

= Making Waves (TV series) =

Making Waves is a British television drama series produced by Carlton Television for ITV . It was created by Ted Childs and chronicles the professional and personal lives of the crew of the Royal Navy frigate HMS Suffolk . The series remained in development hell for several years and was first broadcast on 7 July 2004 . However , due to low ratings it was removed from the schedules after only three episodes , the remainder of the series going unaired on television in the United Kingdom .

The series starred Alex Ferns as Commander Martin Brooke and Emily Hamilton as Lieutenant Commander Jenny Howard . The frigate HMS Grafton stood in for Suffolk and additional filming took place around HMNB Portsmouth with the full co @-@ operation of the Royal Navy . A limited @-@ edition DVD of all six episodes was released in December 2004 .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Following the success of his previous series Soldier Soldier , Ted Childs , Richard Maher and Carlton began planning the series in the late 1990s , with Carlton 's controller of drama and continuing series expecting something " in the London 's Burning , Peak Practice vein " . It was turned down by ITV because it was " old @-@ fashioned " and did not fit in with the network 's existing portfolio of dramas . Despite this , Childrens and Carlton continued to develop the series and they brought it to the commissioning editors of BBC One , who negotiated with Carlton to broadcast it . By that time , the top levels of the ITV drama department had changed and due to Carlton 's links with ITV , the BBC was unable to take the series . A six @-@ episode series was commissioned in July 2002 by Nick Elliott at ITV .

The project was initially managed by the MoD 's Directorate of Corporate Communications (Navy) , headed by Commodore Richard Leaman . Lieutenant Commander Steve Tatham undertook much of the initial scoping and planning work before , in August 2002 , Commander Kevin Fincher was appointed as the specialist project officer for the series ; he would acquire the necessary ships , locations and personnel as well as advising the production team on and off set . Throughout pre @-@ production Fincher negotiated a legal agreement with Carlton , whereby a financial recovery was made for anything they used that was taxpayer @-@ funded . This included use of ships , fuel , and personnel . Another clause gave the Royal Navy a share of any royalties from the series , including advertising revenue and sales .

= = = Writing = = =

There were four credited writers on the Carlton staff , with writers from the ITV network centre involved in the development of the scripts . The first episode was written in 2002 by Terry Cafolla , who later wrote Messiah IV : The Harrowing . The second episode was written by Damian Wayling of The Bill , and the third by Niall Leonard . Matthew Bardsley was the credited writer of the three unaired episodes . Although a second series was not made , storylines were planned for a potential commission . Warrant Officer Dave Allport and Leading Seaman Sarah Worthy joined Fincher as advisers in January 2003 .

= = = Casting = = =

Actors were auditioned and hired in late 2002 , and included Alex Ferns , well @-@ known to British audiences for his role as Trevor Morgan in the BBC soap opera EastEnders . Making Waves was the first lead role for Ferns , who had taken time off from television acting since leaving EastEnders to avoid being typecast in a soap role , and was pleased not to be playing " a psychotic

rapist " . Emily Hamilton , cast as executive officer Jenny Howard , was largely unknown to British television audiences at the time ; her only notable role was in Russell T Davies 's The Grand in the late 1990s . Lee Boardman (who later appeared in Rome) took the role of the chef Art Francis to distance himself from his most well @-@ known role , drug @-@ dealer Jez Quigley in the soap opera Coronation Street . Stephen Kennedy was already known for his role as Ian Craig in the BBC Radio 4 soap opera The Archers . He mentioned in an interview the differences between the two roles , before quipping that they were not that dissimilar . The crew of Grafton appeared as extras throughout the series and schoolchildren from St. Jude 's School , Southsea appeared in the families day scenes in episode six .

= = = Filming = = =

The series producers scouted Portsmouth in 2002 for ship locations . Potential main settings HMS Marlborough and HMS Dryad were put aside in favour of HMS Grafton and filming commenced on 24 March 2003 with 30 actors and 60 crew moving onto the ship for the shoot . Alex Ferns arrived two days earlier than the rest of the cast to settle in , and made a trip to Yeovilton to meet Harrier pilots , while Emily Hamilton prepared for her role by shadowing Vanessa Spiller , XO of HMS Kent . The series was directed by Matthew Evans and Nigel Douglas and was shot on digital DV cameras . The production staff filmed approximately three hours of footage on every 12 @-@ hour day , editing it using Avid systems in the production offices at the naval base .

Other vessels made cameos in the series ; filming took place around and aboard HMS Victory for scenes in episode two , and aerial footage of HMS Invincible and HMS Gloucester was done for the war games scenes in episode four . HMS Lindisfarne appeared for the funeral scenes in episode five . Health and safety regulations required that Grafton was shadowed at all times by a support vessel during filming at sea , in the event of a member of the production team falling overboard .

Location filming lasted until 26 June 2003 before post @-@ production was completed in London , and the series was delivered to ITV in August 2003 for broadcast in the autumn schedules , though it would be held back for several months . A special preview screening of episode one was held aboard HMS Richmond on 13 February 2004 , while the ship was in Aberdeen on a recruitment and promotional tour of the UK . It was also premièred aboard HMS Northumberland during the same month whilst at the London Boat Show , and was attended by much of the cast and crew .

