

# DARK HEART



**SILVERPRINT**  
PICTURES





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# ITV RECOMMISSIONS CRIME THRILLER DARK HEART

## STARRING TOM RILEY FROM SILVERPRINT PICTURES

Silverprint Pictures has produced six-part drama series *Dark Heart* starring Tom Riley as DI Will Wagstaffe, a man haunted by the murder of his parents when he was 16 years old.

Set in London and produced by Silverprint Pictures, the series is written for ITV by acclaimed screenwriter Chris Lang whose work includes award-winning drama *Unforgotten*, *Torn*, *Undeniable* and *A Mother's Son*. *Dark Heart* is inspired by characters created by novelist Adam Creed, who has written a series of books featuring Will Wagstaffe.

Tom is joined in the series by Charlotte Riley (*Peaky Blinders*, *Close To The Enemy*), Miranda Raison (*Murder on the Orient Express*, *Silk*) and Anjali Mohindra (*Bancroft*, *The Boy with the Topknot*) and guest cast include Claire Goose (*The Coroner*, *Unforgotten*, *Waking The Dead*), Alex Carter (*Cuffs*, *Emmerdale*, *Hollyoaks*), Clare Foster (*Taboo*, *Sherlock*, *The Crown*) and Paul Kaye (*Game of Thrones*, *Three Girls*).

The 6 x 60 series is the first commission for Kate Bartlett's (*Vera*, *Shetland*) new drama label, Silverprint Pictures, formerly ITV Studios Drama London, who are the team responsible for ITV's multi-award-winning drama *Vera* starring Brenda Blethyn and Kenny Doughty and *Shetland* for the BBC with Douglas Henshall in the lead role.

Whilst devoting his life to his work, DI Will Wagstaffe (Tom Riley), also known as Staffe to his colleagues, battles personal demons. He's haunted by the unresolved murder of his parents, which affects both his private and professional life including his on-off romance with sometimes girlfriend, Sylvie (Miranda Raison). His closest relationship is with his sister Juliette, (Charlotte Riley) and young nephew Harry, who stays with him when Juliette has troubles with her boyfriend.

With no parents and no significant partner of his own, Juliette and Harry mean everything to Staffe. Determined and tenacious, Wagstaffe is an exceptionally good police officer, in spite of the fact he's been known for pushing the boundaries of what's considered acceptable policing.

Chris Lang has written the first two-part story, Ben Harris (*Marcella*, *The Musketeers*) joins Chris writing the second two-part story with Chris writing episodes five and six.

The first story opens with Staffe at London City airport when his colleague, DC Josie Chancellor (Anjali Mohindra) calls him to tell him there's been a gruesome murder. Being the workaholic he is, Staffe abandons his personal plans and heads to the scene of the crime.

Staffe, along with Chancellor, DS Dave Pulford (Kobna Holdbrook-Smith) and DS Rick Johnson (Tom Brooke), are confronted by a horrific scene – Ray Collins (Mark Fleischmann), a man in his mid-thirties, has been tied to his own bed, choked and severely mutilated.

As the team, based at Leadengate police station in London, investigate further, they learn the victim was arrested two and a half years ago on suspicion





of sexual assault of his own daughters, Holly and Jasmine, who were just nine and eleven at the time.

He was remanded in custody for three weeks but there wasn't sufficient evidence and Collins was released.

As Staffe and his team delve deeper they speak to his ex-wife, Debbie Collins (Simone Kirby), who is mother to his daughters. She admits she is relieved to hear of his death; grateful that no other child will go through what hers did.

Soon after Collins' death, a lawyer, Guy Dawlish (Nicholas Asbury), is brutally attacked. The style of attack is similar to the way in which Collins was killed – he was tied using knots that are exactly the same as the ones used to restrain Collins. The similarity doesn't end there – Dawlish was arrested two years ago following allegations of child sex abuse. There was insufficient evidence so he wasn't charged. Staffe fears this could be just the start...

In the second story in the series, Staffe and his team investigate the mysterious death of a young nurse on the London Underground. Forensics find a DNA link to a teenage boy missing and presumed dead for seven years...the trail leads them into the dark underbelly of London life.

In the series finale, an online porn star is found murdered in an east London church, posed in morbid worship at the feet of The Virgin Mary. Is it the work of her recent stalker or does the answer lie in her complicated and tumultuous personal life? Staffe must dig out the truth, whilst his own life spins dangerously out of control.

ITV Studios Global Entertainment will distribute Dark Heart internationally.

**NB – The new series of Dark Heart follows the successful pilot which aired on ITV Encore during 2016. The pilot makes up the first two episodes of the new series.**







# FOREWORD BY WRITER, CHRIS LANG

So, as I started to write this foreword, I went back over my diaries to check when I first started working on the show, and discovered that by the time we TX, it will be just under eight and a half years since I took my first meeting on the project. Which says something.

Obviously, it says this industry is slightly nuts, it says you have to have the hide of a rhino to survive it, but most importantly it says (to me at least) that there was always something about this idea, this collection of characters, this world, that was going to ensure it got made, no matter how long it took.

