

= 17th Precinct =

17th Precinct is a police procedural television program created by Ronald D. Moore . In a modern world where magic supplanted science , the unaired pilot featured two non @-@ intersecting stories : the death of a city executive at the hands of a wrongful convict , and the introduction of terrorists who are devoted to the destruction of magic . Moore developed the series with Sony Pictures Television for NBCUniversal , bringing with him several of the stars of his reimagined Battlestar Galactica franchise as cast members . The series was pitched in September 2010 , the pilot was ordered January 2011 , NBC passed on the series in May 2011 , and the unaired pilot was leaked in December 2011 . Reviewers mostly liked 17th Precinct , commenting on its innovativeness despite its police procedural roots .

= = Plot = =

The series takes place in the American city of Excelsior ( shot in Vancouver , modeled on San Francisco ) , in a world where science was never " invented " , and instead of using " oil , electricity , [ and ] coal " , mankind relies on plant- and fire @-@ powered magic to run society . The police of Excelsior 's 17th Precinct use spells to collect evidence and information , they defend themselves with " magic discs " , and they psychically access " the stream " ( a smokey light beam ) for information , printouts , and newspapers .

= = = Unaired pilot = = =

Donald Pynchon , Excelsior 's executive prophet ( a city government official concerned with making and interpreting city @-@ wide prophesies ) , is murdered in a North Beach back alley on September 23 , 2011 . Detectives Longstreet and Bosson ( Bamber & Callis ) are tasked with the case and determine that his murder was intentionally brutal , and it was unobserved due to a magical charm which deadened sound in the alley . It turns out that fifteen years previously , Pynchon was in Mendocino , California when , relying on a prophetic vision , testified against Lionel Dixon on charges of rape and murder . Dixon received a life sentence of magically reliving his victim 's final experiences . After Dixon was acquitted thirteen years later , he was magically given a new life as a child ( Quinn Lord ) in an effort to make up for the mistaken identity ; Dixon instead was driven to murder both Pynchon and the acquitting judge .

Unconnected with the Pynchon case , DCI Wilder Blanks ( Walker ) begins seeing visions related to the Stoics , " a group dedicated to the destruction of magic " in favor of " reason , rationality , and [ ... ] science " ? a laughable prospect , but one about which they are deadly serious . Twelve years previously ( 1999 ) , the Stoics committed a series of murders to further their cause , but have neither been seen nor heard of since . Blanks retrieves DS Mira Barkley ( Channing ) from her dissatisfying work in another precinct to help with the Stoics ; Barkley was his partner during the previous Stoics case . Blanks partners Barkley with rookie detective Jimmy Travers ( Long ) due to the latter 's potential as an intuitive savant . Investigating a nuisance case in an apartment building , Barkley and Travers unwittingly allow the Stoics access to murder an otherwise protected tenant , a college professor of " advanced magical engineering and biology with an emphasis on power plant design . " In the dénouement , it is revealed that the Stoics use " mechanical , rather than ' true ' magic " which nothing in their world can defend against ; the professor was killed using the Stoics ' means , something called a bullet .

= = Production = =

17th Precinct was created by Ronald D. Moore and produced by Sony Pictures Television . Moore 's development of 17th Precinct was part of a two @-@ year deal with Sony Pictures Television to " create and executive produce series projects for broadcast and cable through his production company Tall Ship Prods . " When Moore pitched the show to NBCUniversal in September 2010 , it

carried with it an approximate \$ 2 million price tag for the pilot and penalties . In January 2011 , NBC ordered a pilot for the series from Moore and Sony .

= = Cast = =

Moore brought several actors with whom he 'd worked before into 17th Precinct , particularly from the reimagined Battlestar Galactica franchise .

Jamie Bamber as Caolan Longstreet : A detective with the Excelsior Police Department ( EX.P.D. ) , Longstreet is described as determined to succeed and be promoted ; his skills allow him great forensic insight into a crime scene . Longstreet is married to Susan and has two children . Bamber foregoes his native British accent for an American one .

James Callis as Jeff Bosson : Longstreet 's partner on the EX.P.D. , Bosson is the counterpart to Longstreet 's straight man and family man persona . In pre @-@ release information on the series , it was said that Bosson is keeping a " big secret " from his partner . Callis retains his native British accent for 17th Precinct .

Tricia Helfer as Doctor Morgana Kurlansky : As the precinct 's " public necromancer " , Kurlansky communes with dead victims at crime scenes to gain their testimony , and coordinates with the police on other forensic evidence derived from the corpse . She has a personal relationship with DCI Blanks which is not elaborated upon either in the leaked episode or the pre @-@ release information .

Eamonn Walker as Detective Chief Inspector Wilder Blanks : Blanks is chief inspector at the EX.P.D. 12 years prior to the series ' time , he was partnered with DS Barkley during the Stoics ' previous series of murders . As an " intuitive savant " , Blanks experiences visions and feelings which have tangible connections to events .

Esai Morales as Detective Inspector Liam Butterfield : Working at the EX.P.D. , Butterfield has an antagonistic relationship with DS Barkley from her previous stint working in the Homicide Division . The character also was apparently a woman ( Lisa ) when last associated with Barkley , a change about which he is defensive when she needles him ? " I 'm not Lisa anymore , inside or out . " ; io9 described Butterfield as " [ o ] therwise , he 's pretty much a total hard @-@ ass . "

Stockard Channing as Detective Sergeant Mira Barkley : After dissatisfied years working in the Robbery Division , Barkley is brought back at the request of DCI Blanks because of her expertise from working the Stoics ' murders in Alameda 12 years previously . She was partnered with Blanks when he was just a rookie .

Matt Long as Detective James " Jimmy " Travers : As a rookie officer , Travers is partnered with Barkley because of his potential as a " intuitive savant " .

Kristin Kreuk as Susan : Longstreet 's wife did not appear in the unaired pilot , but was said to run a declining antiques store and have a " huge dark secret . "

= = Release = =

On May 12 , 2011 , NBC announced that they had passed on 17th Precinct for their fall 2011 season of shows . NBC instead ordered a full season of another program featuring a supernatural angle on the traditional police procedural genre , Universal Television 's Grimm .

The unnamed pilot episode of 17th Precinct was leaked online at Vimeo in the last days of December 2011 .

= = Reception = =

Science fiction blog io9 called Moore a " master of world @-@ building " , describing Excelsior as a richly described setting . They lauded its freshness in spite of its police procedural genre , saying that it was " bursting with new ideas " and " [ r ] ejuvenated a whole new genre " . Airlock Alpha also commended 17th Precinct for incorporating a fresh take on the police procedural genre , though also felt the pilot introduced too many characters and concepts . TG Daily thought the concept was

cool , though they felt " the execution could use a little polish " . They also specifically lauded Bamber , Helfer , and Callis , while not being overly impressed by the supporting cast . In the end , they would have preferred 17th Precinct over Grimm .