

EMMERDALE

50
EST. 1972

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



EMMERDALE 50TH PRESS PACK

Embargoed until 1st October 2022 - unless specified.

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FOREWORD BY CREATIVE DIRECTOR JOHN WHISTON

When most of us get to 50 we start to wind down, contemplate retirement, maybe even sneak in a nap in the afternoon. Not so Emmerdale. At 50 it's defiantly hoisting its skirts up, striding out into whatever the future holds, living its best, most boisterous, full-on life. It's that kind of a show!



And if we do cast an eye backwards, the first things that come to mind are those full-on mammoth production numbers that no other show can do, or at least do so well. From the plane crash to the spectacular multi-vehicle motorway pile up, from a helicopter slamming into the village hall in the middle of a wedding to the lightning strike on The Woolpack which killed Trisha, from half the village burning down to the deadly conflagration of the maize maze... there have been a lot of heart-stopping disasters to befall our benighted village. And all done at a fraction of the cost of similar stunts in Hollywood movies.

And if we do cast an eye backwards, the first things that come to mind are those full-on mammoth production numbers that no other show can do, or at least do so well. From the plane crash to the spectacular multi-vehicle motorway pile up, from a helicopter slamming into the village hall in the middle of a wedding to the lightning



We'll all have our own favourite such moment. Mine came while we were filming the flood in The Woolpack – remember, a river we'd never mentioned before burst its banks and flooded the Woolpack cellar trapping Chas, Debbie, Marlon and a vengeful Cameron in the rapidly rising waters. We filmed it in a special tank in Pinewood where two Hollywood movies also happened to be filming that week. But walking into the Pinewood canteen, it was our cast who got mobbed for their autographs, not the movie stars. Move over Tom and Russell – you're in the way of our selfie with Marlon! It was then I truly realised the power of being in people's living rooms 6 times a week and what a close, precious bond our audience form with our fictional but brilliantly relatable characters.

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But sometimes it's the quiet moments that really do lodge in your memory. Ashley's final hours, surrounded by his family and friends dressed as pirates, stuck with me. The poignancy, the

sadness, but above all the humanity of a scene like that, produced, written and acted to perfection by a team at the top of their game. Stuff gets thrown at all of us in life. Medical stuff, family stuff, financial stuff, unfair stuff. Emmerdale shows us how other people deal with such troubles, how they courageously meet those troubles head on, together. Emmerdale's not a road map for how we should lead our lives. But it is a



sympathetic companion as we all make our individual journeys through life's inevitable issues and complications. And sometimes it's just the raucous, rude, in your face, funny companion that we need to help us not take ourselves, or life, quite so seriously.

Happy birthday, Emmerdale! Get drunk, behave outrageously, kiss someone you shouldn't and above all have a ball!



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EMMERDALE'S HISTORY

Emmerdale is based on an idea proposed by former actor and playwright Kevin Laffan and was first transmitted on 16 October 1972. It was launched by Yorkshire Television as “the living story of the Sugden family – the excitement of country life around.”

The word farm was dropped from the title of the programme on 14 November 1989 to reflect the changes in the programme as it shifted its emphasis from the Sugdens and their farm to issues in the wider community.

Emmerdale was intended to fill a lunchtime slot for only 13 weeks (26 episodes). It was screened twice a week on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Emmerdale received its first simultaneous network transmission in 1988 and moved to its 7pm slot in January 1990. From 1st January 1997 however, the programme began transmitting three times a week, Tuesday to Thursday.

Filming started from the newly built Emmerdale village on the Harewood estate on the 13th of January 1998. From 15th September 2003, Emmerdale was transmitted 6 nights a week.

The original eight characters were:- Annie Sugden, Jack Sugden, Joe Sugden, Peggy Skilbeck, Matt Skilbeck, Sam Pearson, Henry Wilks and Marian Wilks. The first line spoken in Emmerdale was by Peggy Skilbeck who said to her husband, “Matt, who’s she?” referring to Marian Wilks who was watching the funeral cortege whilst out riding.



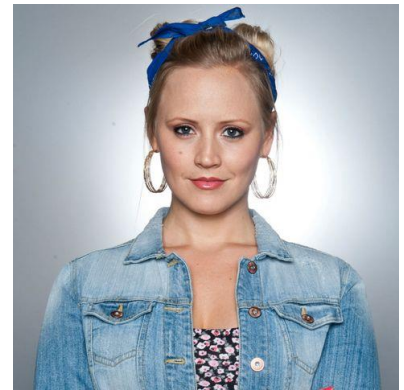
QUOTES WITH RETURNING CAST

Amy Walsh (Tracy Metcalfe) said:

“It was lovely to be invited back for the 50th. When I was going on maternity leave Jane (Hudson), the executive producer, mentioned it was all happening around August and September and said if I wanted to be a part of it to let her know but when it came to it I just wasn't ready to come back full time. She very kindly offered to write me in and back out again so I didn't have to cut my maternity leave short but I still didn't miss out on the 50th celebrations so it was win-win!

It's been really lovely seeing everyone again and being able to bring Bonnie into work to meet everyone as we're based in London now, so haven't been back before now. It's also lovely to be back with all the covid restrictions finally lifted as it was very different the last time I was here.

So it's a brief return for now like I said but a lot happens for Tracy in a small amount of time. She has some news for Nate but when she sees him it's not as easy to tell him as she may have thought. Her and Vanessa get to spend some quality time together too which has been a long time coming.”

**Danny Miller (Aaron Dingle) said:**

“It was an honour that they wanted me to come and say, 'happy birthday' to the show. It's been really nice getting back and seeing everyone. There's a lot of new faces and lots of old faces, and it's been nice to get to know them and catch up with people that I've not seen for over a year. “

Elizabeth Estensen (Diane Sugden) said:

"I was really pleased to be asked to come back to Emmerdale to celebrate its 50th. It's sort of the same but not the same. There's a lot of people that I still know that I was really pleased to see again. I can't say I have enjoyed having to rush for a train again though!

Diane has a great time catching up with people in the village but she has come back especially to see Faith whom she was great friends with. Who knows she may return again one day!"



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WEEK 41

Monday 10th October - Friday 14th October

Strictly Embargoed until Tuesday 4th October

Episodes 9488 - 9493

WISHES COME TRUE WHEN THE DINGLES BRING THE SEASIDE TO FAITH. WHILST FAITH SAYS HER VEILED GOODBYES.



A heartfelt conversation with Aaron gives Faith an idea. Brimming with excitement, Faith shares her plans for a family day with the Dingles, they are all going to the seaside! But when Faith's health takes a turn it is bad news for their planned trip. Yet Faith is insistent the seaside trip will go ahead for the others and Cain's determined to find a solution. Soon secret planning is going ahead and before long Faith is overwhelmed to see what they have done. The Dingles and Faith's village friends have brought the seaside to Emmerdale! She's thrilled to bits and as Faith takes everything in, she watches her family revel in the fun. Faith's delighted how perfect her day is. When Diane arrives, Faith squeals with happiness and Chas and Rodney exchange a glance; a job well done. When Cain asks her to dance, Faith is blissfully happy. With the day over, Faith holds a family picture against her heart utterly content. Moira's unsettled by Faith's hints that she might end her life soon. Brenda, Pollard and Diane vow to create as many memories with Faith as they can... Before long Moira desperately tries to convince Faith to back out of her plan to end her own life. Faith assures her she isn't going ahead with it anytime soon, but a guilty look belies a different story and before long Faith is saying her veiled goodbyes. Nate leads Faith up to bed, unaware of the heart-breaking decision she's made. Alone in her bedroom, Faith switches off her phone and

takes one last look at the pictures from yesterday's adventure. Faith prepares to end her days alone. Cain arrives and on realising what Faith has done, devastated, he tries to keep her comfortable as she drifts closer towards death. When Cain realises Faith has taken her final breath he is heartbroken. Faith's family and friends are left devastated by the news of her death.

CHAS PLAYS AWAY AS FAITH SLIPS AWAY. Chas is concerned for Al after his altercation with Aaron, but Aaron remains unrepentant. In the pub Al's insistent he needs an answer from Chas about the future of their relationship. But later seeing her happy around her family, Al worries he's already lost her. Al's both flabbergasted and elated when she tells him she loves him and wants to be with him. A few days later, Chas and Al meet at a hotel. Al does his best to cheer up Chas as she worries about Faith. Al tells her he's officially bought them a house and wants to celebrate. Chas is blissfully unaware of the tragic events occurring back at home. Persuaded by Al to bury her troubles, Chas agrees to ignore her worries. Al switches her phone to silent and Paddy's many calls go unanswered. Will Chas come to regret her illicit afternoon with Al?

NATE AND TRACY ARE OFF AND ON - AS ARE THEIR CLOTHES. Although Tracy is thrown to witness Nate and Naomi together in the village, she assures sister Vanessa she's going to tell Nate about her engagement to Ollie. But struggles to find the right moment. And before they know it a charged moment leads to a forbidden encounter between Tracy and ex Nate. They are both awkward as they get redressed following their illicit encounter. Tracy hears Vanessa approaching and hurries Nate out of the back door in nothing but his boxer shorts. Although Tracy does her best to feign an air of normality, Vanessa's suspicious. Vanessa soon spots Nate's phone and jeans and her suspicions are confirmed when he arrives to reclaim the items. Vanessa despairs when Tracy later confesses she still likes Nate. Will she go ahead with her engagement now she and Nate have relit their spark? And how will Naomi feel should she find out?

HARRIET MAKES A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO WIN WILL THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS WEDDING. Will is subdued after his stag and tries to assure Bob his declaration to Harriet was just a drunken mistake. Before long Will attempts to play it all down to Harriet but matters are made worse, when after a charged moment, Will scuttles away, which only serves to further convince Harriet of his feelings for her... Before long Dan picks up on awkwardness and Harriet covers. The next day Kim awaits her wedding day, utterly content with the man she is going to marry. Meanwhile, guilty Harriet bails from attending. When Will finds out Harriet isn't coming to the wedding, Kim is left puzzled by his change in mood. Will confronts Harriet, insisting she be at the wedding and arranges to meet her later which only fuels Harriet's hope. Sensing something is wrong Kim goes looking for Will and at the scrapyard, Kim listens in as Harriet fights for Will's love... What will Kim do with this knowledge on the eve before her big day?

NICOLA JEOPARDISES CHARLES ROLE IN THE VILLAGE. Charles is devastated that someone made a complaint about him to the bishop. Suspecting it might be Nicola, he warns Naomi not to take matters into her own hands. Soon Charles is caught in an acrimonious conversation with Nicola about her complaint to the bishop. Soon, Nicola's triumphant when the Bishop believes her lies about Charles abusing his power as Vicar. But she's stony faced when Laurel claims her actions could cost the village their genuinely good Vicar. Will Nicola change her mind or is this war?

WEEK 41 INTERVIEW**Interview embargoed until Tuesday 4th October 2022****Interview with Sally Dexter - Faith Dingle**

“After making the decision to stop her chemotherapy treatment, Faith carries on with some steroids which ease her nausea and fatigue a bit to begin with, this even gives her a bit of a boost, making it possible for her to indulge in a bit of her trademark mischief! There’s a bit of adventure in a little red sports car, a golf buggy and she even gets involved with an exotic animal at one point!

But nevertheless her health is starting to decline, bit by bit. There are more aches and pains. She gets breathless, loses her appetite, starts to lose strength particularly in her arms and legs, and increasingly there are headaches, and even blackouts.

It’s discovered that these black outs are due to the cancer starting to take up residence in her brain, and the prognosis is for it to start getting worse a lot quicker than was anticipated.

She starts to have episodes of huge anxiety and confusion; mistaking her beloved Cain, Chas and Kyle for an aggressive Shadrach (her ex-husband) who she believes is back from the past and is trying to attack and kill her. In response she is aggressive and lashes out at them to defend herself, leaving all of them deeply upset and frightened, particularly for what this means going forward.

