



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah Takenaga, 212 705 9422

Devin Johnson, 212 339 1709

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**SOME SECRETS ARE BETTER LEFT HIDDEN IN THE PROVOCATIVE NEW
DRAMA MISTRESSES**

-U.S. Premiere on BBC AMERICA-

Part drama, part thriller, *Mistresses* is a sexy, sophisticated, and modern take on the lives of four friends with one thing in common — infidelity. Going beyond lipstick and cashmere with its provocative and honest plot lines, *Mistresses* stars four of the UK's leading actresses – Sarah Parish (*Viva Blackpool*), Sharon Small (*About a Boy*, *The Inspector Lynley Mysteries*) Orla Brady (*Shark*), and Shelley Conn (*Innocence*).

Set in a world where friends have become the new family, Katie, Trudi, Siobhan and Jessica are four thirty-something women who met at college and are still good friends, but whose lives have taken very different turns. Each has a different experience of infidelity and love: devoted mistress, wronged wife, unwitting instigator, bed-hopper. Their tangled web of love and deceit envelops all four friends with life-changing results. ***Mistresses* premieres Friday, February 20, 8:00 p.m. ET/PT, all following episodes will premiere Fridays 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Katie (Parish) is a well-respected doctor and the rock of the group. She had an affair with a terminally ill patient for the last two years and crosses even further professional boundaries when he asks her to make a huge sacrifice. Yet, despite being the group's confidante, she cannot reveal this burdensome secret to her friends.

Trudi (Small) is a 9/11 widow, unable to achieve closure as the body of her husband, Paul, was never found. She is trying to bring up their two daughters on her own, while struggling with her conscience and coming to terms with her desire to move on with her life. Following a 'barren period' lasting several years, Trudi begins to date and finds herself regressing back to being an awkward teen on a string of disastrous dates with handsome, single dad Richard (Patrick Baladi, *The Office*, *Bodies*).

Siobhan (Brady) seems to be living in wedded bliss with husband, Hari (Raza Jaffrey, *MI-5*), and has a successful career as a lawyer. The only problem is that her sex life has become less about 'making love' and more about 'making babies'. With the prospect of red-hot passion and an inability to control the sexual chemistry with her flirtatious colleague Dominic (Adam Rayner), Siobhan soon finds herself on the precipice of potential self-destruction.

Jessica (Conn) is a gorgeous, fun-loving, straight-talking commitment-phobe whose insatiable and adventurous sexual appetite makes her attractive to men and a mistress to many, including her boss, Simon (Adam Astill). Her commitment to her friends is unshakable, but Jessica shirks at any mention of the 'c-word' in a relationship and marriage is the last thing on her 'to do' list in

life – an irony that is not lost on her when Simon asks her to organize a wedding for Lisa (Alys Thomas) and Alex (Anna Torv).

From dizzy highs to extreme lows, from excitement and happiness to torment and loneliness, the friends are on an emotion fueled journey with no signposts, and are struggling to hold it all together.

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WHAT THE BRITISH PRESS SAID

“Well-made and classily performed, but above all, juicy.” *Guardian*

“Keeping this slick and funny enough for the *Sex and the City* crowd, while also letting it edge into thriller territory is no mean trick, but the Beeb’s new drama pulls it off.” *Financial Times*

“...excellent central performances from four top-class actresses...” *Daily Telegraph*

CAST AND PRODUCTION CREDITS

Katie	Sarah Parish
Trudi	Sharon Small
Siobhan	Orla Brady
Jessica	Shelley Conn
Hari	Raza Jaffrey
Dominic	Adam Rayner
Richard	Patrick Baladi
Simon	Adam Astill
Alex	Anna Torv
Lisa	Alys Thomas
John	Anthony Calf
Dr Robert Carrington	Chris Garner
Sam	Max Brown
Gemma	Victoria Wicks
Paul	Charles Edwards
Creators	Lowri Glain SJ Clarkson
Co-Creator	Rachel Anthony

