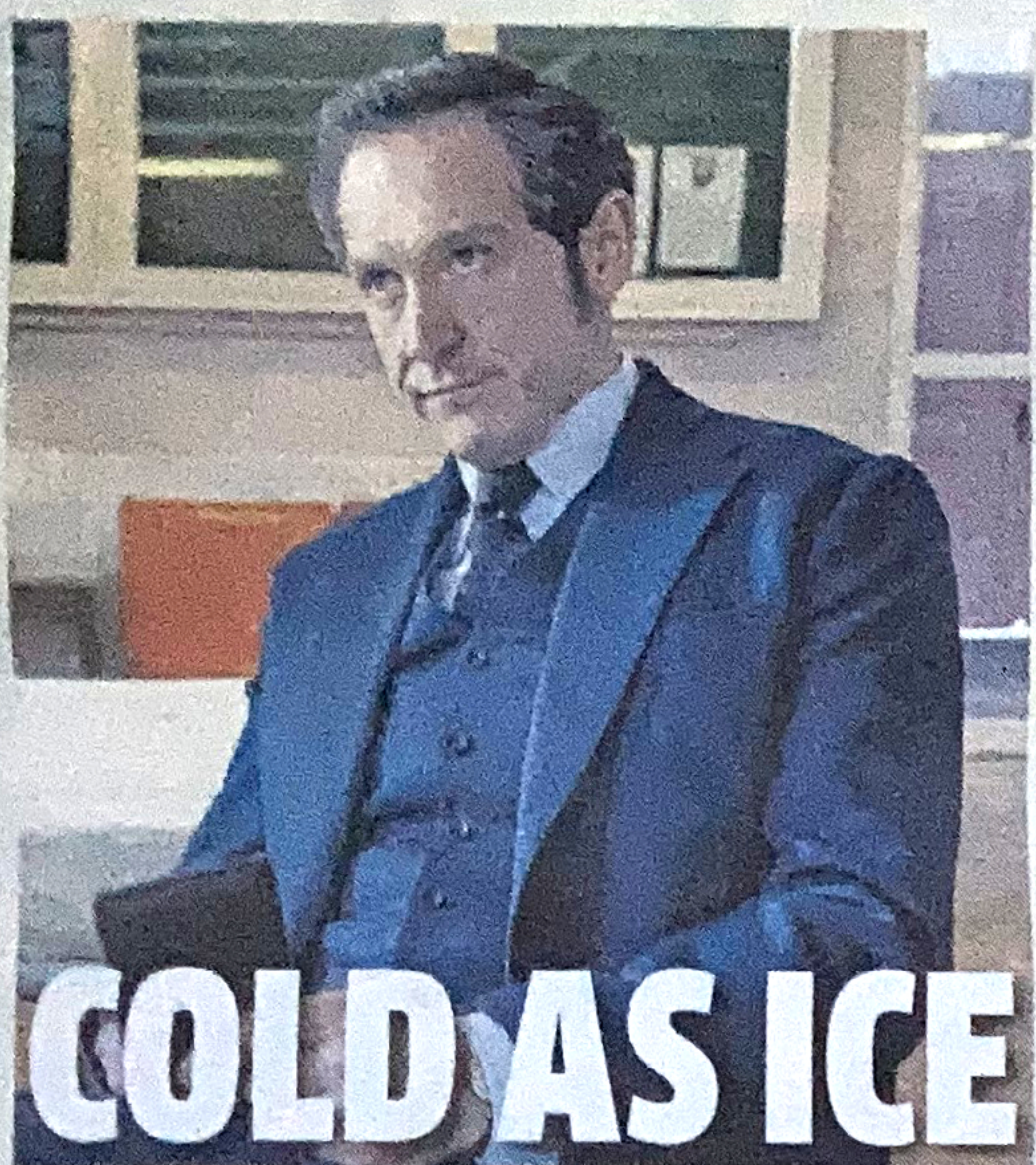


TV TO GO



COLD AS ICE

BERTIE CARVEL TAKES ON THE ROLE OF THE RUTHLESS DALGLIESH IN CHANNEL 5'S ADAPTATION, FINDS **PAUL SIMPER**

You're playing celebrated detective Adam Dalgliesh in a new take on PD James's novels. Is it fair to say he's a touch arrogant?

Dalgliesh is an arrogant son of a b**** but he also has a deep well of compassion, decency and humanity. PD James describes him as having a sliver of ice in the heart. He's ruthless and detached. He is uncompromising in his pursuit. There is something almost macabre or morbid in the extent to which he peers into events and yet he has a profound curiosity about people. That's what makes him fun to play.

Is there a particular reason the first three episodes are set in 1975?

The story I was keen to tell was about the first year of grief [after the death of Dalgliesh's wife in childbirth] and what's going on for him. What interested me was the story you are telling alongside the story of the week. It's not resolved but he moves somewhere else by the end of it.

The first episode, *Shroud For A Nightingale*, involves murderous goings-on at an austere nurse training school. Where did you film it?

