



# VERA

Series 10 Press Pack

SILVERPRINT  
PICTURES

itv





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## VERA CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> SERIES WITH FOUR NEW FEATURE LENGTH EPISODES FOR TRANSMISSION IN 2020

Following the success of series nine, award-winning actress Brenda Blethyn returns as DCI Vera Stanhope in the longest running, British made, female-led detective series on ITV." Four new feature length episodes, set against the backdrop of the north east, will transmit on the channel in 2020.

The tenth series will see the return of Kenny Doughty as Detective Sergeant Aiden Healy, who over the years has proved himself to be a strong and reliable partner to DCI Stanhope. Completing Vera's team is Jon Morrison who plays DC Kenny Lockhart, Riley Jones who plays DC Mark Edwards, Ibinabo Jack who plays DC Jacqueline Williams and Paul Kaye who returns as Pathologist Dr. Malcolm Donahue.

The four self-contained crime stories are inspired by the best-selling novels and characters created by acclaimed crime writer Ann Cleeves, who received the Diamond Dagger Award at the Crime Writers' Association in 2017 for a lifetime achievement for sustained excellence.

In 2018 *Vera* delivered its highest ever ratings with an audience of 8.4 million and a 30% share of viewing. This success was carried into 2019, with four new feature length episodes of *Vera* delivering an average audience of 7.8 million viewers and 28.8% share of viewing.

Internationally *Vera* also stands as one of the best-selling dramas across Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

*Vera* has also had a positive impact on the north east tourism which was celebrated by a win at the 2019 RTS North East and Border Awards. The show received the 'Judges Award' for the show's outstanding contribution to the region.

Made by Silverprint Pictures, part of ITV Studios, for ITV, series 10 is produced by Will Nicholson whilst Executive Producer Phil Hunter returns for his fourth consecutive series. Director Paul Gay and writer Paul Logue also returned to the production and have worked together on episode one titled *Blood Will Tell*.





Commented Brenda Blethyn: “Along with the rest of the cast of *Vera*, I’m delighted to be returning for a tenth series. The enthusiasm and warmth shown to *Vera* has been overwhelming.”

Commented Phil Hunter: “I’m thrilled *Vera* is returning for series ten. Making this show is such a joy and it’s clear that ‘team *Vera*’ love it as much as the viewing fans love watching. I’m continually overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and commitment the brilliant cast and crew bring to the show.”

ITV Studios Global Entertainment distribute *Vera* internationally.







## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES – SERIES REGULARS

### **DCI Vera Stanhope played by Brenda Blethyn**

Heading up a team at Northumberland and City Police, Vera is obsessive about her work and dogged in her desire to uncover the truth at the heart of each case. Unconventional and unglamorous maybe, but Vera has a wry sense of humour and faces the world with caustic wit, guile and courage.

For Vera, work is her life and her team is her family. Having been brought up by a neglectful father, she's constantly trying to find a sense of self-worth, feeling she has to prove herself in everything she does, although she would never admit this to her colleagues. Vera demands fierce loyalty and respect from her team, which she returns with the smallest glimmer of affection. Vera really cares for her team and for the victims of the crimes she investigates.

### **DS Aiden Healy played by Kenny Doughty**

Detective Sergeant Aiden Healy has proved himself a strong and reliable partner to DCI Stanhope, who relishes his insight, commitment and diligence. Aiden, in turn, feels protective of his boss, knowing her obsessive nature and commitment to the job can sometimes be at the cost of her own well-being. Aiden has settled into family life and has a renewed focus on the demands of the job, as well as his dedication to ensuring that the perpetrators of crimes are sought out and held responsible.

### **DC Kenny Lockhart played by Jon Morrison**

Kenny is a very loyal and trusted member of the team. Though Kenny works at his own pace, Vera knows that he brings with him years of experience and instinct, and she can rely on him when it counts. Plain-spoken if a occasionally tactless, Kenny possesses a keen memory for cases long past and is often surprisingly savvy with contemporary technology and social media.

### **DC Jacqueline 'Jac' Williams played by Ibinabo Jack**

Jac is a valued member of DCI Vera Stanhope's team. With her dry wit and no-nonsense attitude, she often uses her sharp abilities of detection and unique perspective to bring new evidence to the case at hand. Jac first joined Vera's team from the fraud squad after her former boss was found guilty of corruption. Jac looks up to Vera and greatly admires her commitment to the truth. Jac is tough, courageous and determined.



## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES – SERIES REGULARS CONTINUED

### **DC Mark Edwards played by Riley Jones**

Since joining Vera's team from uniform, Mark has become a skilled and reliable detective. As one of the younger members of the squad, Mark is less outspoken and more introspective, preferring to channel his energy into meticulous analysis and research. His enthusiasm, keen eye for detail and self-drive means that Vera now counts on the invaluable information he uncovers to push an investigation forward.

### **Pathologist Dr. Malcolm Donahue played by Paul Kaye**

Dr. Malcolm Donahue is thorough and observant. His dour demeanour might be mistaken for misanthropy, but in truth his grim scientific approach comes from a deeply rooted commitment to justice. He worked with Vera several years ago and their professional relationship has always been challenging. Pedantic and officious to the point of rudeness, Malcolm often treads heavily on Vera's toes. Though he appears to be critical of Vera's impatience and sometimes bullish approach, he retains an underlying admiration for the DCI's capacity for empathy and compassion.



# INTERVIEW WITH BRENDA BLETHYN



**Q: How does it feel to have filmed ten series of Vera?**

“It’s absolutely wonderful. That’s the equivalent of 40 feature films. To be honest, I don’t know where I find the stamina to do it, but a different gear seems to kick in. Then when we’ve finished filming each year I come home and fall apart!

“Vera is said to be the longest running ITV drama series with a female lead. Who would have thought somebody as shambolic as Vera, looking like she does, would have such an appeal? It’s great.

“I think Vera has paved the way to some extent for other strong female lead characters. Good on her. Vera’s father didn’t approve of her choice of career. He thought she was a woman in a man’s job but she hasn’t been held back by her origins. Since we started work on Vera in 2010 the TV industry has changed. There have been lots of female leads and good roles for women.”

**Q: Can you recall your initial thoughts when you met Vera on the page for the first time when reading author Ann Cleeves’ debut Vera novel ‘*The Crow Trap*’?**

“It was half way through *The Crow Trap* before Vera even makes an appearance. I was thinking, ‘Where is this character they want me to play?’ I’ve heard Ann Cleeves say she wasn’t actually writing a detective story. The publishers wanted a new book but they didn’t want any detective business in it. Ann was writing about the environment and then she got to a point where she introduced Vera, crashing into a church, looking like a bag lady.



“I remember thinking, ‘Why have they thought of me to play this role?’ When I spoke to the then producer Elaine Collins, who had picked the book up in a charity shop, she thought I could bring the right amount of humour to it. So, I thought, ‘Maybe I can do that?’

