth are exactly the same as excitement. And if you tell yourself, that actually it's just adrenaline then you can approach whatever it is you're afraid of in a slightly different way. It's a challenge to be overcome. I agree with him though. Kindness is the way forward."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Indira Varma continued:

Q: Paranoid is filmed in both Cheshire and Düsseldorf?

"I have loved staying in Manchester and filming in Cheshire. We have filmed in beautiful villages including Delamere Forest. It's been brilliant.

"I'm very proud to have a German team too but sadly I only got to play one scene on Skype with Dominik and Christiane which was fun. It's great that there seems to be more collaborations with other countries in TV especially after recent events."

Q: How do you view the progress of moves to increase diversity in TV drama?

"It's really difficult to generalise. There has been a huge push for more diversity.

"I've been on the peripheries of a campaign called Act for Change which is all about getting more diversity on our screens, both on camera and behind the scenes.

"It's not just about trying to promote ethnic minorities that are under represented but also gender, older people, people with disabilities and sexual orientation.. I think things are slowly changing and there are more opportunities as more drama goes into production but we're not there yet.

"It's the way people are portrayed. We don't want tokenism - a few interesting extras and an all young, white leading cast. I even think young men suffer with the pressure of having to look buff. There's always some issue isn't there?

"We need to focus on telling great stories and stop worrying about making it appealing to everyone. Just make it good and take a few risks!"

Q: Have you ever been paranoid about anything?

"I'm paranoid all the time. About not being good enough."

Q&A with Robert Glenister – Bobby Day



Q: What drew you to *Paranoid* and the role of Bobby Day?

“*Paranoid* starts off as a generic police procedural and then develops into something else. You start thinking, ‘Is this going to be about small town cops investigating a brutal murder? Or is it going to be something more than that?’ And it turns out to be something far more than that.

“It goes across to Germany and there is an American influence. The appeal was the scale of it. Something that starts off quite parochial and small then becomes global. I was sent the first three episodes in August 2015 and it was like reading a really taut thriller. I did find it a real page-turner.

“Bill Gallagher is a brilliant writer who has a passion for both the work and the point he’s trying to put across, which is laudable. And that passion is infectious. We didn’t know during filming how it was going to end until we got the scripts for the final two episodes. There were all sorts of rumours. As it turns out, it’s resolved quite charmingly.”

Q: Tell us about Bobby Day?

“Bobby is a long serving police detective and a man going through a crisis. Initially it’s probably quite common to most middle aged men. He’s suffering from panic attacks. Bobby doesn’t have any family, is close to retirement and all of a sudden he’s thrown into this maelstrom, the like of which he’s never really experienced before.

Cast Interviews

Q&A with Robert Glenister continued:

“They are basically coppers in a fairly sleepy town. He obviously wants to partake in the investigation and also wants to sort himself out. But Bobby goes down a route that makes the problem far worse and describes himself as ‘fizzing’.

“The psychological embodiment of that is this increasing rage with the world and everything is magnified in his mind. Which, in a sense, is a seriously dangerous thing. But in another sense it makes him on the button and quite sharp. Passionate and intense about things. It’s a personality change and that was what was so great about playing him. Initially he’s the middle-aged rural cop who becomes something else. His mind is becoming toxic. I don’t mean in terms of intent. It’s being poisoned.”

Q: Did you get a sense of the daily toll the job can take on a long-serving police officer?

“I’ve known a few policeman in my time, socially. They seem to have a cut off point, emotionally. It’s a job and I think Bobby being potentially more vulnerable, perhaps, than others is more sensitive to it and therefore is potentially more affected by it.”

Q: Tell us about Bobby’s relationship with murder witness Lucy, played by Lesley Sharp?

“The other thing that affects Bobby is meeting Lucy for the first time and seeing her calmness and inner peace. She fascinates him. Lucy is a major calming influence on him. In a sense she keeps him going. She becomes this huge rock he comes to rely on massively. You don’t know anything about Lucy at the start. Then we subsequently learn in later episodes about her background.”

Q: Lucy introduces Bobby to a Quaker meeting. Did you know much about that before this drama?

“I knew about the Society of Friends but I’d never come across them before. I always saw it as a religious entity, which to a degree it is. But having got to understand a little more about it, it seems to me it’s far more allied to something like Buddhism than it is to any form of organised religion. It’s a spiritual thing as opposed to a religious thing. Although it obviously has religious connotations.