EPISODES 1 - 6

Writers **Rachel Anthony**
Richard Warlow
Harriet Braun
Catrin Clarke

Producer **Lowri Glain**

Directors **SJ Clarkson**
Philip John
Peter Hoar

Executive Producers **Douglas Rae**
Matt Arlidge
Lucy Bedford

EPISODES 7 - 12

Writers **Richard Warlow**
Muirinn Lane Kelly
Harriet Warner

Producer **Rhonda Smith**

Directors **Peter Hoar**
Francesca Joseph
Peter Lydon

Executive Producers **Douglas Rae**
Lucy Bedford

Mistresses is a Ecosse Films and BBC AMERICA co-production for the BBC



WHO'S WHO

Katie (Sarah Parish)

Katie is the anchor of the group. A hopeless romantic, a brilliant doctor and a fantastic friend. The girls' secrets are safe with Katie, who will listen attentively and make each of their problems seem far more important than her own. Which is why you really never know what's going on with her.

Katie was seeing John, the great love of her life, for over two years, and kept it a secret from everyone. When she met him she knew she had been right – true love does exist – and was worth the wait, it was even worth the complications of also being his doctor. His diagnosis and rapid

decline only made their love stronger, despite the fact that John was married. Katie was torn when John asked her to help him die; he wanted Katie's face to be the last thing he saw. Because of her love and despite her love, she agreed to do it. John feared that his son, Sam, would be effectively orphaned by his death. John's wife, Gemma, had never been emotionally available, a side-effect of her life-long battle with depression. Shortly before his death, John asked Katie to look after Sam for him, and Katie promised she would.

Katie confides in Trudi alone, but she plays down her feelings for John, saying it wasn't such a big love affair and she's fine. After John's funeral, Katie tries to leave discreetly but bumps into his son. Sam is devastated by his dad's death and Katie tries to hide her emotions as he angrily tells her he has discovered that his father was having an affair. Katie is torn. She clearly needs to stay as far away as possible from this boy, but how can she break her deathbed promise? Katie cannot help thinking about Sam. He is so like John, and he makes her feel closer to him. But in seeing Sam again, Katie is getting into deeper and deeper water.



Trudi (Sharon Small)

Trudi is an ordinary woman, warm and compassionate. Not naturally organized, she sometimes finds the challenge of motherhood and friendship stretches her to the melting point. She has handled being a single mother with competent chaos.

After 9/11, her husband Paul's body was never found, presumed vaporized, and Trudi has found his death hard to accept. She has been celibate ever since, so meeting divorced and part-time dad Richard is exciting – and daunting. It's slightly suspicious that he appeared the moment Trudi received her \$2M dollar check from the 9/11 fund, and it's a bit weird that Trudi somehow always ends up paying for things. But he's nice and sexy and makes her laugh.

An anonymous phone call thrusts her back into the past, and paranoia. But she shrugs it off and embraces her romantic, desirable side. But the mysterious phone calls persist. And someone is watching her...



Siobhan (Orla Brady)

Siobhan is a successful, ambitious lawyer. Pragmatic and logical, she can be relied upon for quick-witted, no-frills, problem-solving advice. Siobhan is in a good marriage with Hari. They love one another and still fancy one another, despite being on a rather functional baby-making schedule. Harry is desperate for children, and is making sure he and Siobhan are eating superfoods and on an optimum diet for conception. He knows the rhythm of Siobhan's cycle better than she does. Siobhan tries to spice things up but can't help feeling that Harry no longer wants to just make love to her.

Siobhan works increasingly long hours with Dominic. The banter and flirtation between them is energizing. While her husband is obsessed with getting her pregnant, Dominic makes her feel sexy and desirable. He likes her but thinks she is unattainable. When Siobhan is forced to blow the girls' night out and work late one evening, she finds herself alone with Dominic. The tension is electrifying and they end up sleeping together.

Then tests reveal that Siobhan has not conceived because Hari is infertile. He's devastated and becomes introverted, unable to deal with his anger and feelings of emasculation. Siobhan feels shut out by him and what should have been a one-night-stand with Dominic turns into an illicit affair. But when Hari recovers his spirits and Siobhan decides to end the affair with Dominic, her life becomes a whole lot more complicated by the discovery that she is pregnant.



