

NEWS: For immediate release

BBC ONE THRILLER THE GIRL BEFORE BEGINS 19 DECEMBER
Gripping drama filmed at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location in Bristol
assisted by Bristol Film Office
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BRISTOL, 16 December 2021: Brand new BBC One thriller **The Girl Before**, featuring a cast led by international stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw and David Oyelowo, begins on 19th December after filming entirely in Bristol earlier this year.



David Oyelowo & Gugu Mbatha-Raw in The Girl Before (image: BBC/42)

The production team for *The Girl Before*, which is produced for BBC One and HBO Max by award-winning company 42 (*The English Game*, *Watership Down*, *The Courier*), based operations at The Bottle Yard Studios. Bespoke interior sets were built at the Studios for One Folgate Street, the drama's main location, an austere London apartment belonging to charming and successful architect Edward Monkford (David Oyelowo). An exterior façade for One Folgate Street was built at the end of Woodland Terrace off Hampton Road in Redland, Bristol. The city's Film Office assisted with this and other location filming during April and May 2021, which took place in the Georgian surrounds of Queen Square, the Corn Exchange offices above St Nicholas's market, at the University of Bristol's Badock Hall and Stoke Bishop Estate.

Rhonda Smith, Producer on *The Girl Before*, comments: "The *Girl Before* required a build space with dimensions that would allow us to construct a two-storey house, which was quite a challenge to find. The Film Office and Bottle Yard Studios stepped in at the twelfth hour and helped facilitate the shoot to run smoothly, both in the studio and at our various Bristol locations, in challenging times."

The four-part drama tells the story of Jane (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), who gets the chance to move into a beautiful, ultra-minimalist house designed by an enigmatic architect (David Oyelowo). There's just one catch: the occupants must abide by his list of exacting rules. Jane starts to feel the house changing her in unexpected ways, but when she makes the shocking discovery about her predecessor, Emma (Jessica Plummer), she's forced to confront unnerving similarities. As the two women's timelines interweave, Jane begins to question if her fate will be the same as the girl before...

Adapted by British author JP Delaney from his 2016 global bestselling novel which has sold over one million copies since publication, *The Girl Before* stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Loki, The Morning Show, Black Mirror), David Oyelowo (Selma, Les Misérables), Jessica Plummer (Eastenders, How To Talk To Girls At Parties) and Ben Hardy (Bohemian Rhapsody, Eastenders). It is written and executive produced by JP Delaney, with Marissa Lestrade (White Stork, Deep State 2) co-writing episodes. Emmy-nominated Lisa Brühlmann (Killing Eve, Servant, Blue My Mind) directs.

Executive Producers are Eleanor Moran, Rory Aitken and Ben Pugh for 42, Ben Irving for the BBC, JP Delaney and Lisa Brühlmann. Jeniffer Kim oversees the project for HBO Max. Rhonda Smith produces and Gugu Mbatha-Raw is an associate producer.

The Girl Before begins on Sunday 19 December at 9pm on BBC One and iPlayer. Episodes will continue nightly throughout the week in the same time slot with the final episode on Wednesday 22 December.

– ENDS –

View the full *The Girl Before* press pack: <https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/mediapacks/the-girl-before>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Bottle Yard Studios

A Bristol City Council initiative, The Bottle Yard Studios is the largest dedicated studio facility in the West of England. Located in Bristol, an internationally recognised UNESCO City of Film, the Studios are at the heart of a thriving TV and film industry in one of the UK's most creative, film-friendly cities. Eight stages are available for hire across our seven-acre site, plus three new stages coming online in 2022. Floor spaces of up to 22,000 sq ft and heights of up to 65ft, translate into endless opportunities for set builds. Add to this our 5,000 sq ft green screen, 20,000 sq ft of furnished production office space and all the ancillary workspaces a production could need - plus an onsite community of over 25 companies providing specialist film and TV services - and we've got everything you require for a fully supported shoot, whether it's drama, entertainment, comedy, children's, commercials, live transmission or OB.

Productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: *The Outlaws* (BBC/Amazon), *Showtrial* (BBC One), *The Pursuit of Love* (BBC/Amazon), *The Spanish Princess* (Starz), *The Salisbury Poisonings* (BBC One), *The Trial of Christine Keeler* (BBC One), *The Pale Horse* (BBC One), *McDonald & Dodds* (ITV), *Tipping Point* (ITV), *The Crystal Maze* (Channel 4), *The Crystal Maze US* (Nickelodeon), *Sanditon series 1* (ITV), *'Andy's Adventures'* series (CBeebies), *Fortitude* (Sky Atlantic), *Poldark* (BBC One), *Eric, Ernie & Me* (BBC Four), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC Two), *The Festival* (Entertainment Film), *Hellboy* (Lionsgate), *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), *Galavant* (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 a free service to all productions planning to film in the city. Dedicated to making film, television or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol, it is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries. It can assist at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to reces and logistical support.

www.filmbristol.co.uk

Working with city partners, Bristol Film Office leads the programme of activity delivered under the permanent UNESCO City of Film status awarded to Bristol in 2017. www.bristolcityoffilm.co.uk

The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office are Bristol City Council initiatives.