Cain, Chas and Moira see Faith moving to a hospice as the next best and logical course of action for her, but she does not agree.

She starts to feel that the family is taking away her right to choose how she lives.. and dies... This starts to draw her to a decision that up till now she would never have considered; To calmly, with no fuss, relieve her family and herself of any further distress, pain or worry by taking matters into her own hands and speeding up her own death.

Faith is and has always been a lover of life! But to exist in mental torment and physical pain with absolutely no choice or control over that existence- is simply unacceptable to her; she decides she would rather die.

She tells Moira so. When she begins to voice the idea out loud, she isn't 100% certain about actually doing it. She needs to speak to someone she loves and trusts, who won't run round the village in hysterics telling everybody! She trusts Moira. As they talk, Faith realises this is the course of action she needs and wants to take.

But she's scared, the thought of 'going alone' is very frightening. To be able to have someone she cares about holding her hand, would be the simple human comfort she would need to go in peace. She asks Moira who is absolutely against it.

We all thought it a vitally important point of view for Emmerdale to air, seeing as many people would agree with Moira. At the outset of telling this story we agreed all sides of this debate needed to be heard and respected.

Although Faith has to accept Moira's view, even if she doesn't agree with it, she is hugely relieved and grateful that Moira promises to keep her plan from Cain and Chas, for the time being. She's adamant that they should know nothing. For one, she firmly believes they would do everything they could to prevent her carrying out her plan to quicken her own death. For another, if they knew about it, that knowledge could land them in a lot of trouble. It is illegal to assist someone to hasten their own death in this country. There is a penalty of imprisonment if found guilty.

Faith is already worried about the fallout of her death (natural or otherwise) on Chas and Cain. She already sees them at loggerheads and assumes it's the stress of the situation. The thought of her children being criminalised for helping her would cause Faith untold anxiety and anguish, so she couldn't let them know anything about it, for their sakes. And though she knows she wouldn't be asking Moira to actually assist her dying, she realises she cannot have any possibility of Moira being implicated either, and for that reason, even though Moira relents and agrees to be by her side; Faith decides to take control alone .



The absolute decider comes after talking to Sam who had assisted in the death of Alice, his first wife, and is still haunted by the memory of it.

We do not see Faith taking the tablets, only calmly laying them out, when she has finally made sure everyone is out of the house.

As I've said Faith is/was a great lover of LIFE!! Before taking her leave of it, she wants to celebrate it with all the people she loves and she decides that replicating a truly happy holiday at the seaside when Cain and Chas were children would be the perfect way to do it! But Faith has another fall and 'the children' realise she's too weak to travel. So with typical Dingle ingenuity, they decide to bring the Seaside to HER!!!

We filmed this over a few days up at the Dingle Homestead, on a week we were told was about to turn cold and rainy. The brilliant costume team were ready with the thermals and the hand warmers. The fabulous Cheryl and her make up team were poised with powder and hairspray to keep us in shape.

Then the sun came out and the whole thing sprang into joyous life. We all knew we'd be emptying sand out of our shoes for the next week or so, but it didn't stop us having a ball. We really enjoyed ourselves!

This is the scene where Faith realised she couldn't be happier- and she determines to carry out her plan the very next day. To go out on a 'high'!

I found it really quite poignant to film, I knew it meant Faith's time in Emmerdale was up, and so was mine...

I have enjoyed being back. I will miss the laughter, the fabulous Yorkshire countryside and the skill, talent and dedication of the whole team of people I respect, admire and have huge affection for. I'm hugely sad that Faith can't return. If you spot me on the street you might recognise me wearing a few items!

I always knew Faith was coming back to die. My idea was to have her save Cain and Chas from some sort of attack in the Woolie - say from a bullet or a knife aimed at her children from a crazed intruder! I could picture her sliding down the side of the bar, with Cain and Chas declaring her a heroine! But the story Jane (Hudson) and the team wanted was a far more important and difficult one to tell. I only hope we have done as much justice as we could.

This subject has caused a lot of debate and so it should. The research team have dug deep for us throughout this whole storyline. For the final part of Faith's storyline we had advice from an organisation called *Dignity in Dying*, including Steve Jetley and his own experience with his wife Tina, a story we were all extremely moved by. We were all in great awe of the work done by all organisations and charities used for this storyline.

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Week 42

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EMMERDALE 50!

Embargoed until Tuesday 11th October

Eps: 9494.95 - 9501

TX Sunday 16th October - Friday 21st October



9494.95 Sunday 16th October 2022 Hour long anniversary episode.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM: The episode opens on the Emmerdale village with Kim thoughtful as she rides her horse in the beautiful surroundings. We see Moira Barton looking out across her farm land whilst in the village Dawn and Lucas set a red kite off up over the houses. Up at Home Farm a brooding Will looks pensive ahead of his wedding day. Whilst Priya hurriedly dashes about preparing the wedding, above her we see that the sky darkens ominously. Eric Pollard strides out returning from visiting the grave of his deceased wife Val whilst stressed vicar Charles is surprised to spot his bride to be Kim out riding ahead of her wedding day. When Kim eyes Harriet from her horse, it's clear there's unfinished business...

WEDDING: TO BE OR NOT TO BE? At Home Farm, Billy's worried when Will informs him there may now not be a wedding as he and Kim need to have it out if they're going to move forward. Kim arrives home and their argument commences. Will is insistent he doesn't want to be with Harriet and puts the ball firmly back in Kim's court. Has he said enough to win back his bride? Before long Kim confronts Harriet who is very surprised to see her. Suddenly Harriet snaps and grabs Kim by the throat. How will Kim react and what can Kim say or do to get Harriet to back off from her man?

Meanwhile, at the Church, the wedding guests get settled ahead of Kim's arrival. On word her arrival is imminent the guests head outside to see the spectacle of the elegant and magisterial Kim arriving down main street on horseback.

The wedding ceremony commences. After the ceremony, on leaving the church, the wedding party are shocked by the intensity of the wind. Back at Home Farm the wedding celebrations begin. When Lydia arrives and asks for help in the search for Amelia, Kim steps up to saddle her horse ready to go looking for Amelia in the storm.

AMELIA'S STUCK IN THE STORM AS SHE GOES INTO LABOUR ALONE.

Amelia prepares for her picnic date with Noah. Later, the wind is really picking up as heavily pregnant Amelia makes her way through the countryside for her date with Noah. With the force of the wind Amelia is blown about and with her contractions having started she desperately calls her dad for help. Dan panics to get the call, his worry increases when Amelia's phone dies before she can tell him exactly where she is. As Amelia heads to find shelter Harriet battles her way in the wind to try and find Amelia and save the day. Before long Lydia arrives at Home Farm to ask for their help in the search for Amelia and it's Kim who steps up.. Out in the fields and fighting the dangerous conditions, Harriet bombs across the countryside on a quad bike. Elsewhere, Kim is struggling against the elements on her horse when she spots the tyre tracks of Harriet's quad. She begins to follow Harriet's path into the woods.

ALSO: Watching Noah and Amelia share a happy exchange out on Main Street, Sam is resentful and soon argues with his son Samson over his recent behaviour towards Amelia. Chas is angry at Al, blaming him for her not being there for her mum. And Aaron believes his mother is truly done with Al. Al speaks to Chas and realising it's over states if he can't have her, he's leaving town today. But is that truly the end of it? It's still a war between Nicola and Charles after the wedding ceremony, Nicola without a lift to the reception begrudgingly accepts Charles' offer of a lift.

9496: Monday 17th October - continuous

The storm continues to rage... A barn at Moira's farm collapses and the cows escape panicking in the wind they begin to stampede.. Meanwhile battling through the storm, Dan continues his search for Amelia. Hiding out in a barn and with her contractions continuing, petrified Amelia prays for her and her baby's safety.

Nicola and Charles stop and survey the abandoned minibus worrying as to where its wedding party passengers have gone. When Nicola heads off into the storm to find Jimmy, Charles is left with no choice but to follow her.

Liv chastises her brother Aaron for his decision to leave and storms off, Aaron is left hating what this is doing to them. When both Kerry and Chas are injured by flying debris in the storm, Al is forced to choose between them. Al rushes to aid Chas watching him Kerry gets a sense something isn't right.

9497 Tuesday 18th October - continuous

Aaron and Liv reconcile and Mandy, Vinny, Liv and Aaron share a special family moment as they hanker away from the storm. They're shaken when a dishevelled Paddy arrives with news Chas is in hospital. Aaron and Paddy set off to see Chas, quickly followed by Liv and Vinny who head to

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mind Eve at the Woolpack. Vinny and Liv struggle against the violent storm but are determined to press on.

Charles and Nicola are still antagonistic with each other as they search in the storm for the wedding party. Spotting a derelict shelter, they head towards it. Naomi and Ethan are anxious as they decide to search for their missing father. Realising their venture into the storm is a bad idea, Ethan and Naomi are united in their fear for Charles. Back out in the storm, Charles pushes Nicola to safety when a tree crashes to the ground but her hostility remains. He's concerned when Nicola starts to have a panic attack...

After abandoning the minibus, the golden ticket wedding guests battle the storm as they search for Home Farm. Determined to be positive for the kids' sake, Jimmy rallies his demoralised troops. Marlon and Mary's fear for Rhona rises when she doesn't return home. Seriously worried for Rhona's safety, Mary and Marlon exchange a fearful glance.

9498 Wednesday 19th October

A loved character is trapped. Safety is reached for someone. Lydia gets the terrible news. Bernice and Diane survey the damage inside the Woolpack.

9499.500 Thursday 20th October

The sun rises over Emmerdale in the aftermath of the storm. As Diane reassures Pollard they'll be able to rebuild. But will everyone feel that way?

9501 Friday 21st October

The full devastation in the village is revealed.

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CELEBRATE WITH OUR PRODUCERS

Interview with executive producer Jane Hudson
and producers Kate Brooks and Laura Shaw

Embargoed until Tuesday 11th October



You are planning a month long of explosive storylines for Emmerdale's 50th birthday. Can you tell us more about what we can expect...

Jane: We will be having some huge stunts, big emotional heartache, secrets, lies, comedy and sadly, some of the soap's much-loved characters will sadly lose their lives. There will be funerals, a wedding with Kim and Will and a birth. Three of Emmerdale's favourite old characters are also returning – Aaron Dingle, played by Danny Miller, Diane Sugden, played by Elizabeth Estensen, and Tracy Metcalfe, played by Amy Walsh. There will be a huge storm that will wreak damage on the entire village and change everyone's lives forever. It's going to be a very special month and we hope everyone will really enjoy it all. But the 50th is not just a celebration of Emmerdale – it is a celebration of what makes soaps great.

Kate: There will be a lot of high-octane drama and as we all know, there is always drama around Kim Tate! You can expect things to not run smoothly especially as Harriet still has feelings for Will.



Faith's cancer journey takes a rocky turning, which has repercussions for both Cain and Chas. The storylines and the impact of what happens will propel us into 2023.

Laura: There is going to be a lot of heartache involved in October and the rivalry between Cain and Al is really going to step up a gear. Al and Chas have grown a lot closer now but will their affair finally be exposed? Viewers will have to wait and see! The stunts will also be amazing. We do a big super stunt week every October but with 2022 being our 50th birthday, we wanted to top the big week. Spreading the stories across the month gives us the chance to celebrate all our characters. It means everyone in the show gets to be part of our 50th and have a story to celebrate.

Do you feel this is Emmerdale's boldest month yet and do you hope it will be talked about for years to come?

Jane: I think the richness of the storylines across this month will be talked about for a long time. We have so many stories across one month and alongside that, we have three epic stunts. We don't die down after the stunts either because we end on a huge cliff-hanger.

Did you consider having a live episode?

