

= Scott & Bailey =

Scott & Bailey is a British drama series that debuted on ITV on 29 May 2011 and had its last showing of Season 5 on 27 April 2016 . The series stars Suranne Jones , Lesley Sharp , Amelia Bullmore (series 1 @-@ 4) , Nicholas Gleaves (series 1 @-@ 2) , Danny Miller (series 3 @-@ 4) , and Pippa Haywood (series 5) . Based on an original idea by Jones and Sally Lindsay , the show revolves around the personal and professional lives of its protagonists . The programme features Detectives Janet Scott (played by Sharp) and Rachel Bailey (played by Jones) . Both characters are members of the Syndicate Nine Major Incident Team (MIT) of the fictional Manchester Metropolitan Police .

= = Production = =

Scott & Bailey was commissioned after the concept was introduced to executive producer Nicola Shindler , who brought it to writer Sally Wainwright . The series is produced by Manchester @-@ based Red Production Company and is largely filmed in the Greater Manchester area .

= = = Concept = = =

Scott & Bailey is based on an original idea by Suranne Jones and Sally Lindsay , with Jones commenting that there needed to be more roles for women " that weren 't wife @-@ of , sidekick @-@ to , mother @-@ of , mistress @-@ to , etc . " Jones remarked , " We were just chatting away over a bottle of wine in a pub " when the idea came to fruition . Lindsay , a fan of television programmes such as Cagney & Lacey , was interested in the concept of a programme detailing the lives of two professional women . Jones later spoke of the programme , saying it is " the Cagney & Lacey of Manchester " , though she acknowledged that Scott & Bailey as a drama was more " gritty " and " real " .

Upon taking the idea to Nicola Shindler of Red Productions , Shindler contacted Sally Wainwright , who wrote a script for an episode and , according to Jones , they " loved it " . Despite the positive reaction , the project " kind of got a bit lost " until ITV discovered it and requested that Wainwright rewrite the script .

Subsequently , Wainwright paired up with Diane Taylor , a former Detective Inspector from Greater Manchester Police , to create the programme , and the production expanded from Jones and Lindsay 's original concept . From Taylor 's perspective , police procedurals were often filled with not only technical inaccuracies , but what she felt were inaccuracies of how officers behaved , saying : " that 's what really irritates me in other dramas ? detectives crying over dead bodies and getting drunk senseless . You 'd last about two weeks " . She said , of her time as a police officer in comparison to portrayals on television , that " reality is much more interesting . I could pull a thousand cases out of my head people would say would never happen . People need drama because they would not believe the reality " .

= = = Production team = = =

Scott & Bailey is produced by Manchester @-@ based Red Production Company , which itself is majority owned by StudioCanal following an acquisition estimated at £ 30 million in December 2013 . Nicola Shindler , who founded the company in 1998 , is the programme 's executive producer alongside writer Sally Wainwright and Tom Sherry . When speaking of Shindler , Wainwright said : " Nicola is just a genius . She makes you raise your game . So if you 're good , she 'll make you better " .

The role of producer was undertaken by Yvonne Fracas for Series 1 , and from Series 2 ? 3 , Tom Sherry . Sherry , who has worked for Red Productions for over 15 years , described his job as " the opportunity to meddle in all departments ? it 's about being able to have a passable stab at everyone 's job and to be able to empathise with what they 're trying to achieve " . For the production of Series

4 , Sherry undertook the role of executive producer alongside Wainwright and Shindler , while the position of producer is staffed by Juliet Charlesworth . For the fifth series , filmed in 2015 , Suranne Jones became an executive producer alongside Schindler .

The involvement of Diane Taylor as a consultant producer is credited with maintaining Scott & Bailey 's " rigorous authenticity " . According to Jessamy Calkin of The Telegraph , " the attention to detail is more extreme on this series , say many of the crew , than others they have worked on " . During the filming of Unforgiven in 2008 (written by Wainwright and also starring Suranne Jones) , Wainwright was told to meet Taylor by Grant Montgomery , the show 's designer . After meeting , the production was given the green light by ITV and the script was largely re @-@ written , with Wainwright commenting : " I wasn 't writing a single line of dialogue that Diane hadn 't influenced " . Wainwright is responsible for writing the majority of episodes .

Amelia Bullmore , who plays Gill Murray , wrote three episodes ; Wainwright had wanted to get other writers involved in the process . For her first episode as writer , " Bullmore was given a brief ? that everything must be from Scott and Bailey 's point of view ? and she was given a murder " . Though she had been a professional writer for almost two decades , Scott and Bailey marked the first instance of Bullmore writing and starring in the same production . Due to Wainwright 's increased workload on her other drama series ' Last Tango in Halifax and Happy Valley , Bullmore was chosen to be the head writer for Scott and Bailey 's fourth series in 2014 . She was joined on the writing team by Lee Warburton , who wrote two episodes of the fourth series. and returned to write Scott & Bailey 's fifth series in 2015 .

