

A promotional photograph of the five main cast members of the TV show Cold Feet. They are standing on a cobblestone street in front of a multi-story red brick building with large, multi-paned windows. From left to right: a man in a patterned short-sleeved shirt and jeans; a woman in a red dress and black leather jacket; a man in a blue shirt and dark jacket; a woman in a blue dress with rainbow stripes and a fur stole; and a man in a dark suit. The title 'Cold Feet' is written in a large, white, stylized serif font across the bottom of the image.

# Cold Feet

**SERIES 7 PRESS PACK**

# Cold Feet

Series 7

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# Cold Feet

## SERIES 7 - OVERVIEW

In 2016 we saw the eagerly awaited return of the award-winning hit series, COLD FEET. Well received by audiences and TV critics alike, ten months on and the gang are back!

After agreeing to take things slow, Adam and his landlady Tina have been loved up for the past ten months – living across the hall from each other but rarely apart. They've spent hours renovating Adam's rental house together and it turns out Tina has an eye for style. In fact Tina has more than a few good qualities and Adam is keen to dive into the next phase of their relationship. It's only a matter of time before the perpetual romantic conjures up the kind of grand gesture he's famed for, but will commitment-phobe Tina jump in with both feet?

Finally living out her dreams, Karen is set to launch her fledgling publishing house and its debut novel, but she's struggling to keep a grip on home-life and PA Ramona is more hindrance than help. Karen quickly realises there's a high price to pay for trying to have it all and teenage twins Ellie and Olivia have enough issues between them to keep Karen on her toes. They should be focusing on their exam revision, but trouble is on the horizon. The question is, will Karen notice before it's too late?

Thankfully Pete has managed to shake off the black dog and is earning a tidy living as a chauffeur, but is looking for something more than being a glorified errand-boy for his rich clients. With no sense of value in his job, Pete desperately wants to be appreciated at home but Jenny is distracted by work and the opportunity to rise up the ranks. Meanwhile fourteen-year-old Chloe needs extra attention, especially after last year's revelation that Pete isn't her biological father. When an unexpected opportunity arises, Pete and Jenny have a tough decision to make – can they both get what they want and maintain a happy marriage, or has something got to give?

David's fall from grace hit him hard and he's now peddling life insurance to unsuspecting pensioners – a world away from life doling out high-brow financial advice. Like Pete, David is keen to find something more rewarding in his work life and unfortunately his love life is pretty lacklustre too. After being knocked back by ex-wife Karen, David licked his wounds and might just be ready to find love again – but where does a 50-something technophobe start?

Laced with comedy and tragedy; the big stories and daily minutiae of life are observed and tackled in a way that only COLD FEET can.



# Cold Feet

## Episode Synopsis

### Episode 1

***Adam is ready to take the next step with Tina, but will she jump in with both feet?***

Adam lands a job at a trendy dotcom firm where the average age of his new colleagues highlights the fact that he's not getting any younger and leads him to question where he's at in life. He's madly in love with Tina and, after nine months of taking each day as it comes, Adam thinks it's time to take the next step – but are he and Tina on the same page? Meanwhile Karen hosts a lavish party to launch her publishing house and her author's debut novel, but friends and family take a backseat as Karen gives her new venture her all. Best pal Jenny is feeling neglected, especially when Karen is happy to make time for relative newcomer Tina.

Jenny and Pete are being pulled in all directions as they juggle the demands of work and family life. Karen's business launch serves to remind Jenny that life is no rehearsal. When Jenny is called in to see her boss after a spat at work she expects the worst. However, her boss has an interesting proposition but how will Pete take the news?

Pete admits that he's unfulfilled by his chauffeuring job and could be at home more if he took the part-time entertainments job at his old care home.

David is also struggling in his career, bored of the tedium of peddling insurance to unsuspecting pensioners; he's delighted when Pete presents him with an introduction to the lucrative Cheshire set via his client Nikki who happens to be the bored wife of a wealthy businessman. Can David impress her and her 'WAGs and widows' friends enough so that Nikki meets him again, for business or maybe even pleasure?

# Cold Feet

## Characters

### **ADAM WILLIAMS (James Nesbitt)**

Adam, 49, is a born charmer with a permanent twinkle in his eye and an answer for everything. Now settled in Manchester and loved up with his Landlady, Tina, it seems like Adam has it all – a great relationship with his son, Matt, and a group of friends who have been there for him through thick and thin. But Adam always wants more and has been known to put a foot wrong during his search for the next big thing. If only he could learn to enjoy the moment before it's gone from his grasp.

### **JENNY GIFFORD (Fay Ripley)**

Jenny, 48, has been the glue holding the Gifford family together for years, but she can't help reflect on her missed opportunities as she glides into mid-life. After a turbulent year coping with Pete's depression, Jenny wants to focus on what makes her happy – if only she can work out what that is. Family has always been important to Jen - young muso Adam, 17 (Jack Harper), and 14-year-old Chloe (Madeleine Edmondson) are her world - but they need extra attention and mum Barbara (Marji Campi) is cause for concern too, as she gets older. With everyone placing demands on her, will Jenny ever get the chance to achieve her goals?

### **PETE GIFFORD (John Thomson)**

A devoted husband and father, Pete, 49, has battled with depression and has a new outlook on life as a result. He's been to hell and back with wife Jenny and is enjoying the comfort of a familiar routine and the little things in life, but doesn't realise that Jenny craves a bigger thrill than a packet of crisps in front of the telly.

### **KAREN MARSDEN (Hermione Norris)**

After leaving a large publishing company to start up on her own, Karen is ready to launch Marsden House. She's focused on success but is savvy and well aware of the pitfalls of trying to have it all. It's make or break time but there are other demands on Karen. At home, 17-year-old twins Ellie (Ella Hunt) and Olivia (Daisy Edgar-Jones) are at a difficult age and Karen's resilience is put to the test.

### **DAVID MARSDEN (Robert Bathurst)**

David, 57, has spent the last nine months peddling insurance to unsuspecting pensioners, he's happy to see Karen find success but it serves to remind him of his demise. He's currently living with Adam and Matt and enjoying the boys' club. After his proposal was knocked back by Karen last year, David is desperately lonely but with two failed marriages behind him is he ready to love again? He enjoys spending time with twin daughters Ellie and Olivia, but doesn't always understand them – or appreciate that they are young women, not little girls.

### **TINA REYNOLDS (Leanne Best)**

Adam's Landlady and now girlfriend, Tina, late 30s, still lives opposite Adam in her apartment. They are happily loved up but agreed to take things slow, and commitment-phobe Tina isn't keen to change their status quo – why ruin a good thing? She's happy being fiercely independent and thinks domestic living could dampen the spark, as it did in the past with ex-lover, Jamie. Tina is still a relatively closed book but Adam hopes to get to know her better – in fact he hopes for a lot more.

**MATT WILLIAMS (Ceallach Spellman)**

After moving back from his Cheshire boarding school, Adam and Rachel's son Matt, 16, is finding his feet and forming a deeper relationship with his dad. He's been dating Karen's daughter Olivia for the past nine months and takes a leaf out of Adam's book when it comes to romantic notions. He often leads with his heart instead of his head and gets into trouble when he forgets to look before he leaps – just like his dear old dad! Sometimes Matt seems to be older than his years and Adam has a hard time remembering that his son is still technically a child and will inevitably make mistakes.