“To the uninitiated it is quite weird because you go into the Quaker Hall and you sit down and nobody says anything until they feel like it. And then somebody might start speaking. It seems strange but I get it in terms of a way of finding that inner calm and peace within oneself.”

Q: Silence being a precious commodity in the modern day.

“I think that’s very relevant to Bobby. That’s what he gradually discovers about the whole Quaker set up. Everything disturbs him. All these things in the world are contributing to his inner chaos. The one thing he finds is Lucy and the Quakers.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Robert Glenister continued:

Q: Bobby asks, 'What's wrong with being nice? Why are people so quick to hate?' What's your view?

"In a way it's a naive question he asks but in a very pertinent way. Because I think it is true. There's a very simple solution. If people stopped being horrible to each other, if everybody gave each other a bit more respect and were a bit nicer to each other then we'd be in a better place. That also manifests itself through fear half the time. That's ultimately what it's about."

Q: How would you describe his relationship with his boss Michael Niles, played by Neil Stuke?

"Bobby sees Michael ticking the boxes. It's all about achieving targets, ticking boxes, getting the numbers right, coming in under budget as opposed to actually being given the leeway and the support in order to do the job you signed up for. Bobby recognises that. He probably understands it but in his heightened state of anxiety he feels it is not the way to go about things in these circumstances."

"It's like the whole education system now. It's all about targets, league tables and all the rest of it. You might as well tie teachers' hands behind their backs. And nurses, doctors and whatever else."

Q: You filmed scenes at the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire. What was that like?

"I'd never heard of it before and I was amazed to discover it was built in 1875 and cost the equivalent then of over £4 million in today's money. It's an extraordinary feat of engineering, just watching how the whole thing operates and that basic hydraulic system of filling one area with water to balance."

"But it was the coldest two weeks of my life. We started this show with five weeks of night shoots. So we were tired and cold - because it was really cold up there. It looks extraordinary. It doesn't look of this world somehow. Despite the fact it's Victorian it looks vaguely futuristic. Certainly in the way Mark Tonderai directed those episode and the way it was shot."

"You had to be careful running around on it. Because at certain places you were 200 feet off the ground and there wasn't a lot of protection. I've seen that sequence and I think it's really good. Almost filmic in its presentation."

"I'm all right with heights. As long as there's a big, burly stuntman not too far away to grab hold of me if I lose my footing. Our stunt co-ordinator Tom Lucy is very good and he would never let anybody get anywhere near potentially harming themselves. There was always great confidence in him."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Robert Glenister continued:

Q: And you filmed in Germany?

“We filmed, among other locations, at Dusseldorf Airport. It’s quite problematic filming in airports now because of the heightened security situation. But they were quite happy for us to do it at Dusseldorf. It’s a very busy airport but they gave us pretty much carte blanche. And it was great working with Christiane Paul (Linda) and Dominik Tiefenthaler (Walti). They were both brilliant.

“Making a television series is the same anywhere you go. But in Germany they don’t make eight-part TV series in the same way we do. They tend to do the one-offs or the two parters. So it was quite interesting for them to do something as long as this. We’ve been filming *Paranoid* for six months.

“We were there during Euro 2016, so the football was going on. And when Germany were playing the place was buzzing. It was extraordinary. We would sit in the hotel bar sipping our lemonades and behaving ourselves. An exciting time to be there, given the fact Germany was doing so well. And we were doing so badly.

“I was in Los Angeles beforehand filming out there and I had to go back and do a couple more days. So I went from Los Angeles to Dusseldorf the day before the Brexit vote. I was in Germany and woke up on the Friday morning to discover the result of the vote.

“And apparently all of the crew and other guys coming into Dusseldorf that day, the border agencies in Germany were having a laugh and pretending to turn them away. ‘No, you can’t come in. Go home!’

“There was also a big golf tournament going on. I’m not very good but I’m quite a keen golfer. Sergio Garcia and Thomas Bjorn were staying at our hotel for the first couple of days so I was in seventh heaven sitting in the bar looking at all these golfers.”

Q: Red Productions are renowned for producing distinctive, original dramas. Why are they so successful?

“It has to be because of Nicola Shindler. She’s the one with the taste. The buck stops with her. In a very good way. She takes risks and doesn’t do stuff that is necessarily something everybody knows is going to be a hit.