The directing of Scott & Bailey is undertaken in a method whereby " each director directs a ' block ' of two or three episodes , dictated by the schedule ? when each episode has finished shooting , the director goes into the edit and a new director takes over for the next block " , according to Calkin . The most prolific director of Scott & Bailey is Morag Fullerton , who directed seven episodes .

= = = Casting = = =

Jones , who had always envisaged herself playing Rachel Bailey when the idea of the project came in to mind , was given the role , though at the programme 's pre @-@ production stages the character had a different first name , Cathy . It was originally intended that Lindsay would star with Jones in Scott & Bailey , but she became pregnant with twins , so the role of Janet was given to Lesley Sharp instead ; Lindsay received the smaller role of Rachel 's sister , Alison . Lindsay approved of Sharp playing the role ; Jones also felt pleased at the prospect of working with Sharp , saying " I was really excited on the day of the read @-@ through " . Sharp 's husband Nicholas Gleaves was awarded the role of Scott 's lover , DS Andy Roper . Despite the actors ' relationship , Sharp stated that it was not a contributing factor in his casting , stating : " Nick 's an actor and I 'm an actress ? we don 't have the same agent . There 's a script with a role in it that was right for him and it so happened that there was a role that was right for me and we both got cast , but it wasn 't a conversation that we had that it would be a good idea if we did a television series together because that 's not the way life works " .

Both Rachel and Janet are Detective Constables in the Major Incident Team of the Manchester Metropolitan Police Service , with the team headed by DCI Gill Murray (Amelia Bullmore) , who is loosely based on Diane Taylor . Producers were undecided on what age DCI Murray would be , but had originally pictured an actress older than Bullmore . After auditioning , Bullmore returned a month later , intent on playing Murray " tough " , however , when meeting casting director Beverley Keogh in the toilets beforehand , Bullmore recounted that Keogh said to her : " That 's not what we 've got you back for . We were interested in seeing a warmer side " .

Danny Miller joined the cast as series regular Rob Waddington in series 3 and Tracie Bennett also appeared in the third series as DC Bailey 's estranged mother , Sharon . In a continuing story arc for the third series , Nicola Walker was cast in the role of Helen Bartlett , a character driven to emotional instability by past events unearthed by the Manchester Metropolitan Police . In preparation for the role Walker visited a psychologist in order to build upon her characterisation .

=== Filming ===

Principal photography for the first series took place in a twelve @-@ week window from November 2010 onwards , it was reported by Female First . The series was filmed on location in and around Greater Manchester . Jones mentioned that " On the first day of filming [she and Sharp] were stuck in a car on the moors " . Oldham was another location chosen for filming , with local press reporting that Beal Lane in Shaw was used for filming . The Oldham Evening Chronicle supplied specially mocked @-@ up newspapers to be used as props in filming . Other locations such as Manchester Crown Court were used for filming . The Major Incident Team 's headquarters for the first three series were filmed in an old Barclays branch on Silver Street , Bury . The filming location used the team 's new station , the fictional Oldham Road police station , took place at former Greater Manchester Police Grey Mare Lane police station in Beswick . A local mortuary was also used for filming scenes . The programme was also granted permission to film in HM Prison Risley in Cheshire , where locations manager James Muirhead and a crew of 35 filmed for a day .

Sharp , when describing filming with her husband , Gleaves , who plays her on @-@ screen lover , said , " there aren 't too many people who can go to work and have an affair with their husband " . When discussing the filming of Scott & Bailey , Jones said " I can 't pretend it wasn 't a tough shoot , both emotionally and physically , because it was " , before adding that on the last day of filming she had to shoot a gruelling scene involving her chasing a suspect from a crime scene , while Sharp and Bullmore " were having massages and facials ready for the wrap party " .

When Scott & Bailey was recommissioned for a second series it was announced that production on the series would commence at the end of October 2011 , to be aired in 2012 . In November it was reported that while filming on Hamilton Road , Whitefield ? the set of DC Scott 's home ? that an emergency call was made after a member of the television crew , a lighting technician , became stranded atop a " cherry @-@ picker style platform " 12 metres (39 ft) above the ground . Fearing the mechanism could fail and cause the crew member to fall to the ground , they sought assistance from firefighters , who safely brought the technician to the ground . In February 2012 , The Sun reported that series 2 was still being filmed , with Jones pictured on location in Manchester with a prosthetic wound on her forehead .

Filming for series 3 began in November 2012 , with an airing date scheduled for May 2013 . In November Jones and Sharp were photographed filming on location in Manchester for the series . As the fourth series had a different air date (its television broadcast began in September , unlike May for the three previous series) it became the first series not to be filmed in the winter months . A longer break in production between series 3 and 4 was the reason that the fourth series was instead filmed in summer .

