



# Unforgotten, Series 2 Production Notes

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## Contents

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Press Release          | 3  |
| Foreword by Chris Lang | 5  |
| Character Biographies  | 6  |
| Cast interviews        | 7  |
| Episode Synopses       | 25 |
| Cast Credits           | 26 |
| Production Credits     | 28 |



## CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED DRAMA UNFORGOTTEN RETURNS TO ITV

Critically acclaimed drama, *Unforgotten*, starring Nicola Walker (*Last Tango In Halifax*, *Scott & Bailey*) and Sanjeev Bhaskar (*Goodness Gracious Me*, *Indian Summers*), returns for a second series, exploring the investigation into another intricate historic murder case.

Once again created by writer Chris Lang (*Undeniable*, *The Tunnel*), the gripping six-part series features a brand new story, starting with the discovery of body found in a sealed suitcase in the silt of the River Lea. With the body preserved but clearly having been there a number of years, DCI Cassie Stuart (Walker) and DI Sunny Khan (Bhaskar) begin the complicated task of identifying the victim and investigating his murder.

Through their inquiries, the body is revealed as middle-aged man David Walker who mysteriously disappeared in 1990 leaving behind a wife and young son who is now in his early 30s. However, with no clear motives for murder, the team are charged with finding out who wanted David Walker dead and why?

As the investigation progresses, we're introduced to Brighton-based barrister Colin Osborne (Mark Bonnar), paediatric nurse Marion Kelsey (Rosie Cavaliero), school teacher Sara Mahmoud (Badria Timimi) and DI Tessa Nixon (Lorraine Ashbourne), the victim's wife and respected detective. Are one of them responsible for David's death?

Also joining Nicola Walker and Sanjeev Bhaskar in the upcoming series are Wendy Craig (*Reggie Perrin*), Nigel Lindsay (*Victoria*), Douglas Hodge (*The Night Manager*), Charlie Condou (*Coronation Street*), Holly Aird (*The Promise*), Jassa Ahluwalia (*Peaky Blinders*), Bryony Hannah (*Call the Midwife*) and Will Brown (*Doctor Who*).

Drawing upon very current themes and jeopardy, the complex and emotional drama travels to the Cotswolds, London, Salisbury and Brighton in search of the truth, analysing our society's relationship with evil and questioning when and whether a good person can be defined as bad.

The new series is directed once again by Andy Wilson (*Ripper Street*, *Endeavour*), produced by Tim Bradley (*Death in Paradise*, *Primeval*) and executive produced by Sally Haynes (*HIM*, *Bleak House*) and Laura Mackie (*HIM*, *Cutting It*) on behalf of Mainstreet Pictures. Creator and writer Chris Lang is also an Executive Producer.

ITV's Controller of Drama Victoria Fea has commissioned the new series and oversaw production for the broadcaster. The series will be distributed internationally by BBC Worldwide.



## Foreword by Chris Lang, Writer & Creator

Series two of Unforgotten is a completely new story, with four completely new suspects, but it will once again explore the fallout from, and the investigation in to, an historic murder case. It will continue to mine some of the themes of series one, but the primary theme of this series, will be our society's relationship with "evil".

The series will ask questions about our need to categorise people as good or bad, about how our views as a society are often shaped by a media that has a reductive agenda and therefore less interested in complex morality, and the notion of looking for difficult solutions to difficult social problems.

It asks what exactly is a victim, what exactly is a criminal, and why do we struggle so profoundly to understand, categorise and ultimately, successfully *deal* with those in our society, who would seem to be both. It seeks to explore the idea of when exactly a good person starts becoming defined by society as a bad person, and at what point in their life, a damaged person stops being exempted for their crimes, allowing us to contentedly label them "evil".

So it tackles a number of quite complex themes, but this is why I enjoy writing Unforgotten so much, because it is a format that allows me to do just that. I also think the historical element lends the stories something particularly unique. We are all fascinated by what makes ordinary people cross the line and take a life, but what is almost *more* interesting, is how people manage to then cover such a crime up for so many years, how they can live a whole life, without it obviously showing that 20, 30 or 40 years ago, they did this terrible thing.

I also of course wanted to get to know Sunny and Cassie better in this series, to explore further the dynamic of how they work together, but also understand them a little more as people in their private lives. This series, we see them more at home with their respective families, Sunny as a some time single dad of two tricky teenage daughters, and Cassie sharing her home with two generations, her dad and her sons.

As ever, on this series, I was assisted by some great advisors, but I also spoke at length to various friends and family, who had been through similar experience to some of the characters. And then when the scripts were ready, we started the hugely enjoyable process of casting.

Series one was always going to be a tough act to follow, but I have absolutely no doubt we have managed it. Many of the cast were people I have long admired (from afar) and offered them the parts slightly expecting them to turn it down because often they were leading actors being offered supporting roles, but no-one did, so we ended up with my dream cast. I think it helped that the first series had been so well received, and had garnered a BAFTA for Sir Tom Courtenay for his portrayal of Eric Slater, but whatever the reason, I could not be more delighted with the cast we chose, and then with the performances they have given.



## Character Biographies

### DCI CASSIE STUART

DCI Cassie Stuart is divorced and lives with her father Martin with whom she has a good relationship. She has two sons, both studying at University. Cassie begins to investigate the death of a middle-aged man whose body is discovered preserved in a suitcase in the River Lea and is determined to find out how he ended up there.