**NIKKI KIRKBRIGHT (Siobhan Finneran)**

Nikki, late 40s, appears to be the well turned out Cheshire housewife but it's the life she's chosen, not the best she could aspire to. She and husband George (Robert Glenister) met in their early twenties and Nikki was happy to take a back seat, hold the fort at home and raise the kids, until now. With an empty nest, Nikki's had time to take stock and George is becoming increasingly controlling of late. Unbeknown to George, Nikki is about to make her bid for freedom and David is part of her escape plan.

**BENJAMIN STEVENS (Paul Ritter)**

When Karen's silent partner Justin relocates to America, Karen is disappointed to be palmed off on his proxy Benjamin. A somewhat weasly middle-aged man, Benjamin is a number cruncher with all the passion of an economist. He knows nothing about publishing nor cares to – as he says, the only sorts of books he's interested in are accounts. Karen doesn't welcome his meddling in her affairs and he's about to turn up the heat. Will Marsden House be able to thrive with him at the helm?

**RAMONA RIMIREZ (Jacey Sallés)**

Former nanny to the Marsden family, Ramona (40s) has returned to Karen's side as PA in the fledgling publishing company, but her work ethic leaves a lot to be desired. Sharp-tongued when talking to her Spanish mother on the phone but hopelessly tongue-tied when answering business calls, Ramona's close to her third strike and Karen is close to the end of her rope.

## **Interviews with Cast**

### **JAMES NESBITT IS ADAM WILLIAMS**

#### **What did you feel about the reaction to the return of Cold Feet?**

*"It was obviously very gratifying. I'd always resisted bringing Cold Feet back. I didn't want to revisit something and go along that well-trodden path where things are resurrected and then don't have the strength, innovation or the voice they had originally.*

*"But when I read the scripts I thought they were very good. We slotted back into it really well but there was no complacency. We did feel under pressure and so it was lovely that people took to it.*

*"The filming process was such an enjoyable one last year. We were all hoping it would go down well with viewers because we wanted to do it again. And we're very grateful the audience reacted in the way it did to the return of Cold Feet."*

#### **Where do we find Adam when we return to the story?**

*"Adam is pretty happy in a fairly good place. But history has shown us the minute Adam is content he begins to look for reasons to not be content. There has to be some kind of conflict, some element of danger, guilt, self-loathing or tomfoolery about him for Adam to function.*

*"The question of children comes up in this new series. Adam is a man of 50 faced with that question, 'What's next? Is there a next? Or am I just biding my time?' It's that middle-aged angst which a lot of people will recognise. I think that's with him always. Especially so for someone who has been youthful all of his life. The older he gets the harder it is to reconcile his advancing years with that instinct of wanting to be 17 again."*

#### **Adam gets an enforced new image before a job interview. Did you enjoy the makeover?**

*"I think that works rather well in broad comic terms. There's some classic Cold Feet writing when Adam gets a new job working with younger people and the way that develops. A situation that brings the best out of him as well as the worst.*

*"People will recognise the world has changed. We felt we were at the centre of the world years ago. We were at the cutting edge. But, of course, things have changed.*

*"I remember when we got a colour TV, for goodness sake. Now it's an entirely new world and it's run by younger people. How are we viewed by these younger people? How do we play catch up when they're using a language we don't understand?*

*"Adam and Pete (John Thomson) go out for a lunchtime pint and say it now feels vaguely degenerate. We used to go for a lunchtime pint when we were filming in the old days. The sparks used to go off for three pints. Those days are gone.*

*"A lot of that is probably for the best. But you can't help but feel vaguely nostalgic*

about those days. And also legitimately miss that time when it seemed a lot more organic. You could be a little more relaxed."

### **Is Adam still a hopeless romantic when it comes to Tina (Leanne Best)?**

"Adam is eternally romantic. To be a real hopeless romantic you also have to be a bit reckless. Romance is actually about recklessness as well. To make those great romantic gestures does involve a certain recklessness. I think that's what is exciting about it.

"Leanne Best is just wonderful as Tina. She fitted in straight away. No ego. She was just magnificent. Really a very special person."

### **Presumably Adam still has to deal with his son Matthew (Cel Spellman) growing up?**

"That relationship really develops. I've loved spending more time working with Cel. He's a very talented actor. That relationship is something that resonates with me. I've daughters myself. You're constantly recalibrating those relationships as they get older and begin to separate more. Yet they still need that connection and friendship and they also still need boundaries.

"It's about a parent and child learning how they are able to express their love for each other and yet have that kind of developing relationship."

### **Cold Feet is about life, love and friendship. But do friendships endure?**

"I think friendships do endure. My life is certainly like that. It's not a lot of time since I wrapped Cold Feet with my friends. There's five of us who have been friends now for a long time. Perhaps it's more difficult for couples' relationships. Those friendships don't necessarily endure because, of course, we have our own individual friendships. And we take on friends of our partners that we don't really know.

"That seems more normal to me, that those kind of relationships might, at times, disappear and fall apart. I think it's hard for couples sometimes because there's so much pressure within the couple for them to then sustain other relationships."

### **Adam goes away on an office 'team building' day. Something actors don't do?**

"I did some of those old John Cleese office training films to help people in team building. So I know about it and have friends who have talked about it. It seems fun in a way. A lot of it does appear to be nonsense. But people have been doing it for years.

"And within acting there are versions of that at drama school, playing those trust games and all of that. Which always felt kind of ghastly. But actually they probably did help you further down the line. That is something that has endured. People do still go away on bonding days and weekends. So they must work."



### **Are the Cold Feet cycle helmets required again in the new series?**

*"The mode of cycling was different this time. It was very complicated and very hard. Our writer Mike Bullen has obviously got a theme of Lycra going on. An awful lot of Cold Feet is really a window into Mike Bullen's own middle age. Sometimes he's basically holding a mirror up to himself, a little polished looking glass."*

*"But he's so good at that and so good at story construction. Not only continuing to make these characters believable but also including elements that will be of interest, dramatically challenging and stimulating. Mike has always been brilliant at that."*

### **Adam has a joint 50th birthday party that doesn't quite go to plan. How did you mark your 50th?**

*"For my 50th I just went to Honest Burger in Brixton with my two daughters. It was very civilised. But I went out with a few mates about a month later. Then a friend of mine at Fortnum and Mason threw a private dinner for me with all my Irish mates in the boardroom on a Saturday night, which was very unusual. That was after the racing. He got Irish music in and decked it all out."*

### **One character says success is tough and transient. You're only as good as your last success. Do you agree?**

*"If you're lucky enough to be successful, as I have been, there is unquestionably luck attached to that. There's been a huge amount of luck attached to my success. Although there's also a hell of a lot of hard work attached to it."*

*"You have to want to work. You can't rest on your laurels. Probably in any job but certainly in mine. Because there's always someone there to replace you. So I'm still challenged and stimulated by it. I still feel the next job is my first job. I'm still looking for new writing, new interpretations of things. Hard work sustains success."*

### **Can the Cold Feet story continue?**

*"If that's what the audience wants, I think it would be very unlikely that the cast didn't want that. We've certainly loved making it. This new series is more of life. Five, six ordinary people leading rather extraordinary lives at times."*

*"Which is exactly what people are doing as you and I speak right now. Where there is dysfunction there is also function. Where there is love there is pain. Where there is romance there is recklessness. And I think Cold Feet is all of that."*

