



Sun
TV
MAGAZINE

"I WAS A FILM STAR, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A SOAP ACTOR"

Bad Santa

EASTENDERS' DANNY DYER exclusively opens up to TV Magazine as a sackful of shocking secrets destroys Mick Carter's Christmas



MIRANDA HART: "MAYBE EVERYONE HAS HAD ENOUGH OF MY SHOW NOW!"

PLUS CALL THE MIDWIFE STRICTLY COME DANCING DOWNTON ABBEY DOCTOR WHO



MRS BROWN'S BOYS

"THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE A FOURTH SERIES"



FREE INSIDE

8-PAGE MAGAZINE FOR KIDS

EASTENDERS EXCLUSIVE

CHRISTMAS WILL BE DYER

EastEnders' Danny Dyer reveals all to TV Magazine as his character Mick Carter takes centre stage in the biggest soap episode of the year

WORDS PAUL SIMPER PHOTOGRAPHED FOR TV MAGAZINE BY RAY BURMISTON

Christmas came early for Danny Dyer this time last year, when he took the biggest gamble of his life – turning his back on his bread-and-butter as a hardman of British gangster movies to play the pink-dressing-gown-wearing dad-of-three Mick Carter in *EastEnders*. "At that time, I was going through a weird stage of my career," admits Danny, 37. "I wasn't in a good place. I was disheartened. I was playing the same role and I was bored. I was a laughing stock, really. Danny Dyer film – straight to bargain bin."

However, he was still reluctant when he was offered a meeting with *EastEnders*' executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins. "I'd had a couple of meetings with *EastEnders* before and it was always the same sort of stuff," explains Danny, who had been offered the part of Carl White (the bad boy Ronnie Mitchell killed) two years ago. "But they changed their mind at the last minute. Carl was a bit two dimensional, so I'd probably have said no anyway."

"So when Dom called, I was hesitant. I didn't really want to be a soap actor, I ain't gonna lie, I wouldn't have gone anywhere near the show a couple of years ago. I was a f***ing film star. But my agent said: 'Go and meet him.'"

"So I went in there with the attitude: 'Here we go, same old b****s' but then he started spouting about Mick and I thought: 'Wow, you get me on a level that nobody has ever got me before.' He'd read an interview where I'd spoken about being brought up by women – my man and my mum raised me. Dom said: 'You're an alpha male, I'm not going to change you, but I want you to have a sensitive side and a dark side that will slowly unravel.' I liked the fact that Mick had a pink dressing gown and a gay son who he embraces.

"I was at a low ebb until this perfect marriage of *EastEnders* came along. If Dom hadn't read that interview, I'd probably be doing f***ing *Big Brother* now."

After just one year, it now seems hard to remember what Albert Square was like before



Mick's wife Linda was assaulted by Dean in October

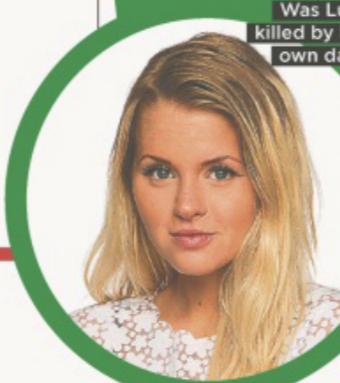
DANNY ON MICK LEARNING THE TRUTH

"It has to come out that Linda was raped. Justice has to be f***ing served. How would any man react? Whether you like violence or not, you can't help but go: 'You've hurt someone I love and I'm going to do everything I can to hurt you...'"

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AND PHOTO SHOOT

DANNY ON LUCY BEALE'S KILLER

"Unfortunately, I think it's Ian [Adam Woodyatt]. That's my guess. It would be an accident, completely, but it has to be massive as the story's been stretched out for so long. We're just like everyone else, though, guessing. I'm sitting here giving it the big 'un and it could be f***ing me!"



