



THE DRY S2 PRESS PACK



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CONTENTS

SERIES OVERVIEW	3
EPISODIC SYNOPSES	3
CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES	6
INTERVIEWS	8
ROISIN GALLAGHER (SHIV)	8
SIOBHAN CULLEN (CAROLINE)	10
ADAM RICHARDSON (ANT)	13
CIARAN HINDS (TOM)	15
POM BOYD (BERNIE)	17
MICHAEL MCELHATTON (FINBAR)	19
SAM KEELEY (ALEX)	20
MOE DUNFORD (JACK)	21
NANCY HARRIS – CREATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	23
PADDY BREATHNACH – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & DIRECTOR	25
EMMA NORTON – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	27
CAST BIOGRAPHIES	29



SERIES OVERVIEW

Season 2 picks up seven months on from the events of the first series, and we now meet the Sheridans in their new normal. To all outward appearances, it seems like the family is relatively content: Shiv's been sober, celibate, and solvent for six months, Ant has hung onto his job at the estate agents and his relationship with Max, and Caroline's making up for a lost time by shagging everyone she meets on Tinder. So far, so normal... Or is it? After all, how normal is it for three grown adults to still be living at home with their parents? And are the Sheridans really happy with this new status quo, or have they just rearranged their dysfunction and found another groove of denial to fit into?

Shiv is determined to get sobriety right this time, to cut the toxic influences out of her life for good. But what if the biggest threat to Shiv's stability turns out to be closer to home? Giving up alcohol is one thing...but what about giving up your family?

EPISODIC SYNOPSES

EPISODE ONE

It's Shiv's 36th birthday and she's full of good intentions to stay on the right track. Even though she's been flirting with sexy barista Alex for months, she's determined not to let a man derail her sobriety again and refuses his offer of a date. At work, she's excited to learn about a bursary for new and emerging artists. Shiv's life is finally looking up. Meanwhile, Bernie has a new boyfriend, Finbar, and is in flying form. Sobriety is going really well for Bernie and she's being celebrated as inspirational – much to Shiv's annoyance. Caroline also has a new man – investment banker Shane – and is determined to get married, become a consultant and have babies before 35. She thinks Shane could be the one. Maybe. Ant and Max are happily loved up, though things are going less well for Ant at work. Sales are down – and Eddie warns Ant he needs to up his game. Life hasn't been quite so kind to Tom. He's been exiled to the shed and is massively irritated by the presence of Finbar, who makes Tom feel like a guest in his own home. Shiv's birthday party goes awry when Finbar introduces a radical new house rule and everyone leaves early. Shiv decides to throw caution to the wind and goes to meet Alex, it's her birthday after all.

EPISODE TWO

Things are getting steamy between Shiv and Alex. Shiv is loving all the excitement, until Alex suddenly refuses a late-night invitation to stay over. Shiv is thrown and turns to her siblings for advice, but Caroline and Ant are distracted by their own problems. Caroline is defensive of commitment-phobic Shane, while Ant is missing Bernie, who's not as much fun now that she's sober – and her new sponsor Billy is monopolising her time. Poor Tom's fortunes take a turn for the worse when he's unexpectedly fired from his job. Shiv has an unexpected run in with a face from her past and Caroline is shocked to see Rory passionately kissing a new woman. Maybe he isn't as heartbroken as she thought? At work, Shiv jumps at a chance to prove herself and volunteers to cover the geriatric's life drawing class, but disaster strikes when the model cancels. Despite the awkwardness, Alex saves the day by agreeing to step in and Shiv learns that there is a lot more to him than meets the eye.



EPISODE THREE

The Sheridans are startled to find Alex in their kitchen making an impressive breakfast; they're even more confused that Shiv has managed to bag herself such an impressive boyfriend. Tom tries to fly under the radar as he continues to hide the fact that he's lost his job. Little does he know that Shiv is hot on his trail and unfortunately for Tom, she's following him on a day when his emotions get the better of him. At work, Ant is put under pressure when he's told his job is in jeopardy but a visit from Max brings an invitation – to move in together! What should be an exciting moment is hi-jacked by Ant's insecurities. Meanwhile, Caroline starts to question whether Shane really is the man for her. If Shiv – and Rory – can find new partners maybe she needs to keep looking for “the one”. She reactivates her dating apps and launches into a dating marathon. On the other side of town, Shiv finds Tom in a compromising position but is too alarmed to intervene. She heads to a meeting for advice, only for it to be gatecrashed by Jack. After collapsing on her date Caroline ends up in hospital and gets some shocking news.

EPISODE FOUR

Shiv books an acupuncture session with Mina, but she has an agenda. Unable to confront Tom, she hopes Mina will pay him a visit instead. Tom clearly needs help, but Shiv doesn't feel like she's the one to give it. Caroline reels from the news that she's pregnant, and run-ins with Finbar and Dr. Dan only rattle her further. As if one parent going off the rails isn't enough, Shiv learns that Bernie plans on giving a newspaper interview about Pam's murder – which definitely doesn't seem like a good idea. Meanwhile Shiv learns that she's through to the next round of the bursary application. She rushes to tell Alex her good news and he encourages her to share this moment with her family. It's time they gave her some credit! Tom's delighted to see Mina again, but she gives him a rude awakening; No more living in the shed. He needs to stand up to Bernie. Caroline ambushes Shiv at work, desperate to talk, but Shiv feels like her news is being sidelined as usual and the sisters end up arguing. With the threat of losing his job on his mind, Ant puts in a disastrous performance at a dinner with Max's family. As the Sheridans arrive home that evening Bernie and Tom share some shocking news.

EPISODE FIVE

It's a day of being in the hot seat for Shiv: she has her bursary interview, but first she has to attend a family meeting, spearheaded by Tom. The Sheridans, Finbar and Mina gather to discuss selling the house. Everyone is on edge and Bernie makes it clear that she is not letting the house go without a fight. The meeting takes a turn when Shiv accidentally announces that Tom has lost his job. As the revelations get more serious, emotions run high and everyone is left feeling betrayed. Shiv's self-centred bubble finally bursts when she realises what's going on with Caroline and the sisters have a heart to heart. Shiv's interview goes horribly wrong and her future looks less certain until an offer from Alex gives her an unexpected new path to consider.

EPISODE SIX

Shiv's is loved up and considering Alex's invitation when her phone pings and she sees Bernie's article about Pam. It's a total tabloid expose and Bernie looks deranged. Shiv knows this will be a blow and leaves to comfort her. As she heads out of Alex's house, she finds him fighting on the street with an older man. It turns out that this is Alex's father. Shiv learns more about Alex's past and is shocked by



his harsh attitude to family. Caroline is still keeping her pregnancy a secret and hedging her bets about Shane. She hides her bump under an uncharacteristically poofy dress and heads to a BBQ with Shane. She's just about to tell Shane about the baby, when Rory and Marie Luisa's appear. Tom and Bernie's fighting reaches petty new heights and Bernie makes it clear she will do her best to sabotage any progress on the sale. Ant is feeling lost; Max isn't returning his calls and Bernie is giving him the cold shoulder because he's helping his dad with the sale. When Shiv arrives home, she and Ant making a shocking discovery. Shiv is adamant that she will handle the situation herself, swearing Ant to secrecy. Later, Ant finds distraction in Bernie's sponsor Billy, while a misunderstanding between Shiv and Karen sends Shiv running to Alex. He's angry with Shiv for her lack of understanding about his father. Feeling more alone than ever, Shiv falls into old habits and springs a run away proposition on Jack.

EPISODE SEVEN

Deep in the woods, Shiv and Jack talk about life and love. Despite her best intentions, the old flame reignites and they kiss. Shiv quickly puts a stop to it, but when she arrives back at the house, Alex sees that she's been with Jack and Shiv is forced to face some tough questions. Meanwhile inside the house, Ant is also scrambling. He kicks Billy out as the first gang of potential house buyers arrive. Needing a meeting more than ever, Shiv goes to find Karen, but Karen is in the throes of her own crisis and is nowhere to be found. Bernie is further humiliated when she hears the house viewers mocking her home and her recent article and she takes drastic action. Ant tries to keep the show on the road, but a visit from Max brings more bad news. Tom takes his lawyer's advice and makes the big move from the shed back into the house. He is taking control. Shane and Caroline finally reach the limits of their love and Caroline turns to Rory for support. Shiv finally confronts Bernie about her drinking, but her offer of support turns desperately sour and Shiv is left feeling that her only route is Australia.

EPISODE EIGHT

Emotions are running high on the day of the house auction. Bernie is distraught at Shiv's impending departure. Ant is depressed post break up. Tom is vomiting from nerves. And Caroline is still trying to cope with her pregnancy alone. Alex thinks it's best that he collect the last of Shiv's things. Before they head off, Shiv and Caroline take a moment to say goodbye. As the auction gets underway, Ant begins to regret his involvement and comes up with a plan to thwart the sale. Bernie begins to see Finbar for the opportunist he is, and an argument between the two escalates when Tom comes to Bernie's defence. Meanwhile, Alex is growing increasingly frustrated at Shiv's worries around the family and the sale. A quick visit to Karen offers some closure for Shiv but can she really leave her life behind?: Tom and Finbar's brawl spills out in the auction and poor Rory gets caught in the crossfire – he has come to tell Caroline he loves her. In an attempt to de-escalate the fight, Caroline announces her pregnancy. As the dust settles, Eddie tells them the house is sold. At the airport, Shiv realises she can't leave her family and says goodbye to Alex. When Shiv returns, Bernie finally gets her chance to apologise. She's not as strong as Shiv and is choosing not to stay sober. The family raise a toast and plot their next move.



CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

Shiv Sheridan (Roisin Gallagher)

In season 1 of THE DRY, we met black sheep and newly sober Shiv Sheridan when she returned home to Dublin for her grandmother's funeral. Shiv, an aspiring artist, tried to keep her life on track amongst the chaos of the dysfunctional Sheridan family (who liked to scapegoat her for all their problems) but caught between her family's demons and her toxic ex Jack, she relapsed at the end of season 1.

In season 2, we meet Shiv on her 36th birthday, and things are going well for once. She's been sober for seven months, has kept down a job at an art college, and has vowed to cut all the toxic influences out of her life. Her mother Bernie, also newly sober, seems to be sailing through the recovery program (and is happy to let Shiv know how easy she is finding the process) - but Shiv isn't going to let that get to her – she's focusing on herself, and she's happy for her mum... right?

Shiv has a strict no-dating rule, no man is going to derail her sobriety. But when sexy and level-headed barista Alex comes along, she gives in to the attraction. Things start to heat up career wise too – her imposing boss Dearbhla alerts her to a bursary for emerging artists, the perfect next step for Shiv.

Between this new romance and the promise of a bursary, Shiv is finally on the right track and making all the healthy choices – so why does her estranged ex Jack still have such an effect on her? And with Alex offering a new path, can she break free from her family who are falling apart at the seams? Is Alex the healthy choice that she's been stiving for? Season Two sees Shiv battling with big questions on what it truly takes to stay sober long-term and confronting past demons which make it difficult to move forward with the new life she's trying to forge for herself.

Caroline Sheridan (Siobhán Cullen)

Caroline Sheridan is Shiv's younger, successful sister and a true Type A. She has a plan, a timeline as she calls it: she's going to become a consultant and have two kids by the age of 35 ('cause if you leave having kids any later than that, you're basically screwed, according to Caroline). She's not letting her recent break up from Rory get to her – besides, he's dating sexy Spanish teacher Marie-Luisa now. Caroline has dived into the world of dating apps, and is currently testing out Shane, a South Side Dublin banker. Shane is a good option on paper but is a bit of a commitment-phobe who has a habit of climbing out of Caroline's window every time he stays over at the Sheridan's. When Caroline learns that she's pregnant by Shane, she falls into a tailspin. She can't let her family know what's happened and turns to Shiv for advice. Forced to re-evaluate her timeline and finding herself drawn back to kind but unavailable Rory, Caroline is forced to embrace the chaos and decide what she really wants from life.

Ant Sheridan (Adam Richardson)

Ant, the youngest of the Sheridan clan, is still with his lovely boyfriend Max. He knows he's lovely because everyone tells him how great Max is all the time: Max is smart, successful and very committed. As Bernie says, where would you be without him? Ant knows how lucky he is, he's just not sure he's worthy of such a fabulous boyfriend and if he is good enough to be able to keep up with Max and his hot shot lawyer mates...

Things aren't going so well at work: his unpredictable boss Eddie lets him know his job is in danger when Ant's sales figures aren't quite hitting the mark. Ant knows he needs to pull up his socks, to keep his job, yes – but to also impress Max, who has asked him to move in with him!



When Tom asks Ant to help arrange the house sale, it feels like Ant has been offered a life line. He can keep his job, and with the commission from the sale, he can move in with Max as an equal. But is Ant really seeing the bigger picture in his relationship? And will he realise what's really at stake before it's too late?

Tom Sheridan (Ciarán Hinds)

At the start of the series, Tom is living in the shed, while the rest of the family fall over each other in the house. He seems to be quietly going about life as best he can, but Finbar's presence in the house isn't making things easy for him. When Tom has a small accident at work, he finds himself getting unceremoniously fired by his young bosses. For the first time in his life, he feels old. And adrift.

Tom's pride won't allow him to tell the family what's happened, so he spends his days aimlessly wandering or visiting Carl's grave. Tom is finally pushed to breaking point by his ex-employers and pays his old workplace a visit to let them know what he thinks of them... At his lowest point, his old flame Mina comes to the rescue and kicks Tom into action. Mina urges him to stand up for himself – for heaven's sake, he's living in a shed while his ex-wife and new lover occupy his home. But once this flame in Tom is ignited, what kind of damage will it wreak on the already precarious balance in the Sheridan household? Will his decision to sell the house and split from Bernie be the making or the breaking of this family?

Bernie Sheridan (Pom Boyd)

We meet Bernie Sheridan in flying form at the start of season 2. Her newly found recovery friends fight over her attention and time. And she has a new partner in Finbar, a Yeats quoting sociology professor and author, who seems to have stayed over one weekend at the Sheridan's and never really left... While the rest of the family find his presence a tad abrasive – his decision to make the house a booze free zone is certainly not popular - Bernie is delighted with the new man in her life.

Through her new sponsor Billy, Bernie has the opportunity to give an interview about her neighbour Pam (murdered by her husband Simon in season 1). Bernie is delighted that a woman's voice (specifically, hers) is going to be heard in the media on the subject of domestic violence, though Shiv does worry that this might jeopardise her integrity as a witness in the trial...

When Tom decides he finally wants a divorce and to sell the family home, Bernie finds her life starting to fall apart and the pressure really gets to her. How can she leave the home in which she raised her family, and where she lost her first son to suicide? Can Bernie cope with all this change and are her new relationships strong enough to support her in this turbulent time?

Jack (Moe Dunford)

Jack is charming, in a roguish, selfish way and we saw Shiv fall for this last season, with drastic consequences. Once a successful artist on the Dublin scene, his life has gone downhill – his girlfriend, Kirsten, kicked him out after he had an affair with Shiv and he's now living in a camper van. However, STEVIE, his newborn baby girl is the best thing that ever happened to him – he loves being a dad. But when Kirsten announces that she wants to take the baby back to Berlin, Jack panics and turns to Shiv for help. Shiv's reluctance to speak to Jack means that he tracks her down at a recovery meeting, claiming to be an alcoholic to justify his presence (much to Shiv's annoyance). Jack is adamant that he's changed and just wants a friend, but Shiv is cautious and worries that he might want more, and she can't run the risk of falling into the destructive pattern of their past relationship.



Alex (Sam Keeley)

Alex is a charming, modest, Northsider. He's also a successful entrepreneur, owns the café where Shiv grabs her coffee every day and, although he enjoys the banter with Shiv and Karen, he has been quietly waiting for the right moment to ask Shiv out. Alex might look like a bad boy but he is actually the opposite and has a grounded approach to life - his dad battled addiction, and this means that Alex is a big believer in boundaries and avoiding toxic situations. Alex is keen to take things slowly with Shiv but when he believes her family are being destructive, and that her sobriety might be at risk, he attempts to protect Shiv and tries to help her break the patterns that have defined her life so far.

Finbar (Michael McElhatton)

Finbar is a smug, ex-sociology professor who Bernie met in recovery and has been dating for a few months. Finbar is delighted with Bernie – they have great sex, and he fawns over her sobriety success. Finbar has practically moved into the Sheridan's house (much to everyone else's disgust), he loves sharing his opinions and lording it up over Tom at breakfast each morning. A touch arrogant, Finbar isn't shy in imposing house rules even though it isn't his house.

INTERVIEWS

ROISIN GALLAGHER (SHIV)

How did season 1 end?

Season 1 ended with Shiv falling quite spectacularly off the wagon when it came to booze. We saw her try to clamber back onto it and she was joined, much to her surprise, by her mum Bernie to go on that journey.

Where do we find Shiv at the start of season 2?

She is still at home, sober and celibate. She's trying her very best to be good, and she's trying really, really hard not to mess things up.

What is Shiv's worst flaw, and do you have sympathy for her?

I do have sympathy as she can be a little sanctimonious at times, depending on what day it is. I think the most important thing is that I understand why and where that comes from for Shiv.

When it feels like she's got the moral high ground because she's been there and got the T-shirt, that's when things start going wrong. She's really good at being sober and great at staying within the guidelines, however, struggles when things go awry.

What are you most excited for this season?

In terms of filming, I was excited that we didn't need to follow COVID protocols, it was so lovely seeing everyone's gorgeous faces.



What was your reaction to reading the scripts for season 2?

It was a long, anticipated wait for the scripts. They sort of came in little bits, which was nice because I got a chance to really sit with each episode. I devoured it. I think what Nancy (Harris) has done with the series is incredible, all the characters are elevated to a whole new level of messiness and funniness. I started crying reading episode 4, I just had such an emotional reaction to what was going on this series.

How have things gotten more complicated for the Sheridan's this season?

You would think with Shiv being sober, things would be simpler, calmer and less chaotic within their household, but it's totally the opposite. Each family member has their own issues, dealing with their own turmoil. I think they are each at a point of change in their lives, and they're trying to navigate that with their very different personalities under the same roof.