“*Paranoid* is very adventurous, not just for Red but for ITV as well. Because it does demand quite a lot from an audience. You can’t just sit back and let it wash over you. You’ve got to do a bit of work. And I think that’s very courageous of both Red, to do it, and for ITV to commission it. The success of Red undoubtedly has to come down to Nicola, her vision, ambition and eye for spotting talent.

“I hope people watch *Paranoid* and stick with it because it will be rewarding. Television is such a transitory thing now and people watch television in a completely different way than they did 10 years ago. It’s always going into the unknown with anything. Certainly something as ambitious as this. Fingers crossed.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Robert Glenister continued:

Q: Bobby and his police team receive help from a mystery source. Who helped you on your path to becoming an actor?

“My parents were very supportive. My dad was a TV director and because he knew the ins and outs of this game he could have said, ‘Look, try something else.’ But he and my mum were always very supportive, ‘If you want to do it then you go and do it. See what happens.’ Knowing the pitfalls they could have, if they felt the need, tried to steer me in a different direction. So I was grateful for the fact they let me dip my toe in the water.”

Q: You said you were recently working in America?

“It was a role in Ben Affleck’s new film called Live By Night. He’s directing and starring in it. It’s based on a book by Dennis Lehane who wrote Gone, Baby, Gone and Shutter Island and is a love story set in the gangster world of 1920s’ Boston. It’s epic and spans 15-20 odd years. So that was great. I really enjoyed it. That was something we Brits don’t get to do very often. To go down the Hollywood route, albeit briefly.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Dino Fetscher – Alec Wayfield



Q: Who is Alec?

“Alec Wayfield is the youngest of our story’s police detectives. I was immediately drawn to Alec ‘s interesting and complex character when I read the scripts! It was clear Alec was not just a cop, he has so many layers to him, so much going on from the case to work relations and to his family. I knew it would be a role I could get my teeth into.

“Paranoid’s story is gripping – I couldn’t put it down when reading it for my audition! I love how it’s not just a plain procedural police drama. It’s got heart with characters that are so human, that was one of the big appeals of the show and what, I think, makes it unique.

“In the script Alec is described as effortlessly elegant... When I read that I was thinking; “Have they got the right guy here?” It’s a sentence I would never use to describe myself! I think it must refer to his sense of ease and self-assurance with his work more than anything, or maybe just all the cool clothes he wears.”

Q: Did you do any research of your own?

“Yes, I did quite a bit of research with the London Met police both in CID and the Emergency response units. I shadowed a Detective Constable in CID on his night shift and it was such an insight! You have this idea of what detectives do from TV and films but I was keen to experience the reality of it. Funnily enough, what I found most useful was stuff like the paperwork side of things; the mundane day-to-day aspects of the job, all the red tape that is really frustrating. I learnt that for every incident there is a serious mass of paperwork to be filled out and chased up.

Cast interviews

Q&A with Dino Fetscher continued:

“When shadowing I was able to sit in on an attempted murder interview and see the whole interviewing process. We had to get permission from the suspect – which surprisingly he gave. The interview lasted hours and we finished at around 5am! It was just the suspect, the solicitor, the detective and me in a little room. I had to state my name, and that I was there purely for observational purposes on the recording. It was interesting because when you see these interviews in dramas and the movies; they’re so loaded and exciting! Our interview was three hours of “no comment” Not exactly thrilling, but saying that it definitely fed into how I played certain scenes in *Paranoid*, so I’m really glad I witnessed it.

“With the emergency response team I was put with, I got to whizz about town in a police car with two lovely PCs, blue lights flashing, siren wailing, traffic parting, the lot! It was so fun! I had to wear a stab vest for my own safety and loads of the witnesses and people involved in incidents thought I was a policeman and kept trying to give me statements; “I saw it! It wasn’t him, mate!” I was like; “Erm, I’m just an observer, sorry.”

“The whole experience gave me so much more respect for the police. When you’re come into contact with an officer you only see that incident you don’t think about where they have just been! But they literally bounce from one altercation to another, constantly. It really opened my eyes to what they’re exposed to and how, as a policeman, you have to deal with that and keep your heart and mind at an arm’s reach in order to protect yourself.”

Q: *Paranoid* begins with a shocking murder.