## FAY RIPLEY IS JENNY GIFFORD

### **What were your thoughts about the audience reaction to the return of Cold Feet?**

*"Just great relief that it was so warmly received. It was a high risk proposition. We all on a daily basis get quite a lot of feedback on Cold Feet. When it originally came out it seemed to be at a time in people's lives that were important to them. Things were going on in their own lives. They were getting married, having babies, changing jobs, coming out of university, whatever it was. Milestones in their lives. I think that's why they have stuck with us for so long.*

*"Now we're hitting other points in their lives. Mike Bullen writes very relatable stories. So probably a lot of what these characters are going through is the same as other people are going through. Cold Feet is clearly not a fly-on-the-wall documentary. It's quite a light look at life. But it is a look at life and hopefully one people can recognise."*

### **As well as fans who have loved Cold Feet since the start, you have also attracted a new audience. How does that feel?**

*"I'm surprised at being chatted to by a whole new generation of people. I know young people used to watch it with their parents and some of them have grown up and are still watching. But these are too young for that.*

*"I've had 25-year-olds say to me they are watching it with their mates or their partner. Partly due to the fact we've got the lovely Cel Spellman and a cast of young actors in there. But I think it's also because Cold Feet is ultimately about friendship and love. I think everyone can recognise that. Have a laugh about it. Have a cry about it. Whatever they want."*

### **Did that reaction make it easier going back to work to film this new series?**

*"It was much easier. It's not coming back after 10 years. It's only coming back after a year. At which point we're assuming everybody knows we've all got a bit older. So it was a lot easier, to be honest. Also it's a bit like family. We could all hang out with each other. Manchester feels like home on so many levels. It was good fun."*

### **Some nine months on in the story, where do we find Jenny at the start of the new series?**

*"Jenny is doing well at work in a storyline which is there to get under the skin of Pete and Jenny's relationship. She's looking at life and going, 'Well hang on a minute. Is this it? Is what I've got it? Or is there something else?' Jenny has her eye on more. And she's looking at Pete who has his eye on the crisps. She's got her eye on the prize. He's got his eye on the Pringles.*

*"Jenny's big question is, 'Do we want different things?' Because the best thing about them is they are a team. They are on the same page. But now Jenny is wondering if they are still a team.*

*"Jenny gets promoted at work and has a glimpse of how far she might go. So much so that she's considering going to university. It's like, 'Don't write me off already.' It feels like Pete is slowing down and is happy to put his feet up. He's had a rough time and wants to take a step back. While Jenny wants to take a step forward."*

*"She is a strong woman with opinions. People can choose to misread that. Pete is irritated by her reaction to things. But she's irritated by his lack of reaction. I think they are just 'missing' each other. They are on parallel lines and not crossing. And as the series goes on that becomes more and more heightened."*

**Tina (Leanne Best) appears to have taken Jenny's place as Karen's (Hermione Norris) best friend. How does Jenny react to that?**

*"Jenny has a childish reaction to her mate getting close to another woman. There is a sensitivity within that friendship because they lost Rachel. A female figure in all of their lives taken away. So Jenny's ownership of that friendship with Karen is a bit childish."*

*"But Jenny stamping her foot is a very recognisable reaction. It's a bit like being in the schoolyard again. I think a lot of people will relate to that. I'm still on the school run with my kids. And you see as much child-like behaviour from the parents as you do from the kids. We're meant to know better."*

**One character says you're only as good as your last success. Is that true?**

*"How do you define a success? One person's version of success can be different to someone else's. I know mine is very different to some people I know. Some people might define it by how little they can eat. I might define it by how much I can eat!"*

*"Or it may be financial success might be very important to one person and not at all important to another. So to define people by success is fruitless. It's like a sieve. It would all sift through. You pick away at it and it wouldn't mean anything anyway."*

*"I know the things I think are important in life. I'd like to define myself by a list of things that would probably be irrelevant to other people. It's all relative. Would you say an award defines success? Well, I've seen some people win awards that I think ain't so great. And I've seen others lose awards that I think are incredible."*

**Jenny's mum Barbara (played by Marji Campi) is involved in some 'senior moments'. Is that something you've experienced yet?**

*"I have many senior moments. My memory is totally going. I really like the stuff with Jenny's mum Barbara. Partly because I love Marji Campi, who plays my mum. She is brilliant. A legend. Working with her has been fabulous."*

*"It's one of those things where you love your mum. But everything they do and say is so annoying. Jen is not being a grown up about it. She's just being irritable and short-tempered with her mum. But daughters can be like that. I really love doing those scenes. We just giggle away about how mean I am to her. Marji is adorable and brilliant at what she does."*

**There is a fantasy flashback to Pete and Jen making a sex tape in their kitchen. Was that fun to film?**

*"Just you wait. There is a lot of food involved. It got quite out of hand. I'm not going to lie. Whatever ends up in the edit won't be enough. I think there was a full episode in what we filmed. And you could potentially use it as a cooking video as well."*

*"When you go to work and you do days like that, it's great fun. We both went in and said, 'Whatever is on the page here let's just have a bit of fun.' Because they will get something out of it. They only needed a little tiny snippet. But it is an opportunity to have the best day's work."*

*"If it's called a fantasy sequence, a flashback or whatever, you can sort of go to town. Normal rules don't really apply. And if you give that opportunity to John and I we're almost certainly going to run with that."*

*"Hair and make up also had great fun because nobody had to do what they normally do. It was, 'Come on, let's have a laugh. Let's do something different.' There were some health and safety issues but we got there. I think they had to deep clean the set afterwards in the Giffords' house."*

**Jenny and Karen attend a Boxercise class. How was that to film?**

*"Hermione can certainly throw a punch. She told me her hand hurt afterwards. I'm like, 'How do you think I feel? I'm the one being punched.' I was holding up those boxing pads and they kept saying, 'Don't move.' I'm like, 'Hang on, she's punching my hand so hard I'm falling back.' That was hilarious. Good fun. Had I done it before? Don't look at me. But it looked like she'd done it before."*

**There's a party at a country hotel in Cheshire. Do we see Jenny glam up?**

*"I'm reluctant to make a big deal about that because it rather sets me up for disappointment in terms of people going, 'Oh, is that it?' I did have a lovely dress on. But then so did all the girls. Luckily we've got a costume designer who likes us all to feel good. And they were more than happy to let us all have a bit of fun dressing up."*

*"Jenny is meant to look a little sharper dressed as the series goes on. It just shows she aspires to the next level and Pete does not. I don't think it's hugely noticeable. But generally Jenny is wanting a bit more out of life."*

**How would you sum up this new series?**

*"For Jenny it's about getting younger. It's about her going, 'Who's getting older? Not me.' That moment where you look at yourself in the mirror and go, 'Stop the clock, I'm not done yet.' I can relate to that."*

*"I now know so many people, including my mum and Marji, who you would say are in their latter years. But they have not stopped living. Marji was at the wrap party way later than I was and she did not sit down. She danced from the beginning to the end."*

*"It's all relative. If anybody was to say when you're 50, you're getting towards the end, in what world? Maybe you're just half way through? No-one I know is going to*

retire at 55, 60 or anything else. My mum is an antique dealer and you can keep doing that until you're an antique yourself.