“The first book we actually filmed was *Hidden Depths*. I thought it would just be a one-off film and I thought it’d be lovely if they also did the two other books that’d been written at that stage, *The Crow Trap* and *Telling Tales*.

“When ITV commissioned a series I was cock-a-hoop. Firstly, because I was pleased I’d got the first film right, and that ITV wanted to carry on with it.

“The wonderful Gina McKee was cast in that first film along with other wonderful actors like Neil Armstrong, Murray Head and so on. The director Adrian Shergold did such a good job with *Hidden Depths* and created such a compelling atmosphere. Then we made three more episodes which became series one.”

**Q: Has the audience view of Vera changed over time?**

“When Vera first appeared on screen I don’t think people were that enamoured by her. They thought she was a rather abrasive character. But because her sidekick DS Joe Ashworth, played by David Leon, liked her and viewers loved him, they could see that he and the police team were all loyal to her, then they thought, ‘Well Vera must have something going for her?’

“I think it took a couple of episodes for the audience to warm to her. Certainly, by the end of the first series which aired in spring 2011 there was an appetite for her. As in life, you meet someone you don’t like very much. Then when you get to know them a little better you think, ‘Actually, I really like this person.’ The opposite can also be true. You meet someone who you think is absolutely the bee’s knees. You get to know them and they are a complete waste of time.

“I’m quite an independent person but I’m too polite for my own good sometimes. Vera is not. Put me up against Vera, I think she would win.”

**Q: You made a short ITV video screened in 2019 talking directly to viewers about Vera. How would you sum her up?**

“Vera hasn’t just come off a catwalk. It doesn’t matter what she looks like. It’s what she does that’s important. Actions speak louder than words. And louder than images. She is an older lady on the telly who is not playing someone’s mam. Quite often the role of a mam isn’t even given a name. Just ‘the mother’ or ‘the woman’. Everyone should have a rounded off character.

“Vera said in that video: ‘There’s some people say I’m hard work. Well you can get over yourselves. That’s your problem not mine.’ I think along those lines a bit. You mustn’t take offence at everything anybody says. Because a lot of the time, if you respect the person, there’s probably some truth in it.

“As you get older you take less notice of what people and critics say. You listen. But if it’s negative, you’re not quite so wounded by it. And if the opposite you take it all with a pinch of salt.

“Vera is doing what she has to do. I’m very much like that myself. You do what you have to do. If something needs doing I’ll knuckle down and do it. Even if it’s for somebody else. If it’s the right thing to do then you have to do it. If people are in trouble you help them out. Vera is not trying to be somebody else. She just wants to get on with it.

“She says it like it is. Vera does get short tempered. If she is on a roll and thinks she has got the scent of something she wants to sort it now. She knows her team moan about her behind her back but she also knows she has their respect. And she cares about them. If anyone else had a pop at them she would be the first to defend them.”

**Q: Can you give us a taste of what’s ahead in the four new films?**

“Episode one in series 10 is called ‘*Blood Will Tell*’. We filmed some of the scenes at the Tan Hill Inn at Swaledale in North Yorkshire which is the highest pub in Britain. It also features an appearance from the Great North Air Ambulance. The people involved in that are fantastic.

“Episode two, ‘*Parent Not Expected*’, is a story which includes a salmon fishing farm. We filmed that at Burnmouth in the Scottish Borders and other places including Alnwick, Whitley Bay and the Woodhorn Museum near Ashington. It rained and it rained and it rained. We had to keep changing location because of the rain. Improvising around it. But it sometimes proved beneficial!

“Episode three is called ‘*Dirty*’ and is set around a commercial cleaning company. There are some interesting locations including the former Brett Oils factory on the banks of the Tyne in Gateshead opposite the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle.

“While episode four, ‘*The Escape Ten*’, included filming at Sunderland Greyhound Stadium. I’m a great dog lover and have one of my own called Jack. It was lovely seeing the greyhounds.

“Jack is the first dog I’ve ever had and I can’t imagine how I’ve got to the age I am without ever having a dog. It’s the most wonderful thing. Although I’m not the best trainer. I did take him to lessons when we first got him. He got his silver certificate for good behaviour and obedience. But he ate it. So that tells you how well I’ve done. He’s an embarrassment sometimes but I just love him to bits.

“Jack stays in Kent with my husband Michael when I’m filming in the north east. But he does come to visit. If I’m working and he’s still with me, and Michael has gone home, they look after him in the office. I think they enjoy his company. He walks around as if he owns the place.”

**Q: Vera reflects on a memory of her father in the first new film. Do you have a best memory of your own father, William?**

“I have so many memories of my father. We used to go to the cinema on a Saturday or Sunday evening. We lived on a steep hill and he would always piggy-back me up the hill. Even though it must have been a bit of a struggle for him. He’d go, ‘Hop on, Bren.’



“We didn’t have a television and often we didn’t have a radio because the bill hadn’t been paid. So he would set me and my brothers puzzles to do. Or give us a word and see how many other words we could make out of it. To this day we are keen crossword puzzle fanatics.

“We lived at the seaside and every year there was a carnival, which included a big float showcasing the ‘Aqua Lovelies’. They were bathing beauties on water skis pulled along by a speedboat and it was my dad driving the speedboat, but in fact, he was really driving the float - the lorry.

“He used to turn on a waterfall and the fountain. He would disappear behind the rocks, where the switch was presumably. Then when he switched it off he would disappear behind the cascading water and when he came out he hadn’t got wet. To me it was magic.”

**Q: What is a typical filming day like on Vera?**

“We filmed this tenth series from April to October (2019) and the hours are very long. When I got back home to Kent someone said to me, ‘You must only work six, seven hours a day in your business?’ But I explained that on a typical day my alarm goes off at 5:30am. It’s a 11-hour day in front of the camera with an hour before that for costume and so on. It could also be an hour’s travel each way to and from the location. Then when I get home I’ve got to learn tomorrow’s script, so it’s 16 hours a day.”

**Q: How do you approach learning so many lines in four long scripts?**

“You have to understand the journey and learn it like a map. For instance, if I wanted you to describe going from here to, say, Canterbury, and I told you the route, it would be much harder for you to memorise it than actually *doing* it. By actually going there yourself. So you consult a map on how to get there. You’ll probably go wrong a couple of times but the next time you go it will be easier and the next time after that it will be much easier. Then once you know it perfectly you can then find a more interesting route. You can find where to refuel, where to get something to eat. That’s basically what it is. It’s just knowing the journey, doing your homework. Working at it and understanding it and knowing *why* you’re going to Canterbury.

“I’m still finding new routes to take with Vera. Each story that comes along presents its own problems and conundrums. I’m still trying to keep her truthful. Not to do things just for the sake of variety. Keeping it absolutely in the moment. I just hope I haven’t bored anybody yet.”