“The murder at the beginning is the catalyst that sparks our story into motion. That boom of violence. It’s really interesting to look at how people deal with their demons and their own personal paranoia’s. That’s one of the things I love about the show. It’s these characters trying to do their jobs but all the while they are conflicted with their own lingering shadows. They are all flawed and dealing with various things. Which makes the series very character driven as well as a thrilling police drama.”

Q: But is it also a chance for a young detective like Alec to prove himself?

“Alec is very driven by his job. He is ambitious. His work is like his anchor keeping him rooted amidst difficult underlying personal issues. So the case, in a way, helps Alec stay sane. It keeps him focused. At the same time it’s very frustrating as he is much more cerebral compared to others. Alec notices things others don’t. He’s outside of the box, the new generation of detective, he sees the little red flags other people don’t see. Much to his dismay Alec has to follow police procedures, again it’s that red tape I was talking about, always hindering.

“Alec is so moral and often *too* by the book. But what’s interesting is he is willing to go beyond the rules and bend them in instances where he feels he knows better. He really wants to get to the truth. Nina (Indira Varma) often mistakes that for arrogance. But I don’t think Alec is arrogant, he just thinks and operates in a completely different way to both Nina and Bobby (Robert Glenister).”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Dino Fetscher continued:

Q: Paranoid is set in a small town. Does that make a difference?

“Definitely. Our characters are living within that very small town mentality where everyone knows everyone’s business. It can be claustrophobic you can’t escape. There’s definitely that sense of Alec being trapped. His mother Monica, played by Polly Walker, is very manipulative and has a strong hold on Alec. It all adds to that strong sense of paranoia throughout the show.”

Q: Alec has a Shakespeare quote for every occasion. Did you enjoy that part of his character?

“I did! I’ve done lots of Shakespeare at drama school and one production professionally. I love Shakespeare, we have that in common. Also it paid off in terms of knowing which plays his quotes came from and why he might be speaking that particular line at that point in the script. I thought his love of Shakespeare was a really beautiful little bit of detail from Bill (Gallagher) that added something magical to Alec.”

Q: How would you describe Alec and Nina’s relationship?

“Alec and Nina have a very interesting relationship. It begins as quite a tempestuous power struggle. Nina is threatened by Alec in many ways. He’s younger, more intellectual, very well educated and a man, which sadly is still a factor in employment today. Initially they clash. Nina won’t let him help her. They are so different in their approaches to their work. But because of their differences they, eventually, become an amazing team. Then the case starts to snowball. It’s an unruly rollercoaster which takes us on a really exciting journey.”

Q: What was it like working with Indira?

“I was quite nervous when I got this role. It’s my first big job since finishing drama school a few years ago. So when I read it I thought, ‘Whoever is playing Nina, please let us get on!’ Because we were going to be spending all our time together.

“But I couldn’t have wished for anyone better. We really hit it off. Indy and I were practically inseparable on set –we could be found doing stupid voices, playing Bananagrams or making up songs (we actually have a theme tune). We had such a fun time trying not to laugh.

She is truly wonderful and actually, like me, quite goofy. As an actor, she is amazing to work with. I’ve learned so much from her. She’s so talented, patient and has helped me so much. I now consider her a good friend.”

Cast Interviews

Q&A with Dino Fetscher continued:

Q: You were involved in a number of action scenes. How were they to film?

"They kept having to slow me down in the running scenes because I have a huge stride and would be running too fast! Indira and I had to leap over a fence at one stage and we had to re-shoot that scene a few times because we were laughing so much.

"There were so many awesome action scenes. Gun chases, smoke canisters, running through the forest. It's really been action-packed fun. There were moments when I stopped and thought, 'This is epic!' It's going to look so cool on screen.

"I also filmed action scenes at the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire along with a stunt double. I was keen to do more but they said it would be unsafe for me. I was a bit gutted about that but just running around the Anderton Boat Lift was terrifying enough because the floors are all grated iron so you can see all the way down the 50ft drop to the canal below! I've no idea how the stunt man did what he did."

Q: A character asks why people are so quick to hate. Why does life have more claws today?

"I think there's a lot more negativity in the world because it takes a lot more energy to be positive. Being optimistic, having faith in something takes courage. It's scary going out on a limb on someone or something but easy to dismiss it with anger or indifference. Life has always had claws, it's just how you choose to see them."

Q: Did you get a sense of how the job can wear a police officer down over many years?