In a funny sort of way, the genesis of the series reflects something of the character of William Wagstaffe, a man who has suffered more than his fair share of slings and arrows, but who tries hard not to be beaten or defined by that (with varying degrees of success). And perhaps this is what attracted me to him in the first place.

The book on which the opening film is based, 'Suffer the Children, spoke to me for all the above reasons, but also, because as a study of the long term effects of sudden and brutal loss (in Staffe's case, the murder of both his parents when he was a 16) it was incredibly potent to me, having only three years previously lost my young wife. This was something I felt I could, and indeed *wanted*, to write about.

Alongside this I wanted to examine notions of morality, revenge, forgiveness and justice within the police world Staffe works in, whilst at the same time having access to his personal life in a way that is perhaps unusual in a procedural – we spend a lot of time with Staffe as home because I wanted to try to understand both parts of the man.

I could not be more delighted with the team we assembled to make the show, starting of course, with the incredibly talented Mr Riley, who invests Staffe with an energy, wit, intelligence and edge, that feels very unique. Alongside him, we were very lucky to snag Anjali Mohindra, Charlotte Riley and Miranda Raison, who are all also out of the very toppest of top drawers.

Colin Teague, our director has helped draw out some stunning performances from both cast, and indeed our beautiful city – a noirish London that has never looked more sultry or more dangerous, a city of contrasts, old and new, love and loss, good and evil, a Dark Heart.

So it might it might have taken eight and a half years, but for me at least, it was well worth the wait.







# TOM RILEY PLAYS DI WILL WAGSTAFFE

## **Can you explain to us who Will Wagstaffe is?**

The reason I wanted to do Dark Heart was because it came from a place of character first. Will 'Staffe' Wagstaffe is such an interesting messed up guy. He is fundamentally flawed and unable to maintain solid relationships anywhere in his life. But the one thing he is good at is police work, that is if he's not letting his own emotions cloud his judgement.

He lost his parents when he was a kid in an unsolved murder. That has driven him for the whole of his adult life to try and find justice for them. If he can't find justice for them, then to put that desire to right wrongs into his work. It feels like his choice of career is because of what happened to his parents. If he is unable to solve that crime then he will try and solve others.

Wagstaffe is unable to let go of the fact his parents were shot as innocent bystanders caught up in someone else's crime. His whole life has been influenced by that. He is stuck in this suspended state from when his parents died.

## **How else has his parents' murder impacted on him?**

His parents were taken from him when he was young and so he has a real problem with emotionally investing in people and having empathy with them. He keeps everyone at arm's length. The only thing he recognises are the people who won't leave him. His sister Juliette (Charlotte Riley) and nephew Harry (Joseph Teague). He puts them first in front of everyone else.

Will gets uncomfortable with other people being emotional around him. Whether it's victims or families of victims. He's not 100 per cent comfortable with anyone getting upset and hands that over to another member of the team.

But when it comes to Harry, where the love is unconditional, he suddenly finds another part of himself that is able to open up to his nephew and be there for him. Even more so than for his sister.

## **What themes are explored in Dark Heart?**

The theme of justice and how we define it, is what this series is about. It's also caught up inherently in the character of 'Staffe'. In that there are these shades of grey to morality. What is right and what is wrong and those that are seeking a particular form of justice – are they right or wrong?

There was an interesting quote I read by Nietzsche: 'He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster. And if you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss also gazes into you.'

That's very much what happens to Will. He deals with the darker underbelly of London. The most unpleasant parts of the criminal underworld. And he has to be careful the monster doesn't become him.

## **What makes Dark Heart different to other 'police' dramas?**

There are a lot of procedural dramas already so you want to stand out. But not just for the show. We wanted to stand out for ourselves. We wanted to make something that excited us. That felt vital, fresh and new.

We've all been fighting and working hard to make it very character driven, very unexpected endings, not necessarily the most satisfying conclusion. It's messier, like real life is.

In the age of prestige TV it's also very important to make yourself look and feel as expensive, classy and different than the average run of the mill dramas. We've invested a lot of time and effort into interesting locations and shots, shooting guerilla-style in London.



# TOM RILEY INTERVIEW CONT'D

You put your make up and costume on in the morning and then you cannot return to base because you're a 25-minute drive away and there's no time. You're literally changing in a pub toilet and rushing to another location.

We shot on the sly in places you normally wouldn't see without the general public waving at the camera. It does make for great locations on TV but it's hard on the crew. We also filmed a lot at night but it does all come together and hopefully we've made something original, new and fresh.

## **How would you describe Will's relationship with his sister Juliette?**

For me, so much of the show hangs around that relationship between Will and his sister Jules. I also adore working with Charlotte Riley. She is brilliant, makes unexpected choices and pushes my buttons.

They are very tight because they had that shared trauma of the murder of their parents when they were younger. But at the same time, they are very different people with very different outlooks on life.