Jane: The problem with a live episode is the issue of Covid. We've still got a lot of infections and we still have cast and crew going off with Covid. So, if you did a live show and one of the cast members got Covid, then they can't be in the episode and it creates all sorts of problems. Also, the viewers only watch it to see what goes wrong! What Emmerdale viewers like are the stunts and the huge emotional performances. With live episodes, you can't do stunts and you can't show off the village because you wouldn't be able to get the cameras to do so many shots.

How long have you been planning the 50th?

Jane: Some of the storylines we have known for over a year, especially the story where we see it stepping up a gear between Cain and Al. Soaps are constantly being asked to prove why they are still relevant and why there is still a demand for them. This month delivers it. No drama can deliver what we are about to deliver in terms of visuals, storytelling, and performance.

Is it hard killing off some of Emmerdale's much-loved characters?

Jane: It is always hard to kill a character as someone is losing their job. You don't want somebody to lose their job. But the nature of soaps means if you want to introduce new characters, then you need to lose old ones. If you are going to do a death in the soap, it can't be the postman who has had three lines because it doesn't matter. A death has got to have an impact not just on the characters but also on the viewers watching. Each of our deaths will bring a different emotion.

What is your earliest memory of Emmerdale?

Jane: My earliest memory of watching Emmerdale is when I was 11. I was obsessed with the Emmerdale theme tune, which used to be played on the Oboe and so I decided I wanted to learn to play it! I used to watch Emmerdale to try and work out the notes. I would listen to it and then quickly get my Oboe out and sit and try and remember the tune! Never in a million years did I think I would be executive producer one day! And thanks to my obsession with the theme tune, I went on to play up to grade eight Oboe!

Kate: I can't top that! I've not developed any musical talent! My earliest memory was the plane crash in 1993. It was so dark, and it felt exciting and like a Hollywood film. If I could pick one moment, it was when Eric Pollard and his wife, Elizabeth, had been having a massive argument but then she went missing. I had not seen anything like the plane crash on TV before.



Laura: Emmerdale has always been in my life. We grew up watching it and even when I left home, I carried on watching it. I was a big fan before I worked on the soap.

Why do you think Emmerdale has stood the test of time?

Jane: It was most telling in lockdown that people relied on the soaps for escapism and normality. If you think about how often we are on, most people see soap characters more than their own family unless they live in the house! My Nan sees Kim Tate more than she sees her own daughter! They discuss all aspects of life. There will always be a storyline happening that you can relate to whether it's the comedy or a sad story. Soaps are very familiar, entertaining, and can provoke emotions that you might not have allowed yourself to feel before.

What are the secret ingredients to Emmerdale's success?

Jane: Without a shadow of a doubt, it is the incredible team who work on Emmerdale. From the cast, crew and everyone involved in the making of the soap, it's a team effort. We are like a family and everyone works so brilliantly together.

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You are all women heading up Emmerdale, do you think it is better females are leading the way?

Jane: I don't think men are better; I don't think women are better. I think one of our strengths is the ability to work together well rather than trying to fight against each other to prove who is the best.

How do you make sure you don't alienate older viewers when trying to attract a younger audience?

Jane: Most of our older viewers have grandchildren and it's the same with the younger viewers who have grandparents. We make sure we have a wide range of stories that will appeal to everybody regardless of how old a character is.

The Dingles won 'best soap family' at this year's soap awards. Why do you think they hold such a special place in viewers' hearts?

Kate: It's the history of the Dingle family. There are so many of them! For me, the thing that binds them is they have a sense of loyalty for each other. Even though they might do terrible things, you know they are going to bounce back as a strong family unit. Also, despite all the fighting, you know there is a love there and it is why the Al/Cain story is so great. You feel they will come through whatever is thrown at them.



What is your proudest Emmerdale storyline?

Jane: My proudest story is any story that gives a voice to a viewer who has been silenced through guilt, shame, or fear – for example, Vinny suffering domestic abuse from his father, Victoria's rape, and Laurel's decision to have a termination after the diagnosis that the baby has Down Syndrome. I was massively proud of that story because there are so many women and men who live in shame, guilt, and fear they can't speak out over what is fundamentally their right to choose. I am also massively proud of our on-screen diversity. The diversity we have brought has been fantastic and necessary to do.



Kate: I am most proud of stories that raise awareness and help people. We have got access into people's living rooms. Every story is important whether it is a lighter story that gives people a respite from the daily grind or the hard-hitting story like Marlon's stroke. Working here makes me feel proud.

Laura: I've worked on Emmerdale for 20 years and I am going to struggle to pick out one! I echo everything that has been said. I enjoyed producing Charity's historical abuse and the flashback

episode. You take a character like Charity who you feel you know everything about and then you discover something new. Bernice thinking that Liam was a serial killer was a great story too. Only Emmerdale can do a comedy story like that!

What story has attracted the most attention?

Jane: Laurel's termination received the most reaction. It was very negative before the episode aired, but then very positive once it had aired. People heard we were doing it and slammed us for it without having seen the show. We had some death threats thrown at us too. I remember getting one message saying: 'you are going to hell and so is your child'. But I will not be scared from telling stories. If one person stops having suicidal thoughts, then we have helped them.



Laura: After the episode aired, someone sent me a private message on Instagram and said 'this happened to me 12 years ago, I have never told anyone and then I walked into my work to find everyone talking about Emmerdale. I admitted for the first time that I had also had a termination'. It gave me goosebumps.

Kate: The Meena story garnered so much reaction. It brought so much love and hate. Regardless of whether you liked Meena or not, you still watched it. Emmerdale is a form of escapism.

Jane: Who Killed Graham? was another story that attracted a lot of attention. We didn't even know who killed him for quite a while!



Is there a taboo issue you would still like to cover?

Jane: We haven't covered incest, but we are not doing it. A race story will be told very differently now. It's important to tell the contemporary version of a story.

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Kate: Soaps have covered a lot of different issues and genres and our job is to explore stories in different ways. We want to make stories relevant to now.

Was Emmerdale being crowned best soap at the Soap Awards the icing on the cake for its 50th birthday?



Jane: It is always nice to win an award that is voted for by the public. The industry ones are lovely but it's a handful of people making the decision. When you win one voted for by the public, they have chosen it and that feels lovely. This year's Soap Awards had three awards voted for by the public and Emmerdale won all of them.

And finally, what will the next 50 years bring?

Jane: We don't know what we've got to look forward to at Emmerdale's 100th birthday but we know it will be cracking. And it had better still be here! We've got mortgages to pay for and children to look after!

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WEEK 42 INTERVIEWS WITH CAST

Interview with Claire King - Kim Tate

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October 2022



Is Kim aware that Harriet still has feelings for Will?

Kim isn't initially aware Harriet still has feelings for Will or indeed that he too has feelings, albeit not as strong. But when Kim overhears a conversation and sees a kiss that is when she realises.

Actually, it's quite innocent on Will's part as Harriet is clearly doing all of the chasing, whilst he's telling her he loves Kim but of course Kim doesn't see it like that.

Did you enjoy filming the scenes where Kim goes to confront Harriet about interfering?

We've had a few confrontational scenes where Kim is preaching the bible at Harriet. That was quite amusing to film as I liked the irony of that! There's another scene on the day of the wedding where Harriet gets Kim by the throat and she takes a stand back and thinks I'm really losing it here. You'll need to watch to see the outcome of that confrontation - Which way will it go? Will Kim make a fuss or will she back down?

Why do you think Will and Kim are so good for each other?

I think they're good for each other because Will is strong and determined. He knows how to handle Kim and he's honest with her. If he thinks she's getting out of hand or uppity or mistreating anyone he will tell her and she will listen to him. They're on an even keel. Kim and Will have: a mutual respect. He can be very determined and stubborn like Kim. But she tends to react immediately to something. While he says no, take your time, think about it and then act. So she's learning how to have more patience. I think having Dawn and Billy living with them is also good for her. Despite Dawn and Kim being antagonistic. But Billy is very calming and quite philosophical around Kim. Likewise having Lydia around as Kim has got a good friend in her. Kim is now surrounded by people she trusts, likes and respects.

Her wedding day is in the anniversary episode. Did you get an input into her wedding outfit?

I did have a say in the outfit as I have to wear it quite a lot and there are a few stunts so it had to be something that was not only comfortable to wear all day but still looked flash. Kim has always been an equestrian so we felt it had to have an equestrian streak. She actually arrives on a horse side saddle to her wedding. It had to look great, stand out but be comfortable for riding. It's a different look and certainly not a meringue cake!

Tell us about the horse Kim arrives on?

He's called Ice Tea. It suits him as he's a grey Andalusian. He's 18 years old but you wouldn't know it. He's so comfy and he'll do whatever you want. He's forward going but feels safe. I'm used to riding thoroughbreds that are completely bonkers so I expect them to jump at a crisp packet but Ice had drones flying overhead, booms, cameras, people clapping and cheering. He's just perfect. He came from AB Film Horses and he's done some amazing films. His C.V. is huge. Today I've been cantering around a field all day and I said if I could do this every day, my job would be the best job in the world.

I know there are some nods to the first episode and I believe that's one of them; the lady of the Manor on a horse?

Yes, we have filmed the hand going through a cornfield and getting on a horse. Both were replicated from the first episode which is very special. To be a part of this show 50 years on is amazing.



What do you love most about playing Kim Tate?

I'm always asked this and I know people defend their characters but I really feel I can defend her. She's one of those people who tells the truth. If Lydia asked her if her bum looked big in what she was wearing, Kim would tell her it is and to put a longer jacket on. She's not being unkind, she's been asked a question and being brutally honest. Sometimes you don't want to hear it but if you ask a question you will get an answer from Kim. She's very direct and doesn't mess around. If she thinks something, then she'll say it. She gets away with saying and doing things most people would love to, but hold back from doing in real life. Sometimes Kim should probably hold back more but she's learning from Will. You certainly know where you stand with Kim. She's strong, single minded. There are things she still needs to improve on with her character but she's getting there and she has mellowed. I think it's nice we can now see the softer side of her and there's a fun side which we will see at her hen party.

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Interview with Katherine Dow Blyton - Harriet Finch

Interview is strictly embargoed until Tuesday 11th October 2022



How does it feel to be central to the 50th anniversary drama?

It's great. I've never been involved in the super stunt weeks before so this is my first time. It's exciting and I loved doing the stunts. Belinda my stunt double made me feel very safe and well

looked after and I had a great guy who gave me full lessons on how to ride a quad bike. I absolutely loved it.

Harriet has expressed her feelings for Will. Does she genuinely believe he loves her too?

She knows there's something still there and she knows he cares for her. I think she's just hoping her feelings are reciprocated. When he was a bit drunk on his stag night he told her he still loved her and tried to kiss her and she's taken that as a green flag to pursue him further. She believes he shouldn't be with Kim and that Kim will never make him happy.

How does she feel when he rejects her?

She's heartbroken. She's done all she can. She tells him it's not too late and life's too short but this is the last time she'll say it. She's tried every which way, she's tried dissing Kim, she's tried reminding him of when they were together and how happy they were (apart from when she slept with and killed Malone; that was a little blip). She knows she's been defeated and then Kim comes round to visit. When she opens the door she thinks it's Will coming round but it's actually Kim and there's another stand-off there.

Does she think that Will will call off the wedding?

She pursues it with such intensity because she's convinced she can convince him not to go through with it. She's hideous about Kim and says she's a monster. She pulls every weapon out of the bag that she can.

Does she have any guilt over Dan?

She does but she'd feel more guilty if she continued. She knows she'll never love him because she's still in love with someone else. Even though she enjoys Dan's company, he makes her laugh and it's nice to have someone in your life to go on dates with and spend time with but ultimately she knows it's never going to work. She's never going to love him and it's cruel to continue. She's being cruel to be kind. She tried really hard with him but if it's not there then it's not there.

Kim isn't someone you want to make an enemy of. Does Harriet need to watch her back?

Harriet's not scared of Kim but Harriet doesn't trust her. She knows Kim's reputation and what she's done in the past but Harriet can fight her own corner. She is however slightly put on the back foot by Kim's little tricks.