Jessica (Shelley Conn)

Jessica is a lovable, fun-loving minx. The baby-sister and entertainer of the group, she is leaky in the secrets department and a mistress to many. Currently having a fun and reckless affair with her married boss, Simon, Jessica reckons she has already solved the great mysteries of life – there is no such thing as true love. So she is suitably underwhelmed when Simon assigns her to plan and project-manage a lesbian wedding.

The couple, Alex and Lisa have been bickering about their wedding plans and want a professional to take over. It's clear that Lisa is in the driving seat here. Alex, riding shot-gun, seems disinterested and bored, which Jessica finds incredibly rude. They take an instant dislike to one another and don't hold back on making it felt. However, on an appointment to check out a venue, Lisa bails, leaving Jessica and Alex alone and realizing they may have judged each other too soon. They find a real connection, a shared sense of humor, and a similar quirky take on the world. While planning the wedding, they find themselves increasingly attracted to one another.

Jessica has never been attracted to another woman before and is thrown. They share a passionate kiss and then sleep together. Alex suggests not going through with the wedding, but Jessica laughs it off and the wedding goes ahead as planned. But soon Jessica realizes she really loves Alex and sets out to regain what she has lost.

EPISODE SYNOPSES

*****SPOILER ALERT*****

Episode 1

It's Katie's birthday and the girls are gathered at Trudi's house for wine and gossip. Her friends tease her for being single all the time, but it turns out her friends don't know all her secrets - Katie has been having an affair with John, one of her terminally ill patients for the last two years. Despite what her friends think, Siobhan's marriage to Hari isn't a bed of roses. Baby-making sex on a schedule is losing its appeal and Siobhan is feeling neglected which leads to a night of passion with her colleague, Dominic. Recently widowed, Trudi bumps into Richard, a divorced

dad from her kids' school. He asks her out on a date but she nervously declines. Much to Jessica's disdain, she is handed the planning of a lesbian wedding as her next project at work and takes an instant dislike to Alex, one of the blushing brides. But after Jessica manages to find the perfect venue for their wedding, a new found respect emerges between her and Alex. Katie's lover, John, dies leaving her heartbroken. His son, Sam, turns up on her doorstep after seeing her at the funeral and tells her he's discovered that his father had a lover. She denies all knowledge of an affair, but fears her dangerous secret may not stay secret for long. **Episode 1 premieres Friday, February 20, 8:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Episode 2

Having summoned up the courage to ask her out again, Richard and Trudi have an awkward, stilted date. Hari and Siobhan decide to consult a doctor regarding their inability to conceive, but the visit to the fertility clinic, reveals that Hari is infertile. Hurt and angry, he shuts Siobhan out, pushing her back into the arms of Dominic. In an effort to convince Sam to go back to college, Katie takes him to see an exhibition of his dad's architectural designs in order to inspire him. He asks to take her to dinner and they later share a kiss. Jessica takes her lesbian brides to be, Alex and Lisa, to sample food for the wedding. The atmosphere between Jessica and Alex is electric as their feelings have gone from disdain to distinctly flirtatious. Later, Jessica takes Alex to try on wedding dresses and they kiss. **Episode 2 premieres Friday, February 27, 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Episode 3

Sam continues to pursue Katie - she is very tempted but rebuffs his advances. She can't stop thinking about him and ends up inviting him over to her house where they make love. Trudi receives a mysterious silent telephone call, which she traces to a nearby hotel. Later, she answers the door to a woman from the hotel (Sally), who tells Trudi she was her husband, Paul's, lover. Hari surprises Siobhan with a romantic meal and their marriage seems to be back on track. Jessica and Alex meet at Jessica's apartment and the two give into their feelings. Alex suggests not getting married but Jessica encourages her to go through with it. The next day, at the wedding, Jessica realizes she's made a mistake in letting Alex go. To make her jealous, Jessica leaves with Alex's friend, Stella. Siobhan discovers she is pregnant. **Episode 3 premieres Friday, March 6, 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Episode 4