### DI SUNIL 'SUNNY' KHAN

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

### DI TESSA NIXON

Respected detective Tessa Nixon was married to the victim, David Walker, when he went missing and had a son, Jason, with him who is now in his early 30s. Due to David's depression, Tessa assumed that he had taken his own life or started again somewhere on his own. She has since remarried, living in the Cotswolds and is on the brink of retirement when David's body is discovered.

### COLIN OSBORNE

Colin Osborne is a highly-respected defence barrister who takes on a lot of pro-bono and community work, deeply caring about his clients. He lives in Brighton with his husband Simon with whom he is in the final stages of adopting a young girl, Flora, to complete their loving family. Before becoming a barrister, Colin worked in London as a high-flying banker.

### MARION KELSEY

Paediatric nurse Marion Kelsey works on a teenage cancer ward and has been known to develop close bonds with her patients. She has a tense relationship with her sister, Elise, and her mum, Joy, and had a turbulent time when she left home as a teenager herself. Marion is married to Tony but he suspects that she hasn't been entirely honest with him about her past and is concerned about her mental health.

### SARA MAHMOUD

Sara Mahmoud is an English teacher who is in the process of applying for a head teacher role at a struggling local school which she hopes to turn around. She is a practising Muslim and active member of her community but not afraid to ruffle a few feathers and challenge orthodoxy, particular when it comes to women's equality. Sara is married with children but has secrets in her past that could jeopardise her family life.



## Cast interviews

### Nicola Walker is DCI Cassie Stuart



**Q: You were working on Broadway with *A View From The Bridge* when the first series of *Unforgotten* was broadcast?**

“I was in New York the whole time, so the reaction to the first series totally passed me by. Apart from people stopping me on the street when I got back to say they really enjoyed the show. I was very pleased at how well it was received.”

**Q: How was it returning to the role of Cassie?**

“I was very nervous. The voice in your head is saying, ‘Why are you nervous? Relax. You know this character. You’ve played this character before.’ It was interesting. Our director Andy Wilson, who directed the first series, was brilliant, asking, ‘How do you feel? Do you feel OK?’

“He was aware that actually the gap between series means it’s not as easy as you might think to walk straight back in just because you’re wearing the correct costume. Also because I had got the impression people really liked the show, your adrenaline is up for the first few days. You hope we can serve it as well second time round. But actually three or four days in it felt really good to be back playing her.”

**Q: Aside from series regulars, you and Sanjeev worked with a brand new cast of characters?**

“We have completely new people. All bringing their best game with them. Yet again we have got fantastic actors. Because of the nature of the story they have to come in at a pitch. And they all do.”

“In the opening scene a body is found in a suitcase. These new characters are all in very different places with very different stories and backgrounds. But once that skeleton of someone who went missing in 1990 is uncovered it throws them all into crisis. So they’re straight in from day one. There’s no gentle slide into the part. You’re straight in with this very heightened situation. The knock at the door they’ve been waiting 26 years for has come.”

### **Q: Do we see Cassie and Sunny’s working partnership develop in this series?**

“You start to learn a bit more about how Cassie and Sunny’s relationship works. I was interested in how the writer Chris Lang had created these two people who are intimate in a working way. They know each other incredibly well and rely on each other. They feel very safe with each other.

“They have a disagreement in this series. It’s not that they fall out. In other working environments maybe it wouldn’t be quite as complicated. Because for them it’s fundamental. They are drawing a line about how you punish. It’s completely understandable but they come at it from very different ends of the argument. They are absolutely in opposition to each other.

“But they have to go to work. They need each other. That seems more true to life to me. You can look at someone and think, ‘Is that really who you are?’ But Cassie loves Sunny and trusts him as a work colleague.”

### **Q: What questions are asked this story?**

“There are some hard things for Cassie to hear in this series. There are times when Cassie thinks she is ahead of the game and then she is running from behind. And at times she feels she is at a complete standstill and dead end. It’s the frog in boiling water. Cassie doesn’t know she’s in trouble until it’s at boiling point. And that’s when she has to act.

“She might be able to step back after the end of this case and ask the sort of questions that Chris Lang is asking of the audience, but she is learning this story as it unfolds, just like the audience are.

“For her the biggest question is about punishment. Who you punish and when do you punish them when a crime happened this long ago? This storyline is really not easy for Cassie. And in a good way I don’t think everyone who watches this story will agree with her.”

### **Q: This is a historic crime investigation involving someone who went missing over a quarter of a century ago. Why do these cases matter to Cassie?**

“It’s good to be mindful of how connected Cassie and Sunny are to the individuals in the case. It’s not an everyday occurrence finding a skeleton in a suitcase in a river. From experience they know that behind this there are going to be probably children, wives, lovers and parents, who have grieved.



“It’s the premonition of knowing they have to now go and knock on doors. In a really basic sense. They’re very aware of that. Once they find out who this person is, it begins a chain of events. And the first thing is usually the knock at the door of someone who really doesn’t want to see them and hear what they are going to say.”

**Q: Cassie gets angry when people dismiss events as ancient history?**

“It’s important to her because she realises she is in a position to make a difference. And she doesn’t want events like this to be repeated. She doesn’t want to be connected with a case that 10 years down the line someone says, ‘It was her and her team. They could have done something and they didn’t.’ She is very aware of that.

“Cassie is also aware that times have changed. Something that happened in 1990 would have been treated differently. We’re constantly moving forward with the way we view certain crimes. She knows it wouldn’t have been treated in the same way as today.”

