

CONTENT

Press release	2
Introduction	3 - 4
Cast list/production credit	5
Regional Interest	6
 <i>'The Men'</i>	
David Harewood (Gus) - interview	7-8
Wil Johnson (Beres) - interview	9-10
Fraser James (Linvall) - interview	11-12
Don Gilet (Johnny) - interview	13-15
 <i>'The Women'</i>	
Angela Griffin (Chantelle) - interview	16-18
Diane Parish (Lesley) – interview	19-20
Caroline Chikezie (Kandii) – interview	21-22
Billie-Claire Wright (Caroline) - interview	23-24
Petra Letang (Pauline) -Petra on what men really, really want...	25-26
Evelyn Duah (Marcia) - Evelyn on what men really, really want...	27-28
 <i>'The Parents'</i>	
Mona Hammond (Mrs Pottinger)	29
T-Bone Wilson (Mr Pottinger)	29
Jay Byrd (Mrs Lindo)	29
Avril E. Russell, Sharon Foster and Roy Williams, writers	30
Top 10 chat up lines – taken from <i>Babyfather</i> website	31
BBCi wants to hear your stories of life, love and friendship	(see back page)

Making Men Out Of Boys

Babyfather ***returns to BBC TWO***

Bolder, sexier and funnier, David Harewood, Wil Johnson, Fraser James and Don Gilet return in the highly original, contemporary drama series *Babyfather*, due for transmission on BBC TWO on Wednesday, October 30.

“When *Babyfather* was first shown last autumn, it took drama on television onto a different level as the first primetime drama series with a predominately black cast,” says Jane Tranter, BBC Controller of Drama Commissioning. “It was bold and original and I am delighted to announce its return to BBC TWO in October for a longer run.”

In the new series, the friendship between Gus (David Harewood), Beres (Wil Johnson), Linnvall (Fraser James) and Johnny (Don Gilet) is put to the test when new challenges threaten to tear the foursome apart. Beres suffers two major setbacks including a health scare; meanwhile Johnny is desperate to get back together with Lesley (Diane Parish). But will Lesley forgive Johnny for his indiscretions with Pauline (Petra Letang). Gus and Chantelle (Angela Griffin) attempt to settle down to married life and Linnvall’s relationship with son, Eric (Heshima Thompson), becomes strained when his attention is drawn to a young model half his age.

Cast list includes: Petra Letang as Pauline; Billie-Claire Wright as Caroline; Victoria Hamilton as Lucy; *As If* star Caroline Chikezie as Kandii; Evelyn Duah as Marcia; *Bad Girls* star Sharon Duncan Brewster as Evelyn; Jay Byrd as Johnny’s mum, Mrs Lindo; Mona Hammond as Millie Pottinger and T-Bone Wilson plays Mr Pottinger.

Special guest appearances by UK garage stars the More Fire Crew.

Based on characters by Patrick Augustus, *Babyfather* is written by Avril Russell, Sharon Foster and Roy Williams. Produced by Anne Edyvean, the directors are Alrick Riley and Rob Bangura. The executive producer is Hilary Salmon.

from 30 October 2002 all the BBC's digital services will be available on Freeview, the new free-to-view digital terrestrial television service, as well as on satellite and digital cable. The Freeview package of 30 channels will include the BBC's eight digital television channels, including the digital only BBC CHOICE, BBC FOUR, CBeebies and CBBC, and six BBC radio networks, including the digital only BBC Radio 1Xtra, 6 Music and Five Live Sports Extra. Other new services which are due to launch soon - BBC THREE, Asian Network and BBC Radio 7 - will also become available as they go on air.

BABYFATHER 2

INTRODUCTION

Babyfather hit all the right notes last year, as the first drama with a predominately black cast transmitting in a prime time slot. A breath of fresh air – *Babyfather* took drama on British television onto a different level.

“The series was a very successful character based show,” says producer Anne Edyvean. “Everybody loved the four main characters and the look of the series. It was contemporary, fresh and a different kind of flavour on the channel, and I think it was a combination of all those things that got us recommissioned.”

