



“THE CUP”



**A Hartwood Films production
For BBC TWO**

Written by Jack Docherty & Moray Hunter

**Based on the Canadian series ‘The Tournament’
created by Howard Busgang, Wendy Hopkins and Marty Putz**

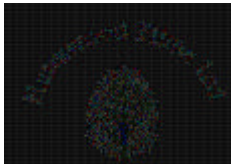
Starring:

**Steve Edge, Jennifer Hennessy,
Tanya Franks, Dominic Coleman,
Pal Aron, Billy Geraghty, Samantha Power,
Emmanuel Leconte, Craig Cunningham**

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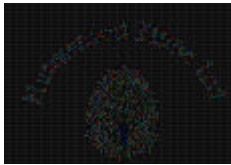
THE CUP **Introduction**

THE CUP is a new comedy series shot in a documentary style about Bolton based Ashburn United Football Club and their quest to win the North and Midlands Under 11's Cup in Birmingham. It rapidly becomes apparent that the real story is the selfish and obsessive behaviour of the kids' parents as they try to live their own dreams through their children.

The six-part series is written by Moray Hunter and Jack Docherty (ABSOLUTELY, THE CREATIVES) based on the Canadian series THE TOURNAMENT produced by Adjacent 2 Entertainment and created by Howard Busgang, Wendy Hopkins and Marty Putz which was set in the world of junior ice hockey.

THE CUP is produced by Sue Vertue (FEAR, STRESS & ANGER, COUPLING) and directed by Matt Lipsey (JEKYLL, LITTLE BRITAIN). The Executive Producer is Beryl Vertue of Hartswood Films (JEKYLL, MEN BEHAVING BADLY). Steve Edge (THE VISIT, PHOENIX NIGHTS) and Jennifer Hennessy (DROP DEAD GORGEOUS, LILIES) star. Other cast includes Tanya Franks (PULLING), Dominic Coleman (RUBY IN THE SMOKE), Samantha Power (LITTLE BRITAIN), Billy Geraghty (THE LAST DETECTIVE), Pal Aron (CASUALTY) and Emmanuel Leconte (THE TUDORS). The series also introduces newcomers Ceallach Spellman, George Weaver, Nazim Khan, Haylie Jones and Henry Smith as the young footballers.

THE CUP was commissioned by Roly Keating, Controller, BBC TWO and Lucy Lumsden, Controller, BBC Comedy Commissioning, who comments: "Following a promising pilot we're delighted to have the world of **THE CUP** on BBC TWO." The Executive Producer for BBC Comedy Commissioning Regions is Cheryl Taylor.



THE CUP

Episode Synopses

Episode 1

As Ashburn United prepare for the league decider and the game that will qualify them for the North and Midlands' Under 11's Cup in Birmingham, joint leading scorer Malky McConnell misses a training session because his dad Terry insists he play in a trial for Bolton Wanderers' Youth team. Malky is dropped as per Ashes rules and Terry's wife Janice, desperate for a long weekend in Birmingham to rekindle their love life, is furious. So Terry goes on a mission to have Malky re-instated, begging first rival dad Dr Kaskar and then club owner Sandra Farrell to persuade Blackley the coach to change his mind in time for the vital league decider.

Episode 2

The Ashes have made it to the North and Midlands' Cup in Birmingham and, with coach Blackley now too unwell to carry on, his job is up for grabs. Terry and Kaskar, the fitness coach, vie for the coveted position. In order to gain brownie points with Ashes' owner Sandra Farrell, Terry volunteers his wife Janice to organise an auction of promises to raise funds for Tom Blackley. Will Janice manage to raise any money for Blackley and who will Sandra choose as the new coach?

Episode 3

The dishy Frenchman Raymond Mercier is installed as coach, much to the delight of Debbie who immediately sees romantic possibilities and to the dismay of Terry and Kaskar. More dismay is to follow as Vincent Farrell, Sandra's husband and the local undertaker, informs his wife they are unable to sponsor the Ashes trip to Birmingham. It looks like the long awaited trip to Birmingham is going to be cancelled unless Terry can raise the funds in time.

Episode 4

It's time for the North and Midlands Under 11's Cup and Terry is trying to get Steve Robson to use his influence to persuade Bolton's chief junior scout Geoff Hinchcliffe to come to Birmingham to see Malky play. Steve, upset and distracted by the death of his father, agrees to ask Hinchcliffe as long as Terry can pay Hinchcliffe's expenses. But Terry has no funds. Unknowingly, Janice reveals she has saved over £400 for this weekend and has secretly booked a suite for Terry and her. Can Terry keep his hands off Janice's cash?

Episode 5

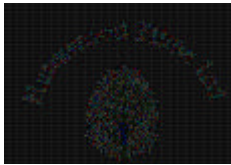
Terry's mate Fourbellies, out on a kebab hunt, has spotted coach Mercier entering a gay club in Birmingham. Meanwhile Janice tells Terry that her money has been stolen, and complains to the hotel manager. On the pitch, the Ashes win their first two matches and reach the semi final. During a celebration dinner in the evening a booze fuelled Debbie, in front of everyone,



accuses Mercier of being gay. Meanwhile an incandescent Janice finds out that Terry has kept a suite reserved for Hinchcliffe using her money. All hell breaks loose.

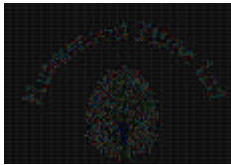
Episode 6

Terry hijacks Steve Robson's car and speeds off on a mercy dash to plead with Bolton scout Geoff Hinchcliffe to come to Birmingham and the pair turn up just in time to see the Ashes lose in the semi-final. Thankfully Hinchcliffe spots an overage player in the other team and on appeal the Ashes make it to the final. Everyone is thrilled; the dream is coming true, even for Debbie who is chatted up during the game by the just about sober and recovered Steve Robson. Will the Ashes win the Cup and can Malky answer Terry's prayers by becoming the Player of the Tournament?



THE CUP Cast List

Terry McConnell..... STEVE EDGE
Janice McConnell..... JENNIFER HENNESSY
Sandra Farrell TANYA FRANKS
Vincent Farrell DOMINIC COLEMAN
Dr Kaskar PAL ARON
Steve Robson..... BILLY GERAGHTY
Debbie Rossi..... SAMANTHA POWER
Mercier EMMANUEL LECONTE
Fourbellies..... CRAIG CUNNINGHAM
Malky McConnell..... CEALLACH SPELLMAN
Jack Rossi..... GEORGE WEAVER
Ranjit Kaskar NAZIM KHAN
Ali Farrell..... HAYLIE JONES
Tom Blackley..... GORDON KANE
Gordy HENRY SMITH
Hinchcliffe..... MARTIN OLDFIELD



THE CUP Production Notes

Jennifer Hennessy and Steve Edge star in **THE CUP**, a comedy series for BBC TWO shot in a documentary style about Bolton based Ashburn United Football Club and their quest to win the North and Midlands Under 11's Cup in Birmingham.

