

HeadCase

6 x 50' comedy cosy crime



**PILOT
SCRIPT**
Now Available

A chaotic single mum (on the run) becomes an unlikely sleuth by using the disarming quirks of her personality to crack unusual cases.

Neurodivergent • Cosy crime • Comedy





TONE

Curious clues, oddball characters, outlandish situations – all in a gorgeous location. HeadCase is...

- Cozy – but unexpected
- Bonkers – but heart-warming
- Irreverent – but never insulting
- Zany – but always focused on solving the crime



INGREDIENTS

Every episode will be a mix of...

- Solving the **crime** of the week
- Dil's love / hate relationship with being **neurodivergent**
- Dil **evading scrutiny** around her son
- **Funny** characters, offbeat humour, quirky developments

KIMBERLEY NIXON

From Channel 4's *Fresh Meat*, Disney+'s *Shardlake*, Amazon Prime's *My Lady Jane*, BBC's *The Tuckers* and Peacock. *HeadCase* has been created specifically for Kimberley to showcase her excellent comedy/drama talents as Dil, a character with a neurodivergent personality, which reflects Kimberley's own experience on the spectrum. She is a passionate advocate on mental health issues and is an ambassador for The National Autistic Society. She is, also, a huge crime fiction fan and won *Celebrity Mastermind* on the topic of Agatha Christie.



CHARACTERS

DIL (DILWEN) PUGH

A single mum (with a secret) helping to solve crimes, bamboozled by life.

Dil is our disarming lead character. She's full of mischievous energy and quirky insights into life, even (or especially) if they rile people up. Originally from Wales, Dil's relocated (read: went on the run) to the sunny south coast. She wants to create a new life for both her and Llŷr, her two-year-old son. But that's the secret. Llŷr is not her actual son, but rather a toddler she has unofficially rescued from a cruel criminal home. Dil is safe for now but it won't be long until the past catches up with her...

She's a single mum, doing her best to get by, taking odd jobs whenever she can. But Dil discovers a unique talent for solving crime. She's got an autism spectrum disorder. It's never been diagnosed, because she refuses to be tested.

She remembers everything, but doesn't have the mental bandwidth to process it all. Her mind shifts at a million miles an hour and she has no filter. She will offend you as much as charm you. She will comment on a hundred useless things about a crime scene, but will also notice the crucial one. She is both ten steps behind the official investigation and way ahead of the villain. Oh, and then she has to leave halfway through the questioning to pick her 'son' up, if she can remember where she left him!

She has zero police training, nor does she apply any kind of professional practice – beyond what she remembers from her half-completed law degree. All insight and gut instinct – no method, no tact and no patience. In her former life, Dil studied for a law degree, and looked set to ace her finals, but she self-sabotaged and retreated from achieving her potential due to a mental health episode. She keeps much of her background as private as she can but her involvement with these comedy crime cases is going to reveal more about her past than she would like... and protecting Llŷr will be her biggest challenge.

HeadCase remains at its heart an ensemble piece, with fun returning characters, each flawed but lovable in their own way.

TERENCE SOAMES, Detective Chief Inspector

A copper 'sent to Coventry' for doing the right thing, looking for a new purpose.

DCI Terence Soames is a man who's lived his life, and career, by the book. He likes rules and formalities, and used to get great satisfaction from trusting 'the system'. He knew where he was. But when he uncovered some police corruption he got sidelined to a cozy job on the coast. His career is at a standstill, and his life hasn't quite worked out in the way he imagined. Now he feels lost.

A bit of an outcast in the force because he crossed the blue line, he has no one to bounce off or to collaborate with. While he finds Dil frustrating and erratic, she is at least there with him – even when she shouldn't be. She will find the elusive clue that unlocks the case but in such a way as to make it inadmissible as evidence, and then figure out a way he can use it to his advantage anyway. But Soames is getting used to breaking a few rules now, even if he struggles to admit it.

He's looking to shake up his life in other ways too. He's divorced, and his two (grown-up) children don't speak to him, thinking that he's responsible for their family dynamic falling apart. But he's back into the dating game, tentatively, and looking to redefine his key role and relationships (carefully!).