Siobhan tells Katie she is pregnant and that Dominic is probably the father. Trudi decides to go see Sally who proves her story is authentic. Sally then requests a third of her 9/11 check for herself and her lovechild, Paul Jr. Jessica missing Alex, tries a threesome with Stella and her ex-boyfriend, Simon but still finds herself unfulfilled. Katie diagnoses Jessica's condition - she's in love - with Alex. Siobhan contemplates Dominic as a father, but soon realizes he isn't the fathering kind. She goes to the fertility clinic with Hari and the doctor confirms what Siobhan already knew, she's pregnant. Feeling overwhelmed with life, Trudi ends her relationship with Richard. Katie decides to come clean to Sam and confesses that she was his father's lover - he is appalled. **Episode 4 premieres Friday, March 13, 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Episode 5

Siobhan is in denial and thinks she can get away without telling Hari that the baby isn't his. She goes to her boss to persuade him to transfer (and promote) Dominic. Later, Dominic confronts

Siobhan about the baby. He knows it's his. The girls arrive at Siobhan's house and Hari tells them about the baby, ignoring Siobhan's uncomfortable look. Sam arrives at Katie's house in the middle of the night. He tells her that he believes that she helped his father die - she admits to it and he angrily leaves. Alex comes to see Jessica and asks to be her friend. They later meet up and have sex, but afterwards Alex tells her that she can't leave Lisa - Jessica agrees to share her. Katie goes to see John's wife, Gemma, and Sam arrives. He tells his mother about Katie's affair with John and about helping him die. Sam later apologizes and tells Katie that he loves her but she shuts the door on him. After work, Hari takes Siobhan shopping for the baby and guiltily, she admits the truth. Trudi decides to share the 9/11 money with Sally but as she waits for her in the hotel lobby, she sees something she can't believe - Sally and her son followed by Paul, Trudi's dead husband. **Episode 5 premieres Friday, March 20, 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Episode 6

Trudi struggles with her shocking discovery. She makes Sally admit the truth and confronts Paul. Hari tells Siobhan that he won't be able to forgive her if she keeps the baby. Siobhan continues to wrestle with her decision about the baby but soon realizes she can't go through with an abortion, they separate. Alex stands Jessica up on her birthday. They meet up later but it soon becomes evident that their relationship isn't going to work and they decide to break up. Katie is suspended for a year for her involvement in John's death. Sam comes to visit Katie after hearing of her suspension and to let her know that he's going away so they can work out what they mean to each other. Richard tells Trudi that he loves her and she is forced to tell him that Paul is still alive. Later, Trudi reluctantly reports Paul to the police and he's arrested. Hari and Siobhan meet and he decides to let her come home - he will love the baby because it's part of her. Jessica sits alone in her flat, crying, on her birthday but the girls soon arrive to celebrate. **Episode 6 premieres Friday, March 27, 9:00 p.m. ET/PT.**

Synopses for episodes 7 - 12 to follow.

CAST INTERVIEWS

SARAH PARISH (KATIE)

You've played some interesting characters in your career, what was it that attracted you to this particular script?

Katie is a woman consumed by grief making some very bizarre choices. I always find parts like that very interesting to play - when people do things they really shouldn't do. The fallibility of people I think is fascinating. On the outside Katie's such a professional, moral upstanding person and to see her fall from grace so dramatically is quite an appealing role to portray.

What is Katie's role within the group of friends?

Katie is the 'listener' and the 'thinker'. She is very secretive, very private and very moral. She is the person that you would least expect to do anything wrong. Her affair is quite shocking - she fell head over heels for a patient, had an affair with him and helps him to die. Then, out of misguided grief, has an affair with his son. We tried to keep the relationships with the girls as real as possible. In most groups of friends, you have a girlfriend who you go to for advice, another who you get drunk with and another who you share professional issues with. Katie goes to Trudi for comfort, Siobhan for advice and Jessica for getting drunk. I think the others go to

Katie for straight, honest and realistic advice. She's a very straight laced person – if you want a straight answer, without any harshness, or sugary coating, Katie's your woman.

Katie's decisions seem very misguided – do you agree with any of the choices she makes?