Producer Sue Vertue of Hartswood Films sets the scene: "It sets out to be the story about the team and whether they win The Cup, but it soon becomes obvious that it's the parents who are behaving badly and the kids are just having fun!"

The series is based on a Canadian series called **THE TOURNAMENT**, about an under-eleven ice-hockey team and their pushy parents, as Sue explains: "I was at a party talking to a Canadian producer friend who I'd worked with many years ago. He told me about the series he was producing and it really caught my imagination. It seemed to us a natural progression to turn it into a series about football for a British audience. They're as passionate about ice hockey in Canada as we are about football here which is why it seems to translate so well."

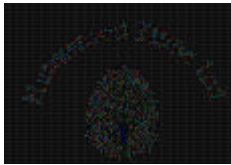
Bolton seemed the ideal place to shoot the series, thanks to the city's deep-rooted love of the beautiful game: "We wanted to base it somewhere that has a real passion for football, and I think we're spot on! Whilst we were filming I would drive home every night and see people playing football everywhere I looked, regardless of the weather, on any tiny bit of green space available. Another factor that made it tempting in addition to this was the availability of terrific crews coming out of Manchester and the surrounding area."

One of the writers Moray Hunter, who adapted the original scripts alongside his long-term writing partner Jack Docherty, agrees: "**THE CUP** had to be set in a football heartland, so the North West was always going to form a backdrop. We thought about Newcastle for a while and then Bolton and for various reasons we ended up here. It's worked out very well and gave us quite a wide pool of actors."

He admits that a lot of his inspiration in adapting the original scripts came from his own passion for sport: "I absolutely love it – football, cricket, rugby, anything really, I'm a good couch potato supporter as well! I've always wanted to write something about sport. Jack and I have mainly written surreal comedy, silly sketch material really, so when Sue spoke to us about this project it seemed the perfect opportunity. It's so realistic and based absolutely on recognisable situations, all around the country and in fact around the world – slightly exaggerated perhaps, but that combined with the sport element was just fantastic and a very exciting opportunity."

Sue agrees: "What just grabbed me when I was talking about the series was how real it is. Even at the casting there were endless funny stories from people which have echoes in the series; one woman came in and told us about her fiancé who had recently been in court for hitting a referee – it seems to happen all over the place!"

Moray laughs: "It rapidly becomes apparent that the real story is the appalling behaviour of the kids' parents as they try to live their own dreams through their children. Worst behaved of all is Terry McConnell who has incredibly high hopes for his son Malky, the Ashes' joint leading scorer. Terry's obsession with his son's football career begins to spiral slightly out of control and leads to a long list of pretty terrible behaviour: a stress-related stroke for the team's coach, an attempt to poison Ranjit, (the club's joint leading scorer and his son's direct competitor), and the near breakdown of his marriage to his long suffering yet strangely reasonable wife Janice played by Jennifer Hennessy."



Janice in turn is wondering whether she made a mistake in choosing Terry over her ex, former Bolton player Steve Robson, Terry's boss at a local car dealership, whose tackle on Terry cut short his not very promising career when he was just nineteen.

But while Terry dreams of his son Malky running out at the Reebok stadium in the white of his heroes Bolton Wanderers, Malky secretly dreams of wearing the black and white checks of a chef's outfit, his real hero being Gordon Ramsay.

Sue explains: "Terry will stop at nothing to get his son Malky to be the absolute best. But despite all this pressure, Malky is something of a keen chef and would probably like to spend more of his time cooking than playing football. This leads to some lovely moments in the series such as when Malky is cooking something up when Terry gets back home unexpectedly. So he and his Mum quickly swap places; he goes out and starts kicking a ball around whilst Mum takes over in the kitchen." And describing what she's apparently cooking can be a bit of a problem for Janice when she's put on the spot: "She's not nearly as good as Malky in the kitchen and never knows what adventurous recipe he's been conjuring up!"

Still, football is everybody's main, uniting (or dividing) passion. The young team have a rather unusual financial backer, as Sue explains: "They're sponsored by a struggling local firm of funeral directors, owned by Sandra and Vincent Farrell, whose daughter Ali is also the only girl on the team and an ill-disciplined midfielder! They did have a funeral sponsor in the Canadian version and at first we wondered whether it might be a bit of a strange idea. But then someone up here in Bolton said they had played a team recently who were in fact sponsored by a funeral home so it's obviously common practice!"

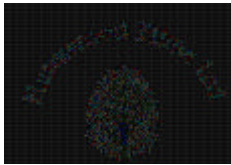
Sue continues: "Everyone we cast can play football pretty well but they obviously hadn't actually played together as a team before, so that took a bit of getting used to. A couple of the children came from an acting school, whilst some had never acted before." Haylie, who plays Ali, the only girl in the team, is actually quite an accomplished footballer and has played the game for more than two years: "In real life she actually plays for the Bolton Ladies Junior team and is a pretty good defence – you'd be hard pushed to get round her in midfield!"

When filming got underway, getting children from opposing sides to concede goals was one of the trickiest aspects, as Sue explains: "We played quite a lot of games against local teams and it was been pretty tough for all involved. We needed different results and to see certain goals being scored by specific kids, so when we told them they had to concede three goals it was the last thing they wanted to do and we had to use our highest powers of persuasion!" So the production team let the young and incredibly competitive footballers have a bit of a knock-about for ten minutes or so afterwards so they could get their own back by knocking a few balls into the back of the net!

Sue adds: "Because we were filming with children, we had to strictly adhere to the special working hours and breaks that the kids needed. In reality though we would be filming the kids playing football on the pitch, the first assistant would call a halt to the filming so the children could get their designated breaks and all that happened was that they would carry on playing football, because that's what ten year old boys (and girl) want to do when they're on a break! The only difference was that we couldn't film them – and they didn't have to pretend to win or lose!"

Steve Edge plays Terry McConnell

Steve Edge, who is best known for starring roles in series such as PHOENIX NIGHTS and THE VISIT, plays Terry McConnell in **THE CUP**. Sue sets the scene for his starring role: "Terry used to play football when he was a teenager with his now boss Steve Robson who, with one dirty tackle, ended any potential football career for Terry when he was just nineteen, which explains his passion and determination for his son Malky to succeed at the game."



