

Marsha Thomason joins *The Bay* in lead role as ITV orders a third series

Published Mon 15 Feb 2021



[Drama](#)

Marsha Thomason joins *The Bay* in lead role as ITV orders a third series from Tall Story Pictures

ITV and Tall Story Pictures, part of ITV Studios, today announce that Cobra star Marsha Thomason is set to join ITV's hit crime drama, *The Bay*, for its third series.

Sold in over 100 territories across the world, series 1 achieved consolidated audiences of 7 million viewers with a share of 26% across six episodes. The second series currently on air is averaging over 7.5m viewers across all transmissions and devices, based on consolidated figures to date. On ITV Hub, *The Bay* Series 1 and Series 2 have earned a massive 19.8m programme streams since 18th December (when *The Bay* Series 1 dropped on ITV Hub), with 19.2m of these coming in 2021.

Marsha Thomason (Cobra, White Collar) joins the regular cast as Morecambe CID's new Family Liaison Officer, DS Jenn Townsend, following Morven Christie's decision to leave the show.

DS Townsend is immediately thrown into the deep end when a body is found in the bay on her first day in the job. She must get under the skin of a grieving and complicated family if she has any chance of solving the premature death of an aspiring young boxer. While she's eager to give the family answers, she also needs to prove herself as the team's newest recruit. The pressure is multiplied when her new blended family struggle to settle in Morecambe, proving to Jenn that a fresh start might not be as simple as moving to a different town.

Reprising their roles are Daniel Ryan (Innocent, Home Fires), Erin Shanagher (Viewpoint, Peaky Blinders), Thomas Law (The Worlds End, A Cinderella Story) and Andrew Dowbiggin (Cobra, Coronation Street).

The hugely successful drama is written by award-winning writer and playwright Daragh Carville (Being Human, The Smoke, Cherrybomb), with Furquan Akhtar co-writing series 3, and produced by Tall Story Pictures. Series 3 is due to begin filming in the spring and will be produced by Irma Inniss (Tin Star, Holby City).

The third series has been commissioned by ITV's Head of Drama, Polly Hill.

"We are delighted with the audiences' response to The Bay and look forward to them meeting DS Jenn Townsend played by the fantastic Marsha Thomason, who joins the team in series 3."

Executive Producer, Catherine Oldfield says,

"Daragh and I couldn't be more delighted by the audience response to The Bay. That ITV have recommissioned the show is fantastic and to get a talent as bright and brilliant as Marsha to lead the new series is beyond exciting. We can't wait to get back to Morecambe to start filming again in that beautiful part of the world."

ITV Studios is responsible for the international distribution of The Bay.

Press Contacts

janice.troup@itv.com

Picture Contacts

patrick.smith@itv.com

Viewer enquiries

<https://www.itv.com/contact/how-to-get-in-touch>