“We don’t have many shows that are set in the black community, and we want to do more work of that type,” says executive producer Hilary Salmon. “*Babyfather* felt like a breakthrough last year, because although it is set almost exclusively within a black world, it’s not about being black, it’s just the context of a contemporary character-based show. It’s universal and accessible show with a cross over appeal. The original *Babyfather* series was a refreshingly, honest and accurate portrayal of the lives of a group of young men living in south London. The second series which starts on BBC Two on Wednesday, October 30, is written by some of Britain’s leading black writers and is equally frank, and forthright. The series will hopefully get a younger audience who will enjoy the contemporary urban sound track that we’ve used. Our actors look very cool and gorgeous!”

“The boys have moved on and the series feels fresh, funny and lively as ever,” says Laura Mackie, Head of Drama Serials. “Some of the emotional storylines, will make you laugh and others will make you cry. It’s also very sexy!”

“We’re building on the first series,” Anne continues, “so we see Gus and Chantelle settling down to married life. They married very quickly without really knowing each other, and no matter how much you love someone, if you don’t know them very well then there’s bound to be problems.

“Johnny is a much-loved character. We see him suffer the consequences of losing the woman he loves and his children. With Johnny things are never plain sailing.

“Linvall is enjoying being young, free and single. He is the classic bachelor character who finds himself in a relationship with a much younger girl at the start of the series. But some of the consequences of the first series come home to roost.

“Beres has a complicated and dark journey, he thinks he finds happiness again, but things are not straightforward. Although Beres has the darkest and the most difficult journey - in the end he comes through it in a very positive way.”

Hilary Salmon says: “Because we have a bigger canvas this time round with eight episodes, instead of four, we see each of the characters go on a rites-of-passage journey. I suppose this is the key growing up series for these guys, and in some ways marks the journey from boyhood to manhood.”

“In terms of the writing, *Babyfather* 2 is going to be faster, funnier and bolder!” It was very interesting getting a group of writers together for this series. We knew Avril Russell who wrote all of the episodes for the first series, wouldn’t have the time to write all eight, so we had to expand the team.

“We did quite a trawl of writers and discovered that there was a lot more undiscovered talent who’d come through since we were working on the first series that we weren’t aware of. There was so much energy and confidence particularly among the black female writers who came in to see us.

“Joining the writing team, we have Sharon Foster who hasn’t had anything produced for television before; but with 10 years scriptwriting experience. Roy Williams is an award-winning writer who although having a flourishing and prestigious theatre career, hasn’t written for television before either.”

“The direction is much bolder this time round,” says director Alrick Riley. “We’ve got a lot more confidence and have taken a leaf out of the American’s book. Each of the episodes will be pacier and punchier than last year.”

“The BBC have come a long way in the last five years with award-winning shows like *Goodness Gracious Me*, and *The Kumars at No.42* making a big difference to what our screens look like,” concludes Hilary. With a new eight-part series of *Babyfather* and the forthcoming new Asian comedy drama series *Grease Monkeys* for BBC Choice/BBC Three, the BBC aims to more widely reflect the society we live in, both on screen and behind the cameras.”

BABYFATHER AWARDS 2001/2

Diane Parish best actress awards at the EMMAs, BFM Television Awards & RTS
CRE (Commission for Racial Equality), Babyfather, Best Television Drama

Cast

Johnny	Don Gilet
Gus	David Harewood
Linvall	Fraser James
Beres	Wil Johnson
Chantelle	Angela Griffin
Lesley	Diane Parish
Kandii	Caroline Chikezie
Caroline	Billie-Claire Wright
Pauline	Petra Letang
Lucy	Victoria Hamilton
Marcia	Evelyn Duah
Evelyn	Sharon Duncan Brewster
Mrs Pottinger	Mona Hammond
Mr Pottinger	T-Bone Wilson
Mrs Lindo	Jay Byrd
Winnie	Rachael Matherson-Frederick
Lara	Saffron Lashley
Eric	Heshima Thompson