This season the whole family are living together in the family home – can you talk a little bit about the role the Sheridan house plays in the story this season?

The Sheridan house is like another character in the family. It holds all the secrets, similar to the saying '*if these four walls could talk*'. It's really poignant in their story because they've grown up in this house and in this series, the house is the thing that breaks them apart and also brings them back together, metaphorically and emotionally.

We've got Mum, Dad, Shiv, Ant and Caroline is also back living in the house. The shed plays a very important part too and there's a bit of a hierarchy of who sleeps where, which is quite funny. We also have the pleasure of being in the company of Finbar, played by Michael McElhatton, who ruffles a lot of feathers this season within the home.

Describe Shiv's journey across season 2.

It is another roller coaster. It's chaotic and high-octane joy. In some moments we see her grow and really mature in ways which are beautiful, and we also see her in some devastating moments where there's betrayal and she has to fight her demons really hard. She's still fighting addiction, which is always there and very present throughout. Most importantly, there's a new man on the scene, so it's interesting to see the dynamic between Shiv and him. She has a few moments where you can't help but think '*Oh no, don't do that Shiv!*'

Who is Alex and tell us a little more about him?

Initially Shiv thinks he is lovely, but a relationship cannot be part of her lifestyle right now. She sets herself these rules and she's trying to create a space that's not messy and men in her experience, make things quite messy. So, she tries to avoid it, but he's persistent in a very gentlemanly way. They end up getting together and he is somebody who opens up Shiv's world and helps her to recognise the reality of her family dynamic. He encourages her to look at her own worth, value and talent, and celebrates her in a way that she hasn't experienced before. He really does care for her, and she doesn't really know how to handle that affection. He offers her opportunities and choices that could give her a different life to the one that she's experiencing now. I was really happy for her reading some of these gorgeous scenes with this man and thinking that's what it feels like to be really loved, seen and heard.



Alongside Shiv, Bernie is also going on her own sober journey this series. Do you think this has brought them closer or pushed them further apart?

Shiv and Bernie's relationship continues to be quite complex and difficult, and I am sure many can relate to the complexities of a mother-daughter relationship. It's brilliant to see them try and connect through their sober journey together. It means Shiv is not alone and she really appreciates and finds inspiration from her mum. I think she looks at Bernie and thinks at first, it's really easy for her. Or at least much less difficult than it is for Shiv. Taking part in recovery with Bernie makes her feel less isolated, but it's not all plain sailing and we see how difficult it is to be honest when you're suffering from addiction to yourself and to the people that's closest to you.

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

I love filming in Dublin. We were lucky to shoot in the Hugh Lane Gallery for the first time, which was a beautiful space. Sometimes you shoot at a location, and it helps with the scene. As a performer, you can understand the world of your character much better. So being there amongst the amazing art helped me connect with Shiv's creative, artistic side.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

I think they can expect to have a really good laugh and maybe a cry too.

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

I love working with Paddy, he is a great director. He has a very strong, clear vision of what the story is, and I felt in very safe hands with him on set.

How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*? Have you got any favourite moments from filming?

It's brilliant to have a returning crew as a lot of the same people came back to work on this series. Ireland's quite a small place with a tight-knit filming community, so people generally tend to know each other. They've worked with each other before and there's a shorthand in the language that makes it work. The experience was smooth and enjoyable for everybody and they're all great craic!

SIOBHAN CULLEN (CAROLINE)

How did season 1 end?

Season one ended with the Sheridans all in quite an uncertain place. Caroline's relationship with Rory has ended, which therefore throws her living situation into question, so a lot of things are thrown off track. It was quite a dramatic end to the series as Shiv spilled all the family secrets.

Where do we find Caroline at the start of season 2?

She's in a very different place than where we've seen her before and is trying not to let the breakup with Rory get to her. She is on all the apps and is dating her way around South Dublin. She starts seeing Shane, who on paper is perfect as he is an investment banker but is a bit of a commitment-phobe.



What is Caroline's worst flaw?

That she's a perfectionist. That's such a Caroline answer, but I think she is a perfectionist to her own fault and detriment. She's unwavering in her expectations of herself, and sometimes those around her as well, so the impact of that can be really negative. So, when she doesn't achieve those expectations, it's not an option. She's very hard on herself in that way and I do sympathise with her for that. She's set these goals for herself that are just unattainable, and also for those around her.

What are you most excited about this season?

The new characters. The brilliant new cast include Michael McElhatton, Thommas Kane Byrne, Seán Doyle and Helen Norton to name a few.

Tell us about the Sheridans and how things have gotten more complicated for them.

They are all under the same roof, so the three grown up kids are back in the gaff. We also have an extra family member Finbar, Bernie's new partner, who has really thrown a cat amongst the pigeons. Tensions are running high, so they are faced with the difficult prospect of living in such close proximity as 6 adults.

What was your reaction to reading the scripts for season 2?

I was so excited as I couldn't wait to see what Nancy had in store for us and I wasn't disappointed. It's classic *The Dry*, full of so much heart, it's hilarious. It's moving and heartbreaking at the same time. I was really pleased and excited to get going once I read them.

Describe Caroline's journey across season 2.

It is quite a big one. She starts off in a place that we haven't really seen her in before, where she's kind of let her hair down a little bit. But she's not really being herself, she has this timeline that she is very adamant that she sticks to. It involves her making consultant at the hospital, finding a husband and having two or three kids before she's 35. Everything is laid out to meet that goal. She's dating around, pretending she's having a good time, but it's tough going. We see Caroline become a bit more vulnerable this season. We see her walls break down a bit and the cracks start to show. She is actually in quite a lonely place, and I think she needs the support of her family more than ever. We see her tentatively reaching out to her family, but not really getting the support that she needs. A classic Sheridan problem.

Caroline was often seen as a successful daughter by her family. How do you think that that impacts her romantic, and familial relationships?

She is often seen as the perfect daughter, a title she's quite proud of, but I don't think she realises the effect that that has on her in terms of her relationships. She has a standard she has to live up to, and I think it's an impossible standard to reach. So, anything short of that she views as a failure resulting in self-sabotage.



At times, Caroline is forced to re-evaluate her timeline and finds herself drawn back to kind but unavailable Rory, she is forced to embrace the chaos – can you tell us a bit about that.

I think Caroline is forced to embrace the chaos of life, which isn't necessarily her personality. It's quite a challenge for her, but through the course of events, she has to navigate her way through and discover what she really wants from life rather than what she feels is expected of her.

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

It's been really nice to be back in the Sheridan's home, we've also shot in some really cool locations. My favourite so far has been Hugh Lane Gallery. It is such a beautiful space, and we had some great scenes there.

This season the whole family are living together in the family home – can you talk a little bit about the role the Sheridan house plays in the story this season?

The house symbolises the family unit. Paddy (Breathnach) had this lovely idea that for season 2 it's like the house is just trying to split them all up. We've all been drawn back into the home, but the house is expelling us all. The family are drawn back to each other, but it's not maybe the most natural of fits and the urge to get out and escape is also prevalent this season.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

I think people can expect lots of surprises. They will see the Sheridans in a new light and see different aspects of their personalities that we maybe haven't seen quite yet, as well as lots more laughs.

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

It's been so lovely working with Paddy again. He's such a brilliant director and it's been really nice coming back because you feel like you maybe have that a bit of a shorthand. I think Paddy and Nancy Harris, our writer, are really in tune with each other. The tone of our show is so specific, it treads the line between comedy and tragedy, and I think they both have a really strong sense of that.

How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*? Have you got any favourite moments from filming?

We have the best crew, everyone was so excited to come back for season 2 as well, which is always lovely. It really helps create that family feel.

Some of my favourite moments from filming this season, again like season 1, were the big family scenes. At the beginning of the shoot, we shot the majority of our family stuff, which was a gorgeous way to come back and remember who we are in relation to each other, because I think that's when the characters are mostly themselves.



ADAM RICHARDSON (ANT)

How did season 1 end?

Season 1 ended with the family rallying around Shiv, who embarrassed herself with a drunken outburst at Rory and Caroline's engagement party. It was a bit messy. With the support of her family, Shiv goes back into recovery followed by her mother, Bernie, who recognised that she also had a problem with alcohol.

Where do we find Ant at the start of season 2?

Ant is in a slightly more hopeful place than where we found him at the beginning of season 1. He's still hanging on to the job and onto his boyfriend Max, so he has two really good things going for him. Things are looking pretty exciting and are going the way he's been wanting them to go for a while.

What would you say is Ant's worst flaw and do you have sympathy for him?

His worst flaw would probably be he tends to self-sabotage, and I do have a bit of sympathy for him for that because I think he does this as his way of dealing with ambiguity. He doesn't know where he stands in certain situations, so he'll choose to sabotage himself in order to have a clearer picture of where he's at. Whether it be with the job, a person, a relationship, I think self-sabotage continues to be a common theme for him.

What are you most excited about this season?

I'm most excited about the new characters. They have added little nuances to the world of *The Dry*. We all created a world together in season 1 and there's familiarity to it for sure, but what the new characters add is a new spice.

How have things gotten more complicated for these characters?

