

NEWS: For immediate release

## BRISTOL'S BACK ON PRIMETIME SCREENS WITH THE OUTLAWS SEASON 2 - BEGINS 5 JUNE ON BBC ONE

*Find out more about the Bristol locations that will feature in the new series*

BRISTOL, 31 May 2022: Wholly set and filmed in Bristol, the second series of Stephen Merchant's hit comedy thriller *The Outlaws* begins Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June on BBC One after an extensive shoot that took place at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location across Bristol assisted by the city's Film Office.



*The Outlaws series 2: filming location Hannover Quay, near Lloyds Amphitheatre, Bristol*

*The Outlaws* was crowned BBC's biggest comedy launch of last year after it was streamed 11 million times. Made by Big Talk Productions and Merchant's own company Four Eyes, the production team behind the BBC One and Amazon Prime Video series based its headquarters at The Bottle Yard Studios whilst filming series two back-to-back with series one. Sets were built at the Studios for key interiors and on location, Sea Mills Community Centre served as the central setting where the seven 'outlaws' are tasked with completing the community service sentences that first brought them together.

Bristol Film Office facilitated filming at a host of city locations throughout season two's shoot which ran from June to October 2021. In total, *The Outlaws* filmed two series over 18 months in Bristol, a period that was lengthened due to the 2020 lockdown causing a pause in production. Around 200 crew per day worked at The Bottle Yard Studios throughout the production period, an estimated 75% of which were from Bristol and the surrounding area. The Film Office also advised the production team on charities and community groups that would welcome donations in return for the cooperation of residents. Donations were made to four local charities by the production company.

At an exclusive preview of *The Outlaws* series 2 hosted by RTS Bristol last week, Director **Alicia Macdonald** commented on how film-friendly the city of Bristol was and described *The Outlaws* as "a love letter to the city." Exec Producer **Luke Alkin** commented that it was strange that contemporary Bristol hadn't been featured as itself more often on screen, given

that “it looks so great and has such a unique culture.” Actor **Jessica Gunning**, who plays Diane in the series, said that Bristol had become “the ninth character of the show.”



*Stephen Merchant and Jessica Gunning at the RTS Bristol Outlaws preview  
23 May 2022 (photo by @JonCraig)*

Joking that series two’s launch date (5<sup>th</sup> June) means that *The Outlaws* is “up against the Queen”, **Stephen Merchant** added: “Bristol is a very visual city, with its hills and the harbourside. It has so many angles which gives you a lot of depth and texture when you’re filming. We really tried to capture the DNA of the city in the show. Filming through the pandemic meant that we were like a team in the trenches at times, I’m very proud of what we achieved. In this series, we just keep trying to turn the heat up on our characters as the series progresses.”

**Laura Aviles, Senior Film Manager (Bristol City Council)** says: “We couldn’t agree more with the cast, that Bristol has become a character in *The Outlaws* in its own right! After supporting 18 months of filming at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location with support from Bristol Film Office, it’s wonderful to see Bristol take centre stage in this primetime drama once again. This was a major production for Bristol that created jobs for local crew and companies, and valuable knock-on income for other sectors. Judging by the phenomenal reception that series one received, we look forward to another successful series where Bristol’s identity is front and centre on screen.”

### **Where did *The Outlaws* series two film in Bristol?**

#### **The Bottle Yard Studios**

Bristol’s biggest studio facility in Hengrove was home to sets including:

- Lawyer Greg’s flat. Played by Stephen Merchant, Greg is described by Merchant as an "awkward, six-foot-seven gangly nerd" whose legal chicanery is once more put to work by the outlaws.
- Myrna’s flat. Played by Clare Perkins, Myrna is a Black Bristol civil rights veteran who finds she hasn’t buried the bones of the past.
- The home of Margaret (Dolly Wells), daughter of “twinkly-eyed small-time crook” Frank (Christopher Walken). Finally free of his tag, Frank faces a familiar choice — fly the coop, or stand still for once in his life?

- Offices of 'Halloran & Son', run by businessman John Halloran (Darren Boyd). John has grand plans to modernise the family firm, but his father has emerged from retirement with his killer instinct intact.
- Gang member Malaki's basement. Played by Charles Babalola, Malaki finds that the illusory promise of a life on the straight-and-narrow eludes him at every turn, as he's forced to contend with the consequences of his past crimes.
- Police cells, interview rooms and probation offices

### **Sea Mills Community Centre**

The disused building stars once again as the community centre that the outlaws are tasked with fixing up as part of the Community Payback scheme.



*Stephen Merchant & Jessica Gunning at Sea Mills Community Centre, Bristol  
(credit BBC/Amazon Prime Video)*

### **Stunt scenes**

Series two will feature plenty of action scenes, including a vehicle chase filmed in the Broadmead area, from Merchant Street towards the Horsefair. Another action scene was filmed at the Cumberland Basin on Hotwells Road and Brunel Bridge. Stunt filming also took place on waste ground beneath the M5 flyover.