Was Lucy killed by her own dad?

a year, it feels like I've been here for 10 years. I'd just had a baby [Arty] when I joined, he was born two days before I started. He had jaundice, so he was in hospital when I was doing my first scene. There was a lot of pressure on me, but my mind was elsewhere, thinking about my little baby lying in his bed. "I've worked on Broadway, I've done over 40 films – but sitting in my dressing room waiting for my first scene on *EastEnders*, I was f***ing petrified. I was looking at my three lines of dialogue and going: 'F***!' I knew everyone would be looking at me thinking: 'Come on then, let's see what you got.' But I done all right. Because I care – all of a sudden, it reignited something in me. And, for once, I'm doing something I can watch with my whole family. My little girl, Sunnie [seven], sits on my lap watching *EastEnders*. Now I struggle to remember my career before, because this show engulfs your life."

TROUBLE AND STRIFE

Viewers will no doubt have noticed an injection of genuine 'East End' in many of Danny's scenes. "EastEnders got it wrong for a little while as there were no east Londoners in it – it was drama school kids trying to be cockney or it went a bit Essex," says Danny. "But I remember Mike Reid [Frank Butcher] used to add some dialogue because he was from east London, lived and breathed it. Me too. Now I change bits of the script – I Dyer-ise it. I chuck in slang, which people have to Google."

Although he's now one of British TV's biggest stars, Danny hasn't turned his back on his big-screen career. "I've got a movie coming out in February called *Assassin* with Gary and Martin Kemp," he reveals. "I'd love to go away and make a film every now and again – but one I really want to do. I went through a stage of making films to pay the bills and forgot about the art and craft. I don't have to do that any more. "But I am so happy now where I am. I've got a role I love to play and I'm giving my family security. And I get time off to be with them at Christmas. I love being around the kids and my missus [Joanne Mas] – she's the heartbeat of the house. I'm a bit lazy indoors, I'm not going to lie, but I do work my b****s off."

Never more so than for the Carters' huge Christmas Day scenes. And even the Dyers will be joining the rest of the nation in tuning in for the epic episode. "I tell you, this Christmas Day, I feel sorry for the opposition. *EastEnders* is coming back to what it should be and I can't wait," says Danny. "You've had your turkey – or your goose, if you're a goose nut – and you're gonna sit there all fat, put *EastEnders* on and I swear to you now, you're going to enjoy it."

#EastEnders

WATCH IT! *EastEnders* Christmas Day 9pm BBC1



Mick's reaction to son Johnny coming out as gay surprised viewers

"IT'S LOVELY THAT PEOPLE LIKE MICK BECAUSE HE IS ME – I'M JUST NOT AS FLAWLESS"



FAMILY VALUES

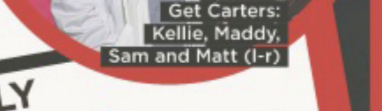
DANNY ON THE CARTER FAMILY

KELLIE BRIGHT (Linda)
"When I first met Kellie, I brought my missus and my daughter Sunnie as I knew it was going to be an intense relationship. Kellie's a proper actress, brilliant. We call her Nana – she loves knitting. I have conversations with her about the thickness of needles. She's my best friend on the show."