Things have gotten more complicated due to the amount of bodies in the Sheridan household. Simple things like sharing a bathroom or eating breakfast at the same time is just not that simple with an extra couple of bodies in the space. So right from the get-go, I think everyone's tensions are a bit higher. So, the logistics of sharing a house amongst more than just their family is where the complications start.

Season 2 welcomes a host of new characters, including Billy, Bernie's new sponsor. How does Ant feel about his abrupt entrance into his mother's life?

Ant doesn't feel great about Billy's entrance into Bernie's life as he starts to feel like he might have been replaced. They were the two who went shopping and who went for cocktails in town. They were the little troublemakers who used to egg each other on. So, for Ant not to have that relationship at the beginning of season 2, he feels slightly jealous.

I suppose the common theme of Ant's journey in both his work and his relationship is what happens when the honeymoon period is over? When your initial love for a job dries up a bit, how do you keep yourself motivated? In his relationship, it's been seven months of pure love and joy, falling head over



heels for this boy, Max. So naturally that's going to dissipate after a while, so how do you keep the spark alive?

This season the whole family are living together in the family home – can you talk a little bit about the role the Sheridan house plays in the story this season?

The Sheridan house is almost like the tenth character. It plays such an important role as it kind of tells you how the story is going. For example, who is in what room, has the layout changed, who's sleeping where and why?

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

The nice thing about filming in and around Dublin is that the Sheridan house is located near enough to where I grew up. I grew up in county Ballybrack, so I have enjoyed reliving these familial experiences with a new family.

What was your reaction to reading the scripts for season 2?

We only got the first two to begin with, which was a bit of a tease. I read them over and over again, trying to guess where Nancy (Harris) was going to take the characters this time. It was another couple of weeks wait till we got the rest of the episodes and I read them straight through on a flight home. I loved to imagine the scenes and what Paddy (Breathnach) would do with the scripts, it was so exciting.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

Laughter for sure, they'll be kept on their toes. I don't think they'll be able to guess where we're going with the storyline this series, because I couldn't guess where we were going when reading the scripts. It will also appear very familiar to them with the Sheridan family set up, we'll still be diving right into all their problems, addictions and flaws, so they won't be bored.

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

Working with Paddy has been amazing. I've looked up to him for a few years, everything about him is iconic. He directed a movie called *Man About Dog* which my dad and I watched over and over again growing up. It's that kind of slapstick kind of humour that's really fun, Paddy will always come up with a new idea on the day and he'll never get you to do the same take twice. He is a joy to work with.

How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*?

They've all been magnificent. A lot of the team were similar to the first season as well. It's been great to build on the relationships we already have and there's a lot of trust there. Whether it be, you know, costume, lighting, hair, makeup, everyone's working together to keep the machine going.



CIARAN HINDS (TOM)

Where do we find your character at the start of season 2?

He's not quite in the doghouse, but in the shed in the garden. He's a member of the household, but he's not living in the house anymore. He refuses to call it a shed, he thinks it's an annex. Bernie has taken her lover into the house, so Tom is in a very strange position at the beginning where he can use the bathroom and can go into the kitchen, but apart from that, he's *persona non grata*.

What would you say is Tom's worst flaw and do you have sympathy for him?

The way Nancy Harris has written Tom, he has no real get up and go. He's a laissez faire kind of a guy. He's not dynamic and doesn't really have any drive. There's no harm in him, he's not a bad man, but he doesn't really involve himself too much with trying to progress.

What are you most excited about this season?

I'm very excited to be going head-to-head with Michael McElhatton in this story. Michael plays Finbar, who's my wife's lover and they're living in an open relationship. I've worked with Michael before in a Conor McPherson play and we got on very well. He's kind of my nemesis which I look forward to viewers seeing.

What was your reaction to reading the scripts?

I was thrilled by how Nancy had not just developed the characters but her bravery with the plot lines. The thought of us all coming together again to try and accomplish her vision was hard work to make sure we do it justice. It's about trying to get the balance of how we're all going to make it work so it doesn't become totally absurd, but it's based on a good dynamic and a good truth.

Describe Tom's journey across season 2.

He kind of loses his house, his dignity and his reason. Then towards the end, he makes a big decision that affects the family hugely in a pretty bad way. But by the very end of it, he takes decisive action and grows some balls, as Mina would say.

As a father, Tom has a close relationship with his children. What does he want for them?

In the first series, you could see that he cared very much for Shiv, who he understands is a difficult character. He wants her to be successful, for people to recognise her creative talent and for her to make something of her life. Caroline the middle child he believes is fine. She's organised, she's a doctor and she's got her own place. He's not paid attention to Ant very much which he admits is because of the death of their other son. So, what you think is that he understands all that now, but what happens in the second series is he almost, not deliberately, has hardly any connection with any of them. Suddenly, because he's on his own, he feels solitary.

Tell us about his strained relationship with Finbar.

Finbar is probably the smuggest man in history, so we do see where Tom is coming from. I think anybody would have a problem with Finbar and his attitude to his life, his narcissism and his egotism,



although, he's very unaware. He's only really aware of himself and it also transpires that he's a bit of a chancer which Tom suspected. The problem for Tom is he doesn't understand why she chose Finbar. It rankles him also the way that Finbar's moved into the house and just is wandering around it like it's his own, which he struggles with.

This season the whole family are living together in the family home – can you talk a little bit about the role the Sheridan house plays in the story this season?

Tom is looking at the Sheridan house really from the shed. He only goes in there either to go to the bathroom or make a sandwich, it's a very strange setup. Tom should be strong and take some action to change this, as all the kids are between mid-twenties to mid-thirties and they're all still at home with their own rooms. Tom's the only one without a room.

The front room where they hold family meetings is now formal. It is a different dynamic from series 1 where we would see Bernie and Tom sitting there, just having a cup of tea or relaxing. Not much goes on there now. Most of the action takes place in bedrooms and the kitchen. So, it's quite interesting because for once the main room in the house is hardly used.

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

It's a joy to work with, Paddy. He was one of the main reasons why I joined the show in the first place. He's still on the search for the truth mixed with humour. It's interesting because he's got so many shots to fulfil and so many people to observe, even if they don't have dialogue in the scene, everybody's very aware of the other, and it is important to capture these tiny moments. He's frantically busy from start to the end of shoot. But even if it's drama, he doesn't want it to turn into tragedy, ensuring there is lightness and humour. It's about gauging the balance between the drama and the humour. I put my faith in him completely and he has guided us through.

How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*? Have you got any favourite moments from filming?

I always feel very happy to be working at home. We have an ease with each other and a respect for each other, but there's also great wit and banter in between. From the camera crew to the props department, they're fantastic. When we came to work at six in the morning, everyone was full of warmth and connected so quickly, looking forward to starting the day.

What do you think people can expect from season 2?

They can expect something that is highly emotional, quite thrilling and very absurd.

Have things gotten more complicated for the characters in the show?

The relationships were complicated to begin with and of course when you set up a series, you have got to find out who's really getting on with who. But now the audience knows who the characters are, you'll start to find out what journeys they are going to take individually.

Shiv's problem is originally with alcohol, which she now seems to be on top of. She falls for a lovely man in the story who's a restaurateur called Alex, and she starts a relationship with him. But then suddenly, her other lover, Jack manifests himself again.



Tom thinks Caroline is all sorted as she's a doctor and was in a relationship. After her and Rory break up, she's trying to find another partner and she's going through them like crazy. Her life is rather complicated and because of a certain incident, becomes even more complicated.

Ant is almost as we left him. He's in a relationship with Max, he still has his job in real estate, he's just about holding onto all this because of his own nature, because of his lack of trust in people and his fearfulness at times. He has a nervousity about him that's kind of hyper which gets in his way of just being able to get on with life, so he has his own complications.

POM BOYD (BERNIE)

Where did season 1 end?

Season 1 ended with Shiv having her big showdown at the Caroline's engagement party. She realised she needed to go back to recovery, so the family rally to bring her there next day. When Shiv gets there, the door opens, and her mother Bernie arrives at the meeting to start the process of giving up alcohol.

Where do we find Bernie at the start of season 2?

Seven months down the line, Bernie has been going to recovery and has discovered a whole new world of friends, as well as a new love interest. She's met Finbar, and she's very happy. He's very involved in her life; but she is quite separate from her kids at the moment.

What would you say is Bernie's worst flaw, and do you have sympathy for her?

Bernie is someone who is not very self-aware. To me her biggest flaw is her blindness to the needs of her children. I know they're all adults, but she's lost in grief, her own pain is so great that she's not able I think to see the pain of the family, her own family around her. She needs to learn to be more open about her feelings and to be able to communicate a little bit. It sounds so worthy. But I do I think a lot of the family's trials and grief come from not being open, not being able to be open and honest with each other.

What are you most excited about this season?

There's new characters and a lot of interesting fun stuff as I an actor I really enjoyed performing.

How have things gotten more complicated for the Sheridan's?

Things have definitely got a lot more complicated because, first of all, Bernie has a new man who's living in the family home and Tom has been ousted out. So that in itself is a very complicated situation for everybody to navigate, and particularly the kids. The kids are all back living at home, and they've all got complicated love lives. It's a busy dramatic household.



What was your reaction to reading the scripts for season 2?

