

THE TURNAROUND

A NEW 90-MINUTE FILM FOR ITV

8.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 1995

INTRODUCTION

Nick Sharman is a scruffy, down-at-heel loner with a shady past and a natural ability to blend in with south London's lowlife.

He can also be charming, quick-quitted, determined and despite his shortcomings, is found attractive by women.

Clive Owen (Chancer, An Evening with Gary Lineker, Close My Eyes) is private eye Nick Sharman in Canton UK's new film drama, The Turnaround, based on one of the Sharman novels by Mark Timlin and adapted by Tony Hoare.

The 90-minute film also stars Rowena King (Full Stretch, To Play The King), Bill Paterson (Traffik, Hard Times) and John Salthouse (The Bill, Rich Deceiver, An Independent Man) and will be shown at 8.30 pm on ITV on Wednesday 5 April.

Nick Sharman is in his usual predicament - short of work and short of money. When wealthy businessman James Webb (Bill Paterson) approaches him with a lucrative offer.

Webb desperately wants to nail those responsible for the brutal and mysterious murder of his sister, her husband and their daughter. Shannan accepts the case but his investigations quickly run cold when his first lead is found dead... and Sharman becomes the leading suspect.

Sharman's police contact DI Jack Robber (John Salthouse) makes him even more uneasy when he finds out Webb is a wealthy villain.

His nervousness is proved justified when his daughter Judith from his failed marriage and his girlfriend Fiona (Rowena King) are both put in danger by his investigations.

The Turnaround is one of 10 Sharman novels written by former T Rex and The Who roadie Mark Timlin who started writing when he lost interest in rock music.

"The novels are South London based but owe a lot to the American-style detective books which I used to devour during the dead time between gigs," says Mark. "I've lived in south London and knew a lot of dodgy boozers and dodgy people and they have provided me with some of the characters and stories for the novels.

The Turnaround film came about as a direct result of Clive Owen reading the novels, loving the Sharman character and then his agent setting up a meeting with executive producer Tony Garnett.

"I thought the books would make great films, Tony agreed and then took the idea to Canton who pitched it to ITV," says Clive.

The Turnaround executive producer is Tony Garnett (Between The Lines, Cardiac Arrest), the producer is Bill Shapter (An Exchange of Fire, Reconstructed Heart) and is directed by Sun Krishnamma (A Man Of No Importance). The film is a World production for Carlton UK Productions and a Canton programme for ITV.

SYNOPSIS

Returning from a session of 'bread and butter' writ-serving with his aspiring singer girlfriend Fiona, ex-cop private investigator Nick Sharman finds wealthy businessman James Webb waiting in his south London office.

Sharman is made an offer which he initially feels he should refuse. Webb is desperate to discover who killed his sister, her husband and their daughter. The police have turned up few clues and Sharman warns Webb he will have a look at the case but it is unlikely he will find anything if the police couldn't.

Sharman solicits information from one of his old police colleagues Detective Inspector Jack Robber and later checks the victim's house for clues only to find he is not the first person to have made a careful search.

Sharman pays a visit to the dead man's accountant Ashok Mi whose office he bugs. It leads him to the personal assistant of the dead man, Natalie Hooper. When Ali is found murdered, Sharman is the prime suspect until he provides a cast-iron alibi. He is told firmly to drop the case by the police. Ignoring the instruction, Sharman meets up with Natalie and finds himself on a dangerous trail of the missing money.

CHARACTERS

Nick Sharman (Clive Owen)

A broken marriage, a promising police career cut short by drinking, a past drugs problem and a loner instinct have all combined to leave Sharman's work and personal life in a total mess. He has a young daughter whom he adores, an ex-wife he doesn't and a beautiful girlfriend he takes advantage of. Being a loner who likes to live by his own rules means the life of a private eye suits him - he mixes easily with the lowlife of south London - but even he feels uneasy when he takes on a triple murder case.