Steve elaborates: “Despite all Terry’s faults and weird ways, he’s got a good heart and the right idea of what he wants for his boy. He was a footballer himself and his career was cut short by Steve Robson and there’s a bit of guilt somewhere in there I think! He’s now living his dream through his son Malky and sometimes he’s a bit heavy handed, shall we say, in his approach!”

In fact there’s something of a love triangle between Terry, his wife Janice and his boss Steve: “Janice has a bit of history with the guy who ended my football career but who has since given me a job in his car dealership firm. Steve went on to greater things, had a brief career in professional football and now owns this company. But ultimately Terry’s won because he’s got Janice and Steve’s still in love with her. Terry is also aware that he can use Steve’s feelings for Janice to pull in some favours. For example, when he wants Steve to make use of his contacts at Bolton FC, he uses a bit of emotional blackmail – he basically pimps Janice out in a way!”

The fact that **THE CUP** was shot in a mock documentary style was something Steve really enjoyed: “It made filming the series that little bit different. I was a stand-up comedian for more than nine years and I think that helped me with thinking on my feet a bit. The writers Moray and Jack encouraged us to ad-lib if we wanted to and Matt Lipsey, the director, was brilliant and really gave us all a lot of freedom. Each character speaks directly to the camera at various stages, giving a bit of history about themselves, which is quite a novel way of getting to know them!

He adds: “It’s an ensemble piece really and all the lead characters are pushing for our kids to be the best. My character Terry and Dr Kaskar played by Pal Aron each think our son is the best player in the team; there are lots of rows and arguing and we actually end up acting more like kids than the actual kids themselves!”

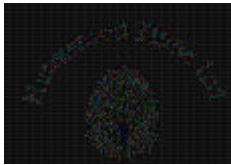
He concludes: “I’m a pretty keen football fan and a big supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers - so that made appearing in the series very appealing. I don’t have kids but I can imagine the drive and passion parents might have for them to succeed, especially in an area where you’ve personally failed. As well as the football side, the script has got a lot of energy, the rest of the cast are fantastic to work with and we just had a real laugh making it. I hope that will all come across on the screen.”

Jennifer Hennessy plays Janice McConnell

Janice, Terry’s long suffering but actually very reasonable wife, is played by Jennifer Hennessy, already well known to television audiences for starring roles in TV hits such as **DROP DEAD GORGOUS** and **LILIES**.

Jennifer explains: “It’s a great script and I just got a really good feeling about this series. It was also great to be back up north filming again. I moved back here from London because I had a daughter Nancy and I wanted her to grow up in Manchester. It’s lovely that you don’t have to be in London any more to get parts in great programmes like this.”

Janice is forever washing dirty kit and clearing up the trail of destruction Terry seems to leave in his path. Jennifer laughs: “Janice is a bit put-upon and down-trodden, I suppose – the way that most wives and Mums are but probably a bit more so in her case! It’s quite funny actually, because the make-up girls most mornings would say ‘We’re doing a bit of a Janice’ when they were moaning about their husbands or partners! But as is the case with them I’m sure, despite doing all the hard graft and not getting the glory, Janice does love her husband even if he is a bit of a Victor Meldrew!”



Not being altogether interested in football, Janice has an ulterior motive for wanting her son's team to get through to the final: "Janice is really excited and determined that they should win the football league but only so she can get a trip to a swanky hotel in Birmingham. She's determined to get away from being stuck in the house and to be able to put a posh frock on!" But she's had to lower her expectations somewhat, as Jennifer explains: "There's a great moment where she admits that Terry did promise to take her away to Paris, but Bolton were drawn against Bayern Munich so that was that - and they settle for Birmingham instead!"

She adds: "Of course, Janice also has all the background with Steve. They used to go out when they were much younger – until he was responsible for breaking Terry's knee which cut short any footballing career he might have had. She now has this rich man who still fancies her which she quite likes to keep on the back burner to massage her ego as no one else ever does! Added to which, Terry is so obsessed and blinkered with the football that everything else is a bit incidental – he really doesn't seem to mind that Steve is still in love with his wife!"

She continues: "The filming itself was enormous fun and we even had some time beforehand to prepare for our roles. Matt the director and Sue the producer thought it would be a good idea if we all met up in London to rehearse and create back stories, which was great as by the time we started filming we'd already done the background work and knew our characters pretty well."

She admits that the improvisation element was slightly daunting at first: "We tended to do the whole scene scripted and then they just kept rolling the film to see what happened; sometimes that works and sometimes you think 'I can't be funny – I have nothing to contribute!' One day Steve Edge and I sat on the couch and the director was asking us questions about our characters, how we'd got together and so on and we were there for about half an hour answering in character which is not something I've ever done before. The first week I was a bit nervous and intimidated but in rehearsals Matt was adamant that it didn't have to be funny, that if anything did come out of it they could use then great – so the pressure was off and I actually began to really enjoy the whole experience."

Obsession with football rings very true for Jennifer: "My whole family are Man City fans and my dad was and still is mad about football and City. But I'm more of a tennis fan and used to go to Wimbledon whenever I could when I lived in London. So I've been dragged somewhat begrudgingly into football but know what goes on and how passionate people are about it. I'm one of three daughters – I dread to think what my dad would have been like if he'd had a son!"

Jennifer thoroughly enjoyed filming **THE CUP** – and particularly working with her on-screen husband Steve Edge, who used to be a stand-up comedian: "At times I actually found it quite hard to keep a straight face as Steve is just hilarious. Everything that comes out of his mouth has the whole crew crying with laughter and I'm trying to keep myself together - he's just naturally very, very funny."

Tanya Franks plays Sandra Farrell

Tanya Franks starred as Karen in two series of the popular BAFTA nominated comedy series PULLING. In **THE CUP** she plays Sandra who is married to Vincent, owner of a struggling local firm of funeral directors and proud sponsors of the team. Their tomboy daughter Ali plays in the team as an ill-disciplined midfielder who insists she is "not a ****ing girl"...

Tanya explains: "I play Sandra, who is chairman of the football team because her daughter Ali is a huge football fan. She's a pretty ballsy lady and ropes in her husband's undertaking business to fund the team as she thinks they have enough money. It soon becomes apparent that in fact they don't, and they are willing people to die so they can up the funds! She also



sees this sponsorship as a good PR opportunity for Farrell's Funeral Directors and gets the local television documentary makers involved – she's a pretty determined person!"