Crew

Executive Producers	Hilary Salmon
Producer	Anne Edyvean
Directors	Alrick Riley (Eps 1-4) Rob Bangura (Eps 5-8)
Writers	Avril E. Russell (Eps 1,2,8) Sharon Foster (Eps 3,4,7) Roy Williams (Eps 5,6)
Associate Producer	Katrine Dudley
Director of Photography	Philip Robertson
Production Designer	Candida Otton
Sound Recordist	Ronald Bailey
Script Editor	Tim Baker
Music Composer	Delroy Murray
Editors	Anthony Combes (Eps 1-4) Adam Ross (Eps 5-8)
Costume Designer	Karen Hobbs
Make up Designer	Carol Tucker
Casting Director	Gary Davy
Production Executive	Mark Galbraith
Camera Operator	Andrei Austin (Eps 1-4) Mark Smeaton & Simon Vickery (Eps 5-8)
Focus Pullers	Julie Bills
Art Director	Andrea Coathupe
Production Co-ordinators	Pat Bryan Maximilian Brunold
1st Assistant Director	Deborah Bowser (Eps 1-4) Natasha Romaniuk (Eps 5-8)
2 nd Assistant Director	Jermain Julien
3 rd Assistant Director	Adam Young
Location Managers	Matthew Lane, Patrick Stuart

REGIONAL INTEREST

BIRMINGHAM

David Harewood who plays Gus was born in Birmingham

WALSALL

Don Gilet who plays Johnny was born in Caldmore, Walsall

WOLVERHAMPTON

Billie-Claire Wright who plays Caroline was brought up in Perton, on the borders of Staffordshire and Wolverhampton

NOTTINGHAM

Avril E. Russell writer of *Babyfather* was born in Nottingham where she still lives

LEEDS

Angela Griffin who plays Chantelle was born in Cottingley, Leeds

BABYFATHER 2

DAVID HAREWOOD PLAYS GUS



Born – Birmingham

Trained – RADA

Appeared in – A&E, The Vice, Hearts and Minds; Films, Hawk, I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now; Othello; Antony & Cleopatra. David will appear in the new series of The Vice

“Gus is the sort of guy who will seize an opportunity rather than see the consequences of his actions. So the series is set to be explosive!”

At the end of the last series, Gus is the man who has everything. A successful business, a nice car, designer clothes, a swanky bachelor flat and the woman of his dreams. He's had one of the most spectacular weddings of the year to beautiful, salsa-dancing teacher, Chantelle (Angela Griffin). But as the series progresses, all those things, down to the essence of who the man really is, and what really matters to him will be stripped away.

“For Gus to find out who he is, he has to go to a dark place and do some very dark things,” confesses the RADA trained actor. “Gus and Chantelle married very quickly, knowing very little about each other, and that alone can be a recipe for disaster.”

In married life, domestic appliances can become a bone of contention, and for Gus & Chantelle it comes in the shape of a 6ft fridge! “In episode two, the fridge breaks down and all the food for the house warming party is ruined. Unbeknown to Gus, Chantelle goes off and buys this old, second hand fridge which sits in the corner leaking all over the place. Gus isn't very happy, he has high standards; everything has got to be a 10, his clothes, house, wife, car...”

Gus doesn't mince his words regarding the old fridge, leaving poor Chantelle in no doubt of who wears the trousers. Well, at least on that particular occasion!

Now that David is making an attempt to settling down to married life on screen, are we likely to see him progress in the same direction in real life? “As the youngest of her four children, my mother would be delighted if I settled down. It's something I have thought about and would like to do in the future, but it's not on the cards at the moment,” he readily admits.

So what does the future hold for this all-rounder? “I'm working really hard on *The Vice* at the moment having just completed *Babyfather*. I am now gagging to do more theatre. I'm also looking to branch out, doing voiceovers, films and I also want to work with black actors like Paterson Joseph, Eamonn Walker and Lennie James, but the opportunities to work with them are simply not there.

“I would love to play a villain next. I want to be a bad guy, to explore my darker side. The time is right to play *Iago* in *Othello*. I would love to do that. I want to push the boat out and to stop playing it safe. My ambition is to be successful, and I think I’ve done that by becoming a leading character in *The Vice*.