*"For the Cold Feet characters there are new opportunities, new decisions, new relationships. It's the beginning of things in some ways. I think that's why we're revisiting it now. There is new stuff to say and a lot more of a story to tell."*

### **Do friendships endure?**

*"Within my peer groups, definitely. In fact it's the ones with the history that have enormous longevity. You come in and out of them and have different patches in your life. But like when we met up again for Cold Feet last year it felt like we'd all done the whole thing six months ago. It was as if no time had passed."*

### **Mike Bullen always manages to balance his writing so each main character gets a fair share of storylines. How does he do that?**

*"We're all clambering for our own reality in that storyline and this that and the other. But Mike manages to weave through so you can come in and out of it. You go away from one storyline, come back to it later. The other hard thing is people like to see all of us together. And that must be difficult to continually do. There are only so many yoga classes we can all do. But Mike manages to do it and fingers crossed can continue to."*

### **What's the future for Cold Feet?**

*"If the public want more that will make the decision. That will be down to how many people watch it. As it always is."*



## **JOHN THOMSON IS PETE GIFFORD**

### **How did you feel about the reaction to Cold Feet's return?**

*"At first I was overwhelmed. It could have been a car crash. I knew it was strong because I'd seen an advance screening of episode one. There was so much riding on it with such huge pressure on us to deliver. But I knew it was good."*

*"Back in the day we had no social media. When we made it all those years ago everything was word of mouth. You'd always get the pat on the back from the people in the industry. But now you get an instant response. Twitter went crazy. So many positive comments. And such a lovely response out and about with people coming up to me in the street. I'm grateful to all the fans who have kept us going."*

*"It took a while to process it all but it's so nice for it to be a success and to have the opportunity to do it again. Some people thought the last series in 2016 was a one-off and we wouldn't be making any more. They felt bereaved. And I'd tell them, 'No, we're making another series.' If the demand is there from the audience we will keep making it."*

### **As well as existing fans, Cold Feet attracted a new audience?**

*"I think a lot of parents said, 'I used to watch this when I was younger. Give it a go.' They passed that on to their kids. What I love about Cold Feet is it's about relationships and life. It's simple. And people in that younger generation are buying into it. So that's refreshing."*

### **Did that reaction make it easier going back to make this new series?**

*"Yes, it did. But you can't rest on your laurels. You don't learn anything from success. You only learn from failure. So there was a concern. We went in guns blazing last time. David's fraud and prison, Adam's impulsive marriage and then looking for love, Pete's depression and so on. They were very strong stories. It was good to bait an audience with that hook of such strong storylines."*

*"This time it's a little bit more slow burn. But I think it works and it does pick up steam. Having re-established, we're allowed to do that. You can be a little bit more subtle."*

### **Where do we find Pete when we meet him again?**

*"Pete is in a dilemma. He's got the possibility of earning more money as a chauffeur. But because he's gone through such a major depression, he doesn't feel spiritually rewarded by just money alone. As a chauffeur he meets so many ungrateful people who lead these wonderful wealthy lives."*

*"His vocation is to work with the elderly. He loved that job. I think that is part of Pete's treatment to himself. He opts for the care and what he gets from that as opposed to the cash. It's a moral story."*

*"Pete has learned a lot over his time. He's had his ups and downs. He's a simple man who does tend to learn from his mistakes. He's a good mediator. Finding a compromise. Particularly with the elderly."*

*"But then at the other end of the scale we've got Jenny who wants to be a career woman. She's a late developer in that department and that causes friction. With Pete trying to be the mediator as best he can. It's a test of their relationship."*

*"It's nice to see them like any normal couple. That's the beauty of the show where you relate directly with your own relationship. They are struggling. And it's that time where people do start to go, 'Have I done enough with my life? What's to come? Is it going to be the same? I need to do something. Will it affect my relationship?' It's good writing by Mike Bullen."*

**Pete gets a job as the part-time entertainments officer at the care home. Did you have a chance to perform?**

*"I get to sing this time and play the guitar for a country and western number. When it's something musical I try and throw myself into it. I did After Hours with Craig Cash and I had to do 'Sheila Take A Bow' by The Smiths. I learned to play the guitar on that. I think if you've got a musical background, like with the drums with me, you slip into it a little easier."*

*"So I get to sing a bit and call some bingo. Cold Feet is a drama with comedy so there is a lot of scope for fun in that side of things. I'm really happy with the way that went. It's nice to have those elderly characters in the show. That angle involving the old people. To have that demographic involved in a television show."*

*"We have some wonderful actresses who come in to play the seniors in the care home. One lady had worked with Ken Dodd for 50 years. You get to hear some great back stories about all the jobs they've done. And they must be absolutely delighted to get the call for Cold Feet. They've still got all their marbles and are real characters. There was one guy who was in the original Black and White Minstrel Show."*

*"It's probably come from Hollywood but film and TV is often all about the bright young things, the beautiful people. And real life is not like that. Some parts of television have lost their key demographics. The net is not cast wide enough. You find older people switch off some soaps because they're all about the young people now."*

**Not everybody is fully focused on Pete's performance. What's your worst experience with a live audience?**

*"Oh, there are so many. Quite recently I've had a proper fight break out in a snooker room in a golf club. Balls being thrown and cues being whacked. I just carried on as if nothing had happened, 'Well I thought golf clubs were supposed to be for aspirational people. I didn't expect this kind of behaviour. It's like the Wild West in here.' It's like 'Keep Calm and Carry On.'"*

**Jenny's mother Barbara comes to stay. Does that cause problems?**

*"Jenny is more intolerant of her mum because she's had more of her in her life. Knows all of her ins and outs. But Pete is a lot more patient and forgiving with her. That's frustrating for Jenny because Barbara and Pete are quite tight and then Jen is on the outside."*

**Barbara experiences what appear to be some senior moments. You're just 48 but are they something you've encountered yet?**

*"I call it the change of altitude. When you get to the top of the stairs you get altitude sickness and go, 'I've no idea why I've come upstairs. I know I've come up here. There's a purpose behind my climb. But I have no idea what that purpose is.' Then I have to really backtrack. That's my senior moment. I try and stay on top of things using coffee."*

**How do you feel about the prospect of turning 50?**

*"I was 27 when I started on Cold Feet. I don't really know what I want to do for my 50th. Because I don't drink anymore I don't want a party. Maybe a luxury trip would be better. Or a cruise. A tailor-made trip to the places I've not been to. Something to make memories with."*

*"I remember my 40th when I'd stopped drinking and people were like, 'Come on, get up, have a dance!' And I was like, 'Oh, do I have to?' I think the 50th will be a bit more low key."*

**You and Fay shot a fantasy sex tape sequence involving Pete and Jenny in their kitchen. How was that to film?**

*"It was very funny, involving a lot of food, including raspberries, yoghurt, cream and eggs. They said we could improvise. At one stage we both burst out laughing. But Fay and I managed to preserve our modesty."*

**Are the cycle helmets handed out again in this new series?**

*"Yes, they are. I think someone has a bike obsession. It is the new midlife crisis, isn't it, cycling? Goodness knows what's in store next in Cold Feet. I asked, 'Is it unicycles?' Because there really does seem to be a running theme."*

*"It's a good thing, though. So much better than motorbikes. But the problem with the cycling obsession we've got is - all the gear and no idea. It's a bit like some walkers in the Lake District. If you look closely at their boots they are straight, mint out of the box. They've not seen any terrain. All I've got is a bike and a helmet. That's all I need for when I go out on it."*

**One of the characters says, 'Success is tough and transient. You're only as good as your last success?' Do you agree?**

*"It's like they say in this business, you're only as good as your last performance. Or that's what you're remembered for. The public are quite kind. People say they are very unforgiving. That's not always the case. If you are in something bad they are prepared to forget it sometimes."*

*"Fortunately my last success was the return of Cold Feet. So I'm lucky. I also did The Moonstone last year which was another success. But as an actor who has been in the business for 30 years now, you have to be very mindful of what you accept."*

*"In your earlier career your field is a little bit wider. But in your latter years you're very careful. I'll know about 20 pages in whether something is well written. You can afford*

to be a little bit more fussy. But sometimes it's a gamble. And sometimes that gamble pays off."