Fiona (Rowena King)

Fiona is stunningly attractive, works in the clubs as a singer and has aspirations to become a star. While she's waiting for her big break she does the occasional "writ serving job" for her private eye boyfriend Nick Sharman... and sometimes gets paid.

Nick is not the easiest person to have a relationship with and she also has to learn to deal with his ex-wife and young daughter.

James Webb (Bill Paterson)

James Webb has waited impatiently for the police to find the murderer of his sister, her husband and their daughter. He believes that the sister and daughter were murdered by accident and that the husband was a 'contract' killing. He shows an instant dislike for Sharman's 'arrogance' but hires him in the hope that the private eye's unorthodox methods will lead him to the killer.

DI Jack Robber (John Salthouse)

Sharman made few friends in the police but can still count on the help of one member of the 'Met', Detective Inspector Jack Robber. While Robber is willing to provide the occasional information for Sharman he only does it for a price - and will only accept cash. When things become too hot on the Webb case, Robber washes his hands of Sharman and warns him off.

CLLVE OWEN is NICK SHARMAN

When Clive Owen read his first Sharman novel he was immediately hooked on the stories and the character.

"My agent suggested I take a look at them and once I'd finished the first one I knew I wanted to do them on television," says Clive. "I met with executive producer Tony Garnett, whose work I really admired and then the idea was pitched by Canton to ITV.

"Sharman's life and character are full of possibilities. I like the domestic side ... his ex-wife and daughterand I like how he's equally irresponsible in both his personal and working life."

If The Turnaround does well Clive has committed to doing a series - the first since he became an overnight success starring in the hit series' of Chancer four years ago.

"I made a conscious decision not to do another major drama series for some time after I had finished 20 hours of Chancer," says Clive. "Chancer created a lot of opportunities for me and it is a piece of work I'm still proud of, but I didn't want to get typecast and I thought I should do different things."

Clive also says he was surprised by the public interest Chancer generated in him and it took him a while to get used to it.

"I found the 'public property' bit difficult to cope with at first. Being recognised in pubs or restaurants and people wanting to know whether I was like the character Stephen Crane took a while to get used to, but I'm more relaxed about it now."

"I hope The Turnaround goes to a series because I would like to develop Sharman's character. The film shows a cynicism for life and the seedy side of-the private eye business - in many ways it could have been located in America."

Clive has done a wide range of work over the last five years. Between The Chancer series he made the award-winning Close My Eyes - co-starring Saskia Reeve and directed by Stephen Poliakoff, who he also worked with on Century.

At one stage, Clive's future looked as though it was heading to America when he played the part of an Irish military cadet in the American Civil War in a television film made by Stephen Spielberg's company, Amblin.

"They had a long option on me to do a series but it wasn't taken up and I returned to London. I didn't particularly want to stay in the States and I certainly never thought of trying to chase parts on the West Coast. I'm not interested in living in America but I'd go back if I was offered work that interested me."

He says that taking the part of a football bore in the hit comedy An Evening With Gary Lineker was a bit of a risk.

"It was a dangerous thing for me to do .. it was a very different part and I had to play alongside some very good comedy actors, but I really enjoyed it."

Clive, who married actress Sarah Jane Fenton after he finished shooting The Turnaround, will also be seen later this year playing a ruthless hit-man in a BBC Screen 2 film Bad Boys.

ROWENA KING is FIONA

When Rowena King auditioned for the role of club singer Fiona in The Turnaround she confidently told the producer that she could sing.

"It wasn't exactly a lie because I knew I could sing a bit but I was also very aware that I'm not Elaine Paige! The only singing I'd done before was in the privacy of my own bathroom. I had to choose two songs to record in the studio the following week. I've never been so scared in all my life.

"When we started I was so nervous I started to sing flat and sounded absolutely awful. I said to them you must have some buttons you can press to make me sound better than that! But as it went on and I relaxed it started to sound a lot better and I ended up really enjoying the whole experience. By the time I was performing the songs in the club in front of a roomful of extras I was starting to believe I was a real pop star," laughs Rowena.