**Q: Peter Egan returns as Cassie’s father Martin. How is their relationship?**

“Martin is hiding something from Cassie. And she’s not used to that. I love that Chris Lang keeps moving through this story with her father. He didn’t tie it up neatly at the end of the first series. Martin is doing a very good job of pretending everything is fine. And then very slowly Cassie starts to notice things aren’t quite right. I don’t think the policewoman in her can let it go once she spots it.”

**Q: How does Cassie view Sunny’s decision to explore online dating?**

“Cassie’s thinks, ‘Have we come to this?’ She is probably going to be on her own for the rest of her life. I cannot see a time when Cassie would go internet dating. In all likelihood she would sit opposite someone and think, ‘I’m sure I put you away back in...’

**Q: A diving watch is one of the items Cassie and Sunny research in this series. The concept of time is a part of Unforgotten. It seems to pass more quickly the older you get?**

“Absolutely. It is about getting older. I say it a lot to my friends and my peer group. ‘Is it me or is time speeding up?’”

**Q: An archive photo in a newspaper features in the story. Can you remember your very first mention in print?**

“It will be before I went to Cambridge University, for Harlow Youth Theatre. I was so keen. I did four plays a year with them from the age of 14. So I would have been in my local paper. It would have been a group shot of very serious but very excited 14, 15-year-olds. Probably getting their parents to sit through a Shakespeare. At the Harlow Playhouse. Because the thing you couldn’t get me away from was the theatre. Once I’d found it.

“There’s me saying I’ve never joined a group. I joined that when I was 14. And that gave me such a focus. It was somewhere where I felt I really belonged. I had friends. That was my club. Harlow Youth Theatre was my club from 14 to 18.”



**Q: The police team have to investigate old technology in the form of a pager. Did that spark any memories?**

“The pager brought up some quite interesting conversations. It was like watching a group of monkeys use a stick to get ants from an ant hill. Like the dawn of time. All of us standing around trying to work out how pagers used to work. Whether there was a SIM card in them, which was ridiculous due to SIM cards not having been invented then. All the questions asked in the script, we also asked. Like, where did you buy pagers?”

“How could you have known then what we would all have today? Pagers were just the tip of the technological iceberg.”

**Q: Were there any particularly striking locations for you in this series?**

“I liked the River Lea location in the first episode where the dredger finds a locked suitcase. It’s just rather brilliant. There are days on your job when you think, ‘This is great.’ It’s the crew, the divers who do really rather amazing things in real life. You walk on to set and it looks exactly how you imagined it would. And people have been working there since 4am that morning to make it look as real as it can. So that you step in and it’s all utterly believable. I really loved that set.

“We also spend some time in Brighton. It was wonderful to take them out of the environment we’ve been used to seeing them in. For Cassie and Sunny to be walking down the promenade on Brighton beach. The Cotswolds were beautiful too. It felt unreal, like the whole place was a set. So beautiful and perfect.”

**Q: Cassie and Sunny walk away from a gruesome crime scene and end up talking about their favourite sandwich. They seem very real, recognisable human beings on screen?**

“It’s a kindness there from him to her. I love the way they talk to each other. The point is to get on, move forward and gain ground in the case. He’s a lifeline to her a lot of the time. He just pulls her out every now and then when she could possibly sink.”

**Q: And what is your favourite sandwich in real life?**

“It has to be a bacon sandwich. No tomato ketchup, thanks.”



## Cast interviews

# Sanjeev Bhaskar is DI Sunil ‘Sunny’ Khan



### Q: How do you reflect on the success of the first series of *Unforgotten*?

“I was incredibly pleased and proud at having been involved in the first series. It’s very difficult when you’re in the middle of something to see it as other people see it. But it’s rare also, I know, to get such a consensus of critics and audience as well. I’m over the moon that people embraced it in the way they did.

“People still come up to me and talk about the first series and ask about the second. I went to South Africa and again the reaction to series one there was fantastic.”

### Q: Was there any added pressure on you and Nicola going back to these characters, knowing how well the first series was received?

“I don’t think so. If anything the pressure would have been on the writer Chris Lang to produce stories, scripts and characters that were as engaging. So, no, it didn’t feel like there was a pressure. We knew our own characters better and it was largely the same team in terms of director, director of photography and all that kind of stuff., so it was a very comfortable and comforting return.

“It was great to work with Nicola Walker as Cassie again in terms of the characters but also personally. I think she’s absolutely wonderful and great fun to hang out with. I absolutely adore her.”

**Q: Sunny and Cassie have their first major disagreement in this series?**

“People will have differing opinions about this story. That’s reflected in the fact both Cassie and Sunny have quite strongly held differing opinions this time around. There’s a degree of validity to both sides of that. It’s a little more tense between them than it was the first time around.”

**Q: What sort of questions does this series pose?**

“One of the questions is, ‘Can an evil act only be committed by an evil person? Can a good person do an evil thing?’ That’s part of the opinion and debate within it. Like the first series those individual stories of the various characters are all very compelling. There are several unexpected twists within the story in terms of the direction it takes.”

**Q: Unforgotten makes clear victims of historical crime matter?**

“There is that sense of closure everybody needs. In this case we do meet the victim’s family, including his son, for whom it is still raw 26 years on. The police work is the regular part-drudgery police work that has to be done. These are not superhero detectives. But they do it with a degree of empathy.

“That’s what I liked about them on the page. And I think that’s what a lot of people responded to in the first series. Not just the two lead detectives but the team were all driven by an empathetic, sympathetic approach rather than being superheroes or hard men and hard women. That’s what runs across both series. That these things are approached in a slightly gentler way.”