### **How do you reflect back on this new series?**

"Funnily enough, in South Africa the show isn't called Cold Feet. It's called Love, Life and Everything Else. Which is quite a good title. I was on a plane to South Africa and someone went, 'Oh you're the chap from Love, Life and Everything Else.' And I was like, 'No I'm not.' And they said, 'No you are. You play Pete. It's about three couples.' That's when the penny dropped that it was called something else there. I think that title sums up Cold Feet.

"My daughter Chloe in Cold Feet and my daughter Olivia in reality are both the same age - 14 - while my other daughter Sophia is seven. I think one of the things that hits you in middle age is the fact once you're kids have gone, what do I do with my life? Some people go off to see the world. Others take to the garden. And there are those people who go, 'Oh right, so now what do I do?'

"I'm glad our writer Mike Bullen has been given the chance to explore this period in the lives of all these characters. He's very clever in the way he gives each one of us storylines and a share of time on screen. If you're a bit weak in one episode, you're stronger in another. The planning of that is very good. Perhaps Mike is a secret maths genius."

### **Your recently received an honorary fellowship from the University of Central Lancashire, near where you were raised. That must have been special?**

"It was a real honour to receive. I said in my speech that when I went to drama school I got a diploma, not a degree. Out of 24 of us there was only one girl, Julie, who went to the ceremony. But no-one else bothered because we all felt like the poor relations. But now that course is a recognised degree course. So I was really pleased to put the cap and gown on to get the honorary fellowship. Recognised for my contributions to the industry. A real highlight of the year."

Q: The new series pays tribute to Manchester in the wake of the shocking terror attack earlier this year. The city has always been an important part of Cold Feet?

"There is a nod to what happened. I love the fact that Cold Feet embraces Manchester as a character in itself. There's a lovely unity about Manchester and I'm proud of the fact we embrace that.

"We were supposed to film in the Midland Hotel on the day after the Manchester Arena bomb but the town was locked down. So we did a day in the studio and it was, obviously, just a terrible atmosphere. But the only thing you can do is get on with it. And that's what we did."

### **What's the future for Cold Feet?**

"If viewers want more then we all would do more. Everyone's agreed. It's supply and demand. If the public want it, we'll do it. But, as ever, it's up to the audience to decide."

## **HERMIONE NORRIS IS KAREN MARSDEN**

### **How did you approach this seventh series after the success of Cold Feet's return?**

*"I was very surprised at the new, young audience we attracted, as well as people who had seen it in the past. I think a lot watched it with their mums and dads when they were young.*

*"There was no resting on laurels. There never is. It's always been like that. There's never been a year that we've done it where we haven't felt a degree of pressure. It's great to be back but the benchmark has been set and you don't want to fall below that. You want to rise above it.*

*"The real pressure is on our writer Mike Bullen. The ingredients are all there with his cast. It's what he delivers for them to do. So the pressure really lies with poor old Mike."*

### **How does he balance scripts so each main character gets a fair share of storylines?**

*"It's all in the way he structures a script. In the way he cuts to and away from various characters. Flashbacks, flash-forwards, to and in between characters. That's Mike genius. That's what he does best. It's really odd as an actor. You can have a massive set up and then you literally say two lines as you're about to relay a story that then is actually played out in a scene. But it all works in the cut."*

### **Where is Karen when we meet her again?**

*"Karen is up and running with her publishing company and is trying to get her author Bridie's second book out of her. Her business partner Justin has gone away and left a guy called Benjamin in his wake. Things get really tricky because he's not a creative man. He's a pedant. So Karen's business relationship with him becomes difficult.*

*"Meanwhile this young woman Bridie is struggling with her second book and other things. So Karen is squeezed between the problem of Bridie and a businessman wanting the finances to work and this second book to come out.*

*"Karen is being stretched to the limit both professionally and at home with the girls. Two teenage daughters who aren't that much younger than Bridie. So there is a lot of tension."*

### **You filmed a book launch at the historic Victoria Baths in Manchester. What was that like?**

*"It's an amazing location. A beautiful building. We were literally filming inside a swimming pool. Bridie is initially appreciative of Karen but becomes a bit of a diva. She's not delivering the work. Just basking in the glory of it all, gets caught up in the limelight and distracted."*

### **There are dangers for Karen when she comes under pressure. Can you explain why?**

*"Viewers who have followed her story in earlier series will know she became addicted to alcohol. So she had a rock bottom moment and no longer drinks alcohol. Karen has had a peaceful and fruitful life since then as a result of that. Mike*



re-visits that in this series as Karen feels the pressure. The end of the road for her would be to pick up and drink when that pressure gets too much.

"It's an issue for a lot of women. That thing of a drink being the reward at the end of the day. I do think women of my generation in their 50s, which Mike visits as well - you're being squeezed by teenagers, by looking after elderly parents, with the pressures of work. For women particularly, I think, it's quite an intense time in their lives. It can be exhausting.

"You can't do everything and Karen's focus may not be where it needs to be. And then things go a bit wrong."

**Karen's former nanny Ramona (Jacey Sallés) is now her personal assistant. How does that go?**

"Ramona is now Karen's PA. Dare I say her totally incompetent PA. Bless her heart. She does her best but it's more unhelp than help.

"I love Jacey. Having been together for so many years it's a privilege to see people, catch up and know where they are in their lives. It's an amazing thing to have journeyed like that and had the Cold Feet experience in the mix, which is unique to us as a shared experience in our lives. I have great chats with Jacey when she's on set."

**Does Karen's former husband David (Robert Bathurst) still hold a torch for her?**

"I think there's a huge amount of love between David and Karen. When you've shared children and journeyed through life, you can't not be imprinted on each other. David moves on in this series, really for the first time. Robert is funny. He makes me laugh. I just think he's brilliant. Robert's finest hour is David Marsden."

**How does Karen react to the arrival of that financial numbers man Benjamin (Paul Ritter)?**

"I loved working with Paul Ritter. I think he's a genius. It's Karen's worst nightmare as a book editor and publisher to have to work with somebody who is all about figures and deadlines. Benjamin is as dry as toast. He doesn't like books. He just wants the money. For Karen that's a pressure and frustration. Benjamin is a really nerdy, geeky irritant versus Karen's intolerant, arid wit. There's some great writing there."

**Karen has a meltdown in her kitchen. Was that hard to film?**

"It was actually quite technical. It's all about the chopping board, the kitchen roll and the drawers coming open and closed. But at the same time you have to be in the moment."

**Jenny asks Karen, 'Do you think we ever stop feeling insecure?' What do you think?**

"I think that's absolutely true. I'm 50 and it's that thing people say - everyone is still in the playground as a grown-up. I know very few people who don't have insecurities in some area of their life. Otherwise there's something wrong with you.