It was so entertaining to read them, I was laughing with delight, and I was just thrilled at the prospect of getting to shoot it all. Nancy has really done a great job of moving the Sheridans into their next phase, creating lots of interesting storylines and drama for all of us. I think audiences are really going to enjoy the second season.

Tell us about Bernie's relationship with Finbar. What are the key qualities he has which she finds desirable?

Finbar is not immediately what you would think Bernie would go for, but he's very sympathetic and caring towards her. He makes her feel seen and I think she's really enjoying that since she's felt invisible for a long time. He seems to really understand her. He's in recovery as well, so she met him there. With him also being an alcoholic, they have a lot in common and he's someone who makes her feel the centre of their world.

We see Shiv desperately trying to connect with Bernie during her recovery journey. Why do you think she is resistant to Shiv's gestures?

That is the mystery of Bernie that I have discussed with Paddy (Breathnach) because it's something I personally don't understand. Bernie is quite a withholding type of person; she withholds her feelings and emotions in lots of ways. Shiv and Bernie have more of a sister's relationship than a mother-daughter. I think Bernie is a little immature, undeveloped let's say, in regard to her role, as I feel as a mother, she should guide her children. She's competitive with Shiv in recovery and feels she has brought a lot of trouble into her life and doesn't really know how to relate to her. Bernie just sees her as difficult and wants to avoid confrontation and having real conversations.

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

Working with Paddy is just a total joy, and it's fantastic. This is my third project with Paddy, and he creates a brilliant atmosphere on set which is focused on the work, the art, the creativity, but at the same time with a light touch so that we always feel we're having fun. There always seems to be room to expand or room to go to Paddy with a suggestion. If you have a suggestion, he's always interested in collaboration.

How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*? Have you got any favourite moments from filming?

They're a brilliant crew and just a lovely bunch of human beings and creatives. We're all here bringing these characters to life, and everybody's got the same goal. I know it's a job but there really is a very genuine feeling of togetherness.

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

It's interesting because we filmed in the location called Foxrock which is a huge contrast to the location shots around the inner city. I live in the city, but I was actually born in Foxrock, so I feel I straddle both worlds. It's interesting to tap into that middle class suburbia world in Foxrock as well as the energy and noise of the city. My favourite location is the Sheridan's house, as I feel so at home there.



This season the whole family are living together in the family home – can you talk a little bit about the role the Sheridan house plays in the story this season?

I can't give away any spoilers, but the house is a big part of the storyline. It's the thing that's keeping them all together, for better or for worse. It's the place where Ant was born and also the place where Bernie's late son and mother died, so it is particularly key for Bernie and is her place of refuge. But maybe it's holding them together in a way that they no longer need to be held, so yes, the house is key.

What can an audiences expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

People really seem to have identified with the characters and the story. Especially in Ireland where themes of sobriety and alcoholism resonate. So, I think people are going to get that and will also be interested to see how the characters have moved on. They can expect humour, a lot of drama and fun at the same time.

MICHAEL MCELHATTON (FINBAR)

Tell us about your character?

Finbar is the new special friend of Bernie and inveigles his way into the Sheridan household. That's all I can tell you at this stage, he is also an intellectual, who has written a book.

What excited you most when reading the scripts and learning about your character?

Paddy is a very old friend of mine; we have worked together a few times and had spoken about the character Finbar previously. What attracted me to the role was that Paddy was directing and I had loved the first season. Paddy knows how to shoot, his editing, lighting and shot choice are always superb. I thought the series had a nice tone to it, all the performances were great, and it looked like a lot of fun. It was great to be in Dublin too as I rarely get the chance to work there.

Things seem to have moved quite fast with Bernie and Finbar as he has moved into the family home. Tell us about the power dynamic within their relationship, and what do you think his intentions are?

The best way to describe him is he's like a cuckoo. He comes into the home when Tom has been kicked out to the shed outside. Slowly but surely, he's worming his way into the Sheridan household to see what he can get out of living there. He's a long-standing member of AA who supports Bernie and Shiv in their sobriety journeys. He a man who likes to dictate things on his own terms.

What do you think Finbar's thoughts are of the Sheridan children?

I think he feels indifferent about them. He would think Shiv was a sad, pathetic creature as he's a very arrogant alcoholic who considers himself superior to other people who've slipped up. He's not the nicest in that sense.



Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

The majority of my scenes have been in the Sheridan home which is around 20-25 minutes away from my house, which was very attractive for this job!

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

I think it might be more comedic with even more gags. There are more characters so the stakes are sometimes a little higher as we see them all under pressure, creating more complexity and depth within their relationships.

SAM KEELEY (ALEX)

Were you a fan of series 1 and what drew you to the scripts for season 2?

I was a big fan of Nancy's writing and everyone's performances in the show. I thought it was really well executed and just lovely, especially the way they deal with quite a tricky topic. Dealing with addiction in a palatable way for people to process and also understand what's going on in people's lives. I guess what drew me to it was being allowed to have an opportunity to fit into that world that was already masterfully created by everybody.

What was it like working with the rest of the cast?

It's been so great working the cast. It's always intimidating coming into a show that's been established with very good actors, and they've created a beautiful world and done such a good job. But everybody's been so welcoming and the calibre of actor on this show and creators in general on this show is amazing. So, to be welcomed by them like that has been lovely.

How did you prepare for bringing the character of Alex to life?

I knew some people who are chefs and restaurant owners, so I spoke to them and tried to brush up on my chopping skills. Alex is different in the sense that he's not just a chef, he is a very successful businessman and that was the side I didn't really know much about. It was easy enough to research the life of cheffing and how stressful that can be, but to come out the other side of and successfully run businesses is a whole other thing entirely. Alex is an interesting character, there's lots of layers to him.

Who is Alex and how does he fit into *The Dry*?

He's this working-class dude from the north side of Dublin who is very passionate and very good at what he does. I also think he's been through a lot in his life and done enough work on himself to be able to have a perspective that Shiv responds well to. He's not judgmental, he's quite open and forgiving. He's a rock for Shiv in moments when she really needs it, when she trying to find her place in the world whilst battling her addiction.



Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

I loved working with Paddy. He's great, we see eye to eye on how we tell stories. We're very similar in how we approach a scene and that every little nuance and beat is important and can be tweaked to change the scene ever so slightly. I understand his language in terms of how he approaches the art, we speak a very similar language in terms of creativity.

Alex is a charming, modest, Northsider and a successful entrepreneur. He's a new character for season 2, can you tell us a bit about how Alex and Shiv first met.

I don't think it's mentioned in the script how Shiv and Alex first met, but we pick up where Shiv is in his coffee shop, which she doesn't know is his business at the time. She's ordering her drink, and you get the sense by their interaction has happened before multiple times. In pre-production myself, Roisin and Paddy talked about the idea that maybe this flirtatious exchange had happened between them, maybe a couple of times in the past.

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin. Do you have any favourite locations?

I really enjoyed filming in the Sheridan house, which is beautiful. The surrounding neighbourhood is lovely and it's great to be in the house, having seen it on screen. Also, I loved being on the streets of Dublin and all the madness and all that comes with it.

Alex has troubled relationship when it comes to family. Talk us through his relationship with his own father.

I think Alex has got a troubled past when it comes to his family. There's a scene in the show where he mentions the people close to him have let him down. He's not close with his family, and in particular he's not close with his dad. He actually has quite a volatile relationship with his dad and again, there's no explicit reason that is made clear to the audience why this is.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

More of the same good stuff that was in the first season. The characters are great, it's funny, emotional and it's heartfelt. I think you get peppers of new characters like myself and Michael Mcelhatton's character Finbar which adds a new dimension to the their already rich world.

MOE DUNFORD (JACK)

How did season 1 end?

For Jack, season 1 ended where he's at the art gallery and he asks Shiv to come with him and join the dark side. She refuses and calls him out for being selfish. When Shiv's family get together and accept her effort to go back and join AA, there is finally togetherness within the Sheridan family. Jack's life completely crumbles, which we don't see on camera, but we join season 2 7 months later and see how badly it ended.



Where do we find Jack the start of season 2?

He has lost his relationship; he's living in a makeshift camper van that we heard about in season 1. And he has a little girl. His art has gone by the wayside; his money has gone, and his livelihood has changed. He's struggling a lot more, which I really enjoyed exploring for Jack.

What are you most excited about this season?

I'm excited for the story to take Jack places that are surprising and for new shades of his character to come out. I'm looking forward to continuing the relationship with Roisin and Shiv and to see a side of Jack we didn't see in season 1.

I love Nancy's writing in season 2. She allows Jack moments of bravado but also moments where the mask falls off which he wears to hide his feelings. I am glad he gets the chance to experience this range of emotions. I was excited reading the scripts. In my eyes, it's the perfect continuation Shiv and Jack's friendship.

What can an audience expect from season 2?

Well for people who enjoyed season 1, they can expect the show to be denser and a lot deeper. There's more characters and drama involving all the main players. There's a lot of surprises and everybody continues to struggle in different ways, not just Shiv. The series has the same heart and humour as series 1 but shows a great evolution of their journeys.

What was your reaction to reading the scripts for season 2?