**Q: This story involves a man who went missing in May 1990. What were you up to then?**

“That was the year before my 1991 IMDb entry for ‘various roles’ in a BBC2 comedy series called The Real McCoy. Which is why you should never trust the internet. I wasn’t in The Real McCoy!

“My first TV appearance was for an Asian magazine programme called Network East, around about 1994. But I had a full time job in marketing then. I graduated in 1988 and went to India in 1990. I was trying to freelance in marketing at that time and it was quite a struggle. I eventually ended up in debt and moved back in with my parents. But I’d always written and I’d performed a little bit at university.”

**Q: We see Sunny at home with his two daughters for the first time?**

“The two girls were absolutely delightful. It’s very difficult to come in within a group of people who all know each other. And they did terrifically well. They were both great fun and confident. That’s where we see Sunny trying to keep his work life and home life going.”

**Q: Sunny is involved in online dating?**

“I think it was there to show there is an outside world that affects Sunny and Cassie. It’s a moment that is awkward between them. They are very used to knowing everything about each other. It adds to the slight distance at times we find them in. We also see more of Cassie and her home life.”



**Q: Sunny visits the British Watch and Clock Makers' Guild as part of the investigation. Do you belong to any clubs or societies?**

"No official membership. I'm a lifelong Elvis Presley, Beatles, James Bond and Laurel and Hardy fan. Then I discovered The Goons, The Marx Brothers and Chaplin. They're the ones I still carry with me. I'm as passionate about Elvis, The Beatles, Bond and Laurel and Hardy as I was when I was 10. And Liverpool Football Club.

"One of the many joys of having children is you can start to enjoy, through them, the things you enjoyed yourself when you were younger. For me it's films. Introducing my son to films I really liked. With no pressure on him to like them at all. So we have a rule which is, 'If you don't like it after 15 minutes we'll switch it off. But give it 15 minutes.'

"Good storytelling is good storytelling. The pace and style might change. But actually just good storytelling and interesting relationships are perennial. So I'm watching them again and through my son's eyes."

**Q: You and Nicola get to work with a new cast of characters, including Wendy Craig as Joy Dunphy?**

"I had one scene with Wendy Craig on one day. I said to Wendy, 'Look, this is such a pleasure. We used to watch your programmes as a family: Butterflies, And Mother Makes Five, And Mother Makes Three.' She was very gracious and lovely about it and she hasn't changed much at all.

"I said to her as I was leaving, 'Thank you. It's been lovely to meet you. No pressure...can I give you a hug?' And she said, 'Yes, of course you can.' So I hugged her. Which was great. It was lovely."

**Q: What was it like working with other new cast members like Lorraine Ashbourne, Rosie Cavaliero, Badria Timimi and Mark Bonnar?**

"I was thinking after the stellar nature of the cast we had on series one, 'Oh, we've got no knights in this. No sirs.' But I can honestly say with each of those people I had scenes with, there was a moment when I thought, 'Bloody hell. There's a BAFTA nomination there. That was brilliant.' And I thought it with each of them.

"I'm also really looking forward to seeing the scenes I wasn't in. We had some other incredibly good people who came in for not the biggest parts in the series but important all the same. Because they were absolutely vital to us believing in these families and the world. And with the younger ones I thought, 'These are the Tom Courtenays and the Gemma Jones of the next generation.' They were utterly brilliant."

**Q: An archive newspaper article features in this story. When did your name and photo first appear in print?**

“My mum keeps all these kind of things. The first time my picture appeared in the paper was for an advert. It was some kind of extras’ agency that sent me along to be one of 60 or 70 people crossing a bridge in London. It was an advert for a job creation scheme or something like that.

“I remember I got moved up. I was in about the 20th row from the front and then the person who was doing the shoot moved me up a couple or rows and then moved me up again. Much to the disgust of everyone else who was there, every wannabe who was being moved back. And I ended up second or third from the front. So I was quite prominent.

“In terms of my name, it must have been when I did Network East. Although I wrote a piece in around 1994, 1995 that got printed in a newspaper called The Asian Age. That was before I did any TV or anything. I was still working in marketing and sent this piece in which centred around identity crises. You’re born in one country and your parents have a different culture. Who are you? A question which still rumbles around today.”

**Q: Unforgotten has, yet again, a wide range of characters in this second story.**

“I hope people enjoy it as much, if not more, as the first series. This cast is extraordinary. I’ve been very used to bringing, in inverted commas, ‘diversity’ to a project. But I remember thinking after the first series, ‘Actually this is the most diverse programme I’ve ever been in.’ Diverse in terms of race, age, gender - it really was across the board. And similarly with this one. It’s an incredibly diverse cast and story. In that reflecting genuinely the society we live in, I thought it did it incredibly well at a level I wasn’t expecting.”

**Q: What’s next?**

“I’m doing a few days’ filming on Paddington 2, which is very exciting. I had a rehearsal the other day with Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Jessica Hynes and Ben Miller. There’s a group of actors that are playing Paddington’s neighbours who get caught up in the story a bit. I’m one of the neighbours. It’s got a fantastic cast with Hugh Grant and Brendan Gleeson.

“I said to Hugh Bonneville, ‘Is this the first time that you and Hugh Grant have worked together since Notting Hill?’ And he said, ‘Yes.’ And I said someone tweeted me and said, ‘Is this the first time Hugh Bonneville, Hugh Grant and Sanjeev Bhaskar have worked together since Notting Hill?’ I went, ‘Absolutely, yes.’ So it’s a Notting Hill reunion of two major characters and ‘Angry Man in Restaurant’.

“I’ve got scenes with Paddington. How fantastic? That’s the wonderful thing about my life. At the beginning of the year I would never have predicted that one man could sit alongside Wendy Craig and Paddington. What more can you ask?”