"I got a definite sense of how the job can wear police officers down. Even just doing my research for those few days I came away feeling drained. So I don't know how they manage to do it for an entire career span. If you're spending the vast majority of your life coming into contact with people who have had such horrific events happen to them, there is going to be a part of them you absorb every time, no matter how much you keep a distance.

"I imagine you must get used to it though, the officers I worked with loved their jobs and were very passionate about helping people which I think is incredibly admirable."

"It's very interesting watching the arrest procedure and how they speak to people involved in crimes. Even if they're being empathetic, it's still kept at a certain reach. That's really important so it doesn't completely affect and take you over.

"I asked one police officer, 'How do you tell someone that someone has died? How do you do that?' He said, 'You have to be detached. You have to leave your heart at the door, because that's the only way you'll be able to cope.'"

Cast interviews

Q&A with Dino Fetscher continued:

Q: What was your path into acting?

"No-one in my family is an actor. I didn't actively seek it out but I was always a very hyperactive dramatic child - and my mum saw that. We tried drama classes when I was 8 and I fell in love with it. I was on stage until I was 15. Then I became quite an awkward teenager; I was overweight. I had acne, I didn't know who I was - I couldn't imagine ever wanting to do anything so exposing ever again. In my school in Wales it was more Rugby than Romeo and Juliet!"

"I stopped acting completely until after I finished my A-levels and I thought 'What do I actually want to do? What makes me happy?' And acting was still the only thing that checked those boxes. So, I started to pursue it. I went to AmDram things, workshops to build my confidence, I joined the National Youth Theatre and eventually started to audition for drama school and finally got in! Now I'm privileged enough to be working. It's hard work, especially the times when you're not acting, but when it's good it's good."

"This is my first major leading role and in terms of my career, has been an incredible experience for me. Working with this cast has been such a gift of a job. It still feels a little bit surreal. Everyone has been so awesome, cast and crew, and we all gelled really well from day one. I'm still pinching myself. I am very grateful."

Cast Interviews

Q&A with Neil Stuke – Michael Niles



Q: What attracted you to *Paranoid*?

“I love the writer Bill Gallagher. I did *Out of the Blue* with him 20 years ago and I’m a huge fan of his work. I just loved it. It’s one of the only scripts I’ve ever read where I actually felt scared reading it and very nervous. Not really knowing what the hell is going to happen next. It’s brilliantly written. Bill at his best. It was a no-brainer.”

Q: Why scared and nervous?

“As you read it, it was like a really good thriller. A great novel. Even when we did the last script read-through for the final two episodes you just had this sense around the room of people not knowing what was going to happen next. Bill cranks it right up to the bitter end.”

Q: Tell us about Michael?

“Michael is in charge of the police investigation into the murder at the outset of the series. It’s a brilliant opening, which appears to be a crime we often read about in the newspapers. Then it slowly unravels.

“He is a detective inspector in a sleepy town with all sorts of budget concerns and constraints. A fairly hardened cop who likes to do things more or less by the book. Probably one would describe him as old fashioned. A good, fair, hard-working, genuinely concerned cop. A tough career cop.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Neil Stuke continued:

Q: Was there a police advisor on set?

"We had a police advisor with us almost all the time, which was great. It's really useful to be able to take advice. I had just done a job called Suspects where we had a police advisor and also recently played a detective inspector in Silent Witness. So I felt I was in the right zone. Anything we were unsure about we obviously had somebody there to help us."

Q: How does the murder impact on Michael and his job?

"The murder puts Michael under huge pressure. He is well aware of all the constraints around him. It's important they get this case solved as soon as possible. Budgets are tight and people expect a very quick result in these circumstances. So he's dealing with a lot of different pressures."

Q: How would you describe the writer Bill Gallagher's approach as the story unfolds?

"Bill has this philosophical element. He's able to put a more thoughtful slant on life via some of the characters as a through line in the story. It's really beautifully done."

"I've got young kids and I'm quite nervous about bringing them up in this world. I feel a little bit uncomfortable in the state of the world at the moment."

"People get into a vehicle that burns fossil fuels that won't exist soon and go to a supermarket that burns even more fossil fuels to buy rubbish food packed in unrecyclable packaging. It feels like some sort of bizarre treadmill."

Q: You are a passionate campaigner. Why?

"I'm a huge campaigner for supporting pubs, keeping pubs open. Stopping them being asset-stripped and re-developed. I believe passionately in community, society, localism and small shops and all that kind of stuff. I think it's really important."