**Q: Where is Vera’s home located?**

“The exterior of Vera’s home is on Holy Island. While the interior is a set at our Wallsend studio base. The studio interior is an exact replica of what it’s really like on Lindisfarne. I think it might be a foot wider, to allow for camera movement. Sometimes when I’m on that set I forget I’m not actually in Vera’s house. It’s so brilliantly reproduced. Our art department are second to none.”

**Q: The whole Vera team must be proud of how the series has boosted tourism in the north east?**

“We won a Royal Television Society Award for increasing tourism in the area. The north east is very community minded. There are always events of some kind going on. I think it’s absolutely wonderful. There are some fantastic places to visit.

“I went to Corbridge in Northumberland for a nice trip out and visited Forum Books which is in a former Methodist chapel. There was a poster outside saying that Vera author Ann Cleeves was going to be speaking there at an author event that night. How marvellous! What a coincidence. We left our best wishes and a note for her.”

**Q: How do you feel about the fact Vera is a huge international success and can now also be seen around the globe on streaming platforms?**

“It is an exciting time. I am a little old fashioned though, and even though I have watched some drama series in one go, I do like the anticipation of waiting for the next episode. As in the theatre, waiting for that curtain to go up. There’s something rather wonderful about that. I like to save it all until that curtain goes up.”

**Q: Vera feels like a big family with a mix of regular cast members and guests. Is that how you view it?**

“Kenny Doughty, who plays DS Aiden Healy, is my buddy. Our flats are close by so we can maybe go through a scene the night before and we often have a meal together.

“Our latest addition is Ibinabo Jack as the wonderful DC Jac Edwards who came to CID from the Fraud Squad. Riley Jones, who plays DC Mark Edwards, was a uniformed officer in *Little Lazarus* which was the fourth and concluding film in series one. He only had one line but he did it so well that David Leon (DS Joe Ashworth) and I canvassed for him to be cast in the following series. We didn’t have to try very hard because the producers had spotted him too and he’s been with us ever since! Plus we now have the marvellous Paul Kaye as pathologist Dr Malcolm Donahue.

“Jon Morrison, who plays DC Kenny Lockhart has been with the series since the beginning, apart from the pilot. He’s known Vera longer than anyone else on the team. Quite by coincidence, nearly all of the friends of one of my brothers who lives in the Midlands, are in CID and they all say Jon Morrison is the most convincing copper on the telly. I agree, he’s wonderful.

“We have had some great people in Vera including the wonderful Wunmi Mosaku who went on to win a BAFTA for best supporting actress in the TV film *Damilola, Our Loved Boy*. Later Cush Jumbo who was fantastic and had such a moving storyline in series six. After Vera she was cast in *The Good Wife* and is playing *Hamlet* this summer (2020) at The Young Vic. There’s Charlie Heaton who is now in *Stranger Things*. Look at him now. While Jodie Comer is now a lead in *Killing Eve*.



“Alexandra Mardell was in Vera and won Best Newcomer at the 2019 Soap Awards for her performance in *Coronation Street*. She went to the same drama school as me and I’d seen her in drama school productions. I make an effort to go and check out the people who are about to graduate. I was very impressed with her and I suggested production gave her an interview for a role in Vera. I don’t have any influence in getting people jobs but often I can get them an interview. She got the job on her own merit and look at her now.

“We’ve also got some terrific young actors in this tenth series of Vera. Fresh faces. Vera is very good at giving people opportunities. Not just in front of the camera, behind the camera too. That’s really important. We’ve all got to learn somewhere.

“It’s a great mix with established names over the years like Gina McKee, Mark Addy, Peter Davison, Julie Graham, Rob James-Collier, Phyllis Logan, Ron Cook, George Costigan and so on. The list is endless. Vera is a great blend of established actors and up and coming young cast members.

“In 2014 we filmed a Vera episode (*Old Wounds*) with George Costigan at locations including Chopwell in Gateshead. Most of our extras were played by the Chopwell Amateur Dramatic Society. When we were finishing that episode they told us *The Chopwell Players* were putting on a musical. So six of us got a taxi and went down to Chopwell Village Hall to watch the production. It was called *Tea with Elvis* and it was fantastic. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it was wonderful to see our supporting artists in different guises. One dressed up like Elvis.”

**Q: You took a Vera hat on a journey. Can you tell us about that?**

“I went with Ann Cleeves to a crime writing convention in Maryland, America. We put together a package of Vera memorabilia, including one of her hats, which I signed, and a scarf. It went for something like 800 dollars which was amazing. It was a crime writing convention rather like the Theakston Old Familiar Crime Writing Festival held in Harrogate every year. They were over the moon about us going and the queue at Ann’s desk for books signings was much bigger than any other queue. It was lovely.”

**Q: Do you get recognised when out of character during breaks from filming?**

“I sometimes do a Morrisons supermarket shop in the north east when I’m not filming. I try to keep my head down so I can get my shopping finished quickly but I do get recognised. The last time I was in there a lady collared me, literally, got a hold of me and told me she loved me. Of course she meant Vera. So I chatted to her and then off she went quite happy. But then she came running back with the manager to say, ‘Look who’s here!’ As if he hadn’t got something better to do. But they are very nice people in the north east.”

**Q: You are about to film a new ITV sitcom called *Kate and Koji*. What is that about?**

“It’s a six-part sitcom written by Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin. I play Kate, who runs an old-fashioned cafe in a seaside town. With Jimmy Akingbola as Koji. When I read the script for the first episode it made me laugh. I’ve worked with Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin before. I made a film that Guy Jenkin wrote and directed in Borneo with Hugh Dancy and Bob Hoskins called *The Sleeping Dictionary*.

“I get flattered that I’m asked to do things and hopefully it’ll be fun to do something funny. We’ll film it in front of a studio audience. I haven’t done that for a while, so it’ll be a challenge. People still remember and talk to me about a 1980s’ sitcom I did with Simon Callow called *Chance In A Million* where I played a character called Alison Little.”

**Q: You say you are ‘ambitionless’. Can you explain what you mean?**

“I suppose I’m a bit lazy in that respect. I’ve never wanted the moon and stars. I can only ever try to achieve just what’s out of my reach. Little steps. I’ve never envied people who have had huge successes. I’m happy with where I am. My dad was a bit like that. I suppose it stops you from being disappointed.

“But acting is about taking risks because at the outset of your career you have no idea what’s in store. Making a successful TV show is a bit like making a cake. You might have all the best ingredients but if you put one bad egg in, it’s all going to go wrong. It could be as simple as someone opening the oven too soon. It’s not all down to you, it’s a joint effort.

“You also always have to remember the character is more important than you. It’s not you out there, it’s the person Ann Cleeves created and staying true to that. I’m a bit like Ann’s policewoman on set. If something comes up that I think is not organic to what she wanted, I will question it.”