## Cast interviews

### Mark Bonnar is Colin Osborne



#### Q: What did you think of the first series of Unforgotten?

"I caught up with it when I was going up for this role and watched it then. I was very impressed by it and the standard of work all round. The writing for a start. Chris Lang has got a real knack for interweaving disparate parts while also making each of them really fascinating and compelling. He can write a story that man."

#### Q: Who is Colin Osborne?

"Colin is a barrister who lives in Brighton with his husband Simon, played by Charlie Condou. He does a lot of pro bono work, a lot of community work and he cares about his clients. Colin and Simon are in the final stages of adopting a little girl called Flo (Amy Jayne) and hoping that all will go to plan. But there are certain things in Colin's past that he is afraid will jeopardise the adoption process. He has anger issues and that is a problem."

#### Q: Colin adores young Flo. Having a child changes everything?

"Without a doubt. It changes everything. Hopefully it makes you a more patient person. The responsibility is huge and it's overwhelming sometimes. That's a prime example of something that forces you to grow. It's the most wondrous thing of all time. It's a beautiful thing to watch. To see the world again through their eyes. It's fantastic. And to be reminded of that beautiful innocence. And straightforwardness as well. It's a thing of extreme joy."

**Q: What was it like working with Amy Jayne who plays Flo?**

“She was fantastic. Very grown up in her approach to her work. But just delightful. Really open. She surprised me and Charlie because of her spirit which was just lovely. She’s got a lovely quality on screen. So it was a real joy.

“With child actors, it can be difficult sometimes. They can be quite shy and take a while to come out of their shell. Because it is a weird situation if you’re not used to it. But Amy has done a lot of work over the last few years and isn’t phased by any of it. So she just jumped straight in and went with her instinct.”

**Q: Does being a father in real life help with those scenes?**

“It probably does. You do put yourself imaginatively into those situations as part of your prep. It at least provides a short cut.”

**Q: How would you describe Colin’s relationship with Simon?**

“Colin can be quite emotionally closed down, even though he is a bon viveur and on the surface he’s outgoing, caring and compassionate. When it comes to his own emotions it’s a different kettle of fish. Colin and Simon have been together for around seven years and over that time that has strained certain parts of their relationship.”

**Q: What questions does this story ask?**

“I think the starting point for the writing was calling people good, bad and evil. When do you stop forgiving someone and start blaming them? I think what the writer Chris Lang has tried to do is say it’s not all black and white. It’s many different shades of grey.

“That’s part of the real bigger picture of how we’re living as a race right now. Empathy is being overtaken by other things. Like blame and labelling. Things that aren’t helpful in any way. Because we’re all infinitely complex. And I think that’s what Chris is trying to show. In both series. But especially in this series he really hits the nail on the head. I loved the writing. I think it’s an important thing to be telling a story about at this time.”

**Q: What was it like filming, as criminal barrister Colin, in a real court building?**

“The court building was beautiful. It was a real working court. It does help when you have the barrister’s wig and gown on. We had a fantastic legal advisor who is a criminal barrister. So she does the same job that Colin does. Or I pretended to do. It was great to have her on set that day to check I was dotting the ‘Is’ and crossing the ‘Ts’.

“I really enjoyed doing those court scenes. Big speeches are actually easier to learn than little bitty dialogue. If you’ve got a couple of pages of just you speaking it’s often a lot easier to learn. Especially when it’s so well written. That’s great stuff to get your teeth into.”



**Q: The murder victim in this series went missing in May 1990 when you would have been aged around 21. What were you up to back then?**

“I think I was working in the planning department for Edinburgh District Council in 1990. I probably would have been bored. In the pub with my workmates. Then I moved down to London in 1996.”

**Q: An archive newspaper article features in this story. Can you remember when your name first appeared in print?**

“I think my name first appeared in print in the 1981 Leith Academy school magazine. I can’t remember why it was there. But I remember seeing it and thinking, ‘Ooh.’ I think I’ve still got a copy somewhere. I kept it.

“Then it appeared again in print a little bit later - I’ve always been a video gamer since I was knee high to a grasshopper and me and my mate used to go to the arcade and we had Commodore 64s. I sent in a high score for a game called H.E.R.O. that Activision made and my name got printed in a Commodore 64 magazine called Zzap!64. So I was really excited about that. They don’t have those kind of things anymore. Games have evolved immeasurably since then.”

**Q: What’s next?**

“I’ve been filming the third series of Catastrophe. Then six new episodes of Porridge in the New Year, which is very exciting. And then a new series of Shetland after that. I’m looking forward to that immensely. It’s very nice to have some work to look forward to and not to have to worry about the mortgage for a wee while. But it’s always the same. As soon as Shetland starts I’ll be worrying about what’s coming up next.”

## Cast interviews

### Badria Timimi is Sara Mahmoud



#### Q: Did you see the first series of *Unforgotten*?

“I watched it after I got this job. I thought it was great. You had elements that shock and surprise you. Things you weren’t expecting in how you discover people’s connection to the victim.”

#### Q: Tell us about Sara Mahmoud?

“Sara is a teacher and very passionate about what she does. She very much likes to champion the kids who might ordinarily be left behind or be judged too harshly for their behaviour and so on. Sara sees through lots of things and tries to help kids. She is also applying for a head teacher role at a new school.

“She has a very tight family life, is still very much in love with her husband Hassan, played by Adeel Akhtar, and has a great relationship with her three sons.”