They can really annoy each other like any siblings would. They are not too good at hugging or looking after each other. But there is a fundamental deep primal love between them that keeps them together.

## **Can you tell us who are the other important people in his life?**

Miranda Raison plays Sylvie, who is Will's girlfriend. Although it's an on, off relationship. Again, it's a case of him pushing the people away who could potentially be closest to him and not being very comfortable with any intimacy that comes from a deeper relationship. Sylvie is probably the closest thing he has to that. And the closest thing he has to a

confidante or someone who isn't related to him who actually wants to hang out with him.

He doesn't necessarily treat Sylvie in the best way and doesn't give her the credit she deserves as a successful woman in her own right. He can take people for granted. But it's just something he does.

Then there's DC Josie Chancellor, played by Anjali Mohindra. He never gives her any thanks. Josie begins the series looking at Will as the cop she wants to be. The detective she looks up to and the person she aspires to become in her own profession.

But as the series progresses she's going to get a different view of him after watching his methods and how he treats other people. He should listen to her rather than making her listen to him.

## **Were you involved in any stunts during filming?**

I've done a lot of stunts on other jobs and also on Dark Heart. There was one high level scene in this that was easily the tensest I've ever felt on a set. There was a lot of anxiety in the room - including the entire crew - before that stunt happened. It's terrifying. Watching the stunt person and realising how high up we were. But then it went off without a hitch.

## **Was there a particular celebration during filming?**

I celebrated my birthday during filming. It's weird to work on your birthday on a set. Most people who go to work on their birthday get to go home and have dinner with their partner or family. In this case you're filming on your birthday and you're here until midnight so there were no drinks involved. I don't know how people found out because I didn't tell anyone but it was lovely. They gave me a cake and a little celebration.



# TOM RILEY INTERVIEW CONT'D

When you are filming a big drama like this you have to miss other people's birthdays and weddings. Although I'm getting better at saying, 'Look, I've got to go to this wedding.' Because you do look back and think, 'I missed my best friend's wedding. All I saw was a DVD they sent.' So I'm trying to be a better friend in that respect.

## **Wagstaffe keeps case files in his attic. Are you good at getting rid of clutter?**

I would say I'm not a hoarder at all. But then again, maybe I'm a low key hoarder. I'll find my bedside cabinets have ended up filled with stuff. Just a tiny small area of the house becomes my place where I shove stuff and forget about it.

But generally, I'm pretty good. I've moved house a couple of times in the last two years so I've got very good at getting rid of the excess stuff.

## **Is there an extra responsibility on you as the 'leading' man in a TV drama?**

There's an onus on you to talk to everyone. Be kind and welcome people. I love that. I love hearing their stories. The only thing is once you do that and you work as well for 14 hours each day, by the time you go home you haven't got much juice left in the tank.

I do think it's an important responsibility. I've been on enough sets myself as a guest actor to know what it's like to feel lost and that you might not be doing a good job. You get the best work out of people by encouraging them, supporting them and being interested in them. You put yourself to one side for the course of the shoot.

There are some excellent guest actors in this series. Our casting director Andy Morgan did a phenomenal job. And I told him that myself. That's

what really elevates a show like this. Every day you've got new people coming in. It's always tricky to say, 'Welcome to the set. This is what we're doing. This is how it's going to be.' And they might not be there for very long.

The guest actors cast in Dark Heart were all superb. Across the board. They just came in and nailed in. Often in very difficult emotional scenes as well. Andy has been brilliant and we were very lucky to have both him and those guest actors.

## **What approach did the director Colin Teague take?**

Colin has incredible visual flair. He's the one that makes the show stand out. He's always one for grabbing an interesting shot, doing the thing that feels really difficult but it's worth doing, he really goes above and beyond.

He's also just pure energy. I talk about me having to do 14 hours days and keep up but Colin has to do that too. He never complains, doesn't get frustrated. We have an easy shorthand with one another about what we both feel does and doesn't work. And we can say it to each other without offending.

## **What has your choice of profession as an actor given you?**

It's a double-edged sword. The positive aspects of it are you have more access to empathy. You're so used to having to work out why a character does a certain thing and why they behave in a certain way, I think it makes you open to understanding other people's points of view as you go through life.

You are also more comfortable in social situations. You're good at stepping in to somewhere and having to meet new people because you



## TOM RILEY INTERVIEW CONT'D

do it all the time all around the world. You're constantly having to meet a whole new bunch of people during filming and then having to be confident in front of a camera.

The con side of it is, depending on how successful you get, you have to be very careful not to become self-absorbed. People will tell you that you are the greatest thing in a room and you have to be very careful not to listen to the hype or believe it. Just accept that could evaporate in the wind as early as tomorrow. You should stay as grounded as you possibly can.

Even when it's people who are working with you, the faster you get things the ruder you can become. You've got to resist all of those urges. Wash your own underwear in the sink and remember who you really are.

### **Do you have an off-screen talent we might not know about?**

I'm pretty good at cooking. I like to cook. I like the whole ritual of it. I don't have any favourite meals to cook in particular, there's just too many to choose from.