"I don't want to be like America and I don't want to have those kind of American issues. Kids wandering around feeling they've got nothing so they go and shoot a load of people. I want us to have communities, places with a community feeling where everybody feels socially accepted."

"Once that local pub at the heart of the community has gone, it's gone forever. I'm battling really hard to save pubs. But you're battling against money. It's really horrible. I wish I hadn't started it in some senses. It's so ugly."

"I was described recently as the Joanna Lumley of the pub crusade world, the pro-pub campaign. So in a way I've helped them to get a message out there which I feel really proud about."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Neil Stuke continued:

"I was brought up in a High Street in Deal in Kent. My parents had a restaurant. I remember how wonderful that used to be with all the small local shops, without multinationals not paying any tax. I'm just passionate about what I believe in.

"Who knows, perhaps there's a life in politics at some point? I don't think I'd consider that. But it's really depressing dealing with councils and councilors. I suppose if I thought I could do a better job and help and support people in a better way, perhaps. There again I keep getting offered acting roles, so..."

Q: Lesley Sharp's character Lucy is described as the perfect witness. Are actors in general more observant than others?

"I certainly have that and I know most good actors do. But some actors will possibly say it's not necessary. I think it is. I'm constantly observing people. Lesley Sharp is the type of person anyway who sits back and studies much more. That's what actors do naturally."

Q: Michael and his police team receive help from a mystery source at the outset of their investigation. Did anyone help you early in your acting career?

"There were definitely people that guided me and helped me to start acting. A friend in Deal, a couple of friends in London and a friend in Brighton who really helped me get into Shakespeare and literature and concentrated my mind.

"I was quite a wild teenager so I needed to focus on something. Angela McCluskey, who is a very well known singer based in America now, was instrumental in helping me. And a guy called Michael Lowry. They were brilliant.

"Then I went to June Abbott's drama workshops at The Courtyard Theatre in King's Cross. From there I went to the Central School of Speech and Drama, got hooked up with an agent and so on. I wouldn't be here without those people."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Lesley Sharp – Lucy Cannonbury



Q: Why did you want to be involved in *Paranoid*?

“*Paranoid* is about a group of characters who are in free-fall. Their lives are being turned upside down for various reasons. The character I play, Lucy, has experienced her own difficult times and is there to offer a perspective, both for a police officer called Bobby (Robert Glenister), and the audience.

“Lucy is very much her own person. It’s fantastic to play a female making choices about her life. She’s the hero of her own life. Someone with a past and you don’t find out about it until quite a way into the story. There is something hidden about her. But on the surface she is taking the world on and dealing with it in a very wholesome, considered, sensible, calm, kind way.

“The series is written by Bill Gallagher, for whom I have enormous respect. He’s one of the leading television writers we have in this country. He absolutely understands the medium and he writes brilliantly for women. His female characters in *Paranoid*, including Nina (Indira Varma), Monica (Polly Walker) and Lucy are absolutely diamond female characters. And he doesn’t pull away from them. He writes them in the same three-dimensional way that often you see male characters represented.

“It’s thrilling to play a character who is so different from Janet Scott in *Scott & Bailey* and fabulous to once again be part of the team at Red who are so passionate about the craft of storytelling.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Lesley Sharp continued:

Q: There appears to be an ethereal mystery about Lucy?

“Lucy is there as this voice of calm, reaching through the turbulence of everybody else. This still, calm centre you can return to for safety. I’m glad there’s an air of mystery to her. Because what transpires about Lucy is really unexpected. You don’t expect her story to unravel in the way it does. There is something in her past that haunts her.”

Q: Paranoid is set in a small, peaceful town. Does that make the murder at the outset all the more shocking?

“The big fear and the paranoia is that the place of safety turns into the place of nightmare. Places that we make safe in our heads, our thoughts, the way we perceive the world and those around us that we’ve always taken for granted as being safe and benign. If that is disrupted then actually it becomes a hell. And then you have to find a way of managing that.

“We are in a society that reaches for medication, be it out of a pill bottle, a spirit or wine bottle, a cigarette, drugs - that’s what people look for to escape. And maybe we have to start thinking about addressing our difficulties rather than trying to numb them or make them lie down and be quiet. They’re put to sleep but they’re still there if you don’t address them.”

Q: Your character is a Quaker. Did you have any experience of that movement before?