Kim confronts Harriet. How does Harriet react?

She comes to the house and Harriet thinks it's Will because devious Kim has text from Will's phone. She's pretty much broken at that point. Something Kim says makes Harriet lose it for a moment. It's a good confrontation but ultimately who will win?

Kim arrives at her wedding on horseback. Did you have fun filming these scenes?

It looked spectacular. Design had done an amazing job. Claire looked stunning in wedding outfit and the horse was amazing. She looked like something out of a Disney film.

We know Harriet will be central to the drama. Will she be involved in the storm stunts?

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Oh yes she will! I had the wonderful Belinda who was my body double. She was amazing. I did as much as I was comfortable with but obviously nowhere near her talent, skill and bravery. I was quite happy to watch. It's spectacular to see the work that goes into something like that.

How challenging has this storyline been?

It's exciting to be involved in stunts and big stories and to be fully immersed into something so dramatic is brilliant.

Do you enjoy filming the love triangle? Working with Claire and Dean?

It's fab. I've obviously worked with Dean a lot but I haven't had much screen time with Claire until this point so it's been fabulous. We had a laugh and became friends and had long talks. She's great and what a trouper. I've never known someone who works so hard.

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Interview with Dean Andrews - Will Taylor

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October.



How does it feel to be central to the 50th anniversary drama?

It feels great to be part of the 50th anniversary. It's such an iconic show and a big part of my life. I feel very proud. It is incredible and a little bit surreal. My parents really loved it and they're not here any longer.

Will is caught in a love triangle between Kim and Harriet. What are his feelings for Harriet?

He still cares about Harriet. They've obviously had a lot of history. He forgave her for her wrong doings and she forgave him for his. They had a special bond but I do feel he has moved on and really cares about Kim now.

In a last attempt Harriet fights for Will's love unaware Kim is listening? What's his reaction?

I think he feels he has not really said too much out of place. Perhaps a little drunken flirtation. He hopes deep down Kim know he loves her. And that Kim understands, although he still has feelings for Harriet these are different to how he feels for her.

Kim and Will have it out. How does Kim react?

Kim's not happy about it all obviously. She thinks he's taking her for a ride when in actual fact he does love her. She wants to sort it out, firstly with Harriet and then with Will. I think her reaction is one that you'd expect. But hopefully she will forgive him.

Kim arrives at her wedding on a horse. Did you have fun filming these scenes?

The wedding scenes were great fun. Claire/Kim looked amazing on the horse in her outfit. It looked spectacular. The design team had put together a great set and it all looked beautiful. The horse was immaculate and Claire is a great rider so she looked really cool. And then you put wind machines into the mix...what more could you want!

What's Will's reaction when he sees her in all of her finery?

Her arrival just emphasises how much Will does love her when he sees her. She's a beautiful lady and looks fantastic on the horse. He feels really lucky to have her in his life and to be marrying her.

Why do you think Kim and Will work as a couple?

I think they are a great couple. They're both really similar in some ways but there's a little bit of yin and yang. As posh as Kim is and as common as Will is they both see life with a similar eye. Opposites attract.

What can the audience expect from these episodes?

You can expect all sorts of things from these episodes, everything you could want. Drama, pathos, humour, sadness, anger.

Interview with Daisy Campbell - Amelia Spencer

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October 2022



How is Amelia feeling about her pregnancy?

I think Amelia is very excited about pregnancy, given what she's previously been through I think we see a shift in her emotions about it all. I think she is feeling anxious though and maybe even a little bit apprehensive.

She is meeting Noah for a picnic, how are things between her and Noah at this stage?

Things are really good between her and Noah and I definitely think she has found the right person for her. Especially because Samson hasn't been around for Amelia during her whole pregnancy. She can compare them both and she sees more of an opportunity and compassion towards Noah. Things are really good between them.

Tell us what is happening when her contractions start.

Amelia is on her way to meet Noah at Wylie's farm for a picnic as he is working there with Marcus. She ends up taking a short cut and she gets shifted by a strong gale of wind. She slightly falls but is not hurt but she then starts to feel her first contraction. There's a lot of wind going on and heading towards the village is a very bad storm.

The weather isn't very good.... She calls her dad, tell us about that?

Yeah the weather isn't looking good at all, she panics for a bit as she doesn't really know what is going on. And by now she's having quite regular contractions. She knows deep down she's made a mistake coming out here on her own with the weather turning for the worst, so she calls her dad to tell him before she might not be able to get hold of him.

She heads to find shelter, where does she end up and how worried is she at this stage?

Amelia ends up in a barn in the middle of nowhere, as it's the only place she can find to shelter. She's really worried at this point as she's only 16 and is stuck in a raging storm in the middle of nowhere and has no one to help her out. She also can't get in touch with anyone as all phone signals have been totally cut off due to the storm. I think at this stage her anxiety is through the roof!

How did it feel to film these scenes?

Honestly, it was so amazing. I think I will remember filming these scenes for the rest of my career. It didn't feel like normal filming days, which I really love. It felt like we were shooting a film. I feel so honoured and lucky to have experienced a workplace like that. The adrenaline for shooting was like nothing I have felt before, it was crazy.

Any interesting stories to tell about filming?

When doing my prep and research before shooting these scenes, I really wanted to feel the fear and intensity of scenes we had ahead. So in between every scene I ran round the set and jumped up and down right before action was called. I did this to make myself out of breath and sweaty and tired so that I could really feel the exhaustion from what was actually happening. I've got to say it did work and I'm definitely gonna use it in future!

Did you do any research about labour and birth?

Yes I did research labours and births. As soon as I was told about the story I immediately started my research. I watched young teen births as that was what my story was based mainly on. I used

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many different websites to find out specific feelings and emotions when giving birth. I like to really use my research and prep to my full extent, so I was researching for most of the year really.

Were you pleased when you found out your character would have a big storyline around the Emmerdale 50th anniversary?

I feel so honoured and lucky to be part of this huge 50th milestone in Emmerdale's history. 50 years is such a long time and to be a part of that means so much to me.

Do you have any memories from the 40th?

I think I was 8 when we filmed the fortieth anniversary and I'd just been on the show for under a year and I was told it was a live episode. I was so excited and we had a full 2 months of rehearsals. It was so exciting and definitely something I'll always remember.

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INTERVIEWS WITH PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

These interviews are embargoed until Tuesday 11th October 2022

Ian Bevitt - Director (Anniversary episode and Monday's episode)



Do you feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to direct the 50th anniversary hour long special?

I started my drama directing career with episodes of Emmerdale in 1999. I have always loved working on the show with its great cast and crew and fabulous village location. I feel lucky and honoured to have landed the actual 50th episode and hope I have done the show justice.

What was challenging about the shoot?

The major challenge was shooting a storm in daylight in the summer! We had to use wind machines, debris and clever camera angles to suggest the increasing, encroaching storm. There were also many stunts and set-pieces to orchestrate, but the brilliant crew and technical advisers we had on board helped immensely with that.

Did it all go to plan?

Well...largely the weather helped us - it was sunny when we needed it to be sunny - pre -storm, and cloudy and dark when we needed it to be. Some of the less controllable aspects - horses and cows, for example, proved to be quite challenging, but we got there in the end, I feel.

Your block is shared with director Tim O'Mara have you had lots of joint meetings?

Yes, Tim and I worked closely together to coordinate the special effects and mood of the shows. It's been a pleasure working with him and I was glad to share the burden.

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We know there are nods to the first ever Emmerdale episode - what should we be looking out for?

The great Yorkshire countryside - it's a character all on its own and I wanted to emphasise that from the off. Eagle-eyed viewers will spot similarities with the opening of the very first episode and the opening of the 50th episode. And there are nods to older characters no longer with the show..

How did you feel when you first heard about the plans?

The concept was daunting, but as the saying goes "How do you eat an elephant? One spoon at a time." So the planning broke everything down to individual scenes and shots, as it always does, and I think it has been successful in that regard.

How early were you brought on board to create these special episodes?

Tim and I had several extra weeks to sort things out. But they were necessary to do special effects tests, animal behaviour tests. Plus we had many production meetings prior to the actual shoot.

What is your favourite storyline or favourite episode of Emmerdale?

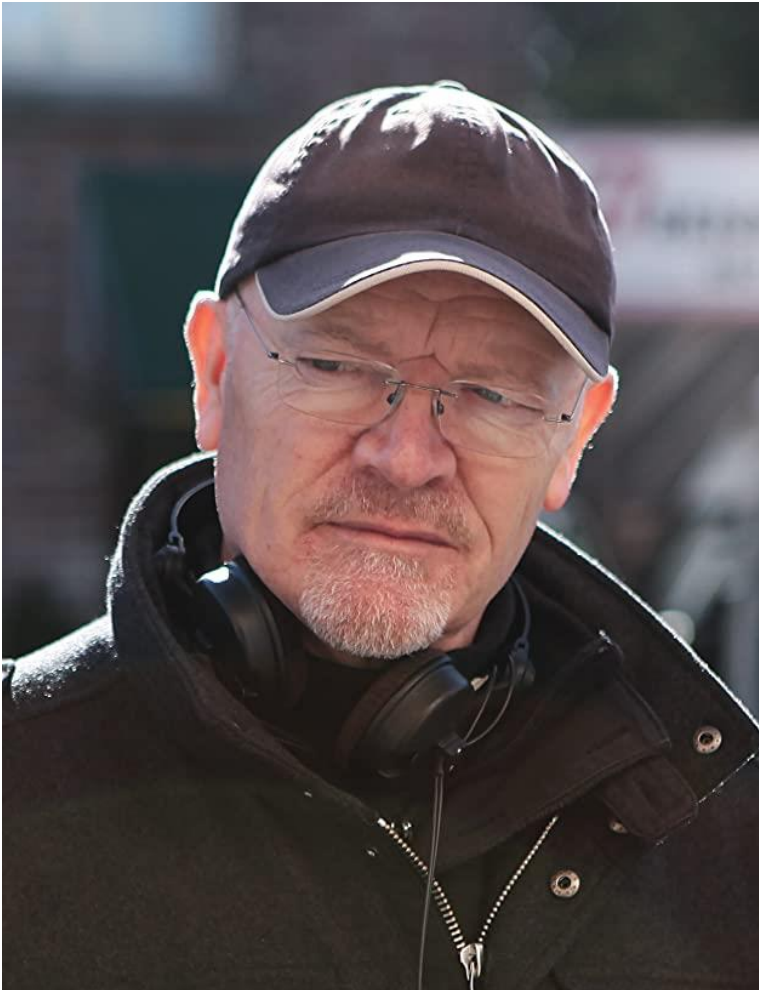
This one - the 50th anniversary. It will take some beating.

Who is your favourite all time Emmerdale character?

I can't single out a current member of the cast, they're all great. So I'll say Betty played by Paula Tilbrook. She was very kind to me when I first started directing.

Why do you think the show is so popular after 50 years?

The countryside, the views and locations, the fabulous cast and never ending brilliant storytelling. The cast and crew put a lot of hard work and love into what they do and I think it shows on screen.

Tim O'Mara - Director (rest of the anniversary week)**Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October.****Are you proud to have worked on the anniversary week of episodes?**

Very proud – it's been an amazing collaboration of all our teams especially the Art department who've had to design and prepare for three major stunts and the destruction of the Village. The scripts were very ambitious and beautifully written and I hope we have done them justice. I also filmed the 10,000th special for Coronation Street but this is even bigger! I was trying very hard to give the village a voice as it's been the main character of Emmerdale since the very first episode. Hence, we've featured some iconic symbols of the Village in the main street – we've also sprinkled some visual references to Emmerdale's history that we hope the fans will appreciate.

Your block is shared with director Ian Bevitt. Have you had lots of joint meetings?