Tanya enjoyed finding out a bit about successful women in the footballing world: "I couldn't help but read a bit about Karen Brady, Managing Director of Birmingham City FC and an award-winning businesswoman – she's obviously very much in people's minds at the moment as a woman who's a driving force in a man's world, although saying that I'm not sure that my character's much like her!"

She explains what appealed to her about **THE CUP**: "I do always seem to play strong characters and Sandra is pretty determined. The series has found a great balance between the children and the adults and the way in which the adults are often far more immature than the kids! I really liked the idea of the documentary style although it did take a bit of getting used to, having to acknowledge the camera to make it realistic whereas usually you're desperately trying to avoid looking at it!"

She found she could easily relate to her character and the other pushy parents surrounding her: "I'm not a Mum but I think naturally as a human being you feel affection for children, you want them to do well and you're incredibly protective and encouraging of them. I can see Sandra in a lot of women I've met who are not exactly power driven but like to be the matriarchal, authoritative figure, in control of their environment."

Dominic Coleman plays Vincent Farrell

Vincent Farrell is played by Dominic Coleman, whose many television appearances include a role in **PULLING** opposite his **CUP** wife Tanya Franks. Vincent is Sandra's long suffering husband who's desperate for his tomboy daughter Ali to turn her interests to ballet rather than football.

Dominic sets the scene: "Vincent's family firm sponsors the kids' football team at the request of his wife Sandra who's a bit of a football fanatic. He actually isn't particularly interested but goes to the matches because his daughter is also pretty obsessed with the game; and he's just desperate for her to at least acknowledge that she's a girl!"

He laughs: "During the course of the series we see that Vincent is having a pretty tough time as the business isn't doing so well, so if anybody dies there's a real celebration to be had!"

As a Dad, Dominic can identify with Vincent's dilemmas: "You do inevitably get dragged into events sometimes against your better judgement: sports days, hobbies, matches, all those sorts of things. I can understand the competitive nature of parenthood; my kids are six and ten so just the right kind of age for pushy parents to rear their ugly heads – I'm trying to fight that urge!"

Vincent found the way the scripts had been written very believable: "The scripts are fantastic. We're playing very real people and we'd like to think that people switching the series on could at first glance think it's a documentary. I think people should be able to relate to the series almost immediately."

Pal Aron plays Dr Kaskar

Pal Aron – most familiar to television audiences for his regular appearances as Inderjit in **CORONATION STREET**, DC Brendon Kane in **THE BILL** and Adam Osman in **CASUALTY** - thoroughly enjoyed playing Dr Kaskar in **THE CUP**: "Of course it's the script that initially gets you excited. It's really funny and that I think comes from the honesty in the characters; the



fact that it's so character driven and the humour comes from the situations they find themselves in."

Dr Kaskar is a gynaecologist in Bolton and is hugely ambitious for his footballing son Ranjit, locked in a constant battle with rival dad Terry. Pal explains: "Ranjit is the joint leading goal scorer with Malky. As a result of this, Terry and Dr Kaskar are deadly rivals, constantly fighting and bickering with a lot of one-upmanship, whereas the kids get on well, love the game, have other hobbies and interests and are basically altogether more grown up than their parents."

And Pal doubts he'll follow his character's lead when it comes to raising his own small son. He laughs: "Can you imagine the incredible pressure Ranjit is put under by his father? My boy is only 15 months old and I am looking forward to kicking a ball around with him, but I wouldn't dream of treating him like that. Also, I'm not a big fan of football. I'll watch important matches but only in the company of others and with a drink in my hand! But hopefully a lot of the audience will be the same. They might learn something from the series and be able to relate to the situations; in life we laugh because something is funny and we laugh because it rings true."

Despite not being interested in football, Pal's especially enjoyed filming the football scenes, as he explains: "Luckily I'm not expected to play football properly – that's the responsibility of the kids! There was a fantastic scene when they had rain machines in and Terry and I were covered in mud, taking penalties against each other and it was just such fun!"

He continues: "My character is hugely ambitious in absolutely everything that he does. He breathes success whether it's football, the arts or anything really - he just wants always to be the best he can. In fact his son's name Ranjit means 'victorious' which is a happy coincidence as the writers didn't know; they just chose the name because they liked it. They seemed really pleased when I told them what it actually meant."

Pal is full of admiration for the children in the series: "The kids are fantastic because they enjoyed the experience of filming **THE CUP** so much and really wanted to give it their best shot every time. Matt the director would tell them to have a knockabout for 20 minutes and the amount of energy he got back from them was amazing – they all seemed to genuinely love it and love playing football. Haylie who plays Ali – the only girl in the team - is absolutely fearless at football; she goes for every tackle and gets 100% involved – brilliant."

Pal was a fan of the documentary style as well: "I'm new to this style of working but it's been fun to do. The main challenge is to try and make it look realistic – it's a mock documentary so the characters know that there's a camera trained on them. As the story continues you see the characters becoming more confident in front of the camera – trying to make it look real was the biggest challenge."

Billy Geraghty plays Steve Robson

Bill Geraghty plays Steve Robson, who owns a car dealership – and is also the reason that Terry couldn't pursue his dream of becoming a professional footballer. To top that, he has a history with Terry's wife Janice...

Billy explains: "I'm playing a guy who has everything but the girl. He and Terry both started out at the same time in a youth team; he was dating Janice, then made a hideous tackle on Terry which ended any potential footballing career he might have had and lost him Janice in the process when she started to take care of Terry. Steve's own football career was pretty short lived, so he opened a car dealership and did pretty well, whilst eternally regretting losing the love of his life - Janice."



He continues: "Terry works for Steve – he's constantly in his office wanting this and that, and because Steve had a bit of a history with the Bolton Wanderers, Terry's always badgering him to get trials for Malky."

Billy can relate to the competitive nature of parents when it comes to their children: "I was watching my son in the playground and another little boy tried to car-jack him, so he reached out and grabbed his cheek and twisted it and reduced this other kid to tears and there I was thinking 'that's my boy!' knowing full well that if it was the other way round I'd blame the other parent and be horrified!"

He admits to witnessing parental behaviour fairly typical of that seen in **THE CUP**: "Almost every time I go to the park on a Sunday I see dads living their dreams through and roaring at their kids – doing a bit of a Terry!"

