

Filming commences on highly anticipated new crime drama, **Grace**, starring John Simm

Published Mon 14 Sep 2020



[Drama](#)

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Filming has commenced on brand new ITV crime drama, *Grace*, from acclaimed screenwriter and *Endeavour* creator, Russell Lewis.

Starring acclaimed actor John Simm as tenacious detective Roy Grace, Russell has adapted two of international bestseller Peter James' award winning novels which introduce the audience to Brighton based Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, a hard-working police officer who has given his life to the job.

Co-produced by Second Act Productions, Tall Story Pictures, part of ITV Studios and Vaudeville Productions, the 2 x 120 screenplays narrate the first two stories in the popular Roy Grace series, *Dead Simple* and *Looking Good Dead*.

Joining John Simm, as filming commences in Brighton, are Richie Campbell (Liar, Blue Story, Top Boy) who takes the role of DS Glenn Branson and Rakie Ayola (Noughts + Crosses, Shetland, No Offence) as ACC Vosper.

Craig Parkinson (Line of Duty, Misfits, Whitechapel), Laura Elphinstone (Game of Thrones, Chernobyl, Line of Duty) is DS Bella Moy, Amaka Okafor (The Split, Vera) plays DC Emma Jane Boutwood, and Brad Morrison (National Theatre Live; Twelfth Night) takes the role of DC Nicholl.

Rebecca Scrogs (Alex Rider, Flack, Scarborough) plays Branson's wife Ari, Alexander Cobb (Doctors, Vera) plays Kevin Spinella and they are also joined by Adrian Rawlings (Chernobyl, Girlfriends, Innocent), Natasha Joseph (Get Even, Doctors, Sex Education), Tom Weston-Jones (Warrior, The Terror, Dickensian), Matt Stokoe (Cursed, Jamestown, Bodyguard), Alisha Bailey (Save Me, Chewing Gum) and Maggie O'Neill (White Lines, The Split, Shameless).

The first film, Dead Simple, opens with Grace running enquiries into long forgotten cold cases with little or no prospect of success. He's fixated by the disappearance of his beloved wife, Sandy, which haunts his thoughts. His unorthodox police methods have come under scrutiny once again and Grace is walking a career tightrope and risks being moved from the job he loves most.

With so much at stake, his colleague Detective Sergeant Glenn Branson knows he has more to give and asks him for help with a case. When a stag night prank appears to go wrong and the groom goes missing, Branson calls upon Grace to unravel events that led to the mysterious disappearance three days before his wedding to his beautiful fiancé.

A successful property developer with everything to live for, there is no trace of the missing groom. Is this a case of stag night shenanigans gone badly awry? Or is this something more sinister?

With nothing but instinct, a lingering suspicion and his obsessive nature, Grace doggedly pursues the groom's disappearance and becomes uneasily close to the bride to be...

Executive producers are Andrew O'Connor and Paul Sandler for Second Act Productions, Patrick Schweitzer for Tall Story Pictures, Michael Vine for Vaudeville Productions, and Russell Lewis and Peter James. The first film, Dead Simple, is directed by John Alexander (Belgravia, Trust Me, Jamestown) with the second film, Looking Good Dead, directed by Julia Ford (Sticks and Stones, The Bay II, Safe).

Writer Russell Lewis is also known for his work on *Morse*, *Lewis*, *Murphy's Law*, *Sharpe's Peril* and *Kavanagh QC*.

Commented Russell Lewis:

"I'm thrilled and honoured to be involved in bringing Peter James' brilliantly gripping series of Roy Grace novels to ITV. Each story is a fantastic, hair-raising, twisting, switch-back of a roller-coaster ride that grips the reader from first to last, and the opportunity to translate that best-selling magic to television is like all one's Christmases and birthdays come at once. As his millions of fans and admirers are well aware, Peter's meticulous research and eye for detail is the stuff of legend. His long established, close relationship with the police, taken together with a knowledge of Brighton and the South Coast that is the sole preserve of the born and bred lends his stories an unimpeachable veracity of place and procedure. That John Simm will be breathing flesh to the bones of Roy Grace really is the cherry on a dark, and troublingly encrimsoned cake..."

ITV's Head of Drama, Polly Hill, and Drama Commissioner, Huw Kennair Jones have commissioned *Grace* for the channel. Huw will oversee production of the drama from the channel's perspective.

Commented Peter James:

'John Simm, who actually looks like the Roy Grace of my imagination, is inspired casting! With John in the lead, the brilliant scripting by Russell Lewis, and our wonderful production team, I'm confident that fans of my novels and of TV crime dramas in general will be in for a treat.'

ITV Studios will be responsible for the international distribution of *Grace*.

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Note to Editors:

Tall Story Pictures, Second Act Productions and Vaudeville Productions, for *Grace* are adhering to the TV and film production industry wide guidelines published in May and the guidance developed by all UK broadcasters, the Association of Commercial Broadcasters and On-Demand Service (COBA) and Pact covering how pairs and small groups of actors can interact closer than two metres safely on set. This guidance is also complementary to the British Film Commission guidelines on managing the risks with film and high-end TV drama production.

The new health and safety measures implemented to ensure filming on high-end dramas can resume include regular coronavirus testing of cast and crew and temperature checking before filming. Social distancing will be adhered to by crew members, and the actors and production teams will observe closed cohort guidelines which limits contact with other individuals whilst filming. COVID Supervisors will also be employed on set to ensure health and safety protocols are adhered to.

Camera and sound equipment will be fully sanitised at the end of each filming day and make-up will be applied by technicians wearing full PPE. Hand sanitisation facilities have also been installed for frequent hand washing and crews will wear masks throughout filming.

About Peter James

Peter James is a UK No. 1 bestselling author, best known for writing crime and thriller novels, and the creator of the much-loved Detective Superintendent Roy Grace. With a total of 16 Sunday Times No. 1s under his belt, he has achieved global book sales of over 20 million copies to date, and has been translated into 37 languages.

Synonymous with plot-twisting page-turners, Peter has garnered an army of loyal fans throughout his storytelling career – which also included stints writing for TV and producing films. He has won over 40 awards for his work, including the WHSmith Best Crime Author of All Time Award, Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger and a BAFTA nomination for *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons for which he was an executive producer. Many of Peter's novels have been adapted for film, TV and stage.

About Tall Story Pictures

Founded in 2016, Tall Story Pictures, part of ITV Studios, produces television drama for UK and international broadcasters, working with the very best established and emerging writing talent.

Their aim is simple: To place the writer's vision at the heart of everything we develop and produce, and to engage and entertain audiences with exceptional storytelling.

About Second Act Productions

Second Act Productions was created in 2015 by Andrew O'Connor and Paul Sandler to focus primarily on scripted comedy and entertainment commissions. Grace is the company's first scripted drama commission for ITV.

About Vaudeville Productions

Founded in 2014 by Derren Brown and Michael Vine, Vaudeville Productions is behind Derren's TV specials and live tours, it also produces other stage shows as well as scripted drama and 'event' television.

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