PC FRED BUNCE

Aw, Fred Bunce. Sweet, young and naïve – but a heart of gold.

On one hand Fred has total admiration for DCI Soames, his absolute police hero, the man who did the right thing. On the other hand, damn, is Fred now lumbered with babysitting a dead man walking? DCI Soames enjoys being PC Bunce's mentor, doing his best to guide the impressionable lad. And boy, does Fred need a lot of guidance. Despite his sincere and innocent exterior, Fred is a quick learner, and has some surprising resolve when the going gets tough. He is on his way to being a decent copper. What's most delightful about him is that he's not just in love with DCI Soames, he's also totally in love with Dil. He would do anything for her, even it means bending or breaking a rule that DCI Soames would thoroughly disapprove of. Ssh, don't tell the boss.

LUCY GLOFFPURSE

An old frenemy with past secrets. Calm, poised, attractive – and she knows it.

Lucy is an old university friend of Dil's, someone Dil wasn't realistically expecting to see again in her life. But a chance meeting rekindles their friendship, especially as they realise that they both now live locally. Lucy's an ally, a nemesis, and a link to the past, all in one. As opposed to Dil, Lucy is very much a straightlaced and prissy type of character. She's got her life together, and lets everyone know it through her meticulously curated Instagram account. Her husband is rich, her child is always immaculate, and her clothes are never on inside out. How does she do it??? Dil finds her occasionally maddening but she at least she'll babysit Llyr when Dil gets busy on a case. Lucy can't think of anything worse than being involved in horrid crime stuff with all that icky blood and untrustworthy characters. Besides, how does that give a good impression to the school governors when places are so hard to find? Lucy however does know how to be a 'mean girl' which can be useful when Dil needs a diabolical plan. Lucy takes a romantic shine to DCI Soames, turned on by his reliable 'father figure' stature (Lucy's husband is always away on business so she's a bit lonely and overlooked). DCI Soames isn't blind to her affection but doesn't want to get involved with someone who's attached.

SHADY AIDY

The dodgy, but handy, geezer who can sort you out if you ask no questions.

'Shady Aidy' is Dil's middle-aged next-door neighbour. Think a seaside version of The Dude in The Big Lebowski and you're halfway there. He's totally laid back, and a bit of a hippy, but he's also extremely useful at DIY and 'knowing a thing or two about a thing or two'. With this in mind, Shady Aidy comes in very handy when Dil needs something fixing (properly this time) around the house or he can knock up something that will help Dil with her investigations. Bosh! Shady Aidy says he's happiest when he's just relaxing, lazing in his sunlounger or out on his boat. But of course he absolutely loves getting involved in Dil's crazy cases and creating equally offbeat contraptions that will assist her on her quest to find the truth. He doesn't trust DCI Soames, but that's partly due to Aidy's own dodgy background as a misguided youth, getting into scrapes and dodgy schemes. He's someone who's great company to keep because he's so at ease, complete with wise words and comic philosophical insights into life (Dil in particular loves these insights!).

BUMI PATEL

The woman with the wise words, the calm spirit and emotional insight.

Bumi lives across the road from Dil. Originally from Chennai in India, Bumi moved to the UK when she was 10, initially to north London but on leaving school, made a home for herself in on the coast after attending university there (and, being from Chennai, she felt more at home by the sea). She was a primary school teacher and her personality was a perfect fit for that career. She is kind, warm and easy going - but will become instantly strict when someone crosses the line. Bumi is great friends with Dil, but sometimes feels she's back in 'teacher mode' when dealing with her. Dil views her as wise and zen, a much-needed voice of reason to any reckless impulse Dil may have in mind...

LLÛR

The cute and cheerful driving force behind everything Dil does.

A lovable toddler, full of energy and mischief, it's easy to see he takes after his 'mum'. LlÛr is presented to the world as Dil's son but in fact he has been taken by Dil (for reasons that the show will reveal!). Now she does her best to look after him and show him a great time – which may include taking him on a case. LlÛr proves to be effective in distracting people with his childish antics and adorable cute factor. Plus he has an uncanny ability to squirm through small spaces to retrieve anything that Dil might want to nab as a clue! However, he is equally likely to run off, pick up a crime scene knife or pee in the pond.