**Q: When you were on *Desert Island Discs* your chosen luxury item to take with you was a karaoke machine. Do you have a signature song?**

“I love singing. To me everything is a cue for a song, but I can’t sing. Voice like a drain! It was forced upon me in South Korea once and I sang *Blueberry Hill*. I was on a promotional tour with Marianne Jean-Baptiste, who *can* sing, to promote *Secrets & Lies*. We were guests of someone in the government in this club. If the person singing points to the next person they’ve got to get up. It’s rude not to do it so you had to do it. And someone pointed to me. I thought, ‘Oh Lord.’ I sang *Blueberry Hill*. They were polite. It wasn’t that bad.”

**Q: What would Vera take as her luxury item to a desert island?**

“Vera fans will know there is a little running joke when Vera pulls Aiden up about getting her order of fish and chips right. This series it’s making sure he doesn’t get the mushy peas in with the chips instead of them being separate. That would be sacrilege. Kenny Doughty who plays Aiden and I get the giggles sometimes. We get paralytic with laughter and really have to pull ourselves together to get on with it.



“I think Vera’s luxury item would probably be a solar powered deep fat fryer with a supply of potatoes to make chips. She would also have a go at making one of her hats from those big palm leaves to protect her from the sun on the desert island.”

**Q: Vera is always clear about what is right and wrong. Do you think some people have lost sight of that today?**

“I do think we have lost sight of what is right and wrong. People in positions of authority are teaching our children discourtesy. Say what you like and damn the consequences. I think that is so wrong. There has to be give and take. It’s not always about you.”

**Q: How do you reflect back on the last 10 years of Vera since starting work on it in 2010?**

“It is huge achievement by the entire team. The standard has been maintained throughout. With huge loyalty shown to Vera as a production. The crew and supporting artistes come back time and time again, they are all part of the Vera family just as much as the people who appear at the top of the credits.

We often have lots of people who come to watch filming. The crowds are getting bigger and bigger. They include a lot of young people brought by their mums or dads. Some are tiny children who have drawn pictures of Vera. I think people watch the show as a family. There was one little girl on Twitter who had gone to a fancy-dress party dressed as Vera. It was so cute.”

**Q: Are you happy to go on filming Vera if the audience want to see more?**

“Yes. All the time I’m fit and well. Why not? It’s a comfort. You want Vera to go on. You look forward to doing more. After you’ve had a breather. But I don’t think I can play Vera on a Zimmer. Or maybe I can!”



## INTERVIEW WITH KENNY DOUGHTY

### Q: Did you have early ambitions to become an actor?

"I grew up in a single parent household, brought up by my mum, and I was bullied at school. One of the things I did was to get myself into the school play which I really enjoyed. When I later spoke to the career advisor and told them I wanted to be an actor, they didn't know what to do as they didn't have the knowledge to research this profession."

"I then managed to get in to the Manchester Youth Theatre which my mum discovered. The club was aimed at 16-21 year olds and it was run by professional theatre actors and directors. During my time there I met this amazing guy who became a mentor. He gave me so much encouragement and information about how I could progress via a professional actors course. I didn't realise I could do this until I met him and once I'd locked on to that at 16 that was my main ambition and focus."

### Q: Who inspired you?

"In the early 90s Gary Oldman was breaking out into films, I'm a big fan of his. Also Anthony Hopkins won his Oscar for Best Actor in *Silence of the Lambs* and it was inspiring to see these British actors out there being recognised."

"I also worked at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, running a coffee club for kids who wanted to act. This gave me the opportunity to interview the actors performing and that then led to me becoming a part of the community chorus, supporting artist on stage. The first play I was involved in was the *Merchant of Venice*. I used to sit in the wings every night and watch a lovely actor called Gary Waldhorn play Shylock. I'd observe and listen to these amazing Shakespeare speeches and this made me think 'wow, I want that, how do I do that?'"



“It is really rewarding to see some of the actors, whose first acting jobs were on *Vera*, flourish and go on to other great dramas.”

**Q: You joined the *Vera* production team in 2014 (on screen in 2015). What is your first memory of meeting and working with Brenda Blethyn?**

“After David Leon left the series the production team wanted to introduce the audience to another DS. I was invited to read with Brenda and from the outset we instantly got on, it was really good fun.

“My first scene with Brenda was in series five, episode one – *Changing Tides*, and it was DS Aiden Healy meeting Vera for the first time. Aiden had to brief the crime scene to Vera and I was terrified. There’s one thing meeting Brenda, she’s great, she’s funny, she’s charming, she’s kind and generous but when she puts Vera’s hat and mac on you’re like “Ooooooh my god, it’s Vera’ and it’s quite intimidating.”

**Q: How has your relationship developed?**

“Personally, we are really great friends as we have spent six years together. Professionally, I never stop learning from actors and Brenda is obviously one of the best in the world.

“We have an instinctive feel when we work together. When we are filming a scene together we instantly know where we are going with it that we don’t even have to talk about anymore. We’ll be in a scene, we’ll know what’s going on, we’ll look at each other and it’s so second nature now.”

**Q: What preparation do you undertake to revisit DS Aiden Healy?**

“Character wise I think we all know what we are doing. Aiden is very internal in his thoughts. Ahead of filming I do a lot of script and scene work and sometimes I’ll find moments in the script that might reveal a little more about his character rather than the plot. A little crack in the window where you might see something about Aiden’s life or in Vera and Aiden’s relationship.

“One particular episode in the new series really resonates with Aiden because it’s about fatherhood and parenting. So, there are those times when I get the script and think ‘this is where I can revisit a bit of what Aiden is about.’”

**Q: Do you still speak to police advisors?**

“Yes, they are available to us as and when we may need advice. Whilst filming the new series Brenda and I were invited to the Cleveland Police Dog unit. PC Chris Green, who is also a dog handler, gave us a demonstration on their training and the dogs’ abilities and I was able to safely experience a dog attack with all of the appropriate clothing on. It was an absolutely amazing and eye-opening experience.

“The dog unit has also offered to take me out with them around Newcastle, Durham and Cleveland to observe their work so I’m looking to get involved with that. Not only do I love playing Aiden but I have a real fascination and respect for the police force and what they experience on a daily basis.”

**Q: The locations featured within *Vera* play an important role within the series. Where has series 10 taken you?**

“We’ve been to various locations and I actually have a couple of favourites. One is a pub called the *Tan Inn Hill* which is in Richmond, North Yorkshire so not technically Northumberland but it’s the highest Inn in the UK and dates back to the 17th century. There is nothing surrounding it for tens of miles around. It’s just an Inn on a high hill. We stayed there for a week and it was so nice and peaceful, a bit like a digital detox as there was no mobile phone signal. A gorgeous location that was very memorable.

“We also filmed in Burnmouth, just over the Scottish boarder which I’d never heard of before. A stunning location which worked perfectly for episode two which shines a light on salmon farming. Burnmouth has a great fishing harbour which is still active. On the coast line there’s some beautiful alcoves and a rugged bay with rocks and when the sun comes up it’s absolutely stunning, worth being tired for.”