### **What do you have lined up after Dark Heart?**

I've directed a film called The Toll Road which will take up all my time so I'm actively not looking for work right now. I'm sure within a month I'll be panicking. But I'm working on the edit and directing, which is a whole different world.

I'd like to do more directing. I got a real kick out of it. I've loved every minute. I was completely burned out from doing a play and squeezed it in before I did 10 weeks on Dark Heart.

But I was surprised by just how energised I felt at the end of every night. I'm very used to feeling like I need to just flop into bed. But that made me feel very alive.









# CHARLOTTE RILEY PLAYS JULIETTE

## **Can you explain to us who Juliette is?**

Juliette is 'Staffe's' sister and, in a way, represents part of him that we don't get to see elsewhere in the story, the more personal side of him. Other than when he's with Sylvie, his on-off girlfriend.

Juliette is the gateway to going some way to explain why he is the way he is. We find out very quickly they experienced the tragedy of losing both of their parents when they were younger. That's a tragedy they share and is a burden upon both of them. They deal with it quite differently.

They do love each other but have quite a strained relationship, as often siblings do. There's a huge amount of love there. He really winds her up and she finds him difficult to deal with. They have very different approaches to life. She has a son, a family of her own. Whereas he doesn't have any commitments like that. Essentially, he is wedded to his work.

Juliette also has a new man in her life called Paulo who she is hoping will solidify the family she is trying to create for her and will, hopefully, be her long-term partner. Her brother is not keen on him at all and that creates a lot of tension between them.

It's interesting to see siblings on screen. Tom and I are often mistaken for siblings because of our names and the fact we look quite similar. But we're not related. Some crew members did actually think we were related. I'm northern for a start! But you don't often see fictional siblings in this thriller, drama context. Which is good fun. I'd never played that before.

Juliette is an interesting character. She is flawed, has suffered a lot of pain in her life and is fragile. Will those cracks open up?

Will anything seep into them and break them open even further? That's what drew me to play her.

## **How have they dealt with the death of their parents?**

Will and Juliette are dealing with it in different ways. It appears she has grieved more fully. And that he has maybe pursued his chosen career because of the tragedy. Will has become slightly obsessed with what happened and maybe preventing it happening for other people. Juliette appears to have moved on more.

## **Is there a side to her brother she never sees?**

I think they both have depths of rage that are untapped and are not aware of it each other. They are both trying to protect each other and themselves from the deeper effects the trauma of their parents' deaths has had on them. They are both in denial.

The relationship between Juliette and Will hasn't really grown or changed since they were teenagers. That's part of the problem with their relationship. They are trapped in that time of being 16 or 17 and it's not really moved on.

He still views her as an annoying teenager. And she doesn't really see him as a responsible adult. He probably has slightly more respect for her than she does for him. But she is very appreciative of the relationship her brother has with her son and is very grateful for his male presence in her son's life.

## **Is Juliette a good mum?**

Juliette is definitely the best mum she can be to her son Harry. He is her priority. Although some people will watch Dark Heart and think that, actually, she's putting her relationship with Paulo before the one with her son.



# CHARLOTTE RILEY INTERVIEW CONT'D

They will perceive that as being selfish. Other people will see that, having given a huge amount to her son's happiness, she's now pursuing some for herself. But she's definitely a good mum.

## **How would you describe Juliette's relationship with Paulo?**

Juliette would say they have a fiery relationship and that may result in them having very passionate arguments. It's not a simple situation involving a stronger and weaker personality. She would say it's more complex. It's left to the audience's imagination.

## **What was it like working with Tom Riley?**

It was brilliant. We have a real ease around each other which is lovely. We developed a shorthand very quickly and that just made the scenes really easy to shoot.

Dark Heart features such a strong ensemble cast along with guest actors. Every single person who turned up, no matter how big or small their role was, brought their A-game. That makes a huge difference. It keeps the momentum on set flowing and it keeps it fresh and exciting for the crew and regular cast members. There isn't a dropped ball in the entire series.

## **Staffe keeps case files in the attic. Are you a hoarder?**

I get rid of stuff on a six-monthly basis. I have a good go through everything. But I do keep things that are important to me. Like birthday cards. I recently sat and read through all of the notes exchanged with girlfriends I had kept from school. That was wonderful. Going through a whole pack of these notes we had written to each other about all the daft things that go on at school.

It was lovely going back through all of that stuff again and being able to take photographs of it and send it to my girlfriends, saying, 'Do you

remember this?' I keep important things like that. But I try to let go of a lot of stuff because it just makes me feel slightly claustrophobic otherwise.

## **What was it like working with director Colin Teague?**

I've worked with Colin before on The Town, so we felt really comfortable with each other. I love working with Colin because he really trusts his actors. You get to set and bring him an option for how you see the scene. Then he gives really fantastic notes to nudge it in one direction or the other. Colin allows you the space to try many different things and then helps you hone it, so it fits in with the rest of the story.