GREENSLEEVES

Freeze! Dil's beloved ice cream van.

Sure, it seems fun and wacky to drive an ice-cream van around, but it's all Dil can afford. And just like Dil herself, Greensleeves hinders as much as it helps.

You get lights and a siren too, but it also blares out music at awkward moments.

Fantastic at going undercover, however, as you can instantly get a big queue of kids at the window. Completely unpractical and bulky, until vital evidence needs popping in the cooler to be preserved.

A black and white photograph of a man in a hat and suit, holding a vintage camera and a light fixture, with a large portrait of a man in a hat in the background. The man in the foreground is looking to the right, holding a large, vintage-style camera with a bellows. He is also holding a light fixture with a large, reflective bowl. The background features a large, circular portrait of a man wearing a hat, set against a backdrop of palm trees. The overall scene is lit with a strong, dramatic light, creating high contrast and deep shadows.

**Directors'
Vision**

WELCOME TO DIL-O-VISION!

Dil-O-Vision

Dil often notices clues subconsciously, they niggle at her, annoying her as much as helping her. To communicate that with visual language we are using a playful light-based filming technique – a glint or twinkle that won't go away! This draws the attention of the audience to the clue, in the same way it does for Dil.

Constant movement

Dil is always on the go, always thinking, always overthinking. So, there will be constant movement in the shots. Not jerky. Not mockumentary. Not NYPD Blue. But rather just a slight movement creating a sense that anything can happen.

We recently filmed a sample scene to demonstrate Dil-O-Vision in action.

STYLE AND FOCUS

HeadCase will follow the classic filming style of most cozy crime series – a simple and clear storytelling structure built on solid coverage, with just a sparkle of Dil-O-Vision!



YES TO...

- Clear shots
- Solid coverage
- Motivated blocking
- Deliberate editing
- Character and plot in balance
- Gorgeous establishes and GVs
- Seeing the world & case through Dil
- The use of Dil-O-Vision for clues



NO TO...

- Random flashy gimmicks
- Shots that distract
- "Empty calorie" angles
- Plot without character
- Character without plot
- Anything not PG-rated
- Jumping around too much
- Overusing any special technique

SETTING

The series is set in a **fictional location** but based upon the area of Poole in Dorset. The stories utilise the picturesque harbour, the quay, the beaches, as well as the nearby countryside of rolling hills and lovely thatched cottages.



We teamed up with location manager Matthew Winter to help source some fun, interesting and quaint locations. Matthew's previous work has been on *Fisherman's Friends*, *The Durrells*, *Far From The Madding Crowd* and *Tenet*. Below is a suggestion of the key street where the characters reside.



IT'S A BIT Like...



BUT ALSO Like...



SERIES INFORMATION

EPISODE STRUCTURE

Each episode applies a classic structure of a teaser / cold open and four acts. Within this framework, the stories will contain five key twists or red herrings, to keep the audience on their toes and to ensure the storylines make unexpected and surprising developments.

Dil's life is full of chaos and quirk so the rigor of the structure above means we can hang the character elements off that framework.

Interwoven around the case will be Dil's absolute shitshow of a personal life: finding a boyfriend, repairing Greensleeves the ice-cream van, seeking childcare, looking for a better place to live, evading questions about Llŷr, getting on the waiting list for the 'NHS shrink', and the increasing threat of Llŷr's criminal family catching up with Dil.

SERIES ARCS

Throughout the series, we discover more about Dil's past. Why is she living in England – why did she take Llŷr and pass him off as her own son? And is Dil just as much 'outside the law' as the criminals she helps to catch?

We find out more about Soames and his whistleblower status – is he still under threat – or does he harbour his own dangerous grudge?

DEVELOPMENT

The full **pilot script** is available now. Additional example episodes are outlined on the following pages.

There is also a '**test scene**' showing the character of Dil in action.