**Q: Since you joined the production what has been your favourite location and why?**

“Definitely the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland, which was featured in the first episode of series seven. We were lucky enough to have access exclusively and to have boats ferrying us between the different islands.

“At the end of our filming day we would travel back to the mainland on a boat and there would be dolphins swimming alongside. Often the sun would be setting and you’d also have the seals and other wildlife around you. That’s when you really don’t feel like you’re working and you just feel very lucky to be doing what you do day in day out. It was extraordinary.”

**Q: There is always a fantastic response from the locals during filming. What support have they given you during the filming of series ten?**

“Because everyone knows Brenda loves doggies and she loves her Jack, we seemed to be getting a lot of fans bringing their dogs down to see us. It’s doggie crazy which is fantastic and the fans are always very supportive.

“We get a lot of young people visiting the set especially in the school holidays. Some make us cards of Vera and Aiden and they tend to say their favourite parts are when Vera is telling Aiden off for something!

“We also get people turning up in what looks to be Vera’s world-famous hat! But I never know if that is just their style or if they’ve worn it as a token gesture to the character.”

**Q: What are the key themes of this new series?**

“The themes are quite expansive. In the opening episode the writer Paul Logue has looked at justice, the implications of financial problems and what really is family blood and loyalty.

“Episode two really resonated with my character Aiden as it talks about fatherhood, parenting and belonging. Episode three is about atonement and the exploitation of zero-hour contracts and the fourth episode covers passion, addictions and how organised crimes can exploit others.”

**Q: Do the new storylines continue to surprise you?**

“Yes, they do. After six years I still, on my first read of the scripts, never get who the killer is. I’m always determined to crack it but I never do and I think that is pretty impressive.

“All of the writers are great and really honour Ann’s work. The stories are always crimes of passion, it’s an act that has happened in the moment. That’s what the novels are about and that’s what marks *Vera* out as being different. You always have a modicum of understanding or empathy for the person that’s committed the crime. No one is shown to be evil, the focus is more about humanity and the complexities of what human beings can be and do.”

**Q: *Vera* is inspired by the best-selling novels and characters created by acclaimed crime writer Ann Cleeves. Does Ann visit the set?**

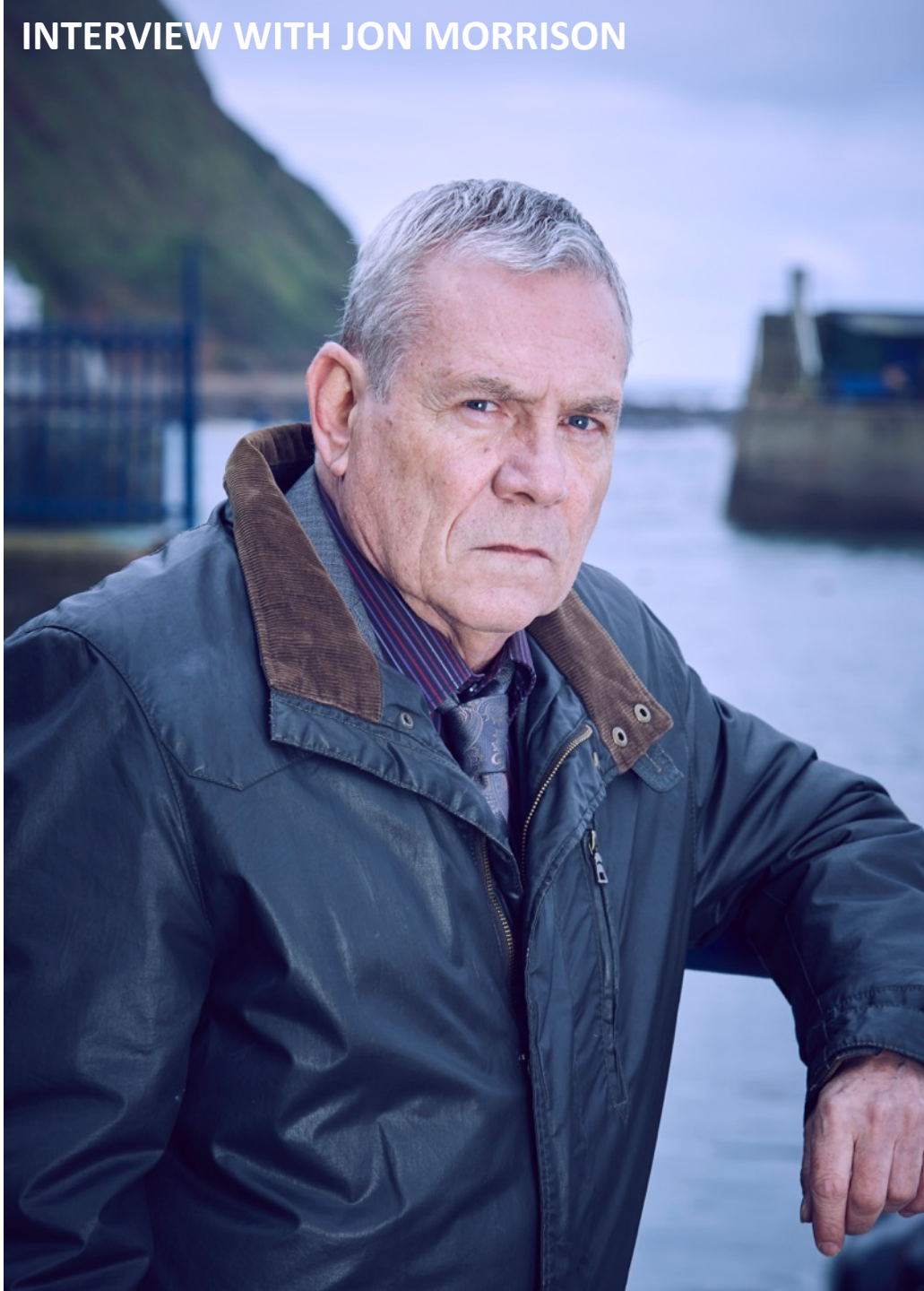
“Ann visited us during the shoot for episode three. She’s been incredibly busy this year with the launch of her book, which I can’t wait to read, so we’ve not seen her as much as we have in previous years. It’s always lovely when Ann visits. She is such a talented woman and is a pleasure to be around.”

**Q: How do you intend to spend Christmas 2019 and what plans do you have for 2020?**

“For Christmas I’ll be in Ireland spending time with family. After a solid six month shoot in the north east I need to resurface and reconnect with friends and family so I’ll be doing that into the New Year.

“2020 I want to travel. I’ve not done a big travel year for a while so I think I’ll just take myself out of it and do a bit of travelling. There’s a couple of places I’ve never been to and really want to explore, Japan being one of them. One of the crew members recently went to the Fjords in Norway and his photographs looked incredible. It made me think ‘I want a bit of that’.”