"Fiona is someone who is always going to sing in pubs or clubs. She loves getting dressed up and doing her nails and you'd expect her to want a flash man to go with that lifestyle. I think the fact that she chooses to go out with Nick shows that she has another side to her. I think he appeals to the nicer side of her personality."

Over the past few years, Rowena has enjoyed great success - from being snapped up by the RSC for a season straight from drama school to being flown to New York for a screen test with Eddie Murphy.

Says Rowena: "Working with Eddie was the biggest high I've ever had - even though they ended up giving the part to Robin Givens. I ended up staying for virtually a week, improvising around the script and having a laugh with him."

Rowena has also enjoyed a steady stream of TV work including lead roles in *To Play The King* with Ian Richardson and Michael Kitchen, the police drama *Black and Blue*, *Framed* with Timothy Dalton and *Full Stretch* with Kevin McNally.

One of four sisters, Rowena says she grew up longing to be an actress. "We looked like the Jackson Five when we were growing up. We had big afros, polo necks and funky trousers and were always singing and performing. Everyone thought we'd all end up on stage but I'm the only one who has.

"There's only a year between each of us and we're incredibly close. Thanks to my mum and dad's sense of humour, we're all R. King because my sisters are called Ruth, Rachel and Rebecca. We went to the same boarding school but when we started to take over we were split up between two schools which made life a lot more manageable for everyone," laughs Rowena.

When she's not working, Rowena says she is a media junkie. "I go to the cinema three or four times a week, watch masses of TV and I read magazines until they are coming out of my ears.

"I've just got back from touring around India for two months and I was quite pleased that I was able to live without all that and not crave for *Neighbours*. My worst withdrawal symptoms were for sports programmes because I'm a fanatical Manchester United fan and not knowing how they were doing was pretty hard to take.

"If I ever become really famous I would only ever abuse my position in one way and that would be to get a season ticket for United. I wouldn't even mind paying for it just as long as I could get my hands on one," laughs Rowena.

JOHN SALTHOUSE is DI JACK ROBBER

Former *The Bill* actor John Salthouse had not played a policeman since he left the hit series more than seven years ago until he took the part of DI Jack Robber in *The Turnaround*.

"I came out of *The Bill* when it was turned into a twice weekly series," says John. "I'd been playing Galloway for three years and knew at that time I didn't want to do it for the rest of my life.

"Until *The Turnaround* was offered to me I'd avoided playing policemen and concentrated on doing very different roles. Robber appealed to me because I thought it was a strong piece and he's a very different copper to Galloway."

Since finishing filming *The Turnaround* last year, John has been busy working on a new George Cole comedy series *An Independent Man*.

"The series is a comedy based on local politics and I play a Labour councillor called Phillip Hyde. The scripts are very funny and I believe it's due to go out later this year."

When John hasn't been busy acting he has been developing another career as a television sports presenter.

"I was a professional footballer until an ankle injury ended my career but I have an interest in most sports, particularly boxing and cricket. I do the sports show on the cable station Wire TV on Sundays and I really enjoy it and wouldn't mind doing more of it. It's a bit like my life coming full circle with sport coming back into it.~

BILL PATERSON is JAMES WEBB

Bill Paterson is one of the country's leading actors popping up in everything from *Misery* at the Criterion Theatre to the Dicken's TV series *Hard Times* and the critically acclaimed film *Truly Madly Deeply*.

In *The Turnaround* he plays James Webb a wealthy villain who is frustrated by the police failure to find a killer who murdered his sister, her husband and their daughter.

In desperation Webb turns to private eye Nick Sharman - a man he initially finds to be arrogant and unpredictable, but who he thinks might just turn something up.

Bill Paterson is used to playing characters with a dark side such as a multiple murderer in *The Wall of Silence*, a child killer in *Tell Tale Hearts* and an anti-drugs politician in the award-winning *Traffik*.