“For the first time in my life I’m hungry. I’ve never been an ambitious person, but now I want the opportunity - not fame or money - but the opportunity to do good work.

The man who once described himself as the ‘classroom clown’ was more than happy to get naked in the name of art. “Filming the shower scenes in *Babyfather* where we all strip off didn’t bother me at all. Although I’d never done anything like that before on television, it didn’t faze me because I’m a bit of an exhibitionist! I was always first and probably the last one to put my clothes back on.

“In fact the girls in make-up took a vote and my butt was voted the best of the rest!

DAVID ON WOMEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Lots of support.

Your idea of a good date?

One filled with lots of laughter

What are the things you like most about women?

The way they make me feel.

What do women want most in a close relationship?

I really have no idea! I don’t have a clue.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

My failure to understand them.

Are women better at talking openly about their problems with friends than men are?

Yes, of course they are. Men really don’t talk about their personal relationships at all.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

I think women listen more. I think they can read into situations. Women are much more complicated than men, which makes them more fascinating.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes!

Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes, definitely.

Who would you most like to be the mother of your children, metaphorically speaking of course? Someone like Halle Berry.

BABYFATHER 2

WIL JOHNSON PLAYS BERES



Born – Tottenham, North London

Trained – National Youth Theatre

Appeared in – Buried Treasure, Clocking Off, Waking The Dead; Films Babymother; Theatre, Othello, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Wil will appear in the new series of Waking The Dead, txing in 2003 and Film: Emotional Backgammon.

The 'Mr Steady' of the group, Beres is on an all time high and is ready to settle down again. However how will he cope when his life takes an unexpected turn?

"The response to the first series of *Babyfather* has been phenomenal," says Wil Johnson. "I am so proud to be involved in a drama which affirms the positive aspects of black men in this society. I feel invigorated when I walk down the street and people tell me how much they enjoyed it and how much it has empowered them. It's for everybody, but it means that much more to black people than anybody else.

"When the new series opens it's a year later and Beres is at the highest point in his life. He's found a woman that he loves more than anything in the world, more than he even loved his ex-wife."

"He's got happiness and contentment and all he wants to do is take it that one step further and cement the relationship by getting married. Life's absolutely fantastic but then it starts to take an unexpected turn. Beres suffers a major health scare later on in the series, which has a profound effect on his life and those around him. It's much more poignant, because for the first time in his life, Beres is unable to talk to the other guys about it."

Although his personal relationship in the series takes a downward turn, things could not be far more removed in real life. "I got married last year and I'm very happy indeed," he says with a glint in his eye.

"Since the last series of *Babyfather*, I did a short film called *The Target* in which I play an assassin – and I'm in a movie, *Emotional Backgammon*, which comes out on general release next year. It's a great role about a guy who's in love with this woman who leaves him and he wants her back."

Currently filming the third series of *Waking The Dead*, Wil relishes the opportunity to play other roles: "There are two other short films in the pipeline which I hope to squeeze in next year. In one I play a love genie who gives this guy advice about women and in the other, *The Danger Zone*, I play a vigilante. It's great because as well as doing the long-running stuff, I get a chance to branch off and do something totally different. It also keeps the whole work scenario fresh and interesting.

“One day I’m playing Beres, and then the next, I’ve darkened my beard, put on a pair of glasses and a change of clothes and I’m an assassin with a rifle. There’s a bit of a macho man in me – so Wesley Snipes better watch out,” he laughs

WIL ON WOMEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do women want most in a close relationship?

A man who will be open with them. Someone who will share his life on every level and not freeze them out.

Your idea of a good date?

Wherever you are - be it at home, in a restaurant, beach, or Paris – and there is a nice intimate vibe between you and your partner, where you’re so connected it doesn’t matter where you are.

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

They want a person who will stand side-by-side with them. Someone who loves, cherishes and respects them, but also challenges them. They don’t want a mummy because that’s boring and smothering and they don’t want a dolly bird because that’s high maintenance.