"It's part and parcel of being human. It's actually what makes people likeable. It's

one of the problems of modern society because there's just no room for vulnerability or mistakes anymore. And that's what humanity is. It's awful. You say one wrong thing and you're lambasted. It's best not to say anything."

**Karen tells Bridie: 'Success is tough and transient. You're only as good as your last success?' Do you agree?**

"That is true. For actors, athletes, musicians, artists and so on, you have to wait for the wind. It's like being on board a ship or a boat. You just wait and the wind comes and blows your sails. Then you have window of sailing along. And then the wind drops. Certainly it's not a constant. It's not like that. Some of our greatest musicians, their best work has been over a 10 year period max, probably.

"And actors? There are the exceptions. Somebody like Judi Dench who puts in extraordinary and varied performances consistently. But most people have a peak in their life when they're at their best doing their best work.

"Success itself is not easy to deal with. Again because of our own insecurity. Success is quite difficult to handle."

**Karen and Jenny go to a boxercise class. How was that to film?**

"Boxercise was a new experience for me. I felt for Fay because my right arm hurt after doing that. Again you have to repeat stuff when you're filming it. What you see on screen is one little sequence. But by the time you've shot that, poor Fay had to have me punching really hard about 10 times."

**These Cold Feet friendships have endured. But do some friendships have a shelf life?**

"I think friendships endure. Mine have. I've got friends who I've had for 40-odd years. It's that thing of longevity and people knowing you in various chapters of your life. It's invaluable having those people in your life that know who you are and where you come from.

"You weave in and out of each other's lives, maybe. Particularly as an actor where your work is so transient. My friends are all over the place. But there really is a constant thread which binds us through a shared experience."

**How would you sum up the new series?**

"Cold Feet is a group of people who have shared marriages, deaths, children, journeying through their lives. With our generation now being in their 50s. You see in Jenny's character in this series the grief of what you haven't had. The potential of what you could have had and the expectations of where you find yourself at that particular juncture are quite potent.

"Karen is also endeavouring to go in a new direction in her life, however frustrating that is with the challenges she faces. But life's messy, dirty and not straightforward. There's not a right or a wrong. We make decisions and life happens, doesn't it? Cold Feet makes the extraordinary out of the ordinary. That is life, isn't it?"

**For many people in their 50s, is it their last chance to make a mark in terms of a regular career?**

*"It's your last window. Which is quite daunting. Humbling. I think you've just got to find the joy. Wherever you can. And make choices. Less of the 'shoulds.' As in, 'I should...' Just do what sits comfortably with you."*

### **Can the Cold Feet story continue?**

*"It's up to the audience. More than any other show I've ever worked on I think Cold Feet is about the audience. It's not about us. We've always felt a sense of responsibility to them and a real desire to deliver something people will find comforting and funny, that brings a bit of warmth into their lives. I hope it brings some love into the world. I can never be objective about it but I hope people enjoy it."*

*"I always think that's the last one whenever we've done it. And I always have. If it is, it is. I'll be delighted. And if it's not the last one and we go on, I'll be delighted. It'll be what it'll be. But either way it's been a huge privilege to have been a part of it. It really has."*

*"I always knew it would be like that. But it's in hindsight you realise what a huge privilege it's been to be on that Cold Feet journey."*

## **ROBERT BATHURST IS DAVID MARSDEN**

### **What did you think about the reaction to the return of Cold Feet?**

*"There was no presumption it was going to work and we were very glad it did. We all felt it was strong. But there was no second guessing as to what people would think. It was great. I'm delighted people went with it."*

*"And lots of people have expressed their relief. I've never had that from an audience before. Not saying they liked it or they didn't like it. But that they were so relieved it worked. They seemed to have invested rather a lot in whether it would work or not. That was different from the reaction you get from most shows."*

*"People felt it had allowed the characters to get older but not grow up. It allowed development but it didn't try to be different. Also it didn't send out too many nods to its previous success. It was still just a show about ordinariness and people not coping very well. And that seemed to strike a chord. As it did in its earlier incarnation."*

*"Getting a new audience, as well as the old one, did surprise me. I'm told the last series had a huge 16 to 24 reach. A lot of people also said if they hadn't seen it before they had caught up with it. Sometimes after watching the last series. Doing the binge watch of the old stuff."*

### **So was it easier going back to work for this new series?**

*"No, not at all. This is the seventh series and the sense of apprehension has been the same all the way through. It was no different in that sense. We're always mindful that if the show is going to be called a hit it's got to earn it. You can't assume it. It just takes a lot of work to go again. And I think that's what has happened."*

### **Where do we find David when we meet him again?**

*"After his brush with the law in the last series he is out of work and doing freelance financial advising at a fairly low level in terms of return and reputation. Trying to induce clients with the offer of a free pen. So although he still wears the pinstripe suit he is going door to door selling stuff he really doesn't believe in. Professionally he's at a very low ebb."*

### **Have you ever been tempted by the offer of a free pen?**

*"Funnily enough, I was. I got my first bank account and was very excited to receive a Parker pen in its presentation case. I was that person."*

### **How would you describe David and Karen's relationship in this series?**

*"There is a thread between them which is constant. Not only through the children. However much they diverge. People may want to re-establish a relationship. Perhaps they both do. But it's always at different times. It doesn't seem to coincide. When one needs the other, the other doesn't."*

*"It was rather sweet for David to say at the start of this new series that he's a little envious of Karen's success. He's able to express it. David has never really been able to express very much emotionally. In a sense there is a danger of him becoming*

emotionally literate, which would be quite a surprise.

*"David has developed. Without realising it he is in danger of gaining some sort of level of emotional literacy and learning from his mistakes. Which he's never done before. But I wouldn't bet on it."*

**David meets a potential client called Nikki (Siobhan Finneran) who is married to George (Robert Glenister). How does that develop?**

*"He meets Nikki from the Cheshire Set as a business connection. But it soon becomes apparent that Nikki is having trouble with her husband George, who is a rum cove. Although it's a business relationship David gets involved with her problems and tries to act on her behalf. But he finds himself wholly out of his depth. He gets into a terrible scrape. Yet again. I really enjoyed working with Siobhan Finneran and Robert Glenister."*

**Is there any hint of romance for David in this series?**

*"Nothing is by design with David. Things occur to him and happen to him by accident. So his relationship with Nikki develops without him aiming for it."*

**Do you have any experience of the Cheshire Set or WAGS?**

*"I don't. I've seen them in action at Chester Races. They don't half live it large. And we filmed in a real palace somewhere in Cheshire. One of those places. So we had a glimpse of the sort of houses they live in."*

**Is David in line for a makeover, a new image?**

*"He does get a new style. We've only really seen him in suits, by and large, or chinos. His girls try to squeeze him into stuff he otherwise wouldn't have looked at. And he rather takes to it. Rather enjoys it."*

**there anything a man of a certain age should not wear?**

*"I've always been told no-one over 40 should wear jeans. That was a rule a while back which seems to be broken. I think so long as you can avoid the plum-coloured chinos you're doing OK."*

**David seems to be on the move again quite a lot in this series?**

*"There is always a reason why he has to move. He's deeply unsettled and always trying to find a way to lodge back at Karen's. But that doesn't always happen. He stays at Adam's for a bit. It's quite sweet. They allow him back in. David hasn't found anywhere to settle yet."*