Yes – it started way back in July at a writer's long-term conference and a gathering of over thirty key crew at our facilities base on the Harewood estate. We've also had to discuss the levels of storm we could play – in my episodes it reaches its climax and I have to convince the audience the storm and winds could hit over 100 mph. Thus flipping cars, uprooting trees and smashing windows and flinging roof slates and capable of ripping the doors off the Dingle garage. We have also had to film some inserts for each other's blocks and Ian had to set up some stunts that I had the aftermath of to film. We both discussed and designed storyboards together and filming styles – we got on really well and both enjoyed the experience.

What has been challenging about your shoot?

We had to shoot every scene with a number of wind machines and film stunts with massive wind machines in close proximity – this takes time and space and means every frame had to be



checked and every take then 'wildtracked' for dialogue and SFX. We worked alongside a team of ten SFX specialists who were going straight to Scotland after our shoot to work on Highlander.

Did your shoot all go to plan and are you pleased with the results?

No shoot goes exactly to plan – weather intrudes and crossovers between artistes from one block to another can result in stand downs. I also lost my lead cameraman after one day due to Covid. Ian also had to work with cattle and sometimes they don't listen to direction. But I am very pleased with our rushes. The performances are outstanding.

How early were you brought on board to create these special episodes?

We started talking to Nader, our Head of Production, four months prior to filming and also got very early storylines and treatments and direct access to the writers. This meant we could help shape the narrative and make the ideas work visually and give a better idea of the budget requirements.

What is your favourite all time storyline or episode of Emmerdale?

I directed the assisted suicide storyline for Danny Miller/Pauline Quirk and Marc Silcock in 2011, that was the most powerful emotional storyline I've ever worked on. I also burnt down Home Farm in 2013. The fire sequences were amazing but had to last for the full hour. That was technically the most difficult and dangerous. However, my favourite episode I think was the 2017 Christmas groundhog day special featuring Robert Sudgen reliving a nightmare, as it was so unlike anything we have attempted and used some many different filming techniques. Black and white montages, some horror genres, thriller dream sequences and bringing Val Pollard back to life! A real challenge to make but such a clever script and idea from the then series producer, Iain MacLeod.

What do you think makes the show so popular?

The village, the setting is so beautiful and real and of course tells the story visually through the four seasons, no other soap does this as well. Emmerdale also still plays with the class system, the rich up at Home farm contrasting with the struggling Dingles. It highlights the social issues and problems we all face on an everyday basis.

Duncan Howell - Designer

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October.

**Are you honoured to have been given the anniversary block to design?**

It was a massive honour. It's such a big flagship show and Emmerdale's 50th. It was lovely to be asked back after last year and a huge honour to be the designer. The fact they have the confidence in me to invite me back to take it on, get it done, demolish everything and then walk away.

What has been the biggest challenge?

The schedule. Because we are doing feature film stuff on a soap schedule. Making it fit within the time frame has been the biggest challenge. But it's been brilliantly done. It's a great team. We have had massive special effects, big wind machines and tight turnaround times. Sometimes there were two units filming in different locations so we had to split the special effects crew.

Tell us about the storm damage?

We wanted it to look realistic. I think on screen it really looks worse than it is. We did research into storm damage and wind damage. So we implemented as much as we could. In the heart of the village we needed to show it had been hit by the storm. The village is a character so when you start putting massive amounts of debris and tree branches, straw in the street and pulling the odd bit of wall down it looks big. Of course all the buildings are made of Yorkshire stone so they don't



get damaged but we removed the odd roof tile, and an occasional chimney pot needed to come down. A lot of it is dressing.

For realism trees have had to be uprooted. Will you be replacing/replanting these?

To make it realistic trees did need to come down. Research shows us that the boughs of trees and indeed whole trees come down in storms. So we felt we had to do that in places. But we only did it where it was really needed. There were about 5 smallish trees in total that we took down. However we will be planting at least 3 for every tree we took down. Obviously the environment is very important for us to protect. At one of the locations the farmer had two dead trees that we could use. So we took those for dressing. But we will replace them and plant ten trees as a goodwill gesture. The Harewood Estate were magnificent with their generosity as they have a massive wooded area on the estate with lots of fallen dead trees. We used the big boughs to use as dressing and loads of dead branches too. It's been brilliant.

Does the Emmerdale Allotment get damaged in the storm?

No we didn't touch the allotment as we don't see it on screen in these episodes. You will be glad to hear it's still going strong, growing its produce.

We also filmed a cow stampede. Can you talk us through that?

This was one of the big elements of the week. A cow stampede has not been done on a soap to this extent. We began with conversations and lots of planning with the farmer. It was really important that this did not cause any harm or stress to these animals. The cattle we used all actually live on the farm. For the filming element we created a new cattle pen near to a run which was a fence running down to one of their fields. So when they came out of the pen they gathered to go down the run to their field. They know they get fed both in the pen but also in the field. We did a rehearsal which was useful as it ensured the producers and everyone was happy with what we were doing and it was recorded to ensure there was no distress or any stress being caused to the animals.

We put their food on the back of a feed hopper and whizzed that down first so the cows had seen their food go. So when they came out of their pen they ran as a group to get to the food. It was successful. Of course there was a bit of trickery as we used a thing which we called 'cow cam'. An amazing company called Animated Extras from Shepperton Studios created a cow's head that could be puppeteered. This will enable the audience to see a cow's point of view. In the scene it will look as if the cows are running towards the Emmerdale characters as the cows stampede. It worked perfectly.

Can you tell us about the wind machines and how you created the storm.

The wind machines were incredible, we had ten or twelve of different sizes. Some of them were 6-8 feet wide and they could really throw the wind out. They looked like hovercraft fans. We blew them at the foliage, the trees and they whipped a wind through the village. It was incredible. In some shots we put bits of debris like straw in their path to fly through the air and this showed the pace of the storm. We would then do a wind shot first so we could set up the shot using the wind to the best advantage. Afterwards we would go in tighter and for the actors talking we used these

long pipes that popped up everywhere. We called them Ramsbottoms as they popped up everywhere like the Ramsbottom character in the Sooty shows. These pipes blew hair and clothing for all the close up stuff. For the duration of the shoot we had a big effects company up here. They are brilliant as they are so efficient they are so on it. As well as the wind machines we used hydraulic hinges for all the stuff that needed moving, tipping, rolling. For example we dropped the trees when they needed to be dropped. We had things on wires so we could pull things out of shot or into shot or to or from people.

What caused the biggest problems?

Because the planning was so organised nothing really. As the planning makes problems go away. So it was very smooth running. The sunshine was some days quite bright. We decided early on that it would be a very big storm with high wind but not rain, I'm glad we didn't have rain as the hosepipe bans came in so I don't think we would have been very popular if we had been wasting water.

Did you work closely with the visual effects team?

We worked closely together from the outset to achieve the director's vision. We work with the concept visuals so the producers can see the types of ideas we had planned. I do find it all very interesting. I'm inquisitive about it all because as well as my work on Emmerdale I'm also a university lecturer so it's useful to feed all this back to my students at Nottingham Trent University where I work. I'm always learning. I think it is so important with education that is taught by people actually doing the job. So I suppose I come in, do it and then go off and teach it. It's good that I get the hands off experience.

Are you looking forward to seeing the finished product?

It's one thing filming it but when it's all edited together and put in sequence with the visual effects adding their dark skies and things it's fantastic. I really can't wait to see it all finished. It's going to be big. Everyone thought last year was big but this really is taking it up another notch.

Judy Lysaght - Visual Effects (VFX)

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October.



Explain your role?

I work with the director to create shots that cannot be achieved for reasons such as location, safety, and of course weather. My job involves advising on how to achieve a particular shot as well as creating the final images.

Has this been a difficult job and what has been the trickiest element?

The hardest element is not the shots but the extremely tight timescale. For last year's super soap week we created completely different environments to the locations where we were filming. This year is about being invisible and manipulating what is filmed on camera.

You are on set for the storm days. But is most of your magic done back in the edit suite?

Being on set is a huge part of the job. This is when you make sure you

have all the elements so that you can complete the shot. I am on set only on days when there are shots that will need to be worked on. This tends to be on stunt days. Then yes back to the computer to bring it all together.

How long does it take to add any effects?

It depends on the shot and that is the reason for being on set. The more problems you solve in camera the less time it will take to complete and with a short deadline that is massively important.

Your job sounds fascinating. How did you get into it?

I did my Art degree at Manchester Polytechnic, (now Manchester Metropolitan University). Then there were no computers, everything was done by hand. So, when computers became more common, I spent evenings and weekends working on shots, just for the pure pleasure of achieving something new. You need to have a passion for VFX as you do spend many, many hours at your

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computer but boy, I highly recommend it, I have had so much fun. I have been lucky enough to work on so many fabulous shows and love working with the crews on Emmerdale.

Do you do storyboards before or do you rely on just being there on the day?

Storyboards are essential and on this occasion were produced by the Directors and Emmerdale Art department. This enabled us to go through the scenes, discuss how each element worked and what we would need to do to achieve it.

If I don't have a storyboard, I always like to have a shot list. You must go on set prepared or else you waste time. There will always be times when things do not go completely according to plan, so you must be ready to think through a shot and adapt at short notice.

Do you work closely with the design team and director? Any other departments?

I do work closely with the director and the designer. However, every department is important. That sounds like I do not want to miss anyone out, that is not the case. A shot is like a jigsaw puzzle and anyone who works in VFX understands the role and effects each department has on making a shot work.

Ian Holmes - Head of Costume

Interview embargoed until Tuesday 11th October.

Tell us about the style of Kim Tate's wedding outfit and how it was designed/styled?

We first read in the story document that Kim Tate would be wearing something equestrian when marrying Will. We then met up with the directors, producer and Claire King to establish what they individually needed to achieve from the outfit i.e. colour, movement, practicalities and status. Taking all of those elements into consideration myself and Lynne Walsh sketched some ideas and presented them. Once approved we then had to determine how many versions of the outfit we would need; taking into account stunt sequences, stunt performer costumes. And with all of those elements taken into consideration we had 7 full costumes in total. Then we added the little nuances that would make the costume feel worthy of Kim Tate. We kept the outfit classic and elegant and the jewellery and accessories were simple and understated, in keeping with the style and elegance of Kim Tate.

Has this been a difficult group of episodes? Has the wind needed anything special?

There was a lot going on in the episodes, which makes it more of a challenge for the costume team. To help with the wind effects we tried where possible to use materials and fabric that had movement and fluidity - bringing the costume to life in the wind.

What are you most looking forward to seeing on screen with these episodes?

I'm excited to see all elements of the scripts come to life on screen.

How did you feel when you first heard about the plans?

I was so excited to be involved in Emmerdale's big birthday, then started thinking what can we do to make this look fantastic on screen. Where can we get enough silk fabric from, with sufficient weight and stretch to make it practical for Kim Tate's wedding outfit.

How early were you brought on board to create these special episodes?

We started to think and prepare for the special episodes 6 to 7 weeks ahead of filming.

Did anything give you sleepless nights?

The weather was my main concern as I was hoping and praying it wouldn't rain. Also that we would have enough costume repeats and whether the costume would hold up under the pressure of the stunts, the usual work stuff!!