What are the things you like most about women?

When they’ve got that look in their eye and you know that they are totally into you – I love it when you have that connection

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Taking too long to get ready.

Are women better at talking openly about their problems with friends than men are?

I’m from a world where it’s no big deal to open up, cry, or express how you feel. Not to do that is an abnormality, something is wrong when do you don’t open up.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

From my own experience, men tend to be much more direct about things, i.e. when you go food shopping with a woman she would ponder, but a man would just whiz through the shop.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes I have been hurt, but it made me look at myself. I’ve had some painful lessons. But it’s helped me strive to try and become a better person and not make those mistakes again.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes I do.

Who would you most like to be the mother of children, metaphorically speaking of course?

My wife! We don’t have any children together yet, and that’s what I want.

BABYFATHER 2

FRASER JAMES PLAYS LINVALL



Born – Camden Town, London

Trained – Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Appeared in – Holby City, Bhaji On The Beach, The Armando Iannucci Show; Theatre – Leontes in The Winter's Tale. Fraser will appear in the new series of Judge John Deed on BBC ONE this autumn.

Fraser believes Linvall has to learn to balance responsibility and ambition in order to reach a level of maturity. But is Linvall ready to make that transition?

“Linvall is the classic bachelor: he is the one out of all of them who is still trying to keep in touch with his youth. We find him in a relationship with a much younger girl at the start of the series, a very gorgeous younger girl,” says Fraser James. He is trying to get ahead with his photography, while also balancing the new-found responsibilities of being a father to 15-year-old Eric,” he says. “Eric is not living with Linvall, but has a key and is free to turn up whenever he feels. However, Eric has been known to let himself in at the most delicate of moments!

“Eric is like a lot of people when you give him power he abuses it,” continues Fraser. “He invites his friends round to Linvall’s place and things get a bit raucous. Eric is a typical teenager - an adult’s opinion doesn’t mean anything to him; he’s just going to do what he wants to do. All you can hope is that he’s not going to get into trouble.”

Linvall is trying to be a father figure and also his best friend, but he’s not sure if the relaxed approach is working. And then there’s Kandii. “Kandii is a young model who Linvall meets and gets involved with. She lies about her age and turns out to be much younger than Linvall first believes,” explains Fraser. “Linvall finds making big decisions in life quite difficult. All he’s had to worry about in the past is himself, but now he has to worry about Eric and his career and his personal life - the things 30-somethings take for granted. Linvall has the opportunity to tell Kandii that Eric’s his son, but he chooses not to.”

Fraser, David, Wil and Don have all known each other for years, he explains. “I don’t have three better friends than those guys in *Babyfather*, we really get on well together. Outside of work I have a group of friends I have known since I was 18. These eight guys are my best friends. They would do anything for me and I would do the same for them.”

The set was absolutely packed on the day the guys got naked. Fraser says that, “for the first time in ages, the set was very busy - almost every female came down to have a peek. The make-up department only ever has one or two people on set at any one time, but suddenly there were four of them, all round the monitor. They claimed that they were checking the make-up - because make-up is so important when you’re in the shower!” he laughs. “I don’t think there was an embarrassed one among us, least of all Dave Harewood!

“The weirdest thing to happen on set was the eerie goings on in Linvall’s loft when we filmed there. Shelves fell down in a corner, a glass suddenly smashed into pieces for no reason at all, and four or five things came flying off the walls. We were all a bit freaked out. I wasn’t overly concerned: I didn’t feel that there was actually any spiritual presence there.”

FRASER ON WOMEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do women want most in a close relationship?

First of all, I think they want a white knight. There must be only be a very small percentage of women out there who are not looking for someone to ride in on a big horse and scoop them up into a Utopian world of love and happiness. In the absence of that white knight, then I think that women want understanding, love, lots of hugs and kisses and positive answers to things like: ‘does this look good on me?’

Your idea of a good date?

Being somewhere quite intimate in the company of the one you love, whether it be in a nice restaurant or a bar. An evening that’s filled with laughter, warmth and happiness.