**David dances with a lady called Vera at a care home tea dance. How was that to film?**

*"I was very pleased they cast Eileen O'Brien as Vera. I did a play with her called Who Cares by Michael Wynn at the Royal Court about the National Health Service. She was fantastic in it. I was so glad she got the role in Cold Feet."*



*"Eileen is about four foot ten, so a dance with Eileen as Vera had its pleasures. My tea dance skills had to be dusted off after many years. I hadn't been to one since the Cafe de Paris many years ago."*

**Vera gives David the benefit of her wisdom in the middle of the dance. Something that seems to come out of nowhere. That seems typical of Cold Feet?**

*"It's never the regulars who come up with wise words. It's always somebody else who manages to drip sense into their ear."*

**David is revealed as a fan of The Smiths. Who knew?**

*"From what David says it implies he had heard of The Smiths but he probably doesn't know very much about the scene. Little unexpected things like that do come out. That's what Mike Bullen is very good at. He hasn't written the rule book for all the characters and stuck to it. From 1996 onwards. We're allowed to do unexpected human things which aren't necessarily absolutely to character. Like one does in life."*

**Are the cycle helmets produced again?**

*"There is more cycling. I can see that Mike will probably want to use some kind of cycling scene in every series. Although it's slightly different this time. It's part of a care home day out at Hollingworth Lake near Rochdale."*

**Does friendship endure?**

*"I think friendship does endure. However much life takes you apart, there are people you look out for in life. And they are often the people you've shared a lot of history with. As far as Cold Feet is concerned, each of the characters has invested quite a lot in each other, emotionally, over the years. So that won't die."*

**How would you sum up the new series and this period in the characters' lives?**

*"It's a tricky time. Where you really have to make an effort to pull yourself together. Those characters are making the best of it and not always getting it right."*

*"Our writer Mike Bullen structures Cold Feet in a way nobody else is able to do. It's very difficult and Mike has the key to it. He manages to run three or four strands really skilfully and weave them together. I'm sure one day somebody will write a PhD on structure and use it as an example."*

**Are the cast happy to continue if the audience want more?**

*"Entirely. If it still strikes, if it still amuses, if it still engages then we might do more. No-one assumes it will happen. But it's open for any more if people want it. What we haven't done is said. 'Oh, the audience liked it last time. Let's recreate that. Let's do that.' Hopefully this series stands alone, has its own voice, develops the story and is interesting and funny as before."*

## **LEANNE BEST IS TINA REYNOLDS**

### **How did you feel about the viewer reaction to Tina?**

"It was lovely. I got the job and was really excited. Then I started to realise just how big a deal it was when everyone was suddenly saying, 'Oh my God, you're going to be in Cold Feet!' When you go up for a job you're not really thinking about how much attention people will pay to it. You just want to do the job. So I knew it was big but the reaction from people in the run-up to the series was amazing.

"Then I realised how much people invested in what happens to Adam (James Nesbitt) and all of the characters. But when you're actually filming it you're just worried about doing good work, making it the best you can.

"I was lucky in a way because when Cold Feet returned to the screen and there was some press coverage about this 'new girl', I was away filming The Good Karma Hospital in Sri Lanka for ITV. So I put my tin hat on and told my mum to text if everyone hated me."

### **Did your family know Tina would be a main regular character?**

"I always think the best thing is, if you don't tell anyone no-one can write something on Facebook that they shouldn't. So I didn't say much about it. Most of my family had watched Cold Feet and been really into it. They weren't that bothered, necessarily, about me. They were just made up it was coming back.

"But I love audiences. Straight away they took one look at the dynamic of Adam and Tina and thought, 'Oh yes, definitely, they're going to get together.' So they had decided anyway they should be together. That was really good fun.

"It was a little bit like being in on the in-joke. People would stop me in the supermarket and ask, 'She does end up with him, doesn't she?' And I'm like, 'I'm not saying anything!' It was more exciting than my love life, I tell you!

"Cold Feet is such a big part of British telly. The writer Mike Bullen, those original six actors and ITV created something really enduring in people's memories. And I was pleasantly surprised at how invested people were in whether or not Adam and Tina got together.

"The stuff I've done before, a lot of it has been period and not very often northern. People see me in the street and perhaps a few recognise you. Then all of a sudden with Tina looking and sounding a bit more like me, I got recognised a lot more."

### **How was it going back to make this new series?**

"There was no room for any complacency and I don't think anyone felt that way after the last series. There is that moment of second album syndrome, even though this is the seventh series overall. We all wanted to solidify what had gone before and make it even better. There was certainly no complacency that I could see. Everyone was working just as hard to make Cold Feet special for people."

### **Where is Tina when we return to the story?**

"Her and Adam are an item. But they're still living across the hallway from each other. They're enjoying being together but it's coming to a point where Adam feels they should take their relationship to the next step. Tina is a little bit nervous about that because she's quite happy with the way things are. It's Cold Feet, so the path of true love never does run smooth. They're figuring out if they can make a life together. If they want to make a life together. What that means for both of them. Can they both be brave enough to do it?"

### **If Adam is a hopeless romantic, how would you describe Tina?**

"Tina wasn't waiting for Prince Charming. She was tiling her bathroom. Tina is a bit inconvenienced by the whole thing. The last thing she wanted was to fall in love and have the prospect that she might be able to have a life with someone again.

"She had that before and it ended so painfully. Tina is autonomous and lives by her own rules. Then Adam came along and, despite her best efforts, swept her off her feet. It's a little bit of an inconvenience. Which I love. It's a brilliant dynamic to play."

### **Do shadows from the past come back to haunt Tina?**

"They do. By the time you get to Tina's age, we've all got our baggage. What Mike Bullen has always done beautifully and what the new viewers and the people who have watched it from the very beginning really love about Cold Feet and the characters is everybody is just trying to figure life out the best they can.

"They're all doing their best to make a life for themselves, so they can love and be happy. But sometimes it doesn't always work out that way. Life intervenes while you're busy making plans. And all of that stuff makes it very complicated. The stakes are really high for both Tina and Adam."

### **Is there a sense that Tina can be a more objective observer of both Adam and the rest of the Cold Feet group?**

"What's lovely about Tina is exactly that. She has these really bonded relationships now with people within that group. But she's very aware she has come in to friendships and a family that is over 20 years old. They are a family that group.

"There's an element of Adam, his son Matt (Cel Spellman) and Tina becoming a family. It's something none of them have really had. Matt's mother Rachel died when he was a baby, Adam never really got the opportunity to be in a house with his wife and son growing up. While Tina lost her husband Liam and never had children. It's poignant.

"Tina is able to take the sting out of certain situations when feelings are running high. She can mediate between some of these characters. She also has to look to the people she's made these new friendships with to help her navigate her relationship with Adam because they know him so well."

**Tina and Adam relax together in a bath. How was it sharing a bubble bath with James Nesbitt?**

"Someone would kill for less. So I feel very privileged to have shared a bubble bath with our Jimmy. I can report it was pleasant. Although a bit chilly towards the end after a 10-hour day.

"Jimmy is brilliant. A consummate professional. Quite often he'll have an idea or bounce something off you that opens the scene up in a way you may not have seen before. It's just a pleasure to work with him.

"What was lovely was quite early on you could tell the on-screen chemistry between those two characters was there. That was a solid foundation to be relaxed with each other and make it as authentic as possible. I can't speak highly enough of him."