EPiSoDe IDEAS

PILOT EPISODE – JUSTICE FOR MADGE

Madge, the frail old lady who lives across the street from Dil, has fallen down the stairs and passed away. DCI Soames and the police don't suspect any foul play and deem it a tragic accident. But Dil (and Madge's partner Bumi) has her own suspicions and decides to find out what really happened to Madge, culminating in a surprising reveal of Madge's murderer! At the conclusion, we discover Llŷr is not Dil's son at all, and Llŷr's real family is coming to get him, and revenge on Dil.

MEAN GIRLS

Lucy convinces Dil to attend a university reunion. A petty theft occurs at the get-together, and everyone thinks Dil is to blame. This gives Dil some purpose to use her disarming and diverting skills to uncover the culprit and prove she isn't a complete loser. The case reveals some awkward truths about her former classmates and their petty squabbles, as well as finding the petty thief. In the series arc storyline, Dil comes face-to-face with the criminal family that want to reclaim Llŷr; DCI Soames comes to Dil's aide when she's confronted by a Welsh criminal kingpin called Rednut, who claims to be Llŷr's dad.

BOBBINS, THE KILLER CHIMP

At the local monkey sanctuary, Bobbins the chimp is accused of killing one of the young members of staff. But could a primate be capable of murder, and what could possibly be Bobbins' motive? Dil knows that there's more to this monkey business than meets the eye, and launches her own quirky investigation into the crime. Meanwhile, the threat to Dil from Llŷr's criminal family increases as they move in on Dil's patch full-time...

AMMONITE AMIRITE?

Along the Jurassic coastline, a cliff face crumbles on to the beach below, and kills a couple of unassuming fossil hunters! Dil and DCI Soames is on the case – digging up dirt on 'Jurasskickers', the local fossil hunters' group, culminating in Dil using a homemade handglider (by Shady Aidy, of course) to chase and apprehend the killer!

In 'real life' it's increasingly difficult for Dil to keep Llŷr's secret from DCI Soames, especially as Rednut and his goons start to flex their criminal muscles in the area.

ANGEL MASSEUSE

A local masseuse claims to be in contact with angels, angels who help her clear negative energy from her stressed-out clients. Dil realises it's all one big weird scam, and tries to reveal the truth behind the 'angel masseuse'. But it backfires on Dil when the masseuse digs up dirt on Dil, discovering info about her relationship to Llŷr, and her own 'criminal' past. DCI Soames is forced to look at Dil in a new light, which puts a new strain on their partnership.

YOU CRUISE, YOU LOSE

A luxury cruise liner is forced to anchor itself in the harbour in an act of self-quarantine – a tropical virus has broken out amongst the crew so the captain's doing her best to contain it. But DCI Soames brings Dil aboard to investigate further, as the virus threat is just a distraction from a dastardly crime happening on the ship – a jewel thief is rifling through the cabins! Turns out one of Rednut's criminal associates is involved, which brings Rednut, Dil and DCI Soames to a full-on awkward confrontation on Dil's dodgy background and her 'kidnapping' of Llŷr.

HIT & RUN

The local police chief is fatally injured in an apparent drunken hit and run. DCI Soames investigates but is badly beaten up in a clear threat to 'back off'. Dil is shaken by the events, knowing that Rednut and his criminal posse are involved. But the truth comes out that Dil's not Llŷr's mum, she's actually kidnapped the baby! Lucy and Shady Aidy question everything they thought they knew and loved about Dil. PC Fred Bunce is forced to arrest Dil but not before she exposes that Rednut arranged the hit & run attack on DCI Soames. But it's a hollow victory as series one ends with PC Fred Bunce leading Dil away by handcuffs. She vows she'll clear her name and fully reveal the real truth of her past.

CREATIVE TEAM

The series is created by Kimberley Nixon, Tim Clague & Danny Stack as a starring vehicle for Kimberley, and for Tim & Danny to direct.