=== Cast and characters ===

=== Episodes ===

=== Reception ===

=== Critical reception ===

Debuting to strong viewing figures and with a fairly positive critical reception , Scott & Bailey ran from 29 May 2011 until 3 July over the course of six episodes . The second series premiered 12 March 2012 and consisted of eight episodes . A third series was announced 28 May 2012 , began filming November 2012 , and premiered on 3 April 2013 . In August 2013 , it was announced that a fourth series had been commissioned , with production set to begin in the spring of 2014 . With filming several months earlier in the year , series 4 began broadcasting on ITV on 10 September

2014 and finished on 29 October 2014 . On 31 July 2015 , ITV renewed Scott & Bailey for a three @-@ part fifth series . Scott & Bailey has received generally good reviews thus far . Tom Sutcliffe of The Independent remarked that although it was a " less @-@ than @-@ courageous decision " for ITV to commission a detective drama for Sunday nights , Scott & Bailey had " genuine signs of life in the thing " . Sam Wollaston of The Guardian , however , questioned the plausibility of the idea that the character of Rachel would not realise her partner of two years was already married , considering she was a detective , and described the series as " Lewis with skirts on " . However , Grace Dent , also of The Guardian , described it as " of great televisual comfort " . Alexandra Heminsley , another writer for The Guardian , described it as " a genuinely gripping crime series " and added : " what about a second series ? " Euan Ferguson of The Observer stated that it was " actually rather gripping " . Horatia Harrod , reviewing the third series for The Daily Telegraph , praised the programme 's script and its likeness to reality in portraying the professional conduct of modern policing , stating : " this is a beautifully engineered programme : it 's both pleasingly sudsy and deliciously grisly , but manages to transcend both the soap and detective genres [...] Somehow Sally Wainwright , the show 's creator and writer , has made the traditionally dull quality of professional competence seem positively thrilling " .

John Preston of The Daily Telegraph gave a mixed review : though he commended the acting of Sharp and Jones , he stated that " it badly needs some shape and tension " . The Metro took a decidedly critical stance , with its reviews getting progressively worse with each new episode ; first describing it as " comforting but could have been so much better " , then later quipping that " Scott & Bailey will never be compelling TV " , and that the programme was " a mediocre crime drama amidst a saturated market of mediocre crime dramas " .

One of the more persistent criticisms of the show (especially its first two series) has been its indifferent or decidedly negative depiction of male characters . Tim Oglethorpe , reviewing the first series in the Daily Mail , wrote that " the men often appear to be feckless , devious or dangerous " and stated that DS Andy Roper (Gleaves) was " the only man to emerge with any credit " . Dianne Butler , who reviewed the programme upon its airing in Australia , made a similar point , questioning the relevance of the show 's male characters : " there are some men in this but they 're fairly incidental " . The Guardian 's John Crace expressed his belief that most of the programme 's male characters are deficient in some way , writing : " surely it must be possible to make a show with women lead characters without having to make every male a complete dork ? From Janet 's useless husband and Rachel 's idiot brother who can 't boil an egg without burning down the kitchen " .

The performances of Amelia Bullmore and Nicola Walker in the Series 3 finale were highly praised . Julia Raeside of The Guardian commented that both " give an incredible acting masterclass that will take your breath away . Truly gripping and the jewel in ITV 's increasingly impressive drama crown . Splendid stuff . " The series was nominated for the BAFTA TV award for Best Drama Series in both 2012 and 2013 .

= = = Television ratings = = =

Since Scott & Bailey 's debut it has fared well in the ratings . Days after its premiere , The Sun reported that overnight figures suggested 8 @.@ 2 million watched the episode , which was , according to the newspaper , the most successful drama launch of 2011 so far . It reported that the show had secured a 33 % audience share in its timeslot . The programme 's closest rival was a broadcast of the film Pirates of the Caribbean : Dead Man 's Chest , which received 20 @.@ 9 % of the audience share . Scott and Bailey aired as the follow @-@ on programme from Britain 's Got Talent , which had received 9 @.@ 86 million viewers and a 40 @.@ 4 % audience share in its timeslot .

The Broadcasters ' Audience Research Board (BARB) later released consolidated information stating that the first episode had received 8 @.@ 31 million viewers on ITV , with a further 801 @,@ 000 tuning in on ITV HD , and 310 @,@ 000 on ITV1 + 1 , totalling the viewing figures to 9 @.@ 42 for the first episode . The episode was 2011 's fourth highest @-@ rating drama broadcast , as well as the highest @-@ rating broadcast for a new drama . By episode two it was reported that Scott &

Bailey has dropped nearly 1 @. @ 8 million viewers from episode one , with overnight figures suggesting 6 @. @ 14 million (23 @. @ 6 %) tuned in , though it was still the number one rated programme in its timeslot . The programme continued to outperform its competitors in its timeslot until its end , beating competition including BBC One dramas Case Histories and Stolen .

= = Home video releases = =

= = = Region 1 (U.S. and Canada) = = =

Scott & Bailey : Season 1 , 270 minutes (270 + 9bonus) ; 17 June 2014

Scott & Bailey : Season 2 , 360 minutes (359 + 11bonus) ; 16 September 2014

Scott & Bailey : Season Three , 382 (364 + 15bonus) minutes ; 6 October 2015

Scott & Bailey : Season Four , 359 minutes ; 1 March 2016