He also pushes you to make bolder choices. You feel like you are in safe hands. He is brilliant at being a guiding hand. Colin is also very energetic on set. He's always there, always asking or answering questions. That just keeps everybody buoyant and focused on set.

## **The world of screen drama appears to be ever expanding. What does that mean for an actor?**

There's a real surge among friends and colleagues of making their own work. Because they can now. There is a platform for it. And an audience for it. Before you could only make your own work if somebody said, 'We'll commission you to do it.'

The weird thing about being an actor is that, generally, you have to wait for someone to say, 'Yes, you can do your audition now.' It's not like playing an instrument. You can't really practice it at home on your own. But now you have all these different mediums and platforms on the web for creating work.

You can come out of drama school and you don't have to have an agent.

## CHARLOTTE RILEY INTERVIEW CONT'D

You can start making stuff yourself. Just creating. You're not waiting around to be told you can do your thing. That's creating more freedom of expression for actors. You get to act more. And it's more immediate.

### **Do you have an off-screen skill?**

I'd say art. I've always painted. I also like to make clay sculptures. I like to lock myself away and lose myself in doodling, painting or making my little sculptures.

### **You were a guest at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel in Windsor so you got to see it first-hand. What are your memories of William and Kate's wedding?**

I vividly remember watching William and Kate's wedding. I was filming in New York at the time doing night shoots. I stayed up with the other actor I was filming with and we bought Cadbury's Creme Eggs and scones from the local English shop. We drank tea, ate our Creme Eggs and watched the wedding! I'll never forget that. It was so funny.









# ANJLI MOHINDRA PLAYS DC JOSIE CHANCELLOR

## **Can you tell us who Josie Chancellor is?**

Josie is a passionate police officer who is very keen to work her way up and prove herself. She wants to show that she's just as good as everybody else. As the police force can be very male dominated she feels that she needs to go that extra mile to be heard or taken seriously.

Josie has got a lot of heart and cares about all of the people she is trying to help. She has to balance being really caring but also having to be very professional – she is desperate to be taken seriously by her boss Wagstaffe.

She's a great mix of heart, care and compassion but Josie can definitely hold her own in the team.

## **What do you think Josie feels about her boss 'Staffe'?**

Josie feels unappreciated by her boss and has a bit of a thankless task trying to earn recognition but there is a nice dynamic between the two of them. Without knowing it, Staffe leans on all of the women in his life – he thinks he's handling his life when actually there are a lot of people behind the scenes helping out. Josie is definitely a massive strength 'backstage' helping him keep his stuff together at work.

Josie has a massive professional admiration for Staffe, even when he seems to cross the line with decisions he makes about work.

## **How does Josie approach her crime investigation work?**

Josie plays by the book. Staffe goes off his instincts and will take a really weird route and Josie respects that he always gets the results, but it's not her way of doing things. She may not agree with some of his methods but she would also have his back. She knows he can get the job done and he has that instinct that very few people are born with.

What she feels comfortable with in terms of her moral complex is to play by the book as much as possible. She probably still gets the same results - only a little bit later. Josie is quick-thinking and uses all of the things she has learned in training.

## **Did you do any research before filming?**

We had the help of a police advisor so we could ask questions. I did take full advantage of the help and advice just to get an idea of what the procedures are. I also watched a brilliant ITV documentary on women in the police force.

I was so surprised at just how normal these women are. For some reason I didn't think policewomen and policemen would have other lives and families. But, of course, they do. It made me think, 'I could have spoken to an off-duty police officer in the queue for a bus or at yoga and never known.' Because, of course, they are just normal human beings like the rest of us.

I found that interesting. It gave me the license to paint Josie as somebody who was first and foremost a human being and then a police officer. That sounds really obvious. But I did have to think about it.

## **Do you think the first story in this series will provoke discussion about the meaning of justice?**

That story really does pack a punch. You don't see it coming at all. The crimes it deals with explore the idea of justice and what that means. It asks is what is happening to those who are guilty, just or not? I was constantly thinking, 'What is fair? Do you fight fire with fire? Is it an eye for an eye or not?' Such a thought-provoking issue.



# ANJLI MOHINDRA PLAYS DC JOSIE CHANCELLOR

After filming that particular story, we all felt there was a huge potential for more. Then we were lucky enough to film two more stories which are told over the course of a further four episodes.

## **What job did you want to do aside from acting?**

I actually wanted to join MI5. I loved Spooks. And of course, I know it's not really like that in real life but I could still dream. I love things when you get to use your intelligence and imagination. To deduce what could have happened.

And, of course, Miranda Raison, who was in Spooks, plays Sylvie in Dark Heart. But we don't have any scenes together which I was devastated about. Spooks was the first thing I ever saw Miranda in. I guess she inspired me to keep acting. I did meet her for the first time at the beginning of the shoot and she is such a lovely woman.

## **Josie seems to have no time for anything else but work. Is it the same for actors filming a drama?**

When you're filming you have to miss all sorts of things. I think my brother has now forgiven me for missing his wedding. He actually lives in India so it was trickier to get there. A lot of sacrifices have to be made. But most of the people who know you do understand why you might have to miss their birthday party.