#### Q: What was it like filming the classroom scenes with a young cast?

“They were great. A really lovely bunch of kids. It was a very relaxed, warm atmosphere on set. Sara is teaching *Macbeth* and I remember doing *Macbeth* for my own ‘O’-level.”

**Q: Teaching is one of the most crucial jobs in our society but teachers are often undervalued?**

“Very much so. A good teacher is invaluable. I have strong memories of the teachers who influenced me and saw my potential before I even saw it myself. I equally remember the teachers who were very judgmental and put you down. They have quite a huge impact on you and your own confidence as you grow up. And it’s not until you get older and look back and go, ‘OK, they obviously had their own issues and were projecting it on to us. And we were completely unaware of that at the time.’ I think it’s a very important job.”

**Q: Many people are concerned about the cutbacks in arts teaching in schools?**

“It’s a real shame that it’s shrinking because it expands people’s view in a huge way. People can learn so much through stories and maybe being able to relate to certain situations.”

**Q: What was your path to becoming an actor?**

“Acting is something that interested me from when I was about nine years old. Then when I came to England and drama was part of the syllabus, that was just incredible for me. It was a compulsory part of the school syllabus. So I was in school plays and various things.

“I auditioned for the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School when I was 17 and they said I was a bit too young and to go off and get experience. 15 years later I rocked up, having had a child at that point, and trained from when I was 33 to when I was 35. So I was a mature student at drama school. It was something I always wanted to do but it just took me maybe longer than the average person.”

**Q: Sara has never written any young person off, however challenging. But some older people today can see the young as a threat. They don’t look further?**

“People can be so blinkered. The kids who seemingly on the outside might be troubled, that’s their armour, that’s how they’re trying to keep people away from them because they are feeling so vulnerable, for whatever reason. They are lacking confidence and it’s just bravado, really, that’s keeping people at bay.

“I think if people take the time to see beyond that they will actually find the gems that are hidden by the hoodies or whatever armour it is they are using - loads of make-up or various ways of having your war paint or your armour.

“Generally those are the kids who, probably, if they’re given the opportunity go on to actually exceed expectations.”

**Q: Sara insists on praying with the men in the local mosque. What’s the significance of that?**

“You can actually pray with the men but you have to stand behind them. But it’s preferable for people who follow that faith to have separate rooms for prayer. It’s an illustration in the story of the fact Sara doesn’t really conform to what is expected of her.

“That’s an instance of her ruffling feathers and going, ‘Look, this just seems ridiculous. I don’t see why we can’t all pray together. Because, actually, our intention is coming from the same place.’ It’s about her getting people to look at things outside the box.”

**Q: She drives a sports car, which is also a little unexpected?**

“There are certain things that are quite surprising about Sara. That’s an example of the kind of vibrant rebel she probably has been throughout her life and continues to be, even though she is older and, hopefully, a little bit wiser.”

**Q: What sort of questions does this story ask?**

“A lot of the scenes within the series will, hopefully, encourage viewers to stop and maybe go, ‘Gosh, if I walked a mile in that person’s shoes, would I make the same choices? What other choices would I have had open to me?’

“Kids don’t just go off the rails. Just like people don’t suddenly become evil. Something happens to make somebody go down a certain route until they find their way back on track.

“Hopefully it’s going to get people to reflect on what they might do in those kinds of situations rather than just make a judgment call and say, ‘That was a bad thing to do.’ Why was it a bad thing to do? What is it that makes something bad? And if something bad happens and the person retaliates with what is also deemed to be bad, how else can you deal with those kinds of situations?

“It’s a really complex area because it involves morality, philosophy and so many other things. It’s not black and white. You can’t just say it’s either this or it’s that. It’s so many different things. There are so many variables that can change people’s choices.

“If somebody has a great deal of support in their life maybe they might make different choices to somebody who is out there on their own and very vulnerable. Hopefully people will take that complexity and really think about it.

“It’s going to be really exciting to see what people’s reactions are to this story.”

**Q: What was it like working with Adeel Akhtar as Hassan and your screen children?**

“They were lovely. It’s always funny when you’re filming because you meet your family on a particular day and then you start shooting these family scenes as if they’ve been together for 20-odd years. But it was easy to be around them and to feel we could create that loving, caring atmosphere which is very representative of who this family is in the story. It felt effortless to work with them.”



**Q: What difference does a director like Andy Wilson make?**

“The atmosphere Andy creates on set is just incredible. A good director makes a massive difference. All the crew and cast were very relaxed. There was never a feeling of tension or rush. It just felt like a really great environment in which to, hopefully, create the best work you could do.

“Andy would talk to us before we would shoot anything. We’d rehearse and have a little chat about it. I’d also had a lot of email correspondence with Andy and the writer Chris Lang prior to shooting, with questions and various things. And they were incredibly generous with their responses and their time.

“Again, if you’ve done as much homework as you can do, you arrive on set in a good head space in which to then take that work to the next stage.”

**Q: What makes Nicola Walker and Sanjeev Bhaskar such a good team on screen?**

“They are just so easy with each other. They are clearly good friends and that shows itself on the screen as well. That close friendship and effortless working relationship. They clearly get each other, they understand each other’s language. So I think that always makes for a really good team.”

## Cast interviews

### Rosie Cavaliero is Marion Kelsey



#### Q: What were your thoughts on joining *Unforgotten*?

"I loved the first series and thought it was brilliant. So I was so excited about a role in this new series. When I read it for the audition I was immediately and completely gripped. I also felt I could play this character. I thought, 'Oh, I can do this part. I really think I'm right for it.' Often I don't think I'm right for a part, but with this I was really sure.