**Tina keeps watch while another character goes on a blind date. Have you ever done that for a friend?**

"I would never blind date myself. So me trying to navigate someone else's blind date would be an absolute nightmare. I'm always joking, you'd be hard pushed to get me out of my pyjamas to go out on a Friday night."

**Do friendships between couples always endure?**

"In the last couple of generations people have moved away from home far more than they once did and then you make new family units wherever you go. Often that is with your friends. So if a couple in that group separate it affects the people involved and everyone around them."

**A birthday party doesn't quite go to plan in the new series. Have you ever had a disastrous birthday? Or one you really loved?**

"It was probably a bit of both. I'm an identical twin so one year we planned to have a little birthday 'do'. My dad is a musician so he was going to have a few bands on and a bit of a knees-up. Then he foolishly did these little flyer invites and gave them to my sister and I to hand on to our mates.

"But me and my sister went out for a few beers, ended up inviting half of Liverpool, didn't remember and then the following Saturday literally the world and his wife turned up for our birthday. It was like, 'Who are all these people?' But it did end up being a bit brilliant and it was a night to remember. So I suppose it was victory snatched from the jaws of disaster."

### **Tina and Jenny (Fay Ripley) get to dance to an old disco hit. How was that to film?**

"I'd rather do anything else than dance on telly. But Fay Ripley is hilarious. So we had a good laugh filming that. We also had a puppy day at work, for reasons which will become clear. It was like my favourite day ever: 'Never mind what's going on in the scene. Somebody hand me the puppy.' It was brilliant. And we filmed at the iconic Victoria Baths in Manchester. It was beautiful. Absolutely stunning. I've got about 900 photos of tiles on my mobile phone."

### **What makes Mike Bullen's writing so special?**

"Sometimes a bit of magic just happens, doesn't it? You get the right material, the right actors and then all of a sudden you've got something really special. Cold Feet is that for a lot of people. Mike captured a moment and what's been lovely about bringing it back is he's been able to find that magic again in the same authentic way he did last time."

"It's like you grow up and you're still waiting to feel like an adult a lot of the time. Then you look around and think, 'Oh, I am the responsible adult here.' Mike has a real instinct for that and a sensitivity and that's what really makes it work. It adds an extra special something."

### **How do you reflect back on the making of this new series?**

"I just feel very lucky to get to be a part of something that's so loved, so beautifully done and so well taken care of by everybody involved. It is my pleasure and my privilege to be a part of the gang."

## about Big Talk



Big Talk Productions is one of the UK's leading scripted television and film production companies. Over the last twenty years it has enjoyed an exceptional output of outstanding original scripted television comedy and drama and a track record of nurturing talent. The company began with Simon Pegg, Nick Frost and Edgar Wright's cult television series '**Spaced**'. Big Talk was named '**Indie Production Company of the Year**' at the 2016 Broadcast Awards, just one of its many successes. Led by Chief Executive Kenton Allen, Managing Director Matthew Justice and Founder Nira Park, the company has expanded significantly over the last eight years. Highlights of this award-winning output include '**Rev.**' (BBC2) and '**Him & Her**' (BBC3) both winning the BAFTA for situation comedy in 2011 and 2014, and multi-award nominee '**Friday Night Dinner**' which aired its fourth season in 2016.

In 2015, Big Talk produced '**Cockroaches**' (ITV2), '**The Job Lot**' returned to ITV2 for a third series, and '**Brotherhood**' was broadcast on Comedy Central. Another big hit from 2015 was '**Raised By Wolves**', written by Caitlin and Caroline Moran, which was re-commissioned for a second series after it premiered to rapturous reviews and ratings. The show returned to screens in March 2016 on Channel 4 and went on to win the prestigious Rose d'Or for Best Sitcom.

Big Talk stormed into 2016 with '**Crashing**', written by and starring multi-award-winning actress and playwright Phoebe Waller-Bridge, for Channel 4/Netflix to rave reviews. In May, '**Mum**' (BBC2) – the continuing collaboration between Big Talk and '**Him & Her**' creator Stefan Golaszewski – made its critically-lauded debut, winning Best Comedy at the Broadcast Awards and the BPG Awards, as well as a BAFTA TV Craft Award for Best Comedy Writer and was re-commissioned for another series to be released in 2017.

Big Talk also continued to make its mark in drama programming. '**A Young Doctor's Notebook**' (Sky Arts), starring Jon Hamm and Daniel Radcliffe won a Broadcast Award for Best Multi-Channel Programme. '**Youngers**' (E4) proved to be a big hit and returned for a second series. '**Mr Sloane**' starring Nick Frost and Olivia Colman launched on Sky Atlantic from Emmy-award winning writer and director Robert Weide, and from the Oscar nominated Matt Charman came the drama series '**Our Zoo**', for BBC1.

2016 also saw the launch of 10 x 60 supernatural detective series '**Houdini and Doyle**' from House creator David Shore. Big Talk also relaunched, after a thirteen-year hiatus, the much loved, BAFTA award winning, '**Cold Feet**' for ITV with creator Mike Bullen and the original cast returning. The show was ITV's biggest drama launch of 2016 with an audience of 8.4 million and a 33% total audience share.

Alongside Big Talk's re-commissioned successes, 2017 promises brand new comedy and drama including **'Back'**, an acerbic new comedy written by the Oscar nominated and Emmy-award winning Simon Blackwell. Starring David Mitchell and Robert Webb, **'Back'** has been commissioned for a full 6 x 30 series for Channel 4/Sundance. Big Talk is also producing a new 6- part comedy series with Sky Atlantic called **'Bliss'**, written and directed by acclaimed US writer/director/performer David Cross (*Arrested Development*) starring Stephen Mangan, Heather Graham and Jo Hartley. **'Timewasters'** (ITV2), a brand-new comedy about a struggling South London jazz band who travel back to the 1920s, will also debut this Autumn.

Also in 2017, new six-part comedy series **'Just A Couple'** written, created and directed by Sebastian Thiel streamed on BBC3's online platform in Spring. TV Movie **'Diana & I'**, penned by Oscar nominated writer Jeremy Brock (*Mrs Brown, The Last King Of Scotland*) and directed by award-winning Peter Cattaneo (*Rev, The Full Monty*), will premiere on BBC2 this Autumn, as well as **'Living The Dream'**, a 6 x 60 U.S. set comedy drama, written and created by BAFTA nominee Mick Ford, starring Phil Glenister (*Mad Dogs*) and Lesley Sharp (*Scott & Bailey*), for Sky1.

Big Talk's first feature film was cult comedy **'Shaun of the Dead'** and was the first instalment of Edgar Wright's iconic *Three Flavours Cornetto Trilogy*, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. 'Shaun' was followed by 2007 hit **'Hot Fuzz'** and 2013's **'The World's End'**. Other films include **'Scott Pilgrim vs. The World'**, **'Attack the Block'**, **'Cuban Fury'**, **'Man Up'** and **'Grimsby'**. Most recently, Big Talk produced Edgar Wright's latest movie **'Baby Driver'**. The film premiered at this year's South by Southwest Film Festival and won the SXSW Audience Award. It was released in June 2017 to huge critical acclaim and is set to be Wright's biggest commercial success to date.

Big Talk continues to work with some of the most exciting voices in both the UK and the US to bring fresh, dynamic, authored stories to screen.

The logo for Big Talk Productions, featuring the words "bigtalkproductions" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue rectangular background.