Samantha Power plays Debbie Rossi

Samantha Power is most familiar to television audiences following her regular appearances in **LITTLE BRITAIN**. In **THE CUP**, she plays newly divorced and newly thin Debbie who plays the field pretty extensively in her search for a step-father for her young son, as Samantha explains: "Debbie is Janice's best mate. She is recently divorced and has lost a lot of weight. She's obsessed with going to the gym and has suddenly become rather self obsessed too. She has a son called Jack who plays in the football team, and she keeps palming him off on Janice so she can go to the gym and go out on dates – she seems to have a different fella every week!"

Despite this self absorption, Debbie does have a good heart: "She's not malicious at all. She'll say to Janice 'Oh don't eat that chocolate croissant, come to the gym instead' and it's because she wants what's best for people and wants Janice to feel good about herself – I think she's almost a female version of Terry in a way; self centred but somehow likeable."

Debbie doesn't exactly share everyone's love of football: "She's really not that bothered about the games – she'll often be on the side of the pitch chatting away on her mobile or telling Janice to cheer Jack on while she goes and snogs someone in the car! But she and Janice do get excited about the possibility of their getting through to the final so they can have a weekend away in a hotel and a bit of fun!"

Emmanuel LeConte plays Mercier

Raymond Mercier is the dishy Parisian replacement coach who has the women drooling despite his indecipherable philosophical utterances... He is played by French actor Emmanuel LeConte who recently moved to England and starred alongside Jonathan Rhys Meyers in **THE TUDORS**.

Emmanuel explains: "Mercier does have a genuine love of football and loves to transmit his love of the game to the kids he's coaching. He is incredibly positive about football and that good vibe contrasts with the parents who are more in it for victory; he's there to have a good time and encourage the children."

He continues: "I suspect Mercier ended up in Bolton because he was following a woman. He was in Ashford teaching PE and met with people in the football circuit. His main connection is with Sandra Farrell who is the Chairman. They have a very close relationship so she decides to trust him as coach instead of the parents, who are only interested in putting their own children forward as the main scorer."



He was impressed by the way the French character has been depicted in the script: “The writers are pretty spot on in the way it was written. There were occasions when a word wouldn’t feel right and I’d adapt it slightly, but I hope I added even more authenticity to it.”

He continues: “Mercier doesn’t have a great grasp of English and sometimes has a very weird way of transmitting his love of football to the children. He seems to relate things back to nature, and for some reason fish come into it quite a lot!”

Mercier also has quite an effect on some of the wives on the team. Emmanuel laughs: “There is the continental cliché of men being really relaxed with women. He arouses things in these women although he’s totally unaware of it, that’s just his way, very friendly without realising the sparks he’s creating - there’s a few misunderstandings shall we say!”

To prepare for the role, Emmanuel spoke to a friend who is a football coach for kids: “I told him about the script, how Mercier has a lot of pressure from the Dads and he told me that this happens all the time; people really do come up to him and demand that their kid be the star. In fact Mercier’s main job seems to be to try and manage tempers and the craziness of Terry especially!”

Emmanuel really enjoyed being around the young stars of the show: “They are amazing – really professional but still know how to have a laugh. Every time there was a break we’d all run around and play football.” He was particularly impressed by the footballing skills of one young cast member: “Out of all of them I wouldn’t mess with Haylie; she’s incredible and has some fierce tackles.” He adds: “There was a funny moment when one of the young boys came up and asked if I was a real foreigner - I didn’t really know how to answer that one!”

Craig Cunningham plays Fourbellies

Fourbellies is played by Craig Cunningham in his first television role since leaving drama school. He is Terry’s best mate and his son Gordy plays, with questionable ability, in the Under 11 team.

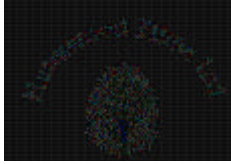
Craig explains: “Fourbellies is very much a sheep – Terry’s downtrodden best friend who takes a lot of stick off him and just lets it happen really. He’s pretty straightforward and is just happy to be his mate; they’re friends from way back.”

Fourbellies’ approach to his son Gordy’s involvement in the team is equally laid back: “He’s nowhere near as pushy as Terry. He’s happy just to go to the football, watch his son play and then go on to the pub afterwards. He wants Gordy to have fun and be happy, makes sure he has a good pie at half time – he’s just an all round nice guy!”

Craig too thoroughly enjoyed working with the kids: “I’ve struck up a really good bond with them. Everyone always says never work with children or animals, but the kids are all brilliant on this and pretty mature as well.”

In fact Craig admits: “I’ve honestly relished every moment of the filming **THE CUP** but probably the highlight was when I had to strip in a scene when we’re trying to raise money by me doing a bit of a FULL MONTY. I took it in my stride though I think I probably overdid it to be honest. I got a bit overexcited shouting ‘Cup, Cup, Cup!’ until someone had to tell me to shut up!”

The Children



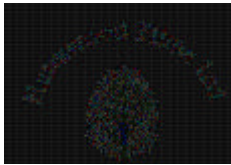
The children absolutely loved being so involved in the project, particularly as for most of them **THE CUP** is their first proper acting job. Haylie Jones, who plays tomboy Ali, was pretty unfazed by the fact that she was the lone girl in the team: "I'm pretty used to being the only girl to be honest. When I was about eight I played for a while in a team which was all boys – I don't mind. I also enjoy teaching my little brother to play football. I just love playing and being part of the team. I now play for Bolton Ladies Junior Team which is brilliant too."

Despite thoroughly enjoying acting – and having a long-harboured dream of appearing in **SHAMELESS** - Haylie hopes one day she'll be a footballer: "I really love acting, ideally I'd like to do both but I think deep down I'd like to be a professional footballer!"

Ceallach Spellman plays Malky McConnell and would love to become a famous actor one day. He and Nazim Khan, who plays Ranjit, his footballing arch rival in **THE CUP**, had a particular favourite scene while filming: "The best was when a fire engine was used to spray water over us. It was a scene where our Dads force us to go out and practice even though it's tipping it down, and we got soaked and freezing from all the water from the hoses – but it was so much fun and made all these cool rainbows!"

Beryl Vertue concludes: "The cast are so perfect and natural in their roles, and really enhance the reality of the behaviour of the parents. I think there will be quite a few Dads up and down the land who just might recognise themselves!"

Sue adds: "This isn't just a comedy about kids' football - it's a comedy about the pettiest adult behaviour since the latter days of the Roman Empire. It's the show that lifts the lid on the juvenile obsessions and heartbreaks of children's football - and discovers the parents."