"I really worked on it because I so wanted to get the role. I just loved it. It was a lovely meaty role and one I could get my teeth into. Such a great script and joyous job."

#### Q: Tell us about Marion Kelsey?

"Marion is a very capable and experienced pediatric nurse. She works in oncology in a cancer ward with children. She is quite a tough cookie but is very liked by the kids and is popular. She is married to Tony, played by Nigel Lindsay. It seems Marion has a happy life.

"But there is an underlying, bubbling tension. That manifests itself through tension with her husband occasionally, her sister Elise (Holly Aird) and mother Joy (Wendy Craig). So she has a weird family dynamic. There's a general anxiety.

"There is also a sadness about the fact Marion and Tony haven't got kids. It's not really explained but it's there. It's a lingering thing. Her husband loves her and has tried all his life to understand her. But he senses there's something she's just not telling him. And has never told him. That's the fundamental block in their relationship.

“Marion had a bit of a wild youth and was lost for a while. But she’s come back and tried very hard to be a functional member of society, try and be happy and live a normal life.”

**Q: What sort of questions does this story ask?**

“I saw this story as about people who have been damaged. It’s about people who have been let down by people they love and the damage that’s done to them. It is also very true that people thought differently in the past and had different attitudes. A very different culture to the one we are in now.”

**Q: Marion’s patients include teenager Zoe, played by Jodie Tyack?**

“Jodie was lovely and great to work with. That’s an interesting relationship. I think Marion sees in Zoe a bit of herself. That tough, rebellious streak. She feels very protective of her and wants to look after her. And she probably crosses a few professional boundaries with her. She finds Zoe good company and funny. But there’s definitely that side of seeing herself in Jodie. That lost side.”

**Q: How would you describe Marion’s relationship with her sister Elise?**

“That’s really complex and very well written. So many siblings are like that. They have that cross, tetchy relationship. I think they probably were very close once, but just like Marion and Tony, there is a block. While Tony is very loving and patient with Marion, Elise gets much more impatient and angry with her because she doesn’t understand why Marion behaves the way she does and does the things she does. So they wind each other up.”

**Q: What was it like having Wendy Craig as your screen mum?**

“The wonderful Wendy Craig. I was overjoyed to have her as my screen mother. It was so weird because I went on to do a radio play called Fairytale of New Malden with Geoffrey Palmer, her co-star in Butterflies, as my father. So in 2016 I had Wendy Craig as my mother and Geoffrey Palmer as my father in two different things. Wendy is amazing. I am a massive fan of her and she was lovely. Just a joy to meet and to work with. It was lovely that she was in it.

“We had a day together chatting and she was great. Because I’m a massive Butterflies fan, we talked about that. She wasn’t too sick of talking to people about it. Wendy was lovely and warm. And her great niece was a make up artist on Unforgotten and she was making me up. She looks exactly like Wendy. They are so alike. It’s extraordinary.”

**Q: The victim in this story went missing in May 1990 when you were around 21 or 22. What were you up to then?**

“I’d probably come to the end of Manchester University and then was going on to drama school where I did a post-graduate year. So I would have been in student mode then. Young, reckless and broke. But having fun. It doesn’t feel that long ago to me. It feels like no time ago. Time really has gone so fast. Frighteningly so.”



**Q: What do you think makes Nicola and Sanjeev such a good team on screen?**

“They’ve got a great chemistry. They have different qualities and just work well together. The way they communicate. And I like the fact the two characters are friends, even though she is a bit senior to him. It’s a friendship and trust thing and they make each other laugh.

“I’ve known Nicola personally on and off for years so it’s been lovely to do some work with her. And Sanjeev too, although I didn’t actually have any scenes with him, which is a real shame.”

**Q: A newspaper article features in this story. Can you remember the first mention of your name in print?**

“My dad wasn’t that enthusiastic about me being an actor. I remember once I was temping somewhere and I said where I was working was quite nice. He said, ‘Well why don’t you try and get a proper job? See if they will take you on full time? Maybe now’s the time to give up this acting?’ And I remember being absolutely devastated.

“But then when my first review came out in print dad then suddenly decided to accept that I was an actor. Because it was validated by something else. It was probably a review of a play I did at The Bush years ago which appeared in the national press.”

**Q: What’s next?**

“I’ve just done a film called The Children Act. With Emma Thompson and directed by Richard Eyre. I’m playing a character called Marina.”

## Episode Synopses

### Episode 1

The new series starts with the discovery of body found in a sealed suitcase in the silt of the River Lea. With the body preserved but clearly having been there a number of years, DCI Cassie Stuart and DI Sunny Khan begin the complicated task of identifying the victim and investigating his murder.

With an expensive watch found on the body the only evidence to go on, the item is sent to forensics who suggest approaching a watchmaker who may have repaired it to find out more about its owner.

Meanwhile, we meet four seemingly un-connected suspects who may have a link to the victim – DI Tessa Nixon who is struggling with her loner son, nurse Marion Kelsey who works with chronically ill children, Brighton-based barrister Colin Osborne who is in the process of adopting a little girl with his husband, and teacher Sara Mahmoud who is interviewing for a new position in a school that needs turning around. How did any of them knew the victim, though, and why would one of them kill him?

### Episode 2

With their victim now identified, Cassie and Sunny's search for David Walker's killer is underway. Having pulled a selection of partial messages and numbers from the pager found with his body, the team hope that BT will be able to track down their sources in the hope that this may shed some light on his final movements.

