



NEWS: for immediate release

THE TRIAL OF CHRISTINE KEELER WRAPS BRISTOL SHOOT *Political drama starring Sophie Cookson & James Norton has filmed extensively at more than 10 key Bristol locations*

BRISTOL, 18th April 2019: Ecosse Films' upcoming six-part drama *The Trial of Christine Keeler* for BBC One, which takes a fresh look at the 1960s 'Profumo Affair', has wrapped following 17 weeks of filming at The Bottle Yard Studios and a host of Bristol locations.

The high-profile drama has been filming in the city since 3rd December 2018, with full production based at The Bottle Yard Studios that also accommodated purpose-built sets housed in 15,000 sq ft of space. These included the interiors of Wimpole Mews (Stephen Ward's home) and Marylebone Police Station.

Lead actors Sophie Cookson, James Norton, Ellie Bamber, Ben Miles and Emilia Fox have also been filming around the city at more than 10 locations that have recreated 1960's London, including Bristol Central Library (which will double for the exterior of Marylebone Police Station), offices above St Nicholas' Market (the War Office and MI5), the Wills Memorial Building (the House of Commons) and the Lord Mayor's Mansion House (a Mayfair restaurant and hotel room). Filming has also taken place at Goldney Hall, City Hall, Caledonia Place, Berkley Square, Corn Street, Small Street and Broad Street as well as eight days at The Guildhall in Bath.



The Trial of Christine Keeler filming on location outside Bristol Central Library (credit: Bristol Film Office)

Kate Triggs, Executive Producer says: "It has been a delight to make *The Trial of Christine Keeler* in Bristol. The Bottle Yard has been a wonderful and supportive home and along with the Film Office, has helped to make Bristol a great place to film. The locations have also been inspiring for the whole team. And the icing on the cake has been access to the best and loveliest crew and HoD's I've ever worked with."

Fiona Francombe, Site Director of The Bottle Yard Studios says: "Ecosse Films is a hugely impressive, multi award-winning production company, and no stranger to Bristol having made three series of *Mistresses* here. Douglas [Rae] first came out to take a look around our Studios in 2017 and we've been keen to be home to their next project ever since. Its therefore been a great pleasure to welcome Ecosse to The Bottle Yard for the making of *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, which promises to be an iconic and intriguing political drama."

Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office says: "*The Trial of Christine Keeler* will feature the largest number of Bristol locations used in a single drama for years, which is fantastic to see. We've worked closely with the production team and the many properties involved to make sure filming was a smooth process for everyone, including the public. It's been a major project that has brought a great deal of employment and investment into the city, which is very satisfying. When viewers come to sit down and watch this

fascinating story unfold on screen, they'll be seeing Bristol as London, and we're proud to have played our part in that."

The Trial of Christine Keeler is written by BAFTA award-winning novelist and screenwriter Amanda Coe (*Apple Tree Yard*, *Room at the Top*, *Life in Squares*) and directed by Andrea Harkin (*Come Home*, *Clique*) and BAFTA-nominated Leanne Welham (*Pill*, *Endeavour*). Sophie Cookson (*Kingsman: The Secret Service*, *Gypsy*, *Red Joan*) leads the cast in the role of Christine Keeler. James Norton (*McMafia*, *War and Peace*, *Happy Valley*) stars opposite Cookson in the role of Stephen Ward together with Ellie Bamber (*Les Misérables*, *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*, *Nocturnal Animals*) as Mandy Rice-Davies. Ben Miles (*The Crown*, *The Last Post*) will play John Profumo and Emilia Fox (*Silent Witness*, *Delicious*) stars as Valerie Profumo. Nathan Stewart-Jarrett (*Angels in America*, *Mope*) plays Johnny Edgecombe and Anthony Welsh (*Journeyman*, *Black Mirror*, *Starred Up*) plays Aloysius "Lucky" Gordon.

At the centre of the storm is 19-year-old Christine Keeler (Cookson) - a young woman whom the powerful, male-dominated establishment sought to silence and exploit, but who refused to play by their rules. *The Trial of Christine Keeler* takes us behind the headlines to tell a human story about the sexual and cultural politics of one of the most revealing and iconic stories of modern times.

The Trial of Christine Keeler is an Ecosse Films and Great Meadow co-production for BBC One. Executive producers are Kate Triggs and Douglas Rae for Ecosse Films, Amanda Coe and Lucy Richer for BBC. The producer is Rebecca Ferguson. The series is commissioned by Charlotte Moore, Director of BBC Content, and Piers Wenger, Controller of BBC Drama.

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The Bottle Yard Studios

The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative. The site, which operated for more than 50 years as a former winery and bottling plant, is now an established base for film and television production in the West of England, attracting major UK and overseas productions of all sizes.

The Bottle Yard Studios has eight stages available at competitive rates, just 15 minutes from Bristol city centre. It also offers a giant green screen studio, extensive back lot, workshop areas, production offices, costume and make-up rooms, dressing-rooms, storage, private roadways and parking.

Productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: *Hellboy* (Lionsgate), *The Spanish Princess* (STARZ), *Fortitude* (Sky Atlantic), *Poldark* (BBC One), *The Crystal Maze* (Channel 4), *Tipping Point & Tipping Point Lucky Stars* (ITV), *Eric, Ernie & Me* (BBC Four), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC Two), *Three Girls* (BBC One), *The White Princess* (STARZ), *Broadchurch* (ITV), *Trollied* (Sky1), *Crazyhead* (E4/Netflix), *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride* (BBC One), *The Living and the Dead* (BBC One), *Andy's Safari Adventures & Andy's Prehistoric Adventures* (CBeebies), *Galavant* (Disney/ABC Studios), *Wolf Hall* (BBC Two), *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* (ITV). www.thebottleyard.com

Bristol Film Office

Bristol Film Office, a division of Bristol City Council, is dedicated to making film, TV or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol. It is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries, providing assistance at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to reces and logistical support. Bristol Film Office marked its 15th anniversary last year, recording 1,141 location filming days and £15.2 million inward investment from productions working in Bristol in 2017/18.

Working with partners across the city, Bristol Film Office is leading the UNESCO City of Film programme of activity delivered under the internationally respected status awarded to Bristol in 2017. www.filmbristol.co.uk