It was all shot in one location. One of the things that is very rare in film-making is when you walk through a door from a cafeteria into the hallway, those things actually connect in real life. Usually it's a bit of sleight of hand whereas for this we had this huge ex-convent that's now something like the national centre

for autism in County Armagh. It has a wonderful gothic feel.

It has a very strong female-led cast...

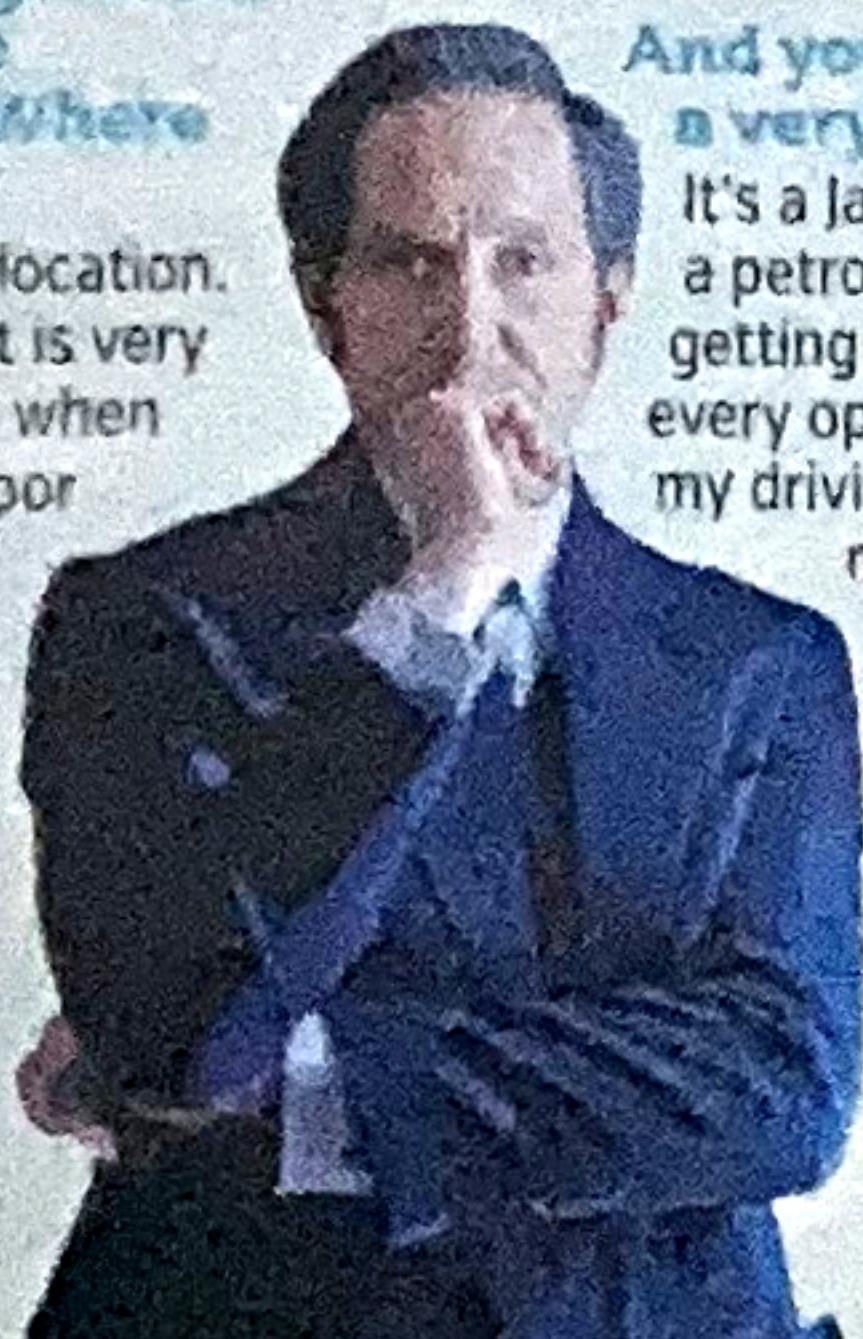
It's an incredible cast of women of all vintages. That was exciting to be surrounded by so many actors, some of whom I knew their work, many of whom I didn't, and all were fantastic. Shroud writer Helen Edmundson was interested in this institutional environment run by women, as was PD James, who worked in the health service.

He's not a man to be hurried in his investigations, is he? He's very still.

I read this book called *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* by Shunryū Suzuki. Dalgliesh has got the therapist's gift of leaving spaces into which people pour themselves. You might think of them, 'Are they even listening?' but the good ones really are. Also, as quite a busy character actor, it's more of a study for me to be more still. We decided it shouldn't be big. I often play quite larger-than-life characters. With a part like this there is less to hide behind, in a way.

And you do get to drive a very cool car.

It's a Jaguar E-Type. I'm not a petrolhead but I loved getting in that car and took every opportunity to do my driving bits. I worried it might be a slightly gratuitous gesture but it really fits him. In fact, PD James is very specific about the cars he drives.



Dalgliesh airs at 9pm on Channel 5 on Thursday and Friday