NOTABLE EMMERDALE WEATHER EVENTS

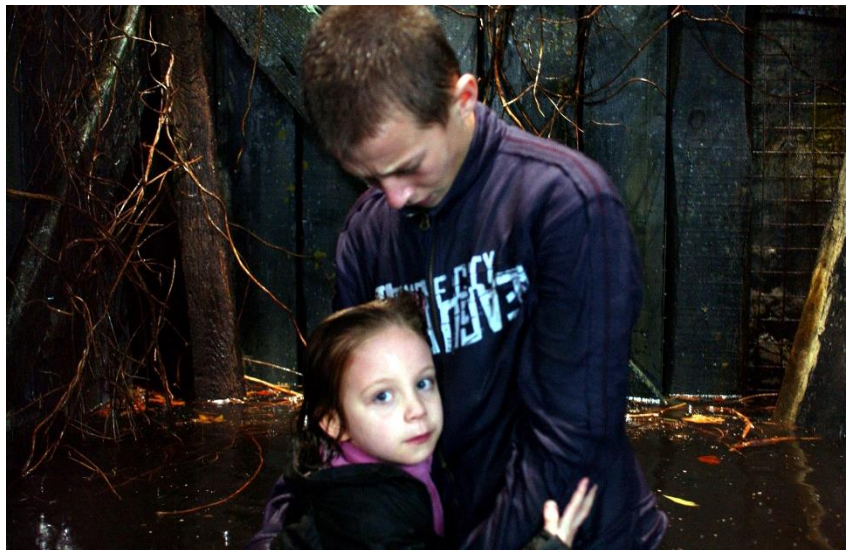
The Storm - 2003/04 (Eps 3623/24 & 3630)

A huge storm with gale force winds, torrential rain, and thunder and lightning struck the village. Ashley Thomas and Louise Appleton were injured when their car crashed into the river, and Tricia Dingle ultimately lost her life when lightning struck The Woolpack chimney, causing falling masonry to crush Tricia.



Daz and Belle mineshaft - 2005 (Eps 4239 & 4240/41)

Daz Eden and young Belle Dingle went missing around Christmas 2005 when they were pursuing Daz's escaped pet ferret, and fell down an old mineshaft. Unable to climb out, the pair spent a freezing night in the mineshaft, whilst Daz struggled against the rising rainwater to keep Belle alive. After a search was mounted for the pair, they were rescued.





Victoria falls through the ice - 2008 (Ep 5178/79)

Victoria, Scarlett, Aaron, Daz and Jake were messing around on the frozen Home Farm lake on Christmas Day 2008 when the ice cracked below Victoria, causing her to plummet into the freezing water, and become trapped under the ice. Daz saved her, and the event led to the discovery of murdered corrupt police officer, Shane Doyle's body.

John Barton's car crash - 2012 (Ep 6162/63)

Reconciled John and Moira Barton were heading off on a night away when their Land Rover hit a patch of ice and caused them to crash. Whilst Moira was rescued by passing Declan Macey and Katie Sugden, the car toppled over into a ravine, with John inside. John died from his injuries.



The Siege - 2013 (Eps 6685, 6686/87, 6688, 6689)

Whilst escaped killer Cameron Murray held the pub hostage, the cellar rapidly filled with flooding rainwater due to the torrential weather outside. Marlon Dingle was left to drown in the rising waters, but it would be Cameron who would meet a watery grave in the flooded cellar, when he was electrocuted whilst trying to pursue an escaping Chas and Debbie Dingle.

**Hotten Bypass - 2016
(Eps 7643, 7644, 7645,
7646, 7647, 7648)**

Whilst the Hotten Bypass pile up that claimed the life of James Barton was ultimately caused by crazed wife Emma pushing him off a footbridge onto the road below, the foggy weather conditions exacerbated poor visibility and the crash situation.

**Jimmy's Barn Crash - 2021 (Ep 9010/11)**

Jimmy King crashed his van into Mandy and Paul's wedding barn when the visibility was poor when the sun got in Jimmy's eyes. The crash, and the resulting explosion, claimed the life of Paul Ashdale.

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EMMERDALE THROUGH THE DECADES

The links are for the video versions of these interviews.

FRAZER HINES - JOE SUGDEN - 70s

VIDEO VERSION <https://youtu.be/9FS9Ro4sz8o>



You were in the very first episode of Emmerdale. How does that feel?

The first episode takes me back as we were shooting a funeral scene up in Arncliffe and so we had the funeral car and the hearse.

We had pulled into a lay-by, because Mostafa Hammuri, the cameraman, was going to focus on the hearse coming all the way up the hill. Whilst in the lay-by this car came by and I told a gag. We all laughed and these people were looking shocked, probably thinking 'what are they laughing at?' We decided that every time a car came past we'd all laugh. We thought passers-by would be thinking 'they are going to a funeral and they are laughing? They must have been left a fortune in the will.'

What is your first memory of your first day filming?

My very first memory was when the cast and crew all met up. We had Tristan de Vere Cole, Keith Richardson, and Gordon Fleming and we all came together the night before in this lovely old pub, The Falcon. We had lots of wine and it was Keith Richardson who said 'you do realise we are here to work' and we all thought 'oh sugar' and we all tiptoed back into our rooms and closed the doors!

What are your memories of filming in Arncliffe and what was it like when filming was moved to the village of Esholt?

The original location of Emmerdale, Arncliffe, was good, except we were filming with outside broadcast trucks and access wasn't easy due to the winding country lanes so we moved to Esholt. One day we were about to have either tea or lunch during filming and a coach party arrived and all these people got out, wolfed down all our food and said 'look they've laid food on for us'. So they ate our lunch and so we had no food!

Did you keep any souvenirs when you left the show?

I've got my very first cap. It's 50 years old - crikey. I nicked my last cap as well.... So yep two souvenirs - my first cap, and my last cap.

You were always eating and drinking on the show. Why was this?

Do you know I love eating scenes, but a lot of people don't. Sheila would always push a tomato around the plate. Gordon Fleming was directing a breakfast scene where we were doing a take and I thought 'what is my line?' So I stuffed my mouth full and mumbled something. Andrew Burt, who played Jack Sugden initially, thought I had given him the line. So we got to the end of the scene and Gordon Fleming came over and put his arm around me and said Frazer, I know you are a Yorkshire lad and I like the reality you know, stuffing it in because you haven't got manners - I like that, but can I just hear the dialogue properly on the next take. So if you are doing an eating scene and you forget your lines, just stuff some food in - marvellous!

Did you meet Kevin Laffan?

I met Kevin Laffan, who created Emmerdale, quite a few times. He came to watch the early episodes being filmed and then when I left the show I was doing a stage play. He came to see me, and said: 'Oh Frazer by the way I'm writing some Emmerdale and you are coming back.' I said: 'Am I?' I didn't know my agents had been talking to them. Yes we are going to have you working for NY Estates so you are not working on the farm, so I got to wear a smarter jacket.

How was it working with Sheila Mercier?

Working with Sheila was great fun. A lot of people were frightened of her. They really were frightened, but she had a wicked sense of humour. Of course she did that famous thing at the YTV studios! She went to get out of her car and she forgot to put it in park and she pressed the accelerator and it went straight through the reception at YTV. In the bar the next day we had a special cocktail called The Sheila Wallbanger! Even the guys on security were in on the gag as about 3 days later (over the tannoy) 'Ding Dong, Miss Sheila Mercier to the reception please.' As you can tell we had a great working atmosphere.

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Whilst working on Emmerdale in the 70s did you learn much about farming?

Working on the show we learned how to dip sheep and shear sheep. We would turn up for filming and we'd roll with it. I hated milking scenes, because you had to improvise. You had to know your lines back to front, but luckily Freddie and I were great on our lines. If two cows came together: 'Oh I don't think so Matt - get over Daisy, get over, now the thing is Matt, will you move your bum'. You would have to go off script and then back into the script again.

Did getting the role on Emmerdale change your life?

Emmerdale did change my life. It got me out of London. I was living in Chiswick at the time, and I used to commute. In the end I decided to sell my house in London and I moved to Harrogate, and it certainly changed my life. It got me a nice house, and some lovely, lovely friends.

Do you ever watch Emmerdale now?

Oh yes I still watch it now. I loved the Meena story. Paige, she was, gosh she was wonderful. And I like Jeff Hordley, Cain Dingle. I think he's got a twinkle in his eye. I don't think he's as hard as he makes out.

What do you love the most about Emmerdale?

Fifty years ago from the five ITV regions there was Harriet's Back in Town (Thames TV), Crown Court (Granada), Marked Personal (Thames TV), Emmerdale Farm (Yorkshire TV) and General Hospital (ATV). From those five programmes, Emmerdale is still going and that is what I love. I was part of that. Myself and Freddie and the gang, we were part of getting that show on the road and here it is fifty years later, still going strong.

CHRIS CHITTELL - ERIC POLLARD - 80s**VIDEO VERSION** [https://youtu.be/ PiZoITCLFE](https://youtu.be/PiZoITCLFE)**Can you tell us about your first day on set? Who did you film your first scene with?**

It was in 1986 at the Otley Cattle Market and I was playing a bit of dodgy chap. I was working opposite a delightful lady by the name of Jane Hutcheson who played Sandie Merrick who was just wonderful! I bounce off people who have chutzpah and she definitely had that! I did try and encourage the powers that be a few years ago to bring her back, she's a mighty atom and a powerhouse and I love working with powerhouses! She was great.

What do you love the most about your character?

My character gets up people's noses straight away. One of the joys of the character is the fact he can do that and it looks as if he is going to manipulate everybody! If he was seen to capitalise on what he did, people wouldn't tolerate him. I look at his antics every now and again and just crease up at what he gets away with, or not!

Any funny moments from back in the day?

There have been many. Frank Tate, played by Norman Bowler, Kim Tate's husband at the time, gave her a sports car and Pollard decided that it would look better in their swimming pool rather

than in the drive! Frank then decided he would remove Pollard's Triumph Spitfire from outside his door and took it to a friend at a breakers yard! He then deposited it back outside Pollard's front door like a cube of metal. There's a knock at the front door and he opens it to find no one there but a lump of geometrically precise metal and can't understand what's going on, but then sees his reg plate on the side, which was very funny!

What is your most memorable scene?

One of my most memorable scenes was getting rid of Valerie Pollard! I miss Charlie Hardwick so much and all the stuff I used to engage with her over. She pushed every button that she knew would give Pollard some light in his eyes.

What has been your favourite storyline?

The plane crash did change things for us. I didn't have much to do with it, as from memory my character uttered 'Elizabeth' ten or twelve times coming through the smoke and darkness. Pollard was playing a game because he had gone out that night to 'get rid of' Elizabeth, because she was going to spill the beans to the police, but part of a wing took her out before he could do so. It was great to do, like the live special, everybody was firing on all cylinders!

If you could bring one character from Pollard's past back, who would it be?

Paula Tilbrook as Betty. At a giddy age, she was still producing laughter and was such a gutsy character.

What do you love most about Emmerdale?

One of the delights of being part of the show is the fact I have so much respect for people that take their lines off the page and do something really amazing with it. It's a long list of people that have done that over the years.

CLAIRE KING - KIM TATE - 90s**VIDEO VERSION** https://youtu.be/r6f8Wd7_QW0**Can you tell us about your first day on set? Who did you do your first scene with?**

My first day on set was back in 1989 and my first scene was with Stan Richards. I was riding a horse and it was the entry of Zoe and Kim introducing them to the Tate family. The boys had already been in and we were having a race across country on horseback. I come across a character called Seth Armstrong and my first line was 'can you tell me the quickest way to Home Farm please'. As Stan turned round he moved his bike which spooked the horse. It reared up and I managed to pull the reins round to stop the horse coming down on top of Stan. Ever since then he would say my very first day on set was the day I saved his life.

What is your most memorable scene?

It has to be the one where Frank dies and Kim checks his breath. She's withholding his heart tablets and she checks his breath with her compact mirror and once she knows he's dead she checks her make-up. It is as camp as Christmas but it is one everyone seems to remember.

What has been your favourite Kim Tate storyline?

The Kim, Frank, Dave love triangle. Particularly when they get caught out and Frank comes in and asks Dave 'do you call this overtime?'

How has your character changed since the 90s?

My character has changed since the 90's not only because it's 20/30 years on so I look a little older but she has mellowed a little bit. This is probably due to everything she's been through but also I think the calming effect of Will, who does stand up to her but doesn't grate with her. Which a lot of people have done in the past and this can rub her up the wrong way. Will can deal with her and that has a calming influence. She has a slightly softer heart and is more tolerant of children and a few others now.

