

= Law & Order : Criminal Intent ( season 1 ) =

The first season of Law & Order : Criminal Intent , an American police procedural television series developed by Dick Wolf and René Balcer , began airing on September 30 , 2001 on NBC , a national broadcast television network in the United States . Law & Order : Criminal Intent is the second spin @-@ off of the long @-@ running crime drama Law & Order , and follows the New York City Police Department 's fictional Major Case Squad , which investigates high @-@ profile murder cases . The first season comprises twenty @-@ two episodes and concluded its initial airing on May 10 , 2002 . Four actors received star billing in the first season ; Vincent D 'Onofrio , Kathryn Erbe , Jamey Sheridan , and Courtney B. Vance .

Episodes depict Detectives Robert Goren ( D 'Onofrio ) and Alexandra Eames ( Erbe ) as the squad 's lead investigators . Captain James Deakins ( Sheridan ) is the detectives ' direct supervisor and head of the Major Case Squad . Assistant District Attorney Ron Carver ( Vance ) often attempts to obtain confessions from the suspects , rather than taking them to trial . Law & Order : Criminal Intent focusses on the actions and motives of the criminals , and divides screen time equally between the suspects and victims , and the police 's investigation . The season was filmed on location in New York City , although scenes set inside the Major Case Squad department were filmed in a studio at Chelsea Piers , Manhattan .

The season was nominated for four awards , and was described as the most impressive of all the Law & Order series . It was sold to numerous television stations around the world , has been adapted into localized foreign versions in Russia and France , and has been syndicated in the US on a number of cable channels . A DVD box set of the season was released in America on October 21 , 2003 , and episodes are available to purchase at the US iTunes Store and Amazon Video on Demand .

= = Production = =

Law & Order : Criminal Intent is the third series in the Law & Order crime drama franchise , which was created by Dick Wolf in 1990 . He developed it with René Balcer , who began working on the original series during its first season . During his time on Law & Order , Balcer was promoted to head writer , show runner , and executive producer before leaving in 2000 . News first broke of a new series in late 2000 , when it was reported that NBC , broadcaster of Law & Order and Law & Order : Special Victims Unit , approached Wolf Films and Studios USA about a second spin @-@ off .

Balcer and Wolf conceived Law & Order : Criminal Intent as a police procedural crime drama that follows a distinct division of the New York City Police Department : the ' Major Case Squad ' , and its investigations in to high @-@ profile murder cases , such as those involving VIPs , local government officials and employees , and people working in the financial industry and the arts and entertainment world . Unlike the other series in the Law & Order franchise , Law & Order : Criminal Intent gives significant attention to the actions and motives of the criminals , rather than primarily focusing on the police investigation and trial prosecution . Episodes do not contain trials , and end in confessions rather than plea bargains or verdicts .

Production began in January 2001 , shooting on location in and around New York City using local color . The main set of One Police Plaza is located at Pier 62 , Chelsea Piers , Manhattan . Thirteen episodes were initially ordered , and were completed by April 2001 , so that production would not be halted by a potential strike from the Writers Guild of America . Balcer was the show runner , executive producer and head writer on the first season of Law & Order : Criminal Intent . Wolf was also credited as an executive producer , as with all other Law & Order series . The first season gave co @-@ executive producers credits to Peter Jankowski , Fred Berner , Geoffrey Neigher , and Arthur W. Forney . John L. Roman , Roz Weinman , and Eric Overmyer were named producers , with Michael Kewley a co @-@ producer . Theresa Rebeck and Marlane Meyer were consulting producers . Twelve people directed , and nine people wrote the twenty @-@ two episodes ; Constantine Makris directed four episodes , and Balcer wrote or co @-@ wrote ten episodes .

= = Cast = =

Law & Order : Criminal Intent is not an ensemble series , and therefore differs from Law & Order and Law & Order : Special Victims Unit which respectively featured six and eight actors receiving star billing during the same broadcast season . Movie actor Vincent D 'Onofrio was offered the lead role of Detective Robert Goren , a hyper @-@ intuitive contemporary Sherlock Holmes @-@ type investigator who used to work for the US Military Police . Other than a 1998 guest role on Homicide : Life on the Street that earned him an Emmy nomination , this was D 'Onofrio 's first major television role . Goren 's partner , former vice squad detective Alexandra Eames , was played by Kathryn Erbe who had just completed a role on Oz as convicted murderer Shirley Bellinger . Balcer stated Eames was cast because " she just looked like a real cop . " Courtney B. Vance plays Assistant District Attorney Ron Carver , a graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice . Jamey Sheridan was the last actor to be cast in a main role , taking the part of James Deakins , a " seasoned " NYPD Captain . In a recurring role , Leslie Hendrix appeared as Assistant Chief Medical Examiner Elizabeth Rodgers , the same character she had played in the other two series . Steve Zirnkilton provides a voice @-@ over at the beginning of each episode 's opening credits , saying " In New York City 's war on crime , the worst criminal offenders are pursued by the detectives of the Major Case Squad . These are their stories . "

Many New York @-@ based actors guest @-@ starred in the first season , as either victims , suspects , or their family members . Jake Weber starred as the murderer in the first episode ; Kathleen Chalfant guest @-@ starred in " Smothered " as a murder suspect 's wealthy , socialite mother ; Stephen Henderson played the murder victim in " The Faithful " ; the murder suspect in " Jones " was played by Griffin Dunne and Karen Young played his wife . " Faith " featured guest appearances from Mia Dillon , Remak Ramsay , Adam LeFevre , and Polly Draper .