When you're lucky enough to work, you don't get a lot of time off. And even when you do, you might be going for auditions for the next job.

## **What was it like working with Tom Riley?**

I loved working with Tom. We have a really nice relationship. It's lovely to have that with someone you're filming with, because we're on screen together quite a lot. Someone you can have a laugh with. Tom is so

brilliant in Dark Heart. He brings such an energy to Staffe. He does things I never expected. Adding elements to the character's personality that just give him so much depth.

It's so wonderful when you see characters that don't necessarily want to be liked. They just want to get on with the job. That really pulls you into the story. What he brings to the part is so brilliant.

## **Was there a special occasion during filming?**

Tom celebrated his birthday during filming. You always think to yourself, 'I don't care if no-one knows it's my birthday. That's fine.' Then halfway through the day it's like, 'Oh, no-one has said anything.' Just as Tom was thinking that, production brought out a cake for him which was lovely.

## **Can you tell us about the guest actors in Dark Heart?**

The guest actors were phenomenal. I got to do a scene with Paul Kaye who plays Jim Duggan. You get a bit star-struck when you meet someone like that. He was so lovely. And we had common ground in that he went to university in Nottingham where I'm from. Certain actors make you raise your game before the cameras even start rolling. And Paul was one of them.

"Indra Ove who plays Kerry Davies is an incredible actress. I'd seen her on stage about a year before and thought she was wonderful, it was a real delight to be able to work with her.

And Karen Henthorn who plays Theresa Ryan was terrific. Everyone brought something extra to the drama. I think Dark Heart rests on those performances. Time and time again people came in and did some amazing work to further elevate the whole show.



## ANJLI MOHINDRA INTERVIEW CONT'D

You don't often see a police team on screen of this generation. Most police dramas are based around a certain formula. But Dark Heart has such a different energy to it. I'm really excited to see what people think of it.

### **Do you have a hidden talent off screen?**

I'm so enthusiastic about DIY. And so terrible at it but genuinely love it. If there's ever anything needs doing at my mum and dad's house, my sister and I will jump on it. I also love going on really long walks and doing yoga.

### **You also recently had roles in Midsomer Murders and Bodyguard. How was that for you?**

Because Midsomer Murders is such a long running show, you feel really well looked after. Everybody knows what the score is. Neil Dudgeon and Nick Hendrix are such lovely lead actors as well. So welcoming. And very funny. They both took the time to get to know us guest actors. It was a real joy to do.

Bodyguard was another dream job.









# MIRANDA RAISON PLAYS SYLVIE

## **Can you tell us who Sylvie is?**

Sylvie is a bit of a mystery at first. You find out there's a history between her and Will Wagstaffe, but they are not exactly a couple. They have been involved, they fancy each other very much but he has quite a lot of issues which are hard to get past.

The impression you get from the beginning is that at some point there has been a conversation where she has said to him, 'Sort yourself out.'

They have kept on good terms and he can always call her when things become too much. I don't think he has a similar relationship with anyone else.

She is very ambitious in her career and doing well, it means a great deal to her. Sylvie lives in this incredibly swanky flat which was a great location.

## **How would you describe her relationship with 'Staffe'?**

I like the way the relationship between Sylvie and 'Staffe' has been written. We're so used to seeing the nagging girlfriend with the policeman boyfriend or husband. With them being there at the drop of a hat.

Because he does his own thing, he and the audience expect that when he does want more from Sylvie she is going to be there waiting in the wings. But that might not be the case. We see a stronger side of her as the story goes on. Sylvie is a confident woman who is quite uncomplicated and doesn't have time for all of his nonsense. But she is intrigued by him and likes him.

Sylvie doesn't really want to delve into all of the mysteries in his past.

She wants him to close the book on that and move on. While his perception of her is that she is quite enigmatic. She was fun to play.

## **What sort of themes does Dark Heart investigate?**

The first story is about the nature of justice. People are always going to disagree about what is justice and what is not. Everybody has a different take on it. There's a real human element to the opening story which will make people think.

Another story reflects on the influence porn has on young people today. I would imagine many people - not just men - watching this will have some experience of porn in some way. Even if they admit it or not. Sylvie and Staffe have a frank discussion on their views on porn and the impact it has.

I've had similar discussions with lots of people about being terrified of the desensitisation of the next generation for whom everything is accessible. What's going to happen? Not just boys. Girls who watch a performance of sex and think they have to match that performance. There's nothing about how they feel or their own actual enjoyment. It's all about the demonstrative side of it all.

## **Dark Heart was filmed in London. Did the production attract much attention?**

Most people don't take any notice when you're filming in London. We filmed in a beautiful little pub in Holborn at 8am for a scene where Sylvie meets a client called Jim Duggan, played by Paul Kaye.

There were all the supporting artistes outside with their alcoholic drinks - actually mostly warm grape juice - dressed in work gear as it was meant to be early evening post-office drink time, all while the cameras were hidden from view.