It's very difficult to say, not particularly. But I haven't been in the indescribable situation that she is in. As Sarah Parish, I don't know what it's like to find the love of your life, go through what she did with him and then start an affair with his son – it's all so alien to me. As an actress, I have to find empathy with the character or it's very hard to play it. I understand the misguided view that Katie had to do the things that she did when she did them, but throughout the piece she discovers that what she's doing isn't right; because she sees the error of her ways, it's forgivable. She is such a good person; everything she does is because she thinks it's for the best. She's not a malicious person at all.

Did you have to do any research to get into the role of Katie?

This series in itself is very taboo – it's a touchy subject. You can't sit in the pub with your mates and ask who's had affairs...that'd break up marriages there and then. Usually, I have to do my own research, but we had fantastic creators and directors who did all our research for us which meant that I could just get stuck into the character. There are always people that you know of that are with someone and then meet someone else – it's always a terrible thing for them and for the other person. Throughout my life, I've met a fair few people in that situation. I remember very clearly the total and utter guilt that they felt and I think it's never good to be cheated on or be the cheater.

Have you ever worked with Orla, Sharon or Shelley before and how did you all get along?

I've worked with Sharon a long time ago on *Cutting It*. I have also known of and admired Orla for many years. When I was having meetings for *Mistresses*, I was thrilled when they mentioned they were talking to Orla. I'd seen Shelley in *Party Animals* and thought she was quite possibly the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen – I was hoping I'd never have to be up next to her in the same scene though! It was such a tough show to cast – they had to make sure they cast people that aren't going to back up the stereotypical image that you would conjure up when you thought of a 'Mistress'.

How did you handle your raunchy scenes with Max (who plays Sam)?

I never think of them as raunchy. I've never had a problem with intimate scenes and I've been doing it for such a long time now. The first stage kiss I ever had was in a school play that my mum was directing. Having my mum tell me to kiss a boy 'like I meant it' was a bit weird! To me, it's so technical and far away from anything I recognize as being passionate, naughty or sexy, it takes any sexual innuendo out of doing love scenes! It's purely a choreographed piece of acting.

What were the highlights of the shoot for you?

I really enjoyed scenes with the other girls. We wouldn't see each other for ages at a time, so when we got together, we were like giggly school girls. For the crew, it must have been a nightmare – we'd get more and more excited in each other's company and the volume of us giggling must have been unbearable. It was really nice to hang out with the girls.

SHARON SMALL (TRUDI)

What did you like about Trudi and how does she compare to other characters you've played?

I liked the fact that Trudi had faults – she’s not perfect. I felt that she was very real, in terms of being the hub of a bunch of friends. She’s the cook and always very busy. She’s a mother, so is always distracted by screaming children. I like how she juggles life – she does it better than I do! Trudi is very different to Barbara Havers in *The Inspector Lynley Mysteries*, Trudi’s so much messier. Havers is very contained and closed– because of her job, she’s had to keep a lot of her personal feelings contained whereas everything just spills out of Trudi, including judgmental comments. I liked the fact that she was the polar opposite to someone I’d played for a long time.

How does Trudi fit into the group?

I think she’s the earth mother of the group – because she has children, the others are all much more high-flying than her. She’s much more the housewife. She married younger, so as a result of her ‘motherly nature’ she’s like the hostess or the entertainer of the group. I think she’s there for Katie most – although it takes Katie a long time to open up. I think Trudi’s quite tough to reveal secrets to – but she’s very loving and when someone does open up to her, she’ll be honest and will try to help. Emotional advice is probably her forte.

Did you have to do any research to get into character?

Apart from have a baby of my own, not really! Only since last year when I had my son, have I realized how tough it is to juggle work and life, I didn’t realize how easy it was when all I had to think about was myself. I had no concept of what it was like to be a mother before. Through the years, I’ve known of affairs, and one tends to side with their friends, whether they are the mistress or the one being cheated on – I think your loyalties change depending on who the person is.

It’s a very strong female cast. How did you all get along?

I didn’t see them all as much as I would have liked actually, because we were only in two scenes together per episode. When we were on set, we were just incredibly noisy – Orla’s a cackler and we often roared with laughter about the smallest things. There was lots of talk of plastic surgery. We were generally well behaved though. The girls are all very busy with their own lives, so making new friends is hard, but hopefully we’ll all keep in touch.