DIL – PLAYED BY KIMBERLEY NIXON

<https://www.independenttalent.com/actors/kimberly-nixon/>



Kimberley is a vastly experienced, BAFTA winning actor with great comedic and dramatic talent. She's appeared in the films *Easy Virtue*, *Wild Child* and *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*. On TV, she's had starring roles in *Cranford*, *Fresh Meat*, *The Tuckers*, *Consent* and the BAFTA-nominated *Life and Death In The Warehouse*. She is a massive fan of murder mysteries, and has appeared in Agatha Christie's *Marple* TV series, *Poirot*, *Murder on the Blackpool Express* and *Death In Paradise*. She won *Celebrity Mastermind* and her specialist subject was, of course, Agatha Christie.

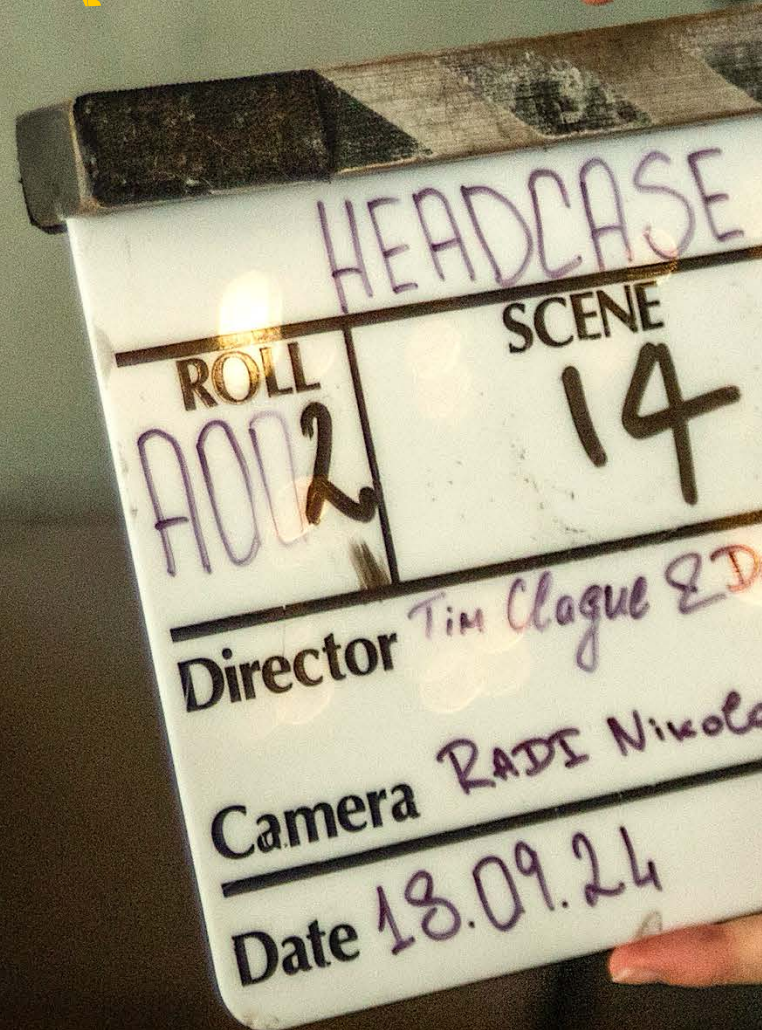
DIRECTED BY TIM CLAGUE & DANNY STACK

<https://www.wgmtalent.com/creatives/tim-clague-and-danny-stack/>



Tim and Danny are a dynamic writing and directing duo based in Poole. Currently they direct TV movies, including *A Very English Christmas*, starring Kimberley in the lead role. They started in family pictures, directing *Future TX* (starring Griff Rhys Jones) and *Who Killed Nelson Nutmeg?* (starring Bonnie Wright). They have a wealth of experience in TV, and between them have writing credits on various family favourites such as the new *Thunderbirds*, *Oddbods*, *Hey Duggee*, *Octonauts*, and more. Tim is a BAFTA nominated film writer for a short he wrote for Working Title and Stephen Daldry. Danny has written for *EastEnders* and *Doctors* but started life in production at Channel 4. He started the *Red Planet* script prize alongside Tony Jordan.

SUMMING UP



"only this team can tell this story"

"an authentic character built from personal experience"

"from people who love the genre"

"of the moment"

"a balance of mystery, comedy and neurodivergency!"

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www.headcasetv.co.uk