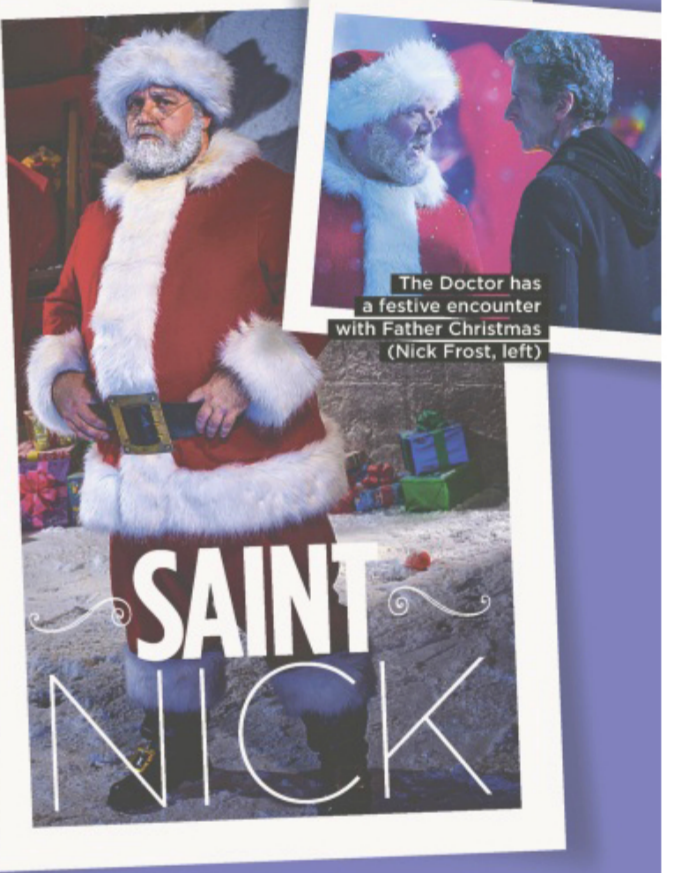
MADDY HILL (Nancy)
"She's tomboyish and has the same sense of humour as me. I cried when she won Best Newcomer at the British Soap Awards. She's intelligent, with no vanity as an actor. A rare breed."

SAM STRIKE (Johnny)
"I rang Sam to introduce myself and I left a message – it was listening to my voicemail that told him he'd got the job. When I first watched him work, I thought: 'Wow, this kid can act!'"

MATT DI ANGELO (Dean)
"I'll be straight, I didn't like him at first. I struggled with him. But I love him now. He calls me Big Brother. But with how the storylines have gone, there's no way Dean's going to be forgiven. We could have been the new Grant and Phil Mitchell, the Krays of the Square – but good-looking."



Get Carters: Kellie, Maddy, Sam and Matt (L-R)



SAINT NICK

A role in *Doctor Who* is the perfect present for sci-fi nerd Nick Frost

As a lifelong science-fiction fan, *Hot Fuzz* actor Nick Frost is living the dream: guest-starring in a *Doctor Who* Christmas episode. But he admits that being a dad himself means playing Santa Claus has left him with a bit of a problem.

"I haven't shown my son any pictures of me as Father Christmas because I think that would blow his mind," laughs Nick, 42. "He's three, so hopefully he'll be in bed by the time the Christmas episode comes on."

Doctor Who boss Steven Moffat reveals that Nick had another concern too.

"When Nick first got the script, he didn't have the scene where Santa turns up in the TARDIS," says Steven, who then wrote it in for him. "And not only did Nick get a ride in the TARDIS, he got his very own guided tour. "Peter Capaldi [the Doctor] gave me a five-minute lecture on what every button did." says Nick. "That showed such passion – to know what every button on a prop does!"

Nick admits to also having a snoop around the show's studios between scenes.

"I turned a corner and there was a Weeping Angel outside the toilets," he says. "I thought: 'What if I come out and it's moved a bit?'"

Did he swipe any souvenirs? "I wasn't taking that Santa suit home," says Nick. "It's the hottest thing I've ever worn. But the hat would be good for any Christmas parties this year...!" #DoctorWho

Ex-*Corrie* actress Natalie Gumede (Kirsty Soames) also appears in the special. "I play a scientist [Ashley Carter]," says Natalie, 30. "Err, and that's all I can say! I was so enthralled by Peter [Capaldi] that I would forget my lines. It was like a masterclass: he is always checking that you are okay – and if his performance was okay for you!"

NAT'S TIMELY NEW ROLE



WATCH IT! *Doctor Who* Christmas Day 6.15pm BBC1