After watching season 1, the ending was tied up nice and neat, so being a fan of the show and involved in it, I did wonder where it could go. There's a lot more Sheridan family member surprises such as when Jack joins a recovery session as he's still obsessed with the notion of Shiv, similar to *Bonnie and Clyde*. That rebellious, free-spirited Jack is tested. Nancy has flipped the expectations on their head, so I was surprised reading every episode.

Jack is charming, in a roguish, selfish way and we saw Shiv fall for this last season, with drastic consequences. Can you tell us a bit about their relationship in season 2?

Their relationship has evolved as Shiv has evolved as a person. Seven months later, she has done a lot of healing, getting over the crazy times with Jack and in her family. There is a lot of that chaos in season 1, so in season 2 she doesn't want to go anywhere near Jack, but he is still obsessed with her. It was interesting to play as he is still selfish, loves freedom and is still the Jack we know.

At the start of season 2, we find Jack becoming accustomed to fatherhood. Tell us how he might be feeling trying to balance parenthood, his work life and personal life.

I think Jack was afraid of becoming a father in season 1 and he's been surprised with how much he enjoys it. His daughter Stevie brings a lot of joy to Jack whilst he's navigating how to balance different parts of his life. Stevie gives him buoyancy when he looks after her, however he still feels like the man about town.



How has it been working with the Irish crew behind the scenes on *The Dry*? Have you got any favourite moments from filming?

Like season 1, I have known a lot of them before and worked with Paddy previously. We shot season 1 in the pandemic, so it was a joy to go back, meet old friends, connect and engage. I've loved every day of it.

NANCY HARRIS – CREATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Where do we find the story at the start of season 2?

Everything seems to be going well, the family are in a pretty good place. Bernie's moved on; she has a new man. Tom is now living out in the shed where Ant was living. All the kids are back under one roof and Shiv has a job and all seems to be going well, but everything is not always what it seems.

How have things gotten more complicated for these characters?

Things have gotten more complicated for the characters, primarily because Bernie and Shiv are both in recovery. We ended the last series with Bernie attending an AA meeting, but we don't know where that's going to go.

This season, she has fully embraced her sobriety. While Shiv is really thrilled that her mum isn't drinking and is looking at herself, it's also posing challenges. Her getting healthy is maybe giving Shiv a little less of a role in Bernie's life, so we wanted to look into what it was like to have two people in the same family trying to get sober and do they have the same attitude, or does it create competition?

Other complications include how Bernie's new partner has taken up residence in their house and has displaced Tom. Bernie also has a new sponsor who is provoking Ant, who she has developed a close relationship with that she used to have with her son.

Caroline is having her own dilemmas because she's broken up with Rory and is now on the hunt for a new partner and kind of a life.

Tom, as a character, he really intrigues me because he's both incredibly noble and quietly supportive of Shiv. But when does that turn into passivity? Tom has allowed Bernie to have this new relationship because he felt guilty about his own situation in the last season and now, he's living in the shed.

Can you tell us a bit about the new characters this series?

Finbar is an ex-Sociology professor who's been sober for about 30 years or so and met Bernie in a meeting. It's never really clear when he officially moved in, but he's there all the time and he has written a book that he is very fond of. Finbar has a calm energy that is like the cat among the pigeons without trying to disrupt everybody, he sort of just does.

This season, Shiv is grappling with what it's like to actually stay sober. Alex coming into her life is really a positive influence. He is somebody who's ready for a relationship and has a new energy and he sees her family as maybe we see her family, which is that they're not always supportive. He offers a more sober perspective and it's about whether that's enough for Shiv or will she go back to her old ways?



How important is it to you to make a TV drama like *The Dry* that's set and shot in Ireland?

It's really important to me that the show was set and shot in Ireland. I think it's very Irish in its humour and hopefully in its depiction of families. The Sheridans are not always likeable, but they are truthful and lovable and for that reason we understand them, and I think there's something very Irish about that. I also felt that given that Ireland has always had this stereotypical relationship with alcoholism, it was a timely thing to have a show set in Ireland that actually dealt with the subject of addiction in a really complex and truthful way.

Can you talk us through Shiv's journey in season 2.

Her journey is quite complex because she's managed to stay sober for seven months, her mum is now in recovery, and she has complicated feelings about that. She is trying hard to be good and do everything right this time, but maybe trying a little bit too hard when she finds the perfect relationship. Has she come far enough as a sober person to really be able to manage a relationship and her family? The big question of season 2 for Shiv is, is her family actually part of the problem? Is it actually not just alcohol but the destructive, dysfunctional dynamic of her family that is a danger to Shiv's sobriety as much as alcohol?

Can you talk about some of the main themes within the series?

I obviously wanted to move the story on. The show was always more than just addiction and recovery. It was always about a family and a comedy drama that tried to deal truthfully with serious subjects, but also humorously. I really wanted to look at deeper things like the dysfunctional family dynamics and also the different types of addiction. Shiv is one kind of alcoholic and Bernie is kind of another and they operate differently. I also wanted to ask tough questions such as what happens when you've been sober for 10 years and you suddenly have a full-on crisis, or being sober becomes boring?

Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with director, Paddy Breathnach?

I love working with Paddy, he is the dream collaborator, he's just so thoughtful. It was a different relationship because we had shot season 1. We knew who was playing the characters and what the tone of the show was. That's the hardest thing I think, especially with comedy drama, finding the right balance of tone, and that was our biggest conversation on season one. That was less of a conversation this time because we knew it. I think it's allowed us to go deeper and to take more risks because we know each other and we trust each other, and particularly with storylines like Shiv's and Bernie's as they're complex. With Tom's, we felt we could push things further. Because we had done the first season together, we knew how each other worked. We knew each other's sense of humour, and he's a brilliant director. I love how he is so meticulous with the script; he understands every beat of it. We discuss everything and then he's really clear on what he wants. He's a very detailed director and that's such a joy for a writer to know that your scripts are in really good hands where he is only going to enhance them and make them better.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

I think they can expect the unexpected from season two. I think it has a slightly more unusual storyline to season 1. It's more complex and I think you see all the characters in a slightly different light. That felt important to me to develop them which is part of the joy of a second season.



So, we see all the characters in the family in a deeper way like Shiv and Tom, but we also see that characters that aren't in the family like Jack, and Alex have their own arcs. too, which was really important to me.

PADDY BREATHNACH – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

Where do we find the story at the start of season two?

When we finished season 1, Shiv and her mother kind of connected, and there's a feeling of support but there's something missing, or something not quite right at the beginning. She wants to go on the journey of giving up drink with her mother, but her mother pushes her away and doesn't let her come on that journey with her. Shiv wants to connect with her and yet there's some barrier between them. That's fundamental of Shiv's experience of her mother, she's always looking to her, but she is never quite there.

Can you talk about some of the main themes that are in the series?

It's the fundamental paradox between wanting to be with your family and yet not totally being able to reconcile that with your own individual identity. It's that constant pull to want to connect, but at the same time having to navigate all the difficulties and personalities that are within your group. I think that's what's great about Nancy's writing is that she writes the modern complexities of dealing with a family, particularly a family that has dysfunction in it, but yet at the same time, there's ultimately something very loving in there as well.

What gets complicated this series for the characters?

For Shiv, it's that vacuum of having achieved something but then the question of, is that all there is and is this as good as it's going to get? One of the issues in relation to her addiction is, how does she deal with romantic relationships? Does she become addicted to them in a certain way, as well? And that's something that's explored when she has the opportunity for a new romance and possibly a very healthy romance for her, healthier than what she's had in the past. Can she navigate that? Can she walk that line? That romantic relationship is placed in contrast with the dysfunction of her family, and she might have to choose between the two of them.

I think with Ant, there's a real feeling of his self-esteem being so low, that he finds it hard to believe when others believe in him, or others love him. That's a big difficulty for him.

For Caroline, she has to confront the fact that all her plans are only as good as the reality that the world presents her. When she's presented with something that she can't control, she has to figure out how to deal with that.

With Bernie and Tom, it's so entangled, and so messy, and there's that question of why they're together still. But yet, there's some sort of fundamental connection that they have to each other. In series 1 Bernie was the glue that kept the dysfunctional family together. It gave her a sense of normality. But by the end of season 1, that wasn't working anymore, so she has to invent a new glue. And she's constructing a new life, but that means that she isn't dealing with the issues that she should be dealing with and by doing that, she begins to let the cracks open up around the family which increasingly puts pressure on her throughout the series.



What was it like filming in and around Dublin?

For the first series, we shot it during COVID so there were a lot more restrictions. This time we could be a bit freer in terms of how we how we shot things. We were able to go to locations, even just simple things, like galleries and we could actually go to the airport and feel the vitality of those locations. So being free to use locations we wanted, it was fantastic, ultimately making the series more handsome.

What was important about shooting it in Ireland, rather than shooting it somewhere else like in the UK?

I think the peculiarity of a place is part of the charm of any show. When you set something somewhere, it feels like it's really there. An audience begins to discover a little bit about what that place feels like, and then everybody is in tune with us. There's an authenticity about it.

How was it working with Irish crew behind the scenes?