## INTERVIEW WITH JON MORRISON

**Q: You've been with the production since the first series broadcast in 2011. What is your first memory of working with Brenda Blethyn?**

"It's quite memorable. I first met Brenda on episode two, *Telling Tales*. I told Brenda I played the guitar in a band and she asked "do you sing?" so I said "a wee bit" so I ripped out a few bars of *A Little Help from My Friends*, the Joe Cocker version, and we had a laugh straight away.

"Even more memorable was when we actually filmed the first studio scenes for *Telling Tales*. Vera finds out that my character Kenny Lockhart has been giving information about the case to another detective inspector, Caroline Fletcher. Kenny goes back to the station cap in hand with a file for Vera and she absolutely tears him to bits. She tears a strip right off of him and then throws the file at his face so all the papers go everywhere and I thought at the time this is absolutely brilliant, the leading lady leads from the front. Brenda was incredibly strong in her performance, strong composure, so that was my first real taste of working with her."

**Q: How has your professional relationship developed?**

"We've always been good pals and allies. We understand the process and we know each other's way of working very well too. Brenda is such a strong actress."

**Q: What preparation do you undertake to revisit your character ahead of filming?**

"These days it's pretty easy for me. As soon as I get the script that is when I start. They'll be two or three days prep to have a look at the dialogue and story but in terms of the character, I just go in put the suit on, the Barbour jacket and away I go, I'm back in it. I look forward to it so much so it's just a case of slipping back into it."

**Q: What has been your highlight working on the series?**

“It was in series three, episode three, *Young Gods*, written by Gaby Chiappe. She’s a brilliant writer with a real good sense of humour. My character Kenny Lockhart decides to dye his hair! He does it himself and makes a complete farce of it which was just really funny – a middle aged man attempting to look younger.

“There was also another message within this episode. One of the suspects was a young gay barber and my character Kenny Lockhart behaves quite homophobic towards him. Gaby, with a sense of humour, brings this around. Because Kenny has dyed his hair terribly and he has realised this young man was nothing to do with the crime he has to go back to the salon and apologise, which is quite a big thing - coppers going back to apologise for their mistakes. In Kenny walks and makes an apology and the wee guy says “oh that’s fine, sit down. I’m not letting you walk out like that. Someone might think I did it.” I just thought it was a brilliant piece of writing for my character. An interesting thought to bring to the viewer but in a humorous way.”

**Q: Over the years you’ve filmed at an array of locations. What has been your favourite location and why is it so special to you?**

“Probably because I’ve filmed there so many times, Whitley Bay. If I’ve got a day off I’ll drive out from Newcastle and have some lunch there. It’s a really nice place to be.

“We’ve been to quite extravagant places as well. Last year for one of the episodes in series nine we went to a landfill site. That’s quite memorable for being horrendous!”

**Q: Do the new storylines continue to surprise you?**

“It is all about the writers. Those we’ve had writing for the series are really good quality writers. There’s a real knack to writing crime thrillers and the knack is you don’t know who the killer is until three or four minutes or three or four pages from the end. To keep that suspense up and have the storylines take the audience in different directions, is all very clever. We’ve had some great writers across the years and all would say Ann Cleeves is the blueprint. They’ve all been very successful at transferring her characters and the voice of *Vera* to screen. 40 feature length episodes, totally self-contained and individual. Every time you approach another episode it’s brand spanking new. You could watch any *Vera* at any time, much like watching a film which I think is brilliant for the viewer.”

**Q: What has your experience on *Vera* enabled you to do?**

“I’ve made a lot of friends in the north east. Lifelong friends amongst the crew. Jeffery, he’s our standby props guy. He’s with us all the time. When we are stood by a desk in the office he’ll see any props we need, he’s always there. He’s a totally key man to all the actors on set. Jeffery is a real pal to all of us. Also, Stevie, the other props guy. The sparks, I’m really good pals with them. It’s a really good team to work with. Lots of them have been there for a long time as well so it’s really comforting to know you’re working with people who know you backwards and you them. It’s a very comfortable situation to be in when you’re working.”

**Q: How do you reflect on the time you’ve been a part of the drama?**

“We all talk about ‘team *Vera*’ but that’s exactly what it is. It’s a complete ensemble effort by everyone working on the show. The cast and crew we have are always fabulous.”

**Q: What support have fans given the production during the filming of S10 (June – October 2019).**

“Anytime we are out and about on location the fans are there. We were filming in Whitley Bay for the fourth episode of the new series and there was a great turn out of fans. The supports been like that since the series started and it’s not wavered. It’s grown. We also get a lot of fans with dogs as Brenda loves dogs. People wonder about with their dogs saying “Hello!”

**Q: What plans do you have for 2020?**

“I was planning to go to Spain but due to the recent flooding I’m not sure that will be possible. Otherwise I hope to see family in Kuala Lumpur after the new year and possibly visit other family in Australia.”





## INTERVIEW WITH IBINABO JACK

**Q: Did you always want your career path to lead into acting?**

“I was constantly performing as a child. I used to write and perform radio plays with my siblings and record them onto cassette tapes but I never thought in a million years that I could ever make a career out of acting. I was painfully shy as a kid. I’m an introvert who prefers to spend time alone so I couldn’t imagine ever performing on stage or in front of a camera!”

**Q: What is your first memory of *Vera* before joining the series?**

“I remember watching *The Ghost Position* years back and instantly falling in love with the show. The storyline had me on tenterhooks from start to finish and I was well chuffed the show centred around a female detective, based in the north of England. I remember thinking that Vera was a badass!”

**Q: What preparation did you undertake to revisit your character ahead of filming?**

“This is going to sound strange but I practice Jac’s posture before returning to set. I usually build characters from the feet up, so rediscovering the way that Jac sits, stands and walks is really important in playing the role, as it informs the rest of her physicality, movements, mannerisms and pace.”

**Q: What can you tell us about the feature length episodes in series 10?**

“All I can say is that the viewers are in for a treat! There are some brilliant characters, gripping storylines and as usual, the landscapes have been absolutely breath-taking.”

**Q: What has your experience on *Vera* enabled you to do?**

“My experience on *Vera* has been life-changing. I made my television debut, made some friends for life, explored the beautiful north east and I have worked alongside some of the best people in the industry.

“I’ve learned a lot about camera technique and how TV is filmed and directed. I have over a decade of musical theatre experience so being involved in *Vera* has enabled me to book more screen roles which has been incredible.”

**Q: How do you reflect on the time you’ve been a part of the drama?**

“I remember my first day of filming, doing a cloak and dagger scene in *Vera*’s Land Rover with Brenda Blethyn. It was my first time on a TV set and I was really nervous but Brenda was very patient and put me at ease with some helpful tips and advice. Her kind gesture definitely set the tone for my time on the show; everyone is lovely and welcomed me to ‘Team *Vera*’ with open arms. This is my third series on the show and it really is my home away from home.”

