# [LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT: Maurice Compte Previews Duarte’s Return to Take on BX9](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/2023/01/04/law-order-svu-duarte-return-maurice-compte-interview/)

January 4, 2023 by [Marisa Roffman](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/author/marisa/)



***LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT — “Soldier Up” Episode 24011 — Pictured: (l-r) Molly Burnett and Maurice Compte — (Photo by: Scott Gries/NBC)***

Captain Mike Duarte (Maurice Compte) returns on the Thursday, January 5 episode of LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT—but it’s under pretty awful circumstances.

Months after he and the SVU squad worked together on a rape case with ties to Bx9, a few members of the notorious gang target Olivia Benson ([Mariska Hargitay](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/2022/04/29/law-and-order-mariska-hargitay-terry-serpico-season-finale/))—at home, in front of her son. Naturally, Duarte—who is in charge of the Bronx gang unit—is called in to get to the bottom of the crime.

“In the beginning, it changes [their dynamic]—she was assaulted by these individuals,” Compte tells [Give Me My Remote](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/). “But I think that very quickly changes. Mariska, as a person—and the character that she plays—don’t really stay down for very long. I think part of the show’s great success is that there’s a level of empowerment, *self-empowerment*, brought on through Mariska. So the driving force becomes that: How do you get back on your feet again? How do you find your footing? How do you balance yourself out again? How do you overcome something like this? For her, [you] bring the bad guys to justice.”



***LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT — “The One You Feed” Episode 24001 — Pictured: Maurice Compte as Mike Duarte — (Photo by: Michael Greenberg/NBC)***

The hour, the first of a three-part arc, also reunites Duarte with Muncy ([Molly Burnett](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/2022/11/10/law-and-order-svu-molly-burnett-series-regular/))—who used to work with Duarte before Olivia poached her—and Velasco ([Octavio Pisano](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/2022/07/18/svu-octavio-pisano-interview/)). (Duarte also tried to bring Velasco into the gang unit world before the detective opted to stay with SVU.)

Despite working with the duo in “Jumped In,” Duarte’s elevated position means there could be some aspects of the investigation he tries to shield from them. “Being a captain isn’t always a straight shot,” Compte says. “Being a captain sometimes demands a bit of playing your cards close to the vest, when you know things that you’re not always sharing with the rest of your team; there’s a reason that you’re a captain and they’re not.”

“What does that make you?” he continues. “In this culture that we live in now, where everything should be out in the open, how do we treat personal information? And when you’re investigating something, how do we maintain that level of professional integrity while still maintaining the ability to be able to be the person in charge? This isn’t a free for all. Everybody doesn’t get a vote. In the larger context of this whole gang world, there’s just so many ins and outs.”

As the show navigates a new world, Compte had a good resource on-set if he needed it: [Terry Serpico](https://www.givememyremote.com/remote/2022/04/29/law-and-order-mariska-hargitay-terry-serpico-season-finale/) and Kadia Saraf, who play Chief McGrath and Anya Avital on the series, are credited co-writers on “Jumped In.”

“We talked very little about it—one of the main things is just understanding that they understand the complexity of how these dynamics work, how these gangs are created” he says. “You will come to find that they have a perfect understanding of how these gangs come into being. And also who these gangs are created by—how these gangs are just built to self-corrupt, because their leaders are very ineffective in terms of being able to maintain integrity. But those are things that may be something that you will understand as the [arc] progresses.”

***LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT, Thursdays, 9/8c, NBC***

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