It was great. Irish crew over the last 20 years has really developed so the standard of crews has gone up, as have the expectations. For example, DOP Cathal (Watters), came off of Apple TV's *Foundation* before the second series, so you're getting crew who have all worked on things at a certain level. Anthony Hopkins always asks our Hair and Makeup Artist Linsday (Herron) to do his grooming on projects. That's the level you're now getting on Irish shows.

Can you talk about your experience working with Nancy?

It's great. We're friends now so there's an element of play about it. We're very precise about what we do, but at the same time, it's in a context of having fun, and enjoying the work and each other's company too. The best part of it is to be able to have fun and like the people you're working with. I feel very lucky.

What were your favourite scenes to shoot?

One that was really fun was the family meeting, which we also had a similar scene in series 1. You always hope you can make it better than the last one and I think we did. It's a long scene, seven or eight minutes long, and all the performances are great. The dialogue was rockin' in it, so it had great energy.

There's also a fight scene between Tom and his love rival Finbar. The two actors know each other, and they have both have a little bit of devilment in them and a sense of fun. They totally relished going into that fight!

What can audiences expect from series two?

I think they can expect to laugh and to be moved. That's what we always set out to do, create something that's both poignant and funny. There are moments that some of the characters are a bit shocking and drive us to question their actions and yet, they redeem themselves, and they find a way to come back into the fold in spite of that. I think ultimately, it's about having some fun and laughs but yet in the context of knowing that there's some depth or poignancy that surrounds the characters.



EMMA NORTON – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Where do we find the story at the start of season 2?

In season 2, it's seven months on from the end of the last series. The family are all living together in the house, so they're all on top of each other. In some ways it's a nice thing, because they're all together, but that's putting more pressure on them and within the heart of that Shiv is trying to be her best self.

Can you talk about some of the main themes within the series?

The themes are slightly different to season 1. In season 1, we were focusing a lot on recovery and whether Shiv could not drink, so the question of whether she would drink was really kind of driving this. Alcoholism and her avoiding addiction is still a really big theme, but there are other things going on for Shiv because her alcoholism is more stable in this series. Alcoholism remains a theme because it's a big part of Bernie's life as well as Shiv's, but I think this series is really about family and the positive and negative roles that a family can play. We are looking at the scenario of whether you need to distance yourself a bit from your family in order to grow and this applies to all characters in the Sheridan household.

Tell us about what it has been like filming in and around Dublin.

Being back in the Sheridan house was a wonderful experience. It was a little bit like Groundhog Day being back in exactly the same place, but it's an amazing location and we were so lucky to go there again. The house is full of atmosphere and it's so crucial to the story.

Part of the ambition around this series was to build the world of the other characters, and that is all about being in inner city Dublin, around The Liberties and the North Quays. We wanted to really expand the world of *The Dry* and show areas of Dublin that don't usually make it on screen. We've got some really beautiful locations that show off the best of Dublin and reflect real Dublin life. This time round, we didn't have COVID to contend with, so a lot more places were open and we were able to showcase a real host of locations.

How important is it to you to make a TV drama like *The Dry* that's set and shot in Ireland?

One of the major priorities for Element Pictures is to make the best of Irish drama. Everything we do, we want it to be an international scale, but we're an Irish company, based in Ireland and we want to be making really great homegrown programmes and films. So, although we do international work as well, this is a big priority for us and the local talent pool we have is so wonderful.

The Dry is just a brilliant example of great Irish talent, great Irish crew and being able to make something at home for an Irish audience who can really connect with the subject matter, but that will sell internationally and bring the humour and wryness.

How has it been working with the Irish crew on *The Dry*? Is there any standout experiences or moments that you've witnessed or been part of in the making of the show?

For the second series, we've been really lucky to work with many of the same HODs and crew. This was so satisfying because we had such a good time on series one, and the fact that everyone enjoyed



the show so much that they wanted to come back for the second series was a great achievement. Especially in such a crowded world of Production, it's hard to do that. The relationships we've built across the first series and the understanding of what the show is, that's all built into the crew. That's been kind of a crucial part of this series because we're shooting at a very fast pace, so everyone has a shorthand with each other which allowed us to really work fast and work to a high standard.

One of the things I love watching is the camera department led by Cathal Watters talking to each other in Irish on set because I just find that a really dynamic, alive thing to listen to and be aware of. It's also one of the really lovely perks of shooting at home with the crew who really know each other.

What can an audience expect from season 2 of *The Dry*?

I think people can expect more laughs and tears. All the characters have a lot going on and it's going to be a roller coaster.

Talk to us a bit about where we find each character at the start of season 2?

Shiv is in quite a good place, as in, she's not drinking, she's got a new job and she's stable. She's trying really hard and is on the brink of going OK, well, if I can be this stable, what more can I hope for?

Caroline has broken up with Rory and she's taken that heartbreak and weaponised it into intense dating as she needs to catch up with her life. Her five-year plan is quickly derailed, so her journey this series is about being forced to reassess how much she can plan her life in advance.

Ant is again ostensibly pretty happy. He's got a relationship, a job, he's not in the shed anymore and he's living in the house. However, all of his old insecurities are there. His worries about whether he's good enough for Max, and his job, really start to creep in.

Bernie, at the start of this series is living her best life, being the popular one in her recovery meetings, and she's got a new man who thinks she's fabulous. On the surface things appear to be going pretty great for Bernie, but the fact that she is finding sobriety far easier than Shiv is a point of tension for them.

Tom is no longer in the house, he has been relegated to the shed and he's trying to put a brave face on and enjoy his space, but ultimately, it's a fairly sad state of affairs that he's in the shed and Bernie's new man is in the marital bed.

We also have Finbar who is Bernie's new man. He's very funny, calm, self-satisfied, slightly vain man who is really good for Bernie's ego. However, he is also a little bit of a leech and he's somehow managed to end up living with the Sheridan family with no one really knowing how. He's a really fun new flavour to be placed in the middle of the chaos of the Sheridan's.

Shiv meets Alex in his café where she thinks he's just a sexy barista. It turns out that he's a far more successful man than she realised. But what Alex represents for Shiv is stability and healthy living, making her question whether she can be happy when her family are as critical and unsupportive as they are.



Can you talk a little bit about the experience of working with Paddy?

It was such a satisfying experience. We're lucky to have the scenario where the director is involved all the way through development and part of all the conversations that bring the scripts to the screen. I think we all, Nancy Harris included, find that a really satisfying process because everyone is on board with every decision that goes towards what gets shot.

There's a great understanding between Paddy, Nancy, myself, and the script editors. We don't all think the same about everything, but everyone understands each other's viewpoint and that takes a lot of talking, interrogation and listening. We break down each idea to ensure it is brought to life in the correct way. That is part of Paddy and Nancy's process to really interrogate everything to the point where we're like, OK, I think this is the best it can be, let's go and make it.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ROISIN GALLAGHER

Roisin Gallagher recently received an IFTA nomination for Best Lead Actress in a Drama for her standout performance as Shiv in THE DRY by Nancy Harris (RTE, ITVX). It has just been announced that the multi-award nominated show will return for a second series.

THE LOVERS by David Ireland (produced by Drama Republic) in which Roisin leads alongside Johnny Flynn will air later this year on SKY Atlantic.

Other television credits include; St Mungo's LUGANALK, THE PADDY RAFF SHOW (BBCNI), DOING MONEY (BBC), COME HOME (BBC), PAULA (ITV), THE FALL (BBC), DOCTORS (BBC).

Theatre credits include: THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NORN IRON (Grand Opera House), IS THAT TOO HOT, ABIGAILS PARTY, NATURAL DISASTER (The Mac) THE MAN WHO FELL TO PIECES, LALLY THE SCUT AND SLEEP, EAT, PARTY (Tinderbox) BAH HUMBUG, SMILEY, LITTLE RED, PENTECOST, DEMENTED, WEDDINS, WEEINS' AND WAKES, WHITE STAR OF THE NORTH, DOCKERS AND BE MY BABY (Lyric Theatre Belfast); A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Royal Lyceum Theatre); THE WICKED LADY (New Vic); THE BLOODY CHAMBER (Northern Stage);

Roisin regularly records short stories and radio dramas for BBC radio 4 and Radio Ulster, most recently DEAD HAND starring Conleth Hill and Michelle Fairley.

SIOBHAN CULLEN

Following her critically acclaimed run as Fionnula alongside Ralph Fiennes in STRAIGHT LINE CRAZY at The Bridge Theatre last year, Siobhan has wrapped on the productions of BODKIN for Netflix, where she played the lead Dave Maloney, and Hulu's OBITUARY where she played the lead of Elvira. She is now set to start filming the second series of THE DRY for Element Pictures where she plays the leading role of Caroline.



Her previous television credits include series regular Katie in ORIGIN (Left Bank Pictures), THE LONG CALL (ITV) and PAULA (BBC). Her film work includes a leading role in the feature THE BRIGHT SIDE. Siobhán has worked extensively on stage in productions such as ONCE UPON A BRIDGE, THE CHERRY ORCHARD, RICHARD III, CRESTFALL and the one woman play BOLAND (Druid Theatre Company) amongst others.

ADAM RICHARDSON

Adam John Richardson is a Dublin based actor who trained at The Lir Academy, Dublin.