“Funnily enough I was in Cornwall when I got the call about Paranoid. The Quaker movement was quite strong in that part of the world and there are a lot of beautiful, very simple Quaker houses in Cornwall. It had always been my intention to visit one of the oldest ones, which I subsequently did.

“Then by complete coincidence I received the phone call about Paranoid. When I read the scripts I couldn’t believe that co-incidence had happened.

“I think it’s possibly one of the roots of the more modern concept of mindfulness, which is just sitting and being still and being at one with your thoughts and not being hasty and judgmental, all of those things.

“Also it seemed there was a parallel with the line of thought in Christianity that runs with the notions there are in Buddhist principles, where it’s actually about living your life as best you can, taking responsibility for the way you are. Not condemning, not judging, not having opinions about other people but taking responsibility for yourself and the way you act. And taking care about the way you speak of the world and others. All of that seems increasingly relevant to the world in which we live.”

Cast interviews

Q&A with Lesley Sharp continued:

Q: Have we lost the art of silence, reflection and listening?

"I think many of us have. Often the people who talk the loudest and the most are regarded as the ones who are the most meaningful. And actually maybe we should be looking elsewhere. We should be looking for people who are discreet and calm and speak when they have something really important to say.

"I think we're geared up more and more to the immediate response. Having to respond instantly, sound bites. And it's not always the right way at all."

Q: Lucy tries to help police detective Bobby (Robert Glenister) who has been worn down by his job. You played a detective in Scott & Bailey. Do we fully appreciate the challenges faced by police?

"There have been very negative comments about the way the police have conducted themselves in the past and, in a way, that obliterates the majority of what the police in this country actually do and what they care about. I do believe a lot of people join the police force because they want to do good in their community and they are principled, moral and they care about society.

"But they're increasingly put into situations where they are having to take on extra responsibilities outside of the remit they trained for. Their resources and hours are stretched, what they are being asked to monitor is increasingly widening.

"It is a very stressful job and the good, kind, concerned, caring police officers and citizens should be lauded and admired and we should be grateful to them. We're very lucky to have them."

Q: Lucy says she likes to be 'present' and is described as the perfect witness. Would you say actors in general are more observant than the average person?

"Yes, I think that's definitely part and parcel of it. We almost become amateur psychologists or psychoanalysts in that you get a character on a page and then the questions you ask yourself always are, 'Why? Why does someone behave like that? What have they gone through, etc. Those are the things one is interested in.

"Then, of course, without realising it you think of the person you had a conversation with in a newsagent. Or someone you happened to fall into conversation with on a train. So all of your senses are out when you're trying to create a character. Things you've heard, things you've seen, conversations you've had, people you once knew or still do. You're always pulling out bits of information."

Cast interviews

Q&A with Lesley Sharp continued:

Q: Bobby (Robert Glenister) asks why are people so quick to hate? Life seems to have more claws these days?

"I definitely think recent events are bearing witness to this. If we're sensible then we will address all of the issues that have been brought up by this recent political crisis. It is about society and the way we interact with each other as people. It's interesting that Bill Gallagher wrote this 12 months ago but I think it's something he's keenly aware of."

Q: You have worked with Robert Glenister before?

"I love working with Robert. Over the years our paths have crossed. We worked together at the National Theatre, we did a Prime Suspect together. I've known him as a friend for many years and I think he is an absolutely delightful man as well as a wonderful actor. So it couldn't be better having the opportunity to work with him. He has got a triple-A rating from me."

Q: The police receive help from a mystery source. Was there anyone who helped you early on in your career?

"When I was a teenager I belonged to Formby Theatre Club and it was a small amateur youth group in a small town. Tina Morton ran the local drama group. I have the utmost gratitude to her."

"Because being a teenager is tricky. And being a teenager who wants to act is tricky. Tina was someone who encouraged and was kind and said, 'You can do it, you can do this. Why don't you try this? You can go to drama school, why shouldn't you go to drama school?' To have someone like that, at the moment when I needed it, was amazing."

"If Tina hadn't been there, I don't know if I would have had the confidence to try for it. Or the belief. It was something I desperately wanted to do. But she struck the match and lit the blue touchpaper and said, 'Go on, off you go, you do it.' And I'm so thankful to her. She was fantastic."