How did you handle your raunchy scenes with Patrick (who plays Richard)?

We didn’t have very many sexy scenes– Patrick’s very professional, so the ones we had were easy really. Luckily we didn’t have to get naked or make any sex noises or anything – our scenes were mostly pre or post coital. I did have a scene where I had to wear some raunchy underwear – I was a bit worried about that. They were right up my bottom – but I think it did me favors! I didn’t get to take it home though. It was my first day of shooting episode three and I had to do those scenes, so I was very nervous. Having had a baby, your body is different, but luckily the suck in knickers helped a great deal.

How do you think audiences will take to Mistresses?

What’s nice is that the females are leading this drama and the men are following their stories – so often it’s the opposite way. Usually, the male characters are really well rounded and the females are more supporting characters – I think it was probably interesting for the men in this drama to feel what it was like to be in our position. I think everyone watching will be able to relate to the characters’ stories. It’s a sad fact of life these days that everyone knows someone who’s been affected by an affair. I think it will be hard for the viewers not to be too judgmental on certain characters’ situations.

ORLA BRADY (SIOBHAN)

What attracted you to Mistresses?

When I first read the script I was interested in the fact that the writers had created central characters who are on the wrong side of the tracks, morally speaking. Mistress is a word that is frequently used with a lot of judgment, disapprovingly (at least in the Anglo Saxon world) and so it seemed interesting to explore dramatically. It struck me that it is not a position one chooses but one in which a woman finds herself. After all, no young girl sits dreaming of becoming someone's mistress. They dream of loving and having that love reciprocated and declared to the world. Instead, the position leaves most people with a secret.....and a sometimes shameful one at that. So getting behind the label, if you like, was intriguing to me. The other aspect of this which I wanted to explore was what would happen to a loving couple once one of them has been unfaithful, once lies have been told and trust is broken. Can that be repaired? Is it ever the same again? What does lying do? Does it poison what is between them? Also, I liked the idea of working so closely with other actresses. Most of the roles I have played have been opposite actors so this was quite different for me. It turned out to be fun too.

How do you think the perception of mistresses has changed?

There is much more of a stigma now than in times past; look at Anne Boleyn! I think, on the whole, that women are judged more harshly for a range of things; from drinking too much to being tough in their jobs to...well, having affairs.

How does Siobhan fit in with her group of friends?

I think that her workaholic tendencies are mitigated a bit by having such close friendships. They are hugely important to her and she is fiercely loyal to them. Also, she loves how different they are from her. For example, she has a soft spot for Trudi who she admires for the choice she has made to be a Mother and homemaker. She is fascinated by Jessica's wild streak and loves Katie's seriousness and vulnerability.

Siobhan and Hari are going through IVF – how does that affect their relationship?

I know some couples who have gone through this and have seen the strain it can put on them. If it doesn't work immediately then it is almost bound to test the relationship, which can result in a couple becoming closer but also can have a bad effect. Spontaneity can get lost and the focus can cease to be on loving each other and more on the disappointment and dismay of not achieving the wished-for baby.

How did you find playing a lawyer?

I was numbed and amazed at the sheer volume of work and the attention to detail you have to have to do this job well. I did a show called *Family Law* in the U.S. several years ago and during the run up to that spent a lot of time hanging out in the law courts in Santa Monica, I spent a lot of time talking with lawyers and a couple of judges. I got to sit in on cases both in lawyers rooms and in court and it was quite fascinating stuff, seeing how they handle the delicate situations people are in.

You have got some raunchy sex scenes with Adam Rayner (who plays Dominic) and Raza Jaffrey (who plays Hari). Do you get to a point where you get used to doing those sorts of scenes?

So I go to work and have to do love scenes with Adam and Raza - there are worse things a girl could do! It's always embarrassing on the day because it is such a forced situation. There are several people around you trying to get the lighting right or adjusting a microphone. It is not

remotely sexy! With a bit of luck you are both so embarrassed it just becomes a laugh. On the plus side I have always had a lot of luck with my leading men. Adam and Raza are both fantastic actors... and a bit gorgeous too!