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Nobody passing by batted an eyelid at that. If anything, people looked quite longingly wanting to go in the pub for their 8am drink. I found that quite funny. People walking past not even noticing the 8am gin and tonic. That would only happen in a metropolis.”

## **Staffe keeps case files in his attic. Are you a hoarder?**

I’m a bit of a hoarder. Where I live in London is okay. But I have a house in Suffolk where the garage is an Aladdin’s Cave containing the opposite of treasure. I actually can’t bear to open the door. It’s so far from fitting a car in it.

I was given a book called ‘The Life-Changing Manga Of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo’. It’s a brilliant read. I felt so inspired. But all that has happened so far is that my husband and I have de-cluttered our uncluttered house in London. And we haven’t even embarked on the cluttered house in Suffolk. I’m going to sit in Suffolk, re-read the book and then just go for it.

## **What was it like working with director Colin Teague?**

Colin is fantastic. We had just worked together when Dark Heart came along. The year before he directed two episodes of a show called Spotless that I did for Netflix. We all really liked him on that.

He’s got a breath of fresh air attitude. Which is very unusual considering he directed all six episodes of Dark Heart. I can’t remember ever having that on a series I’ve done before. You normally change directors every few episodes. I’ve just done another Netflix series called Nightflyers and the director changed every single episode.

You would think he might become a bit jaded over six episodes. But actually, Colin wants it to be the best it can be and he really believed in

Dark Heart. He put a lot of heart and soul into it.

At the same time, he’s not one of those people who say, ‘Right, you’re going to be standing there, this is what I want and I want you to end up there.’ I’m not a big fan of that. You think, ‘What’s the point in hiring actors? You haven’t let us find anything.’ Colin has a vague idea of what he wants but then he is happy for you to run with it.

I’m a big fan of his. It is surprisingly unusual for somebody to arrive on set every morning with a big smile on their face. Not bringing any kind of anxiety. He’s good.

## **You turned 40 last year. Did you celebrate?**

I got married last year and then had my daughter five days later. It was a real golf ball in a wedding dress moment. Then a few months on it was my birthday. The whole thing had been so surreal. My husband gave me a coffee cup with her footprint on and a lovely bracelet. And we just had a very quiet time in Suffolk.

I wasn’t worried about turning 40. Somebody said to me a long time ago, ‘The alternative to ageing is death.’ I don’t really like birthdays. I don’t mind other peoples, but there’s something about your own where it doesn’t feel very natural to say, ‘Let’s celebrate me!’ But my daughter was one in July this year so I very much looked forward to her first birthday.

## **Do you engage with social media?**

I’m not on any social media. And part of the reason I’m not on social media is because I just think it makes life so busy. I’m bad enough at replying to a text. There are loads of mediums to let people down in.



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**The world of television drama appears to be ever expanding. Are you an avid viewer?**

When you finish a great book, you need time to digest it. You feel like you're almost cheating on it if you just start another one the next day. I miss that with TV series somehow. That you finish something and then you go, 'What else is great? I need to start it tonight.'

I think all of that sometimes takes away from the enjoyment of things. But there is no point in having that attitude because it's not going to change. More and more and more is going to be made and that's how it is. It's really about embracing the change.

It's great there's a huge diversity. But at the same time, it does slightly play into the hands of the enormous production that can afford to get everybody in through the door.

**What's next for you?**

I went on from Dark Heart to film Artemis Fowl with Judi Dench. She's the best. Extraordinary. An absolute miracle woman. I did Kenneth Branagh's production of The Winter's Tale with her. I remember thinking how lucky the young actors were.

On Artemis Fowl it's all kids, really. And Judi is a total beacon of, 'Arrive, be lovely to everybody, have a fantastic day, if you can possibly make anybody's day just a little bit nicer do - do the work, know your lines, be brilliant, go home.' You just think, 'That's the way to be.'

When we finished Winter's Tale she said to the two young boys sharing the role of the son individually, 'It's been such an honour to work with you. You are so fantastic. Well done. I'm so proud of you.' She's just something else.









# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## EPISODE ONE

DI Will Wagstaffe is at London City Airport when his travel plans are put on hold. His colleague, DC Josie Chancellor calls to inform him of a gruesome murder.

Staffe, along with Josie, DS Dave Pulford and DS Rick Johnson, are confronted by a horrific scene. RAY COLLINS, a man in his early-forties, has been brutally murdered.

As the team investigate further, they learn that the victim was arrested two and a half years ago on suspicion of sexually assaulting his young step daughters, Holly and Jasmine. He was remanded in custody for three weeks but there wasn't sufficient evidence and Collins was released.

Returning home that evening, Staffe discovers his sister Juliette and nephew Harry at his house. Juliette and Harry are Staffe's world, he picks up on something that really bothers him and he knows their unscheduled stay means she's in more trouble with new boyfriend Paolo than she's letting on.

As the story unfolds, Staffe and his team delve deeper into the morally complex crime. But pressure builds as it's not long before a lawyer, Guy Dawlish is brutally attacked.

