

## TV TO GO

**A**IDAN Turner's new psychological thriller *The Suspect* gives him plenty to get his teeth into. There's a jaw-dropping sequence involving a potential suicide attempt from a window ledge and his character, clinical psychologist Dr Joe O'Loughlin, is dealing with a shock diagnosis of early onset Parkinson's disease.

There is also his fulsome beard, which was an initial worry for the producers as it does a very good job of covering up their famed Poldark star's much-adored face.

'It was definitely a thing,' says Turner, sporting a more recognisable level of stubble when I speak to him. 'I get their point. Does it matter that people might not recognise me when we are trying to sell our show? My picture goes by on the side of a bus and nobody knows it's me. But I really wanted the beard!

'I also think the producers were really clever in thinking, "Let's have Aidan Turner looking different". The last time I was on British television it was a popular show. A lot of people know how I look. This makes my job easier to fool people that I am somebody else.'


**'On days when Joe had to tremor more, I would feel a weird sensation in my hand'**

Who Dr Joe is fooling in *The Suspect* - and why - are just two of the many burning questions in this, at times, bizarre drama from the *Line Of Duty* team. When we first meet him he's a full-on hero but when a young woman's body is discovered his life begins to unravel and it's not long before he has two very suspicious detectives, played by Shaun Parkes and Anjali Mohindra, digging into his professional and personal life and not liking what they see.

The series begins with Dr Joe telling a patient that all fear can be overcome whether it is rational or irrational. Does Turner buy into that?

'Acting is a funny profession,' he says. 'It can be a form of therapy. For

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**PAUL SIMPER** WHY  
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BEARDING-UP FOR HIS  
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YOU, SIR...**

**Shrink and you'll miss it: Turner plays a clinical psychologist in new drama *The Suspect***

instance, with horse riding, I didn't know how to ride a horse before I did Poldark but I knew that in five weeks time I was going to have to gallop across the Cornish hills, cliffs even. It was terrifying. The only way to get around it was to totally believe I was really good at this. What that did was it actually relaxed the horse. Things happen when you fake something.'

Playing someone who is trying to cope with the early physical stages of Parkinson's disease, Turner spoke to a musician, Drew Hallam, who was

diagnosed with the condition when he was 35. But again simply acting the condition fooled his body in real life.

'We were lucky to have someone like Drew who was willing to let us into his world,' says Turner. 'He is such a smart, eloquent, articulate person. He said he wanted to do this because you don't see leading characters anchoring a show who have Parkinson's.'

'But, yes, on days when Joe had to tremor more, I would feel a weird sensation in my hand or find myself doing it when I got home, like a

nervous twitch. You think, "Were is that staying in my head?"

Away from the day job, there is one go-to for Aidan: a game of pool.

'I play a lot of pool and I take it very seriously,' he says. 'I have my own championship-spec pool table and balls and expensive cues. That's my thing and I am really good. Let the record show that for any pool players out there who want to hit me up!'

*The Suspect* starts on ITV on Bank Holiday Monday at 9pm