**Q: There is always a fantastic response from the locals during filming. What reception have fans given you this year?**

“*Vera* fans are so lovely. They’ve baked us cakes and made us gifts and sent some lovely messages on social media. They are really supportive and it’s always a pleasure to chat to them and take selfies if they’re around set between takes on location.

“They’re really invested in the show and the characters which is brilliant. *Vera* belongs to the lovely people of the north east.”

**Q: What are your highlights from *Vera*?**

“My *Vera* highlights include performing my first onscreen stunt; getting kicked in the face in series nine, episode two - *Cuckoo*. Jac’s vintage shirt collection and working with such incredible people in front and behind the camera. There have been some very memorable ‘team *Vera*’ outings!”

**Q: When you’re watching a whodunit on TV, are you good at spotting the killer/outcome?**

“I’m the worst at guessing the killers in whodunnits! I never have a clue and I’m usually shocked (audibly gasping) at the final outcome. Even after I’ve read the scripts for *Vera*, when I’m watching it on TV, I forget who the killer is as I get sucked into the amazing storyline.”

**Q: What have you been watching recently?**

“I’ve been watching lots recently. I download films and tv shows for my commutes. I’ve loved *Atlanta*, *Black Mirror*, *Fleabag*, *Glow*, *Inside Number 9* ..., I also watch a lot of documentaries, notably *Explained*, *Hip-Hop Evolution*, *Street Food* & *The Family*.”

**Q: What work plans are next for you?**

“Watch this space!”

**Q: How will you be spending Christmas 2019 and what plans/ambitions do you have for 2020?**

“I spend Christmases with my family in the north west. I grew up in Wigan but my siblings have all spread out to surrounding areas and I have 10 nieces and nephews that I don't get to see enough of! I have a huge family and we can't all fit under one roof anymore so we take it in turns to host and spend half of the day with in-laws and partners.

“2020 is all about my professional growth and new adventures. I'm looking forward to watching *Vera* series 10 and I'd love to be involved in exciting new writing and acting projects.”





## INTERVIEW WITH RILEY JONES

### **Q: Did you have early ambitions to become an actor?**

“From a very young age I loved acting and was involved in numerous school plays and productions. I was a quiet and awkward teenager (who isn't?! ) and I found that acting allowed me to express myself in a way that nothing else could. At this age it was mainly about having fun. I knew acting could be a profession but one that I didn't think I had access to. Coming from a working-class family in the north east I didn't know anyone who had taken this path and didn't even consider it to be an option for me. It seemed that if you wanted to become an actor you had to move to London and go to Drama school. I just couldn't afford to do that. I knew that I wanted to be an actor but I just couldn't see how I could pursue this option. I was all set to go to Uni to study Forensic Science, but then saw that Northumbria Uni offered a Performance course that I auditioned for. I got accepted onto the course and I thought I'd have a difficult decision to make, but it wasn't difficult at all. I accepted the offer to study Performance at Northumbria Uni and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

### **Q: You joined the *Vera* production team in 2010 (on screen in 2011, S1, E4). What is your first memory of meeting and working with Brenda Blethyn?**

“Brenda was an absolute delight to work with. *Vera* was my first TV credit and one of only a handful of acting jobs I had since graduating from Northumbria Uni the previous year. As you can imagine I was quite nervous about being on set. I'd never done any screen acting before as all of my experience was with theatre. Brenda couldn't have made me feel more comfortable, she's a true professional and an absolute star! My lasting memory of that first scene with Brenda was that she made me feel like an equal. It felt like we were both there to do a job and we were going to work together to make the scene the best it could possibly be. There was no ego, no hostility, just an actor at the top of her game. And she still is.”

**Q: What is your first memory of the series?**

“My first memory of *Vera* was that there was a bit of a buzz on the north east acting scene as there was this new ITV production organising general meetings for a pilot episode. It was a really exciting prospect for the region. I was seen for the part of a social worker in the pilot episode and got down to the last two, but didn't get the part. I was very disappointed at the time but it worked out pretty well for me in the end. The casting director at the time, Jill Trevellick, liked my audition and said if there were any young police officers in the later scripts they'd call me back in. Sure enough in episode four of the first series there was a young PC Edwards who had one scene with Vera Stanhope, and I'm still here ten years later! I can't tell you how glad I am I didn't get the role of the social worker.”

**Q: What preparation did you undertake to revisit your character ahead of filming S10?**

“I'll be very honest, I've been playing Mark for the best part of ten years now so there's very little prep I have to do to revisit the character. Most of my pre-shooting prep is focussed on understanding the script. I like to read the shooting script a few times before we begin filming. As is often the case we shoot the scenes out of order, and with a show like *Vera* it is especially important to be aware of what your character does and doesn't know in each scene.”

**Q: Born and raised in Gateshead, have you been able to give the production and your co-stars any local knowledge?**

“Quite the opposite. I'm still amazed by the incredible locations we use, quite a few of which I had no idea existed. And they're on my doorstep. I love discovering new things about one of my favourite places to be!

“In the earlier days Brenda would occasionally ask me how I would pronounce something, but that stopped a long time again when she nailed the accent.”

**Q: *Vera* has filmed in the north east for the last 10 years. What impact has this had on the community?**

“*Vera* has had a massive impact, especially with its contribution to increased tourism. This inevitably has a huge impact on the economy of the region, which is vitally important during these uncertain economic times. You can see the effect *Vera* has had on the economy first hand if you go down to the Quayside Market on a Sunday and visit the *Vera* hat stall!

“The other major impact that *Vera* has had on the region is the discovery and nurturing of north east talent. *Vera* is strongly rooted in the north east and gives a great deal of opportunities to talent from the region. Quite often young talent that may not have had the chance to gain this level of experience before. I have a strong admiration for the production team for creating these types of opportunities.”

**Q: What are the key themes of series 10?**

“I think one of the main themes that runs through series ten is the idea of survival and self-preservation. In life it often feels like we are all frantically treading water trying to stay afloat. Whether that's work, relationships or money there's always something threatening to get on top of us. This theme runs throughout series 10, normal people making disastrously life changing decisions in an attempt to keep their head above the water.”

**Q: Outside of acting you have another passion, comic art. Tell us about this and how you first started.**

“Outside of acting one of my other passions is art, in particular comic art. I'm a big fan of comic books and wanted to get involved in the medium in some way. I started to look into the comic book industry and how the work is created and found that each book is split into several roles, and I became really interested in the role of a colourist. The colourist receives black and white artwork from the artist and they then have to add colour. It's way more difficult than it sounds! I got a copy of Photoshop and started to teach myself how to colour comics digitally. At first it was just a hobby but I quickly started to get paid opportunities.

“What I love about being a comic book colourist is that there are so many similarities with being an actor. At their core they are both means by which we can tell a story. You have to use the tools at your disposal to connect with the audience.