Whilst they wait, David's wife Tessa Nixon is interviewed by Cassie and Sunny where she reveals that David suffered from depression, which had put a big strain on their marriage. As a result, when he went missing, she assumed that he has either suffered a breakdown or killed himself – she never considered that he'd been murdered. It's her son, Jason, who is most affected by his father's murder though, struggling to come to terms with the fact that David didn't leave them voluntarily all those years ago.

As the team reassess the initial investigation into David's disappearance, a travel card is discovered with an address written on the back. Could these new pieces of evidence contain clues as to who killed David?

## Cast and Production Credits

### Cast Credits

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| DCI Cassie Stuart..... | NICOLA WALKER      |
| DI Sunil Khan.....     | SANJEEV BHASKAR    |
| DI Tessa Nixon.....    | LORRAINE ASBOURNE  |
| Colin Osborne.....     | MARK BONNAR        |
| Marion Kelsey.....     | ROSIE CAVALIERO    |
| Sara Mahmoud.....      | BADRIA TIMIMI      |
| Jason Walker.....      | WILL BROWN         |
| Paul Nixon.....        | DOUGLAS HODGE      |
| Becca Nixon.....       | DOMINIQUE DREW     |
| Simon Osborne.....     | CHARLIE CONDOU     |
| Harry Osborne.....     | BILL PATERSON      |
| Flora.....             | AMY JAYNE          |
| Tony Kelsey.....       | NIGEL LINDSAY      |
| Elise.....             | HOLLY AIRD         |
| Joy Dunphy.....        | WENDY CRAIG        |
| Hassan Mahmoud.....    | ADEEL AKHTAR       |
| Yousef Mahmoud.....    | ALAN ASAAD         |
| Ahmed Mahmoud.....     | AMIR MIME          |
| Ali Mahmoud.....       | MOHAMMED AMRI      |
| Tariq.....             | RAAD RAWI          |
| Janet.....             | EMMA CUNLIFFE      |
| Martin.....            | PETER EGAN         |
| Adam Stuart.....       | JASSA AHLUWALIA    |
| Tyler.....             | JOSEF ALTIN        |
| Zoe.....               | JODIE TYACK        |
| Nicola.....            | KATHERINE JAKEWAYS |
| Omar.....              | MUNIR KHAIRDIN     |
| Cath.....              | BRYONY HANNAH      |
| Nathan.....            | BOBBY LOCKWOOD     |
| Harrington.....        | WILLIAM HOYLAND    |
| Sal.....               | LAUREN TRICKETT    |

## Cast and Production Credits

### Cast Credits Continued

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| DC Murray Boulting..... | JORDAN LONG       |
| DC Jake Collier.....    | LEWIS REEVES      |
| DC Fran Lingley.....    | CAROLINE MAIN     |
| D.SPT Andrews.....      | COLIN R CAMPBELL  |
| DSI Kuldip Gill.....    | NATHALIE ARMIN    |
| Alderton.....           | TESSA CHURCHER    |
| Amy East.....           | LOUIZA PATIKAS    |
| Aryan.....              | MAKIR AHMED       |
| Chantelle Blisset.....  | SHARON D CLARKE   |
| Dave Brearly.....       | TIMOTHY BRENTINCK |
| Ellen Price.....        | MAGGIE O'NEILL    |
| Gemma.....              | AASIYA KHAN       |
| Jacob Rose.....         | LINAL HAFT        |
| Jamal .....             | MOSES ADEJMI      |
| James Moray.....        | TONY GARDNER      |
| Anne Barling.....       | BRIGIT FORSYTH    |
| Johnny.....             | MATTHEW WILSON    |
| Julie.....              | T'NIA MILLER      |
| Karim.....              | AARON PHAGURA     |
| Lena.....               | ELIZA HUNT        |
| Maria Gonzalez.....     | AVITAL ABERGEL    |
| Mark Roberts.....       | TOM MANNION       |
| Neighbour.....          | JAMES GREENE      |
| Nick Pennington.....    | ANDREW BONE       |
| Oliver Caron.....       | ALEX LOWE         |
| Pat Smith.....          | ERIC CARTE        |
| Robbie.....             | ALASTAIR KIRTON   |
| Samir Khan.....         | SIRINE SABA       |
| Tom.....                | TIM FARADAY       |
| WPC Grant.....          | KAREENE PETER     |
| Jasmine.....            | HANNAH TRAYLEN    |
| David Walker.....       | DANIEL GOSLING    |

## Cast and Production Credits

### Production Credits

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Executive Producer, Writer ..... | CHRIS LANG                 |
| Executive Producer .....         | SALLY HAYNES               |
| Executive Producer .....         | LAURA MACKIE               |
| Producer.....                    | TIM BRADLEY                |
| Line Producer.....               | GUY DEGLANVILLE            |
| Director.....                    | ANDY WILSON                |
| Production Manager.....          | ANI KEVORK                 |
| Production Designer.....         | ASHLEIGH JEFFERS           |
| Costume Designer.....            | ELEANOR BAKER              |
| Make up and Hair Designer.....   | CHRISTINE WALMESLEY-COTHAM |
| Location Manager.....            | NICK MARSHALL              |
| Composer.....                    | MICHAEL PRICE              |
| Sound Recordist.....             | RUSSELL JEFFERY            |
| Editor.....                      | MARK DAVIS                 |
| SFX Supervisor.....              | ANDY ADAM                  |
| SFX Supervisor.....              | CHARLIE STOBART            |
| Stunt Coordinator.....           | TOM LUCY                   |
| Casting Director.....            | VICTOR JENKINS             |

