



ANNA FRIEL WAS SCARILY CONVINCING PLAYING A PSYCHOPATH
JULIE RUTTERFORD

without meaning them. She happily lets others do all the legwork, run around after her and doesn't feel a shred of guilt. She doesn't appear to have a conscience. She's not a likeable character, but does it matter? She's a brilliant creation and the satisfaction viewers get comes from seeing her get away with such selfish behaviour.

So it shouldn't matter if we don't like a strong female character as long as we're fascinated, intrigued, shocked, scared, appalled, but hopefully never, ever bored of her. What's not to like about not having to like a character? Embrace the badness. No excuses. No explanations. In drama, sometimes it's good to be bad.



The Psychopath Next Door is just one of the Drama Matters films now available On Demand.



sky ARTS HD

BROTHERS IN BLUE
 Ashley Walters and Daniel Mays play Metropolitan Police partners

PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS: NIGHT SHIFT | May 2014

ON THE NIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

BEST KNOWN FOR PLAYING AN EAST END GANGSTER IN **TOP BOY**, RAPPER-TURNED-ACTOR **ASHLEY WALTERS** TURNS LAW ENFORCER

What drew you to *Night Shift*?

The most appealing thing for me personally was playing a character that no one would expect me to play. I've been the hard man a few times so it was good to do something on the other side of the fence. I never thought anyone would offer me a part as a policeman.

Where did you film it?

In south London, in the Greenwich and Blackheath areas, which is local for me. I live in north London now, but I grew up in Peckham, which is a stone's throw away.

Did you do lots of research?

I'm no stranger to the police and I've had my fair share of dealings with night cops, so I had some understanding already [Walters spent 18 months in a young offenders' institution after being

arrested for gun possession in 2001]. We also talked to a lot of police and had officers on set most of the time because we used police vehicles and equipment.

Why make a drama about the night shift?

It's a really bad shift to be on because what you get at that time of night is a lot of drunks and domestics. So you're a counsellor and a cab service as well as a policeman. The two officers in

Night Shift are very different; they've got their own reasons for being in the police force and working those hours – and you see that.

Did you enjoy your night shift or were you guzzling Red Bull to stay awake like your character?

Yes, pretty much! That was the down side: the week of night shoots was quite difficult. I've five children so I've still got to get up do the school run in the morning regardless of what time I film. Luckily, I was working with a mate – Danny Mays plays my partner – so there was plenty of banter to keep our energy up.

***Night Shift* is part of Playhouse Presents. Will there be more?**

The backstory and the places it could go really interest me, so I hope to take it further. I'm blocking out the thought of three months of night shifts! Claire Webb

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