THE CUP

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Steve Edge – Terry McConnell

Steve is well known for his extensive work with comedian Peter Kay, including MAX AND PADDY (BBC), THAT PETER KAY THING (C4) and two series of PHOENIX NIGHTS (C4). Other TV credits include: SCALLYWAGGA (BBC), The VISIT (BBC), two series of START STORIES (C4), NEW STREET LAW (BBC), THE STREET (BBC), WHACKED (BBC), PEEP SHOW (C4) and DALZIEL AND PASCOE (BBC).

Steve's theatre credits include: LIFE'S A GATECRASHER (Hit & Run Theatre Co), HELEN OF TROY (Proteus Studios Theatre), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Aspects Theatre Co), LOVE OF THE NIGHTINGALE (Aspects Theatre Co), A MINOTAUR (Still Live Theatre Co), OH, WHAT A LOVELY WAR (Still Live Theatre Co) and ALADDIN (Tin Box Theatre Co)

Jennifer Hennessy – Janice McConnell

Jennifer most recent television appearances include: two series of DROP DEAD GORGEOUS (BBC), DOCTOR WHO (BBC) and LILIES (BBC). Other TV credits include: THE OFFICE (BBC), GREEN WING (C4), WILLIAM AND MARY (ITV), HOLBY CITY (BBC), FAT FRIENDS (ITV), DOCTORS (BBC), THE BILL (ITV), CLOCKING OFF (Granada), LOVING YOU (Granada) and EMMERDALE (Yorkshire TV).

Jennifer's theatre credits include: A DOLL'S HOUSE (Southwark Playhouse), WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (Nottingham Playhouse), JAKE'S WOMAN (Manchester Library Theatre), HOBSON'S CHOICE (West Yorkshire Playhouse), MANSFIELD PARK (No 1 Tour), THE SECRET GARDEN (No 1 Tour), LOVE (Crucible Sheffield), ONCE A CATHOLIC (Oldham Coliseum), GRAPES OF WRATH (Crucible Sheffield) and HABEAS CORPUS (Oldham Coliseum).

Tanya Franks – Sandra Farrell

Tanya Franks starred as Karen in two series of the BAFTA nominated comedy series PULLING (BBC). She is also well known for her appearances in EASTENDERS (BBC), THE BILL (Talkback Thames/ITV), FAMILY AFFAIRS for which she was twice nominated for best actress at The British Soap Awards (Talkback Thames/Ch 5), DOCTORS (BBC), HOLBY CITY (BBC) and BIG SMOKE (Yorkshire Television).

Tanya's extensive list of theatre credits includes: PRETEND YOU HAVE BIG BUILDINGS (Royal Exchange Manchester), HIDING (Watford Palace), SING YER HEART OUT FOR THE LADS (Royal National Theatre), ALL FALL AWAY (Latchmere Theatre), STAND UP (Edinburgh), THE MILLIONAIRESS (Tour), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Salisbury Playhouse), THE LIFE OF GALILEO (Young Vic Studio), FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH (Vienna's English Theatre), VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE (Frankfurt's English Theatre), DECKCHAIRS (Kings Head), TESS (Kings Head), THE STRONGER (Kings Head), TWELVE POUND LOOK (Kings Head), NEWS REVUE (Edinburgh Festival), PUSS IN BOOTS (Theatr Colwyn), I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES (Theatr Colwyn), TEECHERS (Theatr Colwyn), MOTHER GOOSE (Theatr Colwyn), PLAYREADINGS OF SHAW (Theatre Museum), GASLIGHT (Gold, Tour Belfast) and ANNIE (Elephant Theatre).



Tanya has also been involved in a number of projects for BBC RADIO 4 including: THE MOTHER OF..., THE GUNSHOT WEDDING, and COMEBACK & BLAME.

Dominic Coleman – Vincent Farrell

Dominic Coleman trained at Bretton Hall College. On graduating he co-founded the award-winning theatre company 'Fecund Theatre'. He has also written and performed a series of one man shows at the Edinburgh Festival and at London's Soho Theatre, including A MILLENNIUM PRAYER (Pleasance Theatre), TRUTH & LIES (Soho Theatre & Pleasance Theatre) and FOOTBALL HOOLIGAN (Pleasance Theatre).

His many television appearances include: two series of SWINGING (Five), BLEAK HOUSE (BBC), ROME (BBC), RED CAP (ITV), THE BILL (Talkback THAMES/ITV), STUART: A LIFE BACKWARDS (BBC), WHISTLEBLOWERS (ITV), TORCHWOOD (BBC) and most recently PULLING (BBC) alongside THE CUP co-star Tanya Franks.

Dominic's film credits include: SPECIAL PEOPLE, CLUBBED, ALMOST ADULT and PICCADILLY JIM.

He has appeared in many BBC Radio 4 shows including: DEATH OF A PIRATE, SINGLE FILES, RECORDED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, THE PITS, THE PARTY LINE, BABY FIRST, DEVILS IN THE GLASS and also in FIFTEEN LOVE (BBC Radio 5).

Pal Aron – Dr Kaskar

Pal is probably best known for his regular appearances as Sonny in CORONATION STREET (Granada/ITV), DC Brandon Kane in THE BILL (Talkback Thames/ITV) and Adam Osman in CASUALTY (BBC). Other television credits include: THE ROYAL TODAY (Yorkshire TV/ITV), FAMILY MAN (BBC), IN DEEP (Valentine/BBC), EASTENDERS (BBC) and COMMON AS MUCK (BBC).

His extensive theatre credits include: TRANSMISSIONS FESTIVAL (Birmingham Rep), MACBETH (RSC/Tour/West End), KING LEAR (RSC/Tour/West End), MIDWINTER (RSC/Tour/Soho Theatre), TWELFTH NIGHT (Birmingham Rep/Tour), HAMLET (Birmingham Rep/Tour), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Manchester Contact), THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (Birmingham Rep), THE ALCHEMIST (Birmingham Rep), WAY OF THE WORLD (Birmingham Rep) and MACBETH (Birmingham Rep).

Pal has appeared in a number of films including: DOG EAT DOG (Film Four), BROTHERS IN TROUBLE (BBC Films) & THE VACILLATIONS OF POPPY CAREW (Chrysalis Films).