"She is one of those people who selflessly gives to young people in front of her. They are out there those people and they are amazing. They are facilitators. Just brilliant. So I'm very thankful Tina was mine. I'm still in touch with her. She comes up to London to see plays, if I'm ever on stage she comes and sees me and we talk on the phone. She's a wonderful woman."

Synopsis

Episode 1 | written by Bill Gallagher



Local GP Angela Benton is murdered in a children's playground in the sleepy village of Woodmere, Cheshire by a Hooded Man. Detectives Bobby Day (Robert Glenister), Nina Suresh (Indira Varma) and Alec Wayfield (Dina Fetscher) are immediately called to the scene.

CCTV footage identifies the attacker as Jacob Appley, a local man suffering from psychopathic schizophrenia. When the call comes in that Jacob's body has been found, he is already dead – assumed suicide. The discovery of a body should mean that the case is closed but something troubles Alec. Psychopathic schizophrenics have no feelings of regret so why would Jacob kill himself?

Struggling to keep on top of his panic attacks, Bobby visits his GP and is prescribed anti-psychotics. With the pressure of the case mounting, Bobby finds comfort with Lucy Cannonbury (Lesley Sharp), a key witness of the attack. Meanwhile, Nina is shocked when her boyfriend Dennis (Jason Done) dumps her. Confused and rejected, she finds an unlikely friend in Alec.

The detectives soon discover that another detective has been visiting key witnesses – a man calling himself Detective Galen. Nina nicknames him the 'Ghost Detective', as there is no record of him with any UK police force. As they are discussing him, PC Megan Waters (Anjali Mohindra) brings in a parcel that has been delivered to BOBBY at the station. A postcard is attached – 'LOOK AT ANGELA'S PAST'.

Synopsis

Episode 1 continued:

Feeling out of their depth, the detectives look into Angela's past and enlist the help of Linda Felber (Christiane Paul), a detective based in Dusseldorf, where Angela's ex-boyfriend, Ruben Locana is based.

It is then that Bobby receives another postcard. The note reads: 'YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST...'

Cast and Production Credits

Cast Credits



Nina Suresh.....	INDIRA VARMA
Bobby Day.....	ROBERT GLENISTER
Alec Wayfield.....	DINO FETSCHER
Michael Niles.....	NEIL STUKE
Linda Felber.....	CHRISTIANE PAUL
Lucy Cannonbury.....	LESLEY SHARP
Walti Merian.....	DOMINIK TIEFENTHALER
Eric Benton.....	JOHN DUTTINE
Monica.....	POLLY WALKER
WPC Megan Waters.....	ANJLI MOHINDRA
Dennis.....	JASON DONE
Henry Appley.....	WILLIAM ASH
Dr Crowley.....	MICHAEL MALONEY

Cast and Production Credits

Cast Credits continued:

Angela Benton.....	EMMA BISPHAM
Ghost Detective.....	KEVIN DOYLE
Cedric Felber.....	DANIEL DREWES
Damien.....	JAMES OATES
Dr Parcival.....	SHOBNA GULATI
Sheri.....	AYDA FIELD
Nick Waingrow.....	DANNY HUSTON
Sadie Waingrow.....	ISABELLA PAPPAS
Arne Dunst.....	COLIN COOMBS
Caitlin Graece.....	REBECCA CALLARD

Cast and Production Credits

Production Credits

Executive Producers.....NICOLA SHINDLER
.....BILL GALLAGHER
Creator and Writer.....BILL GALLAGHER
Directors.....MARK TONDERAI
.....KENNY GLENAAN
.....JOHN DUTHIE
Producer.....TOM SHERRY
Line Producer.....ANGELA TAYLOR
Script Editor.....SASKIA ABBOTT
Director of Photography.....DIRK NEL, SEAN VAN HALES
Casting Director.....BEVERLEY KEOGH CDG
Costume Designer.....IAN W HOLMES
Make Up Designer.....LIN DAVIE
Production Designer.....LISA SOPER
Props Master.....PETE O'ROURKE
Art Director.....AER AGREY
Sound Recordist.....DAVID RATCLIFFE
Music.....BEN ONONO
Editors.....ADAM TROTMAN, XAVIER RUSSELL
First Assistant Directors.....CLARE SHEPHERD
.....SIMON TURNER
.....URSULA HAWORTH
Location Managers.....MARK O'HANLON, NELLY SCHUNK, PHILIP GRITZKA
Head of Production.....MICHAELA FEREDAY