Dawlish's assault bears the same hallmarks of Ray Collins' murder, but the similarity doesn't end there, he was arrested two years ago over allegations of child sex abuse. There was insufficient evidence so he also wasn't charged.

But just as a pattern begins to emerge, a historical case throws Staffe's theory of a single serial killer on its head. The suspected paedophile in this instance was John Statham. Like Collins and Dawlish he was attacked with unusual brutality. However this case appears to be closed. The father of the child Statham allegedly abused, Nico Cashell, is serving time for assaulting Statham and is adamant of his own guilt.

With the anniversary of Staffe's parents murder drawing closer, knowledge of the fact that their killer is still at large weighs heavy on his mind. Little does he know that elsewhere in London, Mark Regis, walks free of child abuse charges on a technicality. Is the depraved killer preparing for their next victim?



# Character Credits

## Episodes one and two:

William Wagstaffe – **Tom Riley**  
Juliette – **Charlotte Riley**  
Josie Chancellor – **Anjli Mohindra**  
Sylvie – **Miranda Raison**  
Dave Pulford – **Kobna Holdbrook-Smith**  
DS Rick Johnson – **Tom Brooke**  
Paulo – **Edward Akrouit**  
Harry – **Joseph Teague**  
Mark Regis – **Justin Salinger**  
Debbie Collins – **Simone Kirby**  
Dan Decker – **Grant Burgin**  
Tanya Ford – **Lily May**  
Ray Collins – **Mark Fleischmann**  
Nico Kashell – **Robert Hands**  
Guy Dawlish – **Nicholas Asbury**  
Bob Jessop – **Christopher Fulford**  
Prison Guard – **Lace Akpojaro**  
Caretaker – **Roy Holder**  
Sally Watkins – **Jasmine Jobson**  
Mallory – **Eugene Washington**  
Gail Watkins – **T’Nia Miller**  
Philip Benson QC – **Simon Thorp**  
Pathologist – **Janet Kumah**  
Greta Kashell – **Teresa Barnham**  
Young Wagstaffe – **Benjamin Campbell**

## Episodes three and four:

William Wagstaffe – **Tom Riley**  
Juliette – **Charlotte Riley**  
Josie Chancellor – **Anjli Mohindra**  
Sylvie – **Miranda Raison**  
Annie – **Michele Austin**  
Mullan – **Jason Maza**  
Ray Monk – **Alex Carter**  
Dr Luke Paul – **Gregg Chillin**  
Paolo – **Edward Akrouit**  
Sofie – **Andreea Paduraru**  
Adam Miller – **Luke Westlake**  
Nick Kyriacou – **Memet Ali Abora**  
Phoebe Kyriacou – **Claire Goose**  
Alexandra Dimitriou – **Clare Foster**  
Chris Panousis – **Doug Rao**  
Kat – **Natalie Kostrzewa**  
Grant Balden – **Jonathan Jarden**  
Vern Creecy – **Colin Mace**  
Smita Williams – **Rebecca Sarker**  
Doctor – **Martha Cope**  
Claire – **Rachel Hankey**  
Josh Reed – **Chris Courtenay**  
David – **David Shelley**  
Carol – **Sarah-Jane Holme**

## Episodes five and six:

William Wagstaffe - **Tom Riley**  
Juliette - **Charlotte Riley**  
Josie Chancellor - **Anjli Mohindra**  
Sylvie - **Miranda Raison**  
Annie – **Michele Austin**  
Mullan – **Jason Maza**  
Ray Monk – **Alex Carter**  
Dr Luke Paul – **Gregg Chillin**  
Harry - **Joseph Teague**  
Theresa Ryan – **Karen Henthorn**  
Pat Elland – **Tom Canton**  
Ed Denslow – **Jacob Avery**  
Jim Duggan – **Paul Kaye**  
Kerry Davies – **Indra Ove**  
Coulm Moyaland – **Stephen Kennedy**  
Father Connolly – **Charles Lawson**  
Laura Murray – **Yasmin Monet Prince**  
Shaun Deyes – **Bradley Taylor**  
Leon Williams – **Leon Lopez**  
Dr Roach – **Sarah Mallin**  
Nurse – **Ken Bradshaw**  
Nurse – **Rhoda Afori-Attah**



# Production Credits

Writer and Executive Producer – **Chris Lang**

Executive Producer – **Kate Bartlett**

Executive Producer – **Michael Dawson**

Producer – **Chris Clough (episodes one and two)**

Producer – **Letitia Knight**

Director – **Colin Teague**

Writer – **Ben Harris (episodes three and four)**

Line Producer – **Adam Knopf**

Production Designer – **Julian Fullalove**

Director of Photography – **Ed Moore**

Casting Director – **Andy Morgan**

Costume Designer – **Iain Macaulay**

Hair and Make Up Designer – **Jutta Russell**

Location Manager – **Stan Fus**

Script Editor – **Kerry Greenhill**

Composer – **Dan Jones**





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