= = Distribution = =

The first season of Law & Order : Criminal Intent premiered during the 2001 ? 2002 television season on the American terrestrial television network NBC . The pilot episode , titled " One " , aired on Sunday September 30 , 2001 at 9 : 00 p.m. EST . Episodes aired weekly until December , when the show took a brief hiatus until January , and took another hiatus during February . The final episode of the season aired at 9 : 00 p.m. on Friday May 10 , 2002 . Under a \$ 100 @,@ 000 @-@ per @-@ episode shared or second window syndication agreement that cable channel USA Network made with NBC , USA Network was allowed to broadcast episodes out of primetime a week after their premiere on NBC . The season is also under a regular off @-@ network syndication deal at USA Networks and Bravo . The two channels teamed up late 2004 to pay \$ 2 million per episode for the syndication rights to the series , allowing USA Network to air episodes during the week , and Bravo to air episodes at the weekend . In 2007 , Fox Television Stations , a group of Fox Broadcasting Company owned @-@ and @-@ operated stations , entered a syndication deal to broadcast episodes as part of its daytime schedule . From late 2009 , MyNetworkTV will broadcast Law & Order : Criminal Intent , including episodes from season one , having changed their business model from a network broadcaster to a syndication programming service . The series has also been distributed to international broadcasters . It aired in Canada on CTV , in France on TF1 , in the United Kingdom on Hallmark Channel and Five , in Australia on Network Ten , and in New Zealand on TV3 .

Episodes of Law & Order : Criminal Intent 's first season have been adapted into localized foreign versions . Russian : ????? ? ??????? : ?????????? ?????? ( lit . Law & Order : Criminal Mind ) , premiered in 2007 on NTV ( Russia ) and is produced by Global American Television , Studio2B and NTV , Wolf Films and NBC Universal . On May 3 , 2007 , the French Law & Order : Criminal Intent broadcaster , TF1 , began airing Paris enquêtes criminelles , a co @-@ production from TF1 and ALMA , Wolf Films and NBC Universal . All eight episodes of Paris enquêtes criminelles 's first season , two episodes from the second season , and one third @-@ season episode were adapted

from Law & Order : Criminal Intent first season episodes . Wolf stated that Law & Order : Criminal Intent has been sold to foreign networks because it is easier to adapt into local legal systems than Law & Order , where half of each episode occurs in the courtroom .

The season is available in a number of new media formats . Universal Studios Home Entertainment released it in a 6 @-@ disc DVD box set on October 21 , 2003 in Region 1 , titled Law & Order : Criminal Intent ? The First Year . The pilot episode was also released on a separate DVD on June 3 , 2003 . Consumers in the US can purchase and download episodes from the iTunes Store and Amazon Video on Demand .

= = Reception = =

Laura Fries of Variety commented on the difference between this series and Law & Order and Law & Order : Special Victims Unit : " By scrutinizing motive and intent , Criminal Intent utilizes a more personal style that sets it apart from its brethren . Wolf 's characters are notoriously devoid of detailed personal lives , but debut [ episode ] hints at a little more introspection on the part of the characters " . In Entertainment Weekly , Ken Tucker wrote that Law & Order : Criminal Intent was the best series of the year from the Law & Order franchise and that while Law & Order suffered from tired , wooden performances from actors with poor chemistry , the acting on Law & Order : Criminal Intent was at " the other end of the spectrum . " Both writers commented on the overpowering screen presence that D 'Onofrio commands in the first episode : " Criminal Intent so far is a one @-@ man show with Vincent D 'Onofrio at its center . [ He ] commands the most attention , tending to overshadow Erbe , who is reduced in the pilot to following Goren with an awe @-@ struck look , " wrote Fries , while Tucker also stated , " D 'Onofrio is so eccentrically entertaining , even his costar Kathryn Erbe seems fascinated " , but complained that Erbe 's role was smaller than D 'Onofrio 's , which " jibes with the subtle range she showed on [ HBO 's ] Oz and proves her professional generosity . " He also said Sheridan " is similarly nonplussed and under @-@ utilized , " but " Vance is terrific [ as Carver ] , who makes defendants wither in the face of his elegantly reasoned cross @-@ examinations . "

Law & Order : Criminal Intent 's first season received four nominations from three award ceremonies . " The Faithful " and " Smothered " were given commendations at the Prism Awards in the category for Best TV Drama Series Episode . Vance was nominated in the Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series category at the 2002 NAACP Image Awards . René Balcer received an Edgar Award nomination for " Tuxedo Hill " . Casting director Lynn Kressel was nominated at the Casting Society of America Artios Awards in the category for Best Casting for TV in a Dramatic Pilot .

= = Episodes = =