Siobhan wears some pretty saucy underwear, did you get to keep any of it?

I couldn't believe I had to wear that outfit - I had to take a deep breath! It is kind of fine when the camera is rolling as you are in the moment with the character who, after all is in the privacy of her own room with her husband. But before and after I was in a mild horror state. No I didn't get to keep it. Don't you think they should have given it to me for going through the trauma?

It's not that common to have programs like this with very strong, rounded female leads. Did you find it interesting?

God! Yes! I loved playing with three other actresses who I really admire. What a relief not to be playing a love interest but to be a central character. I also love that more women are writing now so that these stories can be told from a woman's perspective. Also, on a lighter note, it was such a laugh on the days when we were all in. It got a bit 'locker room' sometimes!

SHELLEY CONN (JESSICA)

What is Jessica's 'role' within the group of friends?

She's the entertainer of the group; when she's with her friends she's constantly bragging about how many super-studs she's had quivering at her feet that weekend but she exaggerates what she's been up to because it makes it funny for the girls! She's a good mate; she's warm and funny. Even though she loves men and she gets on very well with them and she's always flirting with them, at heart she's a girls' girl. She's always loyal to her friends and they mean the world to her, she cares about them very deeply.

What is her attitude to being a mistress?

It's easy for her; why should she tie herself down to somebody? That doesn't make sense to her. A wedding ring to her is like a big badge saying 'I belong to someone', and that's not her style. She loves the idea of being free but she doesn't deliberately seek out married men; she just thinks 'if you're married that's your problem it's got nothing to do with me'.

Do you think you're anything like her?

I am in terms of my loyalty to my friends; there's nothing more important to me than being there for my friends. I suppose Jessica is quite vain and we can all be a bit vain at times, but we have different vanities. We're both members of a gym but Jessica would probably go to the gym five times a week and say, "I only managed to go to the gym once this week, I don't know how I've got these amazing abs right now!" Whereas I would be like, "Bloody hell, I'm in agony because I've been everyday this week and worked really hard!"

You've got sex scenes with men and women, and in one case both at the same time! How did you find filming those scenes? Do you ever get used to doing them?

It's just another day at the office isn't it?! I don't think you ever get used to it. It's always embarrassing and nerve-racking and you always think "is this really necessary?". You never want it to be frivolous and just for the sake of a bit of flesh, but I think you just have to surrender to it because there's nothing worse than seeing people doing scenes like that and looking embarrassed. Jessica has definitely taken control of her love life, she makes the decisions, and she's never in a situation she can't control. But then she finds herself actually falling in love with someone, which totally throws her. It's also disturbing for her that it's a woman causing these

feelings, but only because it's got her questioning her sexuality. I think when she realizes that she's in love with this woman, she wants the whole relationship thing, lock, stock and barrel. She usually gets what she wants, but, because she's not in control, it doesn't necessarily work out like that this time.

How did you find filming the very intimate scenes with Anna (who plays Alex)?

Anna and I got on very well and we had a very similar attitude towards the relationship between Alex and Jessica so we could second guess what the other was going to do. It didn't bother me the fact that she was a woman it's just a bit weird that the shoulders aren't as broad and she didn't have hair on her face! But that was great for me because I was feeling what Jessica was feeling.

So who was the best kisser?

A few people have asked me that, but I just think of it as work and a snog, is a snog, is a snog really!

Did you enjoy working with a mainly female cast?

There's only a few occasions per episode when the four of us are together and other than that we were shooting our own storylines so we didn't really know what was going on in each others' world's for a while. But when we got together it was great. We found very quickly that we had chemistry and we worked well together. I had a great time filming with Anna (who plays Alex) doing Jessica's storylines but I did laugh the most when it was the four girls together. I'm sure we got on the director's nerves, because all we wanted to do was to sit there cackling and gossiping!

MISTRESSES - PICTURE CAPTION SHEET



Jessica (Shelley Conn), Trudi (Sharon Small), Katie (Sarah Parish), Siobhan (Orla Brady)



Katie (Sarah Parish)



Trudi (Sharon Small)



Siobhan (Orla Brady)



Jessica (Shelley Conn)

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