### **Lady Gabby's house**

The grand setting of Lady Gabby's house was a private property on Apsley Road in Clifton.

### **Casino**

Look out for The Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel on College Green; it features as the casino visited by Christopher Walken's character Frank in episode one.

### **Buffet car**

Perhaps you spotted the unusual sight of a train carriage on a flatbed lorry parked at Lloyds Amphitheatre last summer? Filming of scenes set in a train buffet car took place right there.



*Train carriage, Lloyds Amphitheatre, The Outlaws (credit Bristol Film Office)*

Filming took place at numerous other Bristol landmarks and streets, including:

### **Central Bristol**

Moon Street (beside Lakota)  
Armada House and Carolina House, Dove Street  
Somerset Street and Dove Street, Kingsdown  
Park Street  
The Bear Pit  
Whiteladies Road  
Redcliff Street  
Bridge Street  
Broad Street corner with Wine Street  
Redcliffe Wharf  
Redcliff Back

### **Properties and premises**

Pennywell Project, St Jude's (doubles for a police station exterior)  
Bambalan, Colston Street (the setting for 'Bar Revelation')  
4 Wise Monkeys, St Nicolas Street (night club exterior)  
Wool Hall, above The Fleece, St Thomas Street (the setting for the 'Bristol Justice Collective')  
Flour House, Park Row (doubles for a vegan café)  
Inn on the Green, Filton Road (features in a 'date night' scene)  
Gin and Juice, Great George Street (features as an exclusive bar)  
Jafra Café, Midland Rd (doubles for a vegan café)  
EFI Factory, Bonville Road, Brislington (features as a brake pad factory)

### **Bristol streets**

Ladies Mile, Clifton  
Alfred Road, Windmill Hill  
Winterstoke Road, Ashton  
Shirehampton Road, Sea Mills  
Wedmore Vale, Bedminster  
Goulston Road, Bishopsworth  
Hillyfield Road, Headley Park  
Hengrove Way  
Temple Way  
M32 Foot Bridge

## About The Outlaws series 2

Following on directly from the first series, The Outlaws still have time to serve on their sentences - but now they must face the fallout from their actions. If they thought the criminal underworld or the local police were done with them, they are sorely mistaken. The Outlaws must depend on one another while working with unlikely allies to atone for their sins - but can they save themselves without sacrificing their souls?

The second series sees the return of Academy Award-winning actor Christopher Walken, alongside writer and star Stephen Merchant (The Office, Jojo Rabbit), with Rhianne Barreto (Honour, Hanna), Gamba Cole (Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle, Hanna), Darren Boyd (Killing Eve), Clare Perkins (EastEnders), Eleanor Tomlinson (Poldark), Jessica Gunning (Back), Charles Babalola (Bancroft), Nina Wadia (Goodness Gracious Me, Bend It like Beckham), Tom Hanson (Brassic), and Aiyana Goodfellow (Small Axe) as Esme. Guest stars include Julia Davis (Sally4Ever), Dolly Wells (Dracula), Ian McElhinney (Game Of Thrones, Derry Girls), and Claes Bang (Dracula).

The Outlaws was created by Stephen Merchant and Elgin James. Series two is produced by Fran du Pille and directed by John Butler and Alicia Macdonald. It is a BBC One and Amazon Studios co-production produced by Big Talk with Stephen Merchant's Four Eyes, distributed globally by BBC Studios.

– ENDS –

For information about The Bottle Yard Studios, contact Tara Milne on 07532 134020 / [taracmilne@gmail.com](mailto:taracmilne@gmail.com).

## 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 and a major hub for film and TV production. Located in Bristol, an internationally recognised [UNESCO City of Film](#), the Studios are at the heart of a thriving screen industry in one of the UK's most creative, film-friendly cities. Eight stages of up to 22,000 sq ft are available for hire across the seven-acre main site. Three additional stages are scheduled to open in Summer 2022 following £12 million investment from the West of England Combined Authority.

More than 25 businesses are based on site, including award-winning VFX specialists [Axis Studios Group](#), [Bristol Costume Services](#) offering more than 90,000 items for hire, equipment rental suppliers [Films@59](#) and [Cinewest](#) and special effects providers [MTFX](#). EPSRC and University of Bath-funded [CAMERA](#) (Centre for the Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research & Applications) opened its new state-of-the-art Motion Capture Innovation Studio on site last year. CAMERA is a key partner of the £46 million [MyWorld](#) project led by the University of Bristol to position the South West as an international trailblazer in screen-based media.

Productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: Chloe (BBC/Amazon), The Outlaws (BBC/Amazon), The Girl Before (BBC One/HBO Max), Showtrial (BBC One), The Beaker Girls (CBBC), 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bristolcityoffilm.co.uk)

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