Billy Geraghty – Steve Robson

Billy's television credits include: POIROT (ITV), LEWIS (Granada/ITV), DOCTORS (BBC), CASUALTY (BBC), THE GOLDEN HOUR (ITV), DOWN TO EARTH (BBC), four series of THE LAST DETECTIVE (ITV), MILE HIGH (Sky One), FAMILY AFFAIRS (Five), EASTENDERS (BBC), LONDON BRIDGE (Carlton/ITV), BACK UP (BBC), EIGHT HOURS FOR PARIS (BBC), PEAK PRACTICE (Carlton/ITV), THE RIFF RAFF ELEMENT (BBC), SOLDIER, SOLDIER (BBC), THE BILL (Talkback Thames/ITV), HALE AND PACE (LWT) and HEARTBEAT (Yorkshire TV/ITV).

His film credits include: FRANKLYN, BRUTAL CONVICTION, the BAFTA award-winning film NO CHILD OF MINE (ITV), WILT, CLOSING RANKS and MAGIC HOUR (C4).



His theatre credits include: WUTHERING HEIGHTS (The Good Company, West End), three years as Buddy in BUDDY HOLLY (Victoria Palace/Canada/Australia), ROAD (Octagon Theatre, Bolton), HOW I GOT TO SPAIN (Theatre Foundry) and GREAT BALLS OF FIRE (Cambridge Theatre/Belgrade Theatre/Birmingham Hippodrome).

Samantha Power – Debbie Rossi

Samantha's high profile television credits include: DOCTORS (BBC), THE ADAM AND SHELLY SHOW (BBC), LITTLE BRITAIN XMAS SPECIAL (BBC), NEW STREET LAW (Granada), LITTLE BRITAIN (BBC), TWISTED TALES (BBC), THE ROYAL (Yorkshire TV), BARBARA (Carlton), WHERE THE HEART IS (Anglia), COPS (BBC) SAFE HOUSE (ITV), CITY CENTRAL (BBC), PEAK PRACTICE (Carlton), A PRINCE AMONG MEN (BBC), NO BANANAS (BBC) and CORONATION STREET (Granada). In 2004 she won the award for Best Comedy Moment at the "TV Moments Of The Year Awards".

Samantha's extensive theatre credits include: the tour of LITTLE BRITAIN in 2005-07, IRON (Manchester Contact), COMING AROUND AGAIN (West Yorkshire Playhouse), LITTLE MALCOLM (Octagon, Bolton), KID (Theatre Absolute), ACRINGTON PAL, (West Yorkshire Playhouse), THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (National Tour), SPRING & PORT WINE (National Tour), SCHOOL DAZE (Riverside/C4 Sitcom) and THE SOUND COLLECTOR (M6 Theatre Co Tour). She was awarded an Edinburgh Fringe First in 2001.

Emmanuel LeConte - Mercier

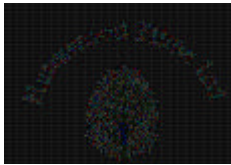
Emmanuel trained at the Vladimir Nemirovich - Danchenko, Moscow Art Theatre School, Russia and LISPA – The London School of Performing Arts – Training in Lecoq's physical theatre.

Before moving to England, he appeared in several French films including: SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS, LA RAVISSEUSE, TOUT DE SUITE and HEUREUSEMENT QU'ON A PAS.

He has also appeared in many French TV shows including: MAX JACOB, LES CLES DU PARADIS, QUAI NO 1, ET TOC, UNE FEMME, LA VIE EROTIQUE, MADAME LE PROVISEUR. Since moving recently to England he has starred opposite Jonathan Rhys Meyers in THE TUDORS (BBC).

Craig Cunningham - Fourbellies

THE CUP is Craig's first professional acting role. He studied drama for three years at Preston college and then at Salford University. He has starred as the villain in a theatre production of JACK AND THE BEANSTALK which toured round the schools and social clubs of Newcastle.



THE CUP

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Beryl Vertue OBE – Executive Producer

One of Britain's most respected producers, Beryl Vertue has an enviable track record of international success. Originally she was an agent for renowned comedy writers Spike Milligan, Eric Sykes, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson and Johnny Speight, and comedy stars Tony Hancock and Frankie Howerd. In the sixties she formed Associated London Films. There she was Associate Producer on THE SPY WITH A COLD NOSE, Executive Producer on the silent comedy THE PLANK starring Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper, followed by the feature film versions of TILL DEATH US DO PART, STEPTOE AND SON, UP POMPEII and a score of comparable films.

In 1967 Robert Stigwood invited Beryl to join his company where she became Deputy Chairman and pioneered the original concept of selling basic television formats to Europe and America. Two such formats became big hits in the USA – TILL DEATH US TO PART became Norman Lear's long-running series ALL IN THE FAMILY, whilst STEPTOE AND SON became SANFORD AND SON. Beryl then produced several star-studded Movies of the Week for all three American Networks including THE ENTERTAINER starring Jack Lemmon and CAT & MOUSE starring Kirk Douglas, the first television roles for both movie stars. She also produced the BEACON HILL series, based on UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS, for CBS, and ALMOST ANYTHING GOES, based on IT'S A KNOCKOUT, for ABC. Beryl's early British producing credits include the series THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE and, one of her favourite achievements as executive producer, the film TOMMY starring Jack Nicholson, The Who, Elton John, Eric Clapton and Tina Turner.

In the 1980s Producer Beryl Vertue left the Stigwood Organisation, where she was Deputy Chairman, to form the independent production company HARTSWOOD FILMS, now based at Twickenham Film Studios. With an award-winning portfolio of drama, light entertainment and documentary films, Hartswood prides itself on being truly independent, "able to make programmes we are genuinely passionate about and believe we can make well". Indeed the company now provides programmes for BBC1, BBC2, BBC3, BBC4, ITV and Channel 4.

A quick glance at some of Hartswood's credits, all of which Beryl has produced or executive produced, reveals the company's remarkable versatility. Star-studded dramas such as JEKYLL and the ITV drama AFTER THOMAS, WONDERFUL YOU, BORDER CAFÉ, THE ENGLISH WIFE, A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO ADULTERY and CODE NAME KYRIL; outstanding light entertainment including six series and several specials of Simon Nye's multi-award-winning MEN BEHAVING BADLY, four series of Steven Moffat's COUPLING for BBC2, two series of CARRIE & BARRY for BBC1, three series of Simon Nye's award-winning IS IT LEGAL?, two series of MY GOOD FRIEND and THE SAVAGES for BBC1.

Hartswood have also produced several critically acclaimed documentaries including THE WELSH GREAT ESCAPE for Channel 4, IN LOVE WITH ELIZABETH, a documentary about the early life of the Queen Mother, THE WAR BEHIND THE WIRE, OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN for the BBC and GOING TO CHELSEA for ITV.