In the case of a colourist you have to utilise colour to convey a thought or emotion to the reader. It is very similar to colour theory used throughout cinema and it's something I'm fascinated by. To date I have coloured a handful of indie comics, with my biggest achievement thus far being employed as the colour assistant on Marvel's Exiles Issue 8...I've technically worked for Marvel, which is pretty cool! You can see some of my colourist work at: <https://rileyjones.carbonmade.com/>

**Q: Earlier this year you were on-screen playing Ewan in EastEnders. Are there any plans to return to this character?**

“I've absolutely no idea but I would love to go back! I really enjoyed playing Ewan and everyone made me feel so welcome. It's such an iconic show and I feel privileged to be a small part of its history. When you get these long running shows like EastEnders that are on screen nearly every night of the week they're always looking to develop more storylines. Ewan's exit was left quite open so there's always a chance that he might come back. I certainly won't say no if they come knocking!”



**Q: How will you be spending Christmas 2019 and what plans do you have for 2020?**

“Me and my girlfriend, Abi, will be spending Christmas in Newcastle. We are both from there so we love to go back up and spend Christmas with our families. I usually have Christmas dinner with my parents early afternoon and then have a second Christmas dinner with Abi's family early evening. Can't go wrong with two Christmas dinners!

“So far 2020 is looking like it will be a busy one. We're in the process of buying our first flat but it needs a fair bit of work doing so we've got that to look forward to. I've also been doing a lot of writing and recently finished my first full length play which I'm hoping to put on next year.

“For the past three years I've been developing a card game called 'Escape from Fusion Earth' which will be launching on Kickstarter in February which I am very excited about. Hopefully I'll have time to do some acting in-between!”



## SYNOPSIS | EPISODE ONE

### 'Blood Will Tell'

**Written by Paul Logue and directed by Paul Gay**

Vera (Brenda Blethyn) has to unravel the circumstances of self-styled entrepreneur Freddie Gill's (Jonathan Spencer) death when his body is found by bailiffs attempting to repossess his house. Freddie is estranged from his wife and son – Jade (Charlotte Pyke) and Riley Gill (Josh Barrow) - who are now living back at her family's beloved pub with her formidable mother Tina Tripp (Marian McLoughlin), volatile brother Lee (Brian Lonsdale) and taciturn uncle Darren (Barry Aird). Matters are further complicated when Vera finds out Jade's father Arthur, having recently succumbed to terminal illness, had secretly been keeping ties with Freddie despite him having been ejected from the family.

Vera soon discovers Freddie's professional life is just as turbulent when she learns the used-car sales company he runs with business partner and lifelong friend Nasir Ali, is failing and it is targeted by an arson attack. Vera must uncover whether the motive behind Freddie's death comes from the trouble at the heart of his family, his desperate financial crises or his glances with organised crime.

## CHARCTER CREDITS | EPISODE ONE

DCI Vera Stanhope.....BRENDA BLETHYN  
DS Aiden Healy.....KENNY DOUGHTY  
DC Kenny Lockhart..... JON MORRISON  
DC Jacquelin Williams.....IBINABO JACK  
Pathologist Dr. Malcolm Donahue.....PAUL KAYE  
DC Mark Edwards.....RILEY JONES  
Freddie Gill.....JONATHAN SPENCER  
Nasir Ali.....AJAY CHHABRA  
Donnie Tripp.....BARRY AIRD  
Jade Gill.....CHARLOTTE PYKE  
Riley Gill.....JOSH BARROW  
Tina Tripp.....MARIAN MCLOUGHLIN  
Lee Tripp.....BRIAN LONSDALE  
Laura Whitelock.....AMAKA OKAFOR  
Nathan Whitelock.....SIMON TRINDER  
Anna Wilby.....ANINE BIRKETT  
Agrah Ali.....JAY SAIGHAL



## CHARCTER CREDITS | EPISODE ONE

Saddiq Ali.....VIRAJ JUNEJA

Sean Forrest.....JALAAL HARTLEY

Danny Gillespie.....DAVID BIRRELL

Paramedic .....CHARITY BEDU-ADDO

PRODUCTION CREDITS | EPISODE ONE

Executive Producer.....	PHIL HUNTER
Producer.....	WILL NICHOLSON
Writer.....	PAUL LOGUE
Director.....	PAUL GAY
Director of Photography.....	CINDERS FORSHAW
Head of Production.....	MATT CLEARY
Line Producer.....	FAHIMA CHOWDHURY
Script Editor.....	MATT DENISON
Casting Director.....	MAUREEN DUFF
Costume Designer.....	YVES BARRE
Make up Designer.....	LESLEY FAULKNER
Editor.....	SIMON STARLING
Composer.....	BEN BARTLETT
Production Designer.....	PATRICK BILL
Art Director.....	BLAIR BARNETTE
Props Master.....	NIGEL PLACE
First Assistant Director.....	JON OLDER
Production Co-ordinator.....	LYNSEY PALMER





## AUTHOR ANN CLEEVES

Ann Cleeves is the author of over thirty critically acclaimed novels and is translated into as many languages. She is the creator of popular detectives Vera Stanhope and Jimmy Perez who can now be found on television in ITV's *Vera* and BBC One's *Shetland*. The TV series and the books they are based on have become international sensations, capturing the minds of millions worldwide.

Ann moved to North Devon when she was 11 years old. Until then the family had moved around a great deal, and as the headmaster's daughter she had always felt like the outsider at school. But in Barnstaple, Ann found a real home. She made life-long friends and fell in love with the beautiful North Devon coast, which still has a very special place in her heart. She left Devon for university but never quite settled, dropping out after a while to a range of temporary jobs. Not long after marrying her ornithologist husband Tim, the couple moved to a remote island nature reserve and Ann took up writing to occupy her time. Thus began Ann Cleeves' hugely successful career in crime fiction.

In 2017 Ann was awarded the highest accolade in crime writing, the CWA Diamond Dagger. The award recognises authors whose crime writing careers have been marked by sustained excellence, and who have made a significant contribution to the genre. She is a member of 'Murder Squad', working with other British northern writers to promote crime fiction. Ann is also a passionate champion for libraries and was a National Libraries Day Ambassador in 2016.



## ABOUT SILVERPRINT PICTURES



*Mr Selfridge*



Silverprint Pictures is the label behind multi-award-winning international hit dramas *Vera*, *Mr Selfridge*, *Shetland* and crime thriller, *Dark Heart*, starring Tom Riley and written by Chris Lang.

Producing high quality scripted content for the UK and international markets, Silverprint Pictures creates distinctive and ambitious dramas for all channels.

Silverprint Pictures have recently completed filming ITV's relationship drama *Flesh and Blood* created and written by Sarah Williams which is due to air on ITV early 2020.



*Dark Heart*







If you are to use any material from the *VERA* production notes, please include a credit for the drama.

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