Kim has had many lovers but who would you say has been the one love of Kim's life?

The one true love of Kim's life I believe was Dave Glover but that was the 90s. Now I believe because she's mellowed Will could be the true love of her life but I don't know whether she knows it yet. I do think they are a good match for each other and they do work. Kim still believes somewhere deep down that Jamie could be Dave's and not Frank's. She always swore that.

Do you have any Kim Tate souvenirs from the 90s?

I'm not allowed to say that as it's theft! But yes I did! I took a couple of earrings and I took Kim Tate's replacement ring also!

After such an iconic exit, how did it feel to reprise the role of Kim Tate?

It was quite scary! Coming back after 20 years things change. There's social media and all of the pressures that come with that but also the pressure of coming back to a workplace that was doing half of the workload that they're doing now. Emmerdale has always had a good work ethic but it is more full on.

And what about Kim's grand entrance?

It was a grand entrance falling over a balcony into a champagne fountain and they certainly bigged up my entrance. I was very lucky I had a whole advert campaign and everything. It was over the top, great and fabulous. She's such a great character to play and to come back and reprise it again was wonderful.

What do you love about your character?

I think the thing about Kim Tate is whether you love her or love to hate her is the fact that she's just so blunt and straightforward and kind of honest in a twisted way because she says exactly what she wants to say and means it. She will say it directly to people's faces which a lot of people can't take but somehow I think people would love to be like that in real life and say yeah your bum does look fat in that! Kim would say it but she thinks she's doing them a favour. She doesn't think she's being horrible, she's just being honest. And it's that sort of thing that I think people would like to get away with.... She gets away with murder basically.

Favourite Emmerdale storyline not involved in?

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The plane crash is my favourite storyline. I looked back at it on the repeats and it stands up. Norman (Bowler) was amazing running around the village like superman. The whole thing stood up. There were great storylines and a sense of pace and urgency, devastation, tears but laughter and I think it was a proud moment in Emmerdale history.

What do you love most about Emmerdale?

I have known quite a few people here within not just the cast but the crew as well for many many years. You know what it's like here, how it feels. People slot in and pull as a team and make it work.

EMMA ATKINS (CHARITY DINGLE) 2000s

VIDEO VERSION https://youtu.be/08rbM_R1ZDc

**What was your first day on set like and who were your scenes with?**

That is one of the things that is so vivid to me even though it was 22 years ago. It was a location day so filming outside, a freezing cold day in the winter with Andy Devine who played my uncle Shadrach. I had a scene where I had to get a wallet that we had both stolen from Pollard, back from him. He'd taken it from me but it was my turn to get it back. We were in this outside barn and I was wearing a 'pleather' skirt that was so short and I had to get so close to him it was really awkward. Obviously Andy made me feel so at ease but I was just so nervous and having to do something so intimate; I don't think I could forget something as intense as that but it was fun.

How long was your original contract for?

A few episodes here and there over 3 months. I remember my agent telling me as I was still at university doing my degree so when I got that call I just couldn't get my head around it. I was thinking I've got a job on a soap as a big character 'Charity Dingle'. It was one of the best things I will ever remember.

Has it changed your life?

The job has undoubtedly changed my life. It's given me a wonderful security; being part of the Dingle family. Whether I'd have left years ago or sustained my time here I just think I will forever be a Dingle. It's an honour.

What is your standout storyline?

My stand out story is from way back when, it was revealed to the audience that Charity had a secret daughter that she had never told Cain about. It was an eruption waiting to happen and then Debbie turns up and says 'I'm your daughter' and Charity being Charity fully denies it! She has to face the truth. Having that time working with Charley (Webb) and Jeff (Hordley) was really special. I could never forget the storyline where Chris Tate framed Charity for his murder. He had this inoperable brain tumour and he discovered Charity was having an affair with his sister and she's been intimate with Cain and he decides enough is enough. I have one vivid memory is of me in a boiler suit, after Charity has been stripped and had her finger prints taken, and I remember thinking this is real, I'm in Emmerdale, being framed for murder!

What is the most shocking thing that you remember Charity doing?

There are hundreds of things she has done that I can't really defend her for but the one that stands out is when she made a pact with Zoe Tate that she would technically sell her child to buy her freedom from prison. Who sells their own child?!

Charity and Cain's love triangle was legendary. Did you enjoy working with Jeff?

I love the fact that people always mention the history and the 'legendary chemistry' that went with Cain and Charity. Jeff (Hordley) is probably the closest thing I have to calling a brother. The more feedback we got to say it was working, the more we wanted to do even better. I do look back fondly on that time and hope one day it will re emerge. Some of my favourite memories are of their scams; putting wigs on and going to rob cars with Jeff! It was so much fun.

Charity has had some memorable weddings - which was your favourite?

Charity's had so many weddings, she's the Liz Taylor of soap! Some of them she didn't go through with of course. I really loved the wedding with Cain because it didn't happen. I remember it was snowing, I had this ridiculous pink dress on, I think. It was really emotional then they have this split second where she says she doesn't want to go through with it as it will change the dynamic and may ruin the chemistry, she questions why they need to get married. I remember that being really special. The wedding to Chris Tate was utterly memorable. The costume designers chose this most incredible Moulin Rouge style regalia. I was off the scale. I struggled to get in the building at one point as there was so much going on. I remember it being huge. It was off the scale but it was so much fun to dress up.

Relationship wise do you miss working with any of the actors you used to have lots of scenes with?

Being in the show for so long you get to work with some incredible talent. I would have to say one of my favourite human beings to work with was Leah Bracknell, I miss her so much. We had some incredibly funny, intense stuff together. The secret affair behind Chris Tate's back was one. We



were both really nervous about that to begin with but the more we talked about it and went through our lines the more I realised this is a walk in the park as I am with someone who is so incredibly understanding, such a great team player and such a decent human. When you are faced with that you have nothing to worry about. She took all the worry away. I miss her a lot.

What is your favourite or most memorable scene?

There are so many memorable scenes it's really difficult to pick. I really enjoyed working with Patsy Kensit (Sadie) as it was always 'handbags at dawn'. There is a moment when Sadie pushes Charity down the stairs and she ends up being in a neck brace. It ended up being funny as there would be serious showdowns in the Woolpack and I couldn't turn with this neck brace, we just used to corpse all the time, good memories.

Are you glad to be part of the Dingle family?

It feels pretty special to be a Dingle. You know you are going to get those memorable moments. You can't get a better bunch of people together. When you are all together and celebrating something and there are these amazing one liners or someone says something inappropriate you genuinely feel like you are in this incredible family.

Favourite Emmerdale storyline not been involved in?

There is one storyline that I feel a bit bereft not to be involved in as it was so good; I was all the lead up to Emma Barton's demise. It culminated in the car crash where she is on top of the bridge in her white wedding gown stained with blood. She's locked John Barton in the house, she's beheaded a chicken. The way Gillian (Kearney) played it - she nailed it. I was screaming at the television, I was genuinely on the edge of my seat. I am in this show and I'm watching something that I'm loving so much. I felt so proud but I was fuming not to be in it!

What do you love most about Emmerdale?

I do love Emmerdale because of the people. I always say it, but it really is true. Some of my most amazing friends are not just cast but production and crew too. Without a doubt it's the people.

JEFF HORDLEY - CAIN DINGLE - 2010s**VIDEO VERSION** <https://youtu.be/cC9GhWPckZY>**What is your first memory of your first day on Emmerdale?**

I remember driving on the M62 from Manchester, as that was where I was living at the time and on that journey I remember thinking 'Oh my God, I'm going to be one of the Dingles' because they were such an iconic family. There was Zak, Sam, Butch, Mandy, Lisa and Marlon, there were so many different Dingles and I thought I'm going to be part of this family, this is bizarre. I remember coming up to the village and driving down the track and I'm a bit of a nature square so I was marvelling at the birds and the deer and everything along the track. My first scene was at the Dingles set and I was shooting it with James Hooton who plays Sam and he'd been away for a few years so it was Jim's first day back as well and we were playing brothers and we'd never done scenes before. I remember doing that scene and hearing James' Notts accent and then hearing him snap into Sam, I thought oh my goodness, this guy is amazing and he blew me away. I was meant to be really nasty in the scene but inside I was feeling excited, nervous and trying to hold it together to make sure the scene worked.

What is your fondest memory about being on the show?

I did six years and I left the show and I was given the story with Patsy Kensit's character to leave the show. We double crossed the Kings and got millions of pounds from them and then we were to fly off in an aeroplane and steal the money but right at the end Cain double crosses Sadie and pushes her out of the plane and just flies off. We had to do shots of me in the plane and on the ground and flying over the Dingles and to have done six years in this brilliant show and to get to see this beautiful countryside that I've been working on from an aerial view was the best way to finish my first six years on Emmerdale.

What is your overriding funniest memory of an on screen scene?

There was a scene at the back of Debbie's house with Charley Webb, Emma Atkins and myself and it was the last scene of the day on a Friday, everybody had had a busy week and was feeling tired. Sometimes we corpse, we laugh and get giddy and once you start, you can't stop. Between the three of us, we kept setting each other off and we were trying to compose ourselves but we'd just look at each other and she'd be crying with laughter and Emma was doing the same. The director came on set and had to be a bit of a school teacher and quite rightly because he wanted us to get it done but the more he did that, the more we laughed like naughty school children.

Give us some of your favourite scenes?

There was a great scene in the Woolpack when Cain got bludgeoned by Zak. He's done things to Amy, he's done things to Jai, he's hated by everyone in the village and he comes into the pub and everyone is staring at him like they're in a western. Nobody wants to speak to Cain but one by one he picks off people in there and says 'You're this, you're that' I think he even has a go at Edna's hat. It was a really well written scene that I really enjoyed doing and it was a really memorable moment. The Cain and Faith Flashback episode was really special, what I liked about it is that you got to see the history of Cain, Chas and Faith and why he became the person he was. Because Faith walked out on him and Chas when they were 10 years old. Their father was beating them up and their mother left them but she was also thinking about herself as well so it explained a lot. It was a lovely episode to do, really well written. I love working with Sally Dexter, she's absolutely brilliant. I loved doing the live episode, it was a really special piece for us as a whole company because everybody on that floor from the boom guys, to the camera guys, to the make-up girls, to the props department, everybody had to be involved. The camaraderie between us as a company was so good and there was no chance to have another go. It was nerve wracking but we rehearsed it within an inch of its life and it went really well. The sense of euphoria we all had after doing that episode was really special. One that was a real challenge, which I didn't think would be until I went and did my diving practice was the underwater stuff with Cain, Nate and Moira on the lake and they end up under the water. I'd never used a regulator before or been snorkelling and went into this pool in Leeds and went under with the mask on and took the regulator out, held my breath and did it again but then as soon as I took the mask off everything got really claustrophobic, I couldn't see because it suddenly went full blurred. It was really stressful. I went back up to the top and the diving instructor asked me if everything was alright and I had to tell him I felt quite panicked. We did a few more sessions and it was fine but I was quite nervous going into that tank. Natalie told me about this book called 'Feel the Fear and Do it Anyway' and I

thought about that on the first take we did, it was in Basildon, I thought I can't wear the mask, I've just got to get used to this. The first time I went down, all I could hear was the breathing and it was nice and calm and I was floating down. I was with the diver and I'd got this weight belt on to keep me down there on this platform which Natalie was on. I could see Natalie giving me the thumbs up and on the mic I could hear Rachel, the first assistant director talking and it was really clear under the water which is bizarre, it sounded like she was at a bus stop or on the tannoy at an airport. I went down and grabbed onto Natalie's leg to get into position for the shot but my body was trying to float up and my breathing was suddenly changing from calm to panicked and I was thinking I can't do this! But I remembered Feel the Fear And Do it Anyway, held onto Nat and heard action, did the take then went up to the top and thought I've done it, there's nothing to be scared of here and once I'd done that it became one of the best shoots I've ever done and the sense of achievement at the end of it was amazing. I think Nat and I would both agree on that. It was a real pat on the back moment for me.