= = Setting = =

= = = Plot = = =

HMS Suffolk is due for Flag Officer Sea Training in four weeks but an accident during training results in the dismissal of the executive officer and the resignation of the captain . The series follows his replacement , Commander Martin Brooke , in his attempts to get his vessel and crew ship @-@ shape for final assessment . Other storylines follow Leading Marine Engineer Artificer (LMEA) Dave Finnan 's relationship with his Charge Chief 's daughter Teresa , the emotional state of Mickey Sobanski after a blundered rescue operation , new rating Rosie Bowen settling in to life on her first ship and the budding cross @-@ ranks relationship between officer Sam Quartermaine and medic Anita Cook . Comic relief is provided in the characters of " Scouse " Phillips and Leading Chef Art Francis . Suffolk is mainly based at Portsmouth but engages in exercises such as war games throughout the series , as well as undertaking hazardous rescues of other vessels in the English Channel .

= = = Episodes = = =

= = Characters = =

Making Waves featured an ensemble of actors but followed a core cast , with supporting players appearing in only a few episodes or having secondary storylines .

Commander Martin Brooke (played by Alex Ferns) is the son of a car mechanic and his naval background is based on piloting , rather than commanding a ship . He is assisted by Lt Cdr Jenny Howard (played by Emily Hamilton) , who is initially his temporary XO , but eventually accepts Brooke 's offer to stay on the ship . Lieutenant Commander William Lewis , the Marine Engineering Officer (played by Ian Bartholomew) , is the superior of Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer (CCMEA) Andy Fellows (played by Steve Speirs) and Lewis 's refusal to give the engines full maintenance regularly infuriates him , though not as much as LMEA Dave Finnan (played by Paul Chequer) who has just had a baby with his daughter Teresa (played by Chloe Howman) . New Operator Mechanic Rosie Bowen (played by Joanna Page) settles in to her first posting and attracts the attention of OM Mickey Sobanski (played by Lee Turnbull) , who is contemplating his future in the Navy after an incident in the first episode .

The second episode introduces the new navigating officer Lieutenant Sam Quartermaine (played by Adam Rayner) and a subplot involving his relationship with LMA Anita Cook (played by Angel Coulby) runs through the series and is eventually discovered by Lieutenant James Maguire , the Principal Warfare Officer (played by Stephen Kennedy) . Terry " Buffer " Duncan 's (played by Geoff Bell) career is in jeopardy when an accusation of assault is thrown at him in the third episode , while Leading Regulator Liz Wilson (played by Diane Beck) develops an unreciprocated crush on Bowen . Leading Chef Art Francis (played by Lee Boardman) must successfully prepare dinner for the captain and crew before it is stolen or ruined by Steward Tim " Scouse " Phillips (played by Darren Morfitt) .

= = Series information = =

= = = Broadcast history = = =

Carlton delivered the series to ITV in August 2003 for broadcast in the autumn schedules , but it was then rescheduled four times over the next several months , before ITV eventually set a premiere date of 11 July 2004 . It was then rescheduled to the preceding Wednesday , in the 9 pm slot . The series lost two million viewers over two weeks and ITV pulled episode four from the schedules on the morning before it was due for broadcast , replacing it with It Shouldn 't Happen on a TV Soap , a bloopers programme , which returned ITV 's ratings to above the five million mark .

Writing in The Guardian a fortnight later , ITV head of drama David Liddiment defended the decision , stating that the network had planned to let Making Waves profit from The Bill 's (the lead @-@ in) high ratings at a time when BBC One Wednesday night ratings were suffering , but the series just " wasn 't good enough " to hold an audience . Ted Childs later responded that Making Waves had received little publicity compared to Channel 4 's ratings smash Supernanny , which aired opposite his series , and that because that programme had ended its run , the ratings for the last three episodes might have improved . He went on to question why ITV had spent £ 5 million on a series they knew would not be a hit . Making Waves had been another in a line of expensive series which had been cancelled because they performed below ITV 's expectations in the ratings , following Sweet Medicine and Family the previous year .

The cancellation of the series also drew criticism from the Royal Navy , with a source telling The Sun that it was " a kick in the teeth to our sailors " . In its end @-@ of @-@ year review , ITV described the series as having " quality and distinctiveness " but failing " to find a mass audience " .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Due to the series coming from the producer of Soldier Soldier and Kavanagh QC , the close involvement of the Royal Navy and the lead being taken by Alex Ferns , there was a strong media

interest in the series , which only intensified as the series went through its many reschedulings . Positive previews were run by the Manchester Evening News and The Sun . The Times predicted " ITV has a ratings winner " and called the series a " classic military soap opera " . The tabloid press was keen for the series to succeed ; The Daily Mirror described it as promising and conjectured that it would be the defining role of Alex Ferns 's career , although its Sunday equivalent did not share the sentiment : it described the series as a " seabed @-@ bound disaster " . The same writer criticised the script and directing of episode three and suggested that viewers were not interested in a naval series set in peacetime .

The Scotsman dismissed it as little more than a six @-@ part recruitment video , comparing scenes of refugees being lifted to real advertisements that showcased the navy 's role in humanitarian crises , and concluded that the drama was a " collection of clichés and stilted dialogue " . The Independent on Sunday compared the series to the sea @-@ based soap opera Triangle and noted " an overdependence on claustrophobic interiors " . However , the series was wryly praised for casting Alex Ferns instead of Ross Kemp in the lead role , bucking the trend of recent ITV military series and commented on the difficult time slot the series had been given . Over two years after the series was pulled , Alex Ferns admitted that it was formulaic , but blamed its failure on the constant rescheduling .

= = = DVD release = = =

The BBFC passed the series for video release on 3 December 2004 , rating episodes three and four as PG , and the rest as 12 . Granada Ventures pressed approximately 2 @,@ 500 two @-@ disc sets of the series for sale exclusively on the Navy News website and it went on sale in December 2004 , with 2 @,@ 000 sets being purchased within a month .