He recently appeared in comedy-drama THE DRY this year opposite Ciarán Hinds and Roisin Gallagher. He will reprise his role in the upcoming second season. Other recent television credits include INTRUDER (ITV), VIKINGS: VALHALLA (Netflix), and he has recently wrapped filming for crime/mystery drama series THE VANISHING TRIANGLE (MGM and Park Films).

His theatre credits include THISISPOPBABY'S PARTY SCENE (REFLECTIONS ON A CHEMSEX CRISIS) performed at the Gate Theatre and ANU Theatre's STAGING THE TREATY where he played revolutionary Harry Boland.

CIARAN HINDS

Ciarán began his career at The Glasgow Citizens Theatre and was a member of the company for many years. In Ireland he has worked at the Lyric Theatre Belfast, the Druid Theatre in Galway and at the Project. Extensive theatre credits include UNCLE VANYA at the Pinter Theatre, the National Theatre's production of Brian Friel's TRANSLATIONS, Nick in Conor McPherson's THE GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY in the West End and The Old Vic. Lyndsey Turner's HAMLET at the Barbican, Mark O'Rowe's new play OUR FEW AND EVIL DAYS at The Abbey Theatre. Donmar Theatre and New York productions of Connor McPherson's THE NIGHT ALIVE, on Broadway as Big Daddy in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF and at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, in a co-production with the Royal National Theatre of JUNO & THE PAYCOCK by Sean O'Casey, directed by Howard Davies.

Television credits include THE DRY, TREASON, KIN, MOTHER FATHER SON, as *John Franklin* in THE TERROR, as *Mance Rayder* in GAME OF THRONES and as *Bud Hammond* in POLITICAL ANIMALS, *DCI Langton* in Linda La Plante's ABOVE SUSPICION and as *Julius Caesar* in the BBC/HBO co-production of ROME. This follows extensive television credits including leading roles in THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE, JANE EYRE, SEAFORTH, IVANHOE, SHERLOCK HOLMES, PRIME SUSPECT 3 and the award-winning film of Jane Austen's PERSUASION, in which he played *Captain Wentworth*.

Extensive Film credits include Peter Greenaway's THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE AND HER LOVER, DECEMBER BRIDE, CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, TITANIC TOWN, SOME MOTHER'S SON, OSCAR AND LUCINDA, THE LOST SON, THE WEIGHT OF WATER and MARY REILLY, THE ROAD TO PERDITION for Sam Mendes, THE SUM OF ALL FEARS, JONJO MICKYBO, CALENDAR GIRLS, LARA CROFT: THE CRADLE OF LIFE, THE STATEMENT, VERONICA GUERIN and THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA both for Joel Schumacher, MIAMI VICE for Michael Mann and MUNICH for Steven Spielberg. AMAZING GRACE for Michael Apted, NATIVITY for Catherine Hardwicke, HALLAM FOE, A TIGER'S TAIL, EXCALIBUR for John Boorman, MARGOT AT THE WEDDING for Noah Baumbach, THERE WILL BE BLOOD for Paul Thomas Anderson, STOP LOSS for Kimberly Pearce, IN BRUGES for Martin McDonagh, THE TALE OF DESPERAUX, MISS



PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY, CASH, RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN, Conor McPherson's THE ECLIPSE *for which he won BEST ACTOR at the Tribeca Film Festival*, LIFE DURING WARTIME, THE DEBT, HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS, JOHN CARTER OF MARS, SALVATION BOULEVARD, THE RITE, TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY, GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, THE WOMAN IN BLACK, CLOSED CIRCUIT, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELEANOR RIGBY, THE SEA, FROZEN, LAST DAYS IN THE DESERT, AGENT 47, DRIFTLESS AREA, BLEED FOR THIS, SILENCE for Martin Scorsese, BLEED FOR THIS, WOMAN WALKS AHEAD, RED SPARROW, JUSTICE LEAGUE, FIRST MAN, THE MAN IN THE HAT, FROZEN II and BELFAST for which he has received a BAFTA and ACADEMY AWARD nomination.

POM BOYD

Pom Boyd is an award winning writer, actor and comedian. She has acted extensively in and written for theatre, film, TV and radio.

In 2023 Pom appeared onstage in the Dublin Theatre Festival with Fishamble the New Play Company's play IN TWO MINDS by Joanne Ryan. Pom also directed, designed and performed in SHAME (2018 Dublin Fringe Festival) which was nominated for three Fringe Festival Awards including best performer for Pom.

Pom's comedy shows have been to The Edinburgh Fringe and Dublin Theatre Festivals. Her popular comedy character the Windy Lady appeared in the THE WINDY LADY'S CHRISTMAS, written and performed by Pom at Axis Ballymun in 2019. Pom was writing comedy and sketches from the very start of her career but her first official commission, stage play DOWN ONTO BLUE was produced by Rough Magic Theatre Company and received a Stewart Parker Award in 1994.

Radio plays include TRY TONY (BBC Radio 4) and GET THE WAITER (RTE).

In 2021 Pom appeared as Mary, Frank's Mother in the TV comedy series FRANK OF IRELAND alongside Domhnal, Brendan and Brian Gleeson (CH4/Amazon Prime).

Pom stars in the upcoming second season of THE DRY, from director Paddy Breathnach. Pom previously worked with Paddy when she appeared alongside Sarah Greene as Rosie's Mother in the acclaimed film ROSIE (2019) by Roddy Doyle. Additionally in 2024, Pom will appear alongside comedian Will Forte (SNL), Chris Walley (Young Offenders), Pat Short and Siobhan Cullen (The Dry, Obituary) in the new Netflix TV series BODKIN.

MOE DUNFORD

Moe most recently appeared as series regular *Alex Kurtz* in season 2 of THE HEAD (HBO Max/MediaPro) opposite John Lynch on HBO Max, Starzplay and Viaplay for MediaPro Studio in early 2023. Moe's other recent screen appearances include Richter in TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (Legendary/Netflix) which dropped globally on Netflix in Feb 2022 and was the Number 1 film globally for Netflix and Number 1 film on Netflix US that same weekend. Moe also appeared in NIGHTRIDE in early 2022 in the lead role of BUDGE, written by Ben Conway and directed by Stephen Fingleton (Haus/Brainstorm/Village) on US and UK Netflix, and went on to win a 2022 IFTA for Best Actor for this role. Moe also appeared as recurring character Eoin in REDEMPTION (ITV/Virgin Media) in 2022 and



went on to appear in the recurring role of Jack in THE DRY (ITV/RTE/Element) on for which he was nominated for an IFTA (Drama) in 2023.

Moe appeared in the leading role of Hard Eight in KNUCKLEDUST (written and directed by James Kermack) for Featuristic Films/AT Entertainment in late 2020. He also appeared in the series regular role of Det Sam O'Neill in BBC One's DUBLIN MURDERS opposite Sarah Greene, Killian Scott and Tom Vaughan-Lawlor in 2019. He also appears in the short film TOPPING OUT directed by Kerry Fox, in film festivals in the UK and USA.

Moe is from Dungarvan, Co Waterford and graduated from the Gaiety School of Acting Full Time Acting Course in June 2009. He was chosen as a *Shooting Star* for Ireland at the Berlin International Film Festival 2015 and won the Breakthrough Artist Award at the Newport Film Festival 2019 at which he also won the Best Actor Award for THE DIG.

MICHAEL MCELHATTON

Michael McElhatton was born in Dublin and is a multi award-winning actor. He trained at RADA and has worked extensively in Film, Television and Theatre.

Most recent credits include THE LONG SHADOW (ITV), TOM CLANCY'S JACK RYAN (Amazon), DANGEROUS LIAISONS (Starz), THE LAST DUEL (Lionsgate) and a recurring role in WHEEL OF TIME S1 & 2 (Amazon).

Michael is best known for playing Roose Bolton in GAME OF THRONES (HBO), as well as roles in CHERNOBYL (HBO), and THE ALIENIST (TNT), DAS BOOT (Sky), and THE FALL (BBC).

He won the IFTA Award for Best Actor in 2003 for his role in the comedy series PATHS TO FREEDOM (RTE), which he also co-wrote.

Michael joins the cast of BAFTA-nominated THE DRY (ITV/RTE) for series two, coming to ITVX in 2024.

SAM KEELEY

Sam Keeley is an IFTA award winning actor. His early credits include Paolo Sorrentino's THIS MUST BE THE PLACE (2011), Bafta award winning series MISFITS (2010), and BURNT (2015) starring Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller. Since then, he has also worked with Ron Howard on IN THE HEART OF THE SEA (2015) and appears in THE SIEGE OF JADOTVILLE (2016) for Richie Smyth, MEGAN LEAVEY (2017) for Gabriela Cowperthwaite opposite Kate Mara, and is the lead in THE CURED (2017) opposite Elliot Page, which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. Sam also stars in BBC'S THE DUBLIN MURDERS, Julian Fellowes' THE ENGLISH GAME for Netflix, as well as the in the leading role in 68 WHISKEY for Paramount Television. Sam has recently finished filming 'Viking' in BRON and AMC+ series KIN S2 and can most recently be seen in JOE VS CAROL for Universal and Peacock playing 'John Finlay' opposite Kate McKinnon and John Cameron Michell.