What do you think it is about Cain that appeals to viewers?

I think people tend to like a villain or a baddie and they like the underdog, which I think the Dingles are as a family, they're certainly the lowest rung of the ladder on the social spectrum in Emmerdale. It's that old adage of would you prefer your daughters to date a Beatle or a Rolling Stone and everybody chose the Rolling Stones because the Beatles were too squeaky clean.

Zak almost killed Cain - tell us about this storyline and you shaved your head didn't you?

They wrote that storyline really well, there were so many suspects and nobody was expecting it to be Zak but he was doing it to protect other people from his son because his son was out of control. That spurred another storyline for Steve and I where we got to do this brilliant two-hander episode, where hearts were on the table and it was about being honest and open with each other about our relationship.

Do you love being a Dingle and if so why?

I do because each one of the family are rounded, fun and brilliant characters but with that, the actor behind each one is a lot of fun in their own right and we all have a laugh on set. When there are Dingle family scenes they have to quieten us down a bit on set because we all get a bit giddy. Some of my earliest memories are of breakfast scenes at the Dingles, which was mayhem. There was so much toast, sausages and bacon, I'm sure I put on a stone in my first six months at Emmerdale, with Cain being the character that he is, he's wolfing things down so if you're doing six takes I end up eating so much. I do remember one scene with Lisa Riley who is very cheeky and funny, with her and Jim and just before we're about to start Lisa leans over to Jim and puts a massive splodge of tomato sauce on his face and then they shout 'action'. They were straight in it and I just thought 'what is going on!' That mayhem and fun we were having before I think got translated into the scene. Fun times.

What do you love about Cain?

I like the fact that the older he's getting, certainly when I came back after a few years out, layers had been added to the character and they stopped him being this lone operator who lived at the top of the Dingles who didn't have any friends. He had been integrated into the village and he

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started to work at the garage, he became more of a believable character who began to have friends in the village. The few years I'd been out of the show the writers had written a history for Cain and the brilliant characters he's interacted with over the years, it keeps adding dimensions to him.

What other storyline has had you gripped?

The underwater stuff in the pub I thought was really good but I couldn't be used in that storyline because I was away. They did a couple of scenes of me at a hotel somewhere in Yorkshire, I was meant to be in France. I watched that episode shot by Duncan Foster and thought that it was amazing. Mark, Charley, Lucy and Dom were all so exciting to watch and it kept you in suspense, at the end of each half you wanted to know what was going to happen next.

The best week of Emmerdale I think I've ever watched, and I wasn't in any of it, was the Hotten Bypass. Every night when we got to the same point between whichever characters were featured in that episode that all culminated in them in the car crash, it was really clever storytelling and really beautifully shot, it was really exciting television and it made me really proud to be part of the show.

What do you love most about Emmerdale?

I love the crew, I love the people who work in the building and I have great laughs with the people I work with in front of the camera. I have a really close set of friends here and we'll be friends for life. I love the countryside and the Yorkshire Dales and Yorkshire itself, that's what I've fallen in love with and that's what keeps me enjoying this show and keeps me happy.

REBECCA SARKER - MANPREET SHARMA' - 2020s**VIDEO VERSION** <https://youtu.be/WJ7W34RbDpg>**What was your first day on set like/ who was in your first scene?**

I was with Bhasker Patel who plays Rishi, it was the first time I'd seen him since the screen test audition so I was really nervous. It was the start of the Manpreet and Rishi love affair which people have likened to Taylor and Burton! The story goes that Rishi turned up to his well man check expecting to find Doctor Liam in the surgery but instead he found the woman of his dreams and the rest is history. We played the comedy and the embarrassment of the situation to great effect and it really settled my nerves.

How long was your original contract for?

Has being in Emmerdale changed your life? Of course it has, not least because it gives me an opportunity to wear some fantastic dresses on a red carpet every so often! Every job has the potential to change your life in acting, it's a very transitory existence, it's very nomadic, I could be working abroad one minute for two months and then in a studio doing an advert for a couple of

days or doing theatre with different companies but being a regular in Emmerdale has given me the opportunity to set down some roots, professionally speaking and it's given me some stability which is hard to come by in this profession.

Manpreet was part of the Sharma family for a long time, do you miss being part of that group?

Once a Sharma, always a Sharma! It's where I started and where Manpreet started with Rishi and the family so there's a shared connection and history there and we're all very good friends outside of work as well. I think if I was ever to return to the fold I'd be welcomed with open arms.

Were you excited to hear that the new characters of Charles and Ethan would bring a backstory for Manpreet?

When I heard Kevin and Emile would be joining the cast, I was very excited but also quite nervous because I knew that would throw focus on Manpreet. I saw it as an opportunity to flesh out the character and explore her backstory which makes her more interesting, layers her up and gives her a lot more to do and say and gives the audience more of an insight into her character. Because Charles is her love interest, I was very excited about that but my husband was less excited about that! I love working with Kevin and Emile, we have such fun together and I'm forever giving Kevin notes which he makes fun of me for. I do think about scenes afterwards and get slightly obsessed and I call up Kevin to ask how he thinks it went, he does put up with a lot from me!

How does Emmerdale compare to the other soaps you starred in?

We've got a very strong, approachable management and a very talented cast and the village provides such an idyllic setting as the backdrop for all the stories, it's like the village is another character in itself so we're very lucky.

Manpreet is a GP. Have you learnt any medical terminology or procedures?

My father is a GP and my mother is a children's nurse so although I was terrible at science and there was no chance I would be going into medicine, I am aware of that world. When I first started I did ask my dad how to do a blood pressure check and urine samples and things like that, just in case! I think I've managed to convince people that I know what I'm doing over the years!

Your character was in last year's 'survival week' which included some amazing stunts, what are your memories of filming?

Survival week was epic! I was excited and nervous in equal measure about being involved so heavily. I have strong memories of being soaked to the bone, drenched, dirty and wet for most of it! it was amazing, we went to some fantastic locations in north Yorkshire, which I've since taken my children back to. I went abseiling, I threw myself into the white water rapids, it was something totally out of my comfort zone and I absolutely loved it and it was with a fantastic bunch of people. It felt like we were creating our own little drama and something really quite special which as an actor is all you want really.

Do you have any funny memories from filming over the years?



Most of them involve Bhasker! One time we were in the village, on the high street and there was a showdown between Manpreet, Charles, Ethan and Rishi, it's the time Rishi finds out that his wife isn't quite the woman he thought she was and discovers her past relationship with Charles and Ethan. It was very heightened, highly charged and emotional and Bhasker was holding a car key in his hand and during one of my moving, tearful monologues, he accidentally clicked the unlock button on the car and it kept going off again and again. It made me laugh so much. Cue Ethan getting angry for Manpreet leaving him and it happens again!

The Meena serial killer storyline has been one of the biggest in the last few years - was it fun to be part of?

What can I say! It was awesome to be part of, every week I would receive a script and read it avidly and think what else could possibly happen. Each week that would happen and the story would be trumped each time with its outlandishness. I love how Emmerdale was fearless in that respect, it threw everything at it and the writers and the producers went with it. Paige being who she is, lived up to the story and the spic nature of it and I just went along for the ride and it was fantastic and something I'll never forget and I've made a lifelong friend in Paige.

Favourite Emmerdale storyline not been involved in?

I really enjoyed the Big Night Out because it was full of beautiful people, it was young, sexy and vibrant. It was stylish, it just had everything. It blew open the Maya and Jacob story which was huge. It had assault, betrayal, affairs and some dodgy disco dancing! It was very stylishly done, I don't know if Manpreet would have fitted in!

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EMMERDALE TO AIR HOUR LONG EPISODE ON ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY



Emmerdale will celebrate its 50th birthday with an hour long episode on Sunday 16th October, exactly 50 years to the day since the programme first appeared on our screens.

To celebrate, Emmerdale unveils its official cast photograph taken earlier this year outside the Woolpack pub in the Emmerdale village in Yorkshire.

Everyone from the longest serving to our newer cast members, children and even the Dingle dog gathered in the Emmerdale village for this momentous occasion.

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Emmerdale - 50 Unforgettable Years

This one-off special documentary celebrating 50 years of Emmerdale tells the story of how a sleepy daytime afternoon series about rural folk became the award-winning, ratings-busting, peak-time drama that it is today.

A mixture of compelling classic Emmerdale clips and rarely seen gems will be mined from the archive for viewers to relish. From family feuds, fires and fights to more light hearted moments from life on the farm and in the village that goes by the name of - Emmerdale.

They will feature alongside contributions from much-loved cast members, as the stars of Emmerdale past and present watch back their famous storylines to share reflections on their characters and memories from across the years.

With a treasure trove of behind-the-scenes secrets and anecdotes, the acclaimed cast will remember key moments from the last five decades.

This milestone celebratory tribute will also recall some of the standout 74 weddings, 43 births and 105 deaths in the show since 1972, whilst reminiscing over some of the show's most popular family dynasties including The Sugdens, The Tates and The Dingles.

Along the way, we'll discover the original ambitions of Emmerdale Farm's creator - the playwright Kevin Laffan, how the TV critics and viewers responded to the show and its early depiction of rural life, and ultimately how it has transformed to reflect the changing lives and appetites of its loyal audience.

Produced by ITV Studios for ITV



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The book:-

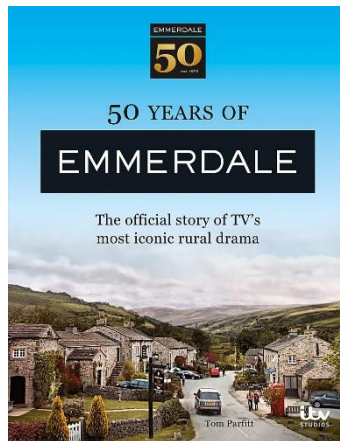
50 Years of Emmerdale: The official Story of TV's iconic rural drama

By Emmerdale archivist Tom Parfitt

29th September 2022

£20.00 | Hamlyn | Hardback

An official and comprehensive celebration of 50 years of Britain's most iconic rural soap



Celebrating 50 years since the show's creation, this book is packed with history, engrossing features, long lost imagery, and plenty of behind-the-scenes detail. Each character, event, family and location is explored in exhaustive detail, with special features on Emmerdale legends, the show's villains, births, marriages, deaths, and celebrity cameos, bringing all the highlights together with interviews and insights from cast and crew members past and present.

This book also includes gatefold section on key family trees, a specially commissioned map of Emmerdale and bespoke artworks for each location, making it a truly desirable package to read or give as a gift.

50 Years of Emmerdale is a stunning and engrossing book, which will delight every fan of this iconic show.

Tom Parfitt's current role as archivist has positioned him at the nexus of Emmerdale's past and present, providing insight into its history, and guidance for its ever-expanding future. His journey from the South Wales Valleys to the Yorkshire Dales began with an undergraduate degree in English & Philosophy, to a masters' degree in Scriptwriting, followed by roles in television broadcasting. He finally arrived in the rolling fields of Emmerdale as a storyliner, and later, researcher. With an encyclopaedic knowledge that's been described as "disgusting and astounding in equal measure", and nested within the cast and crew, Tom is the ideal tour guide through 50 Years of Emmerdale.

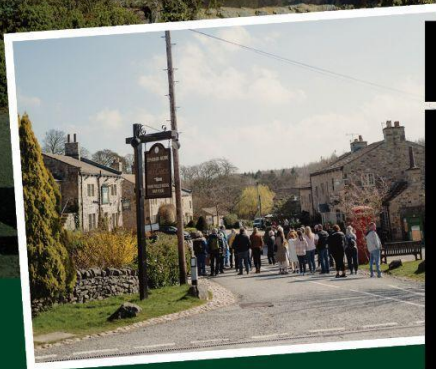
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