

**PRESS RELEASE: 25 FEBRUARY 2010**

**YORKSHIRE IN THE FRAME AS FIVE DAYS RETURNS TO BBC ONE**

**A second series of award winning drama *Five Days* returns to BBC One next week, screening from Monday 1st to Friday 5th March at 9pm. Suranne Jones and David Morrissey head an impressive cast in the gripping mystery drama, written by Yorkshire based writer Gwyneth Hughes (*Miss Austen Regrets, Cherished*). Screen Yorkshire provided locations and crewing support on the production, which filmed at locations across West Yorkshire including Leeds, Wakefield and Dewsbury, in summer 2009.**

A tiny newborn baby is abandoned in the toilets of a Yorkshire hospital. At the same time, the Trans-Pennine commuter train is halted by a suicidal jumper – are they connected? From this moment on, the lives of those on board the train and in the hospital will be changed irrevocably, not least for DC Laurie Franklin (**Suranne Jones**), off-duty that day but travelling on the train with her mum, Jen (**Anne Reid**), who has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Who is the baby's mother? And who is the jumper? And was it a suicide – or was it really a murder? As Laurie is drawn deeper into the mystery, she realises this might not be a simple case at all, but something much darker.

**Writer Gwyneth Hughes says:** *"The inspiration for the second series of Five Days came from lots of ideas I was having about our national identity in modern Britain. I wanted to write about Yorkshire because that's where I live and it's the community I know and love. A lot of Muslims live here and I wanted to write about their lives, too."*

*"I wanted Muslim characters living richer, fuller lives with issues and concerns that we all face – for example my couple unable to have children. Though I didn't want to avoid the problem of violent extremism, I did want to see it from inside their family experience."*

***Five Days*** is an atmospheric ensemble drama; a mystery which unfolds over the five most significant days of the police investigation into these two mysteries. It is set in the heart of urban Yorkshire - a melting pot of tensions and relationships within a multicultural landscape. The first series of *Five Days* received BAFTA, RTS and Golden Globe nominations.

The cast features: **Suranne Jones** as PC Laurie Franklin; **David Morrissey** as DI Mal Craig, **Anne Reid** as Jen, Laurie's mum; **Bernard Hill** as Gerard Hopkirk; **Hugo Speer** as Superintendent Jim Carpenter; **Derek Riddell** as Nick Durden; **Nina Sosanya** as Colly Trent; **Steve Evets** as Pat Dowling; **Ashley Walters** as Jamal Matthews; **Shaun Dooley** as SGT Don Parker; **Matthew McNulty** as Danny Preston; **Navin Chowdhry** as DC Bilal Choudry; **Shivani Ghai** as Nusrat Preston; **Sacha Dhawan** as Khalil Akram; **Cornell John** as Didi Mputu; **Aaron Neil** as Ibra Akram; **Philip Arditti** as Dr Adel Haydar; **Kerry Condon** as Sister Siobhan Doole; and **Chris Fountain** as PC Paul Tait.

**Yorkshire locations used in the filming of Five Days series 2 include:** Kirkgate Station and Ridings Centre in Wakefield; Burley, Leeds University, Leeds Metropolitan University and Seacroft and Cookridge hospitals in Leeds; Dewsbury town hall and market; Batley; Pontefract town square and Scarborough Beach.

**Andy Morgan, location manager on Five Days, talks about his experience filming in the region:** *"The joy of filming in Yorkshire is the sheer wealth of locations available to you. With Leeds, Bradford & Wakefield so close in proximity you have a wealth of urban locations, yet on your doorstep you also have some of the most beautiful countryside in England.*

*Screen Yorkshire played a huge part in the production, particularly the locations team. Their approach to creating a film-friendly region is second to none and even when we suggested the most random and bizarre location, they somehow managed to find a contact and get us in. The local authorities and services (Police, Council & Highways) were incredibly supportive and we felt like the red carpet had been laid out for us wherever we filmed."*

**A BBC Drama Production** for BBC One, *Five Days* is written by **Gwyneth Hughes** and produced by **Caroline Skinner**. The serial is directed by **Toby Haynes** (*Being Human, Spooks Code 9*) and **Peter Hoar** (*Mistresses, Spooks*). The executive producer is **Hilary Salmon** (*Desperate Romantics, Criminal Justice, Moses Jones, House Of Saddam*).

*Five Days* was commissioned by **Jay Hunt**, Controller, BBC One, and **Ben Stephenson**, Controller, BBC Drama Commissioning.

*Five Days* is broadcast on **BBC One at 9.00pm from Monday 1 to Friday 5 March 2010**. Visit the programme website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00r97n9>

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#### **Notes to Editor:**

Screen Yorkshire is the regional screen agency responsible for inspiring, promoting and supporting a successful and sustainable film, television, games and interactive media sector in Yorkshire and Humber. Screen Yorkshire offers a variety of funding and support initiatives

to screen media companies and individuals based in the region, supported by its two key partners, **Yorkshire Forward** and the **UK Film Council**.

Screen Yorkshire's Production Fund invests in film and television production in the region. Credits include; *The Damned United*, *Red Riding*, *Unforgiven*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Lost in Austen*, *Brideshead Revisited*, *Hush*, *All Tomorrow's Parties* and the BAFTA award winning *This Is England*. Screen Yorkshire is committed to developing regional talent and supports low budget feature slate Warp X, in partnership with the UK Film Council, Film4 and Optimum Releasing. Screen Yorkshire also has a Business Investment Fund, distributes Lottery and Grant in Aid awards on behalf of the UK Film Council and offers a range of training and skills support packages

Since the launch of its £10.2m Digital Media Content Programme in 2006, Screen Yorkshire has attracted over £70 million inward investment to the region's economy, created 824 jobs, supported 805 businesses and invested in the skills of 1457 individuals.

For further information, visit: [www.screenyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.screenyorkshire.co.uk)