In 1999 Beryl was made a member of the Royal Television Society Hall of Fame. Women in Film and Television honoured her with an award in the same year for "Outstanding Contributions to the Industry". She was Chairman of PACT for three years and received an OBE in the 2000 New Year's Honours List for Services to Independent Television Production.



In 2004 she was given a Fellowship from the RTS and also received a BAFTA, the Alan Clark Award for Outstanding Contribution to Television.

Sue Vertue – Producer

Sue Vertue joined Tiger Television in 1989. She began producing in 1991 and her credits at Tiger include: 9 of the 14 television programmes made of the internationally renowned comedy MR BEAN (ITV) which won many awards around the world, including an ACE and an Emmy; THE VICAR OF DIBLEY (BBC1), starring Dawn French (BAFTA nomination and Emmy winner 1998); HOSPITAL, a comedy starring Greg Wise and Bob Peck which was commissioned by Channel 5 for their opening night (Banff Award for Best Comedy 1998); GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS: HONG KONG TO ULAN BATAR (BBC1), presented by Clive Anderson; THE LAST ENGLISHMAN (BBC1), an hour long period drama starring Jim Broadbent (BAFTA nomination for Best Single Drama) and GIMME GIMME GIMME, the sitcom for BBC2 written by Jonathan Harvey, based on an idea by Sue Vertue and Jonathan Harvey and starring Kathy Burke and James Dreyfus (British Comedy Awards nomination 1999).

Sue left Tiger Aspect at the end of 1998 to produce COMIC RELIEF 1999 for the BBC (British Comedy Awards winner). This six hour live show broke all records for the amount of money raised on the night. In April 1999 Sue joined her mother Beryl Vertue's company Hartswood Films where she produced another series of GIMME, GIMME, GIMME (now in association with Tiger Aspect) - again frequently top of the BBC2 weekly ratings. Their first project together was the critically acclaimed hit BBC TV situation comedy COUPLING, produced by Sue and written by Steven Moffat, which ran to four series. Sue has also produced two series of Simon Nye's CARRIE & BARRY, two series of SUPERNOVA starring Rob Brydon and Michael Aitken's comedy series FEAR, STRESS & ANGER.

Jack Docherty – Writer

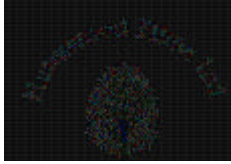
Jack forms a good 50% of the writing duo Hunter & Docherty, who were principal writers on IN ONE EAR and RADIO ACTIVE (BBC Radio 4), SPITTING IMAGE (ITV), and ALAS SMITH & JONES. In 1987 he and Moray Hunter performed THE COUCH at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a two-man, one-piece of furniture extravaganza which launched their alter egos, Don & George onto Channel 4's FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (ITV), into ABSOLUTELY and ultimately their own sitcom MR DON & MR GEORGE (Both for Channel 4). As well as appearing in RED DWARF (BBC) he made his film debut with THE COMIC STRIP'S QUEEN OF THE WILD FRONTIER. With no help from his writing partner, Jack has written a sitcom MAC for BBC Scotland and was Script Consultant on VIC REEVES BIG NIGHT OUT.

He presented THE KEN FINE SHOW, a Scots language programme for STV and hosted over 400 episodes of THE JACK DOCHERTY SHOW for Channel 5.

Jack wrote and co-starred in two series of THE CREATIVES for BBC2 and co-starred with Mark Williams in Rob Grant's sci-fi comedy series THE STRANGERERS for Sky 1 and MODEL, ACTRESS, WHATEVER, a half hour film for Channel 4 which he co-wrote and produced with Morwenna Banks, directed by Rankin.

Most recently Jack has written two feature films that are both in development with Scottish Screen SCOTSVILLE and WATERTIGHT and guest starred in an episode of MONARCH OF THE GLEN.

He is currently producing a BBC film for Burns night, NO HOLDS BARD and writing and



producing two upcoming sitcoms, WELCOME TO STRATHMUIR and ME AND ALL THE OTHER MOTHERS.

He is not currently appearing in the West End, but recently had a trip to the theatre which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Moray Hunter – Writer

Moray Hunter has written extensively for radio and television, frequently in partnership with Jack Docherty. On Radio 4 they worked on RADIO ACTIVE and IN ONE EAR and on television on SPITTING IMAGE and ALAS SMITH AND JONES. Moray then wrote and appeared in four series of the Channel 4 sketch show ABSOLUTELY and the subsequent spin-off series MR DON & MR GEORGE which was followed by two series of the sitcom THE CREATIVES on BBC 2.

Other TV writing credits include FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE, THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SMITH AND JONES, THE MORWENNA BANKS SHOW, BARRY WELSH IS COMING, THE JACK DOCHERTY SHOW, STAR and INTERGALACTIC KITCHEN.

He has appeared in various television dramas including TAGGART, MONARCH OF THE GLEN and HOLBY CITY and feature films including THE SLAB BOYS, MY LIFE SO FAR and THE FLYING SCOTSMAN. More recently Moray and Jack co-wrote and co-produced a comedy sitcom pilot WELCOME TO STRATHMUIR for BBC Scotland.

Currently he is not appearing in any theatre, anywhere.

Matt Lipsey – Director

A graduate of The Royal College of Art, Matt Lipsey started his career directing pop promos. He then moved into comedy with two series of the hit programme THE ARMSTRONG & MILLER SHOW hailed for its “delightful surrealistic edge”. He won a BAFTA for Best Comedy Series in 2006 for LITTLE BRITAIN II. He has worked with Hartswood Films on a number of occasions, and spent several months in Australia directing the comedy series SUPERNOVA starring Rob Brydon. He also co-directed Hartswood’s major BBC One drama series JEKYLL written by Steven Moffat and starring James Nesbitt.

Other television credits include: SAXONDALE; SVEN AND NANCY’S EURO 2004; ALL STAR COMEDY SHOW; CATTERICK; YOU’RE BREAKING UP; THIS IS DOM JOLY; 2 series of LENNY HENRY IN PIECES II; THIS IS MY LIFE; DEAD AIR WITH DOM JOLY; DR TERRIBLE’S HOUSE OF HORRIBLE; HUMAN REMAINS; UP RISING; BORDER CAFÉ; MILLENIUM SKETCH SHOW; WONDERFUL YOU; HOLDING THE BABY and BARRY WELSH IS COMING.

He has also directed documentaries in Cambodia, Oman and the UK.

Matt recently finished directing his first feature film, CAUGHT IN THE ACT.