In the theatre, Bill has played Harry the Horse in *Guys and Dolls*, the imprisoned writer in *Misery* at the Criterion, and the husband torn between revenge and justice in *Death and the Maiden* at the Royal Court.

MARK TIMLIN - AUTHOR

After 15 years in the music business -including acting as a roadie for The Who and T Rex - Mark Timlin was bored with rock and ready for something new.

"I knew I was never going to have any great success in that business and decided to sell my house and use what money I had to spend my time writing a crime book," says Mark. "I'd not written since school but spent a lot of my time between gigs reading American detective books.

"I've lived in south London and knew a lot of dodgy boozers and dodgy people and they provided me with some of the characters and stories for the books."

Mark wrote his first Sharman book in 1985, had it published two years later and has now 10 novels on the bookshelves with another out soon and one on the way.

"I suppose it sounds easy and in some ways it was," says Mark. But during the writing of the first one I would wake up in the middle of the night and say to myself, 'My God, am I wasting my time'. I was also lucky because nobody else was writing similar sort of material. There were private eyes set in north, east and west London but none in the south"

Until the last couple of books Mark admits he had no real idea what Sharman looked like.

"When I knew Clive Owen was interested in playing Sharman I went to see him in the theatre and I immediately thought he was right for the role. When I saw him in The Turnaround I was absolutely certain and now write with Clive in my mind."

CAST LIST

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Nick Sharman | Clive Owen |
| James Webb | Bill Paterson |
| Fiona | Rowena King |
| Aggie | Roberta Taylor |
| D.I. Jack Robber | John Salthouse |
| Natalie | Sarah Carpenter |

PRODUCTION CREW

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Producer | Bill Shapter |
| Executive Producer | Tony Garnett |
| Director | Sun Krishnamma |
| Production Supervisor | Nick O'Hagan |
| Production Co ordinator | Danielle Brandon |
| Production Assistant | Fleur Fontaine |
| Production Runner | Mick McAloon |
| 1st Assistant Director | Edward Brett |
| 2nd Assistant Director | Adam Goodman |
| 3rd Assistant Director | Lulu M. Hordle |
| Script Supervisor | Julie Robinson |
| Writer | Tony Hoare |
| Location Manager | Jim Allan |
| Location Manager | Ian Aegis |
| Production Accountant | Kevin Freemantle |
| Assistant Accountant | Tina McConnell |
| Director Of Photography | Ashley Rowe |
| Focus Puller | Ian Clark |
| Clapper/Loader | Kevin Rudge |
| Grip | Kevin Higgins |
| Sound Mixer | Ian Voigt |
| Sound Maintenance | Steve O'Brien |

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Casting Director | Michelle Guish |
| Production Designer | Maria Djurkovic |
| Art Director | Mark Stevenson |
| Production Buyer | Linda Wilson |
| Assistant Art Director | Keith Slote |
| Property Master | Charlie Johnson |
| Dressing Props 1 | Mike Power |
| Stand By Props | Bill Brown |
| Stand By Props | Dick Kelloway |
| Costume Designers | Susannah Buxton |
| Wardrobe Mistress | Sally Loughridge |
| Chief Make up Artist | Cherry West |
| Make up Artist | Suzanna Allaun |
| Editor | Ian Sutherland |
| Gaffer | Graham Hopkins |
| Best Boy | Andrew Taylor |
| Electrician | Mark Hutchins |
| Genny Driver | Rob Brook |
| Stand By Carpenter | Jon Watt |
| Stand By Painter | Bob Starrett |
| Stand By Rigger | Drew Meldon |
| Transport Captain | Richard Booz |
| Camera Car | Steve Weightman |
| Construction Stand By | Tony Wadsworth |
| Artiste Trailer | Chris Weightman |
| Dining Bus | Les Smith |
| Props | Simon Gee |
| Prop Stand By | Keiron Smith |
| Unit Driver | Michael Lind |
| Unit Driver | Chris Streeter |
| Unit Mini Bus Drivers | Dean Samain/Steve Bignell |
| Location Caterers | Woodhall Catering |