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

An ideal reflection of himself. Someone who has the same strengths and weaknesses as him, whether they are mental, sexual, physical or emotional.

What are the things you like most about women?

Their scent.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Being asked every five minutes: ‘do you love me?’

Are women better than men at talking openly with their friends about their problems?

Real difficulties in a personal relationship are not generally discussed by men. My understanding is that women are much more open and up-front about what goes on, to the point of crying with their friends. I don’t think men do that very often. I certainly don’t cry with my friends, but we do talk about our relationships and the little things that might have got on our nerves.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

Men are more immediate, in terms of what’s happening today, right now. While women tend to look to the next day and the future.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

I suppose I have. But it didn’t change my attitude to relationships at all.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

I don’t think so. I just don’t see how you can fall in love at first sight.

Who would you most like to be the mother of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

Apart from my current partner, I’m torn between Lucy Lui and Thandie Newton.

BABYFATHER 2

DON GILET PLAYS JOHNNY



Born – Walsall

Trained – Mountview Theatre School

Appeared in – National Theatre's As You Like It, Unfinished Business, The Alchemist, Cutting It; Radio – Homeboys.

Johnny is slowly trying to get his life back together. He's lost the love of his life and he's seen the error of his ways.

Johnny was left with nothing at the end of the last series - no girlfriend, no wife, no children. That caused him a great deal of pain. Johnny is not going to be allowed to get away with things easily, and his life goes down hill before things start to improve; but by the end of the series, he understands what responsibility really means.

“Johnny is homeless and starts to live in an awful bed sit. He needed to drop down to rock bottom to see how much damage he'd done. I don't think he can get any lower than he already has. He could have been living at home with Lesley and the kids, but he messed that up and lost his family. But he still has this determination to improve himself. Along the way, he gets advice from certain people who help to put him on the straight and narrow.

“Johnny really wants his girlfriend Lesley back. Pauline, the woman with whom Johnny had the affair which led to the break up of his family, is giving him a hard time because she won't allow him to see his son Tarjan.

“I know guys like Johnny who are not prepared to put any effort in or help financially unless they can see their kid. Johnny wants to do what's right for his kids. He has a strong sense of family, so all the upheaval and distance are very tough on Johnny and certainly take their toll.

“Pauline is prepared to do whatever is necessary to get her way. She even uses blackmail.

“People do have little falls from grace. I wouldn't want to judge men who, like Johnny, have extra-marital affairs, because I'm not perfect myself. What makes Johnny wake up and smell the coffee is that he doesn't want his kids to turn out disadvantaged or disenfranchised. When you look at the youth of today and the way that some of them behave, you wonder if it's because their fathers were negligent. So I always think about these situations in terms of the kids and what they'll turn into.”

But would Johnny forgive Lesley if things were the other way round? “I don't think Johnny would be able to accept it if Lesley confessed to having an affair with someone else and became pregnant by that person”.

And if Don found himself in that situation? “I would be pretty cut up. If I was in a long-standing relationship with someone and I found out they were having an affair - well, just the thought of it is pretty devastating.”

Don’s career to date has developed methodically, he says: “Things have happened organically; my career has been quite measured and paced, and I’m happy with the way things have gone for me.” The quality of work has gone up a notch or two since the first series of *Babyfather*. Don played the lead role in a critically acclaimed production of Ben Johnson’s *The Alchemist* in London’s Riverside Theatre. He says it was a daunting experience: “It’s just a matter of rising to the challenge, which is why I’m in this business. I would like to do an action movie or a sitcom next. The sky’s still the limit for me. I want to do all those things I’ve enjoyed watching on the telly and in theatre.

In terms of opportunities for black actors, Don believes that “the door has opened a little bit wider, but it hasn’t been flung open, because I don’t think things are going to change as rapidly as that. It’s not a revolution yet. But I do think Sidney Poitier and Halle Berry winning those Oscars last year had some reverberation across the seas. People haven’t just gone off and said, ‘let’s give loads of black people parts’, but certainly people realise that we can do it. You also have to admit that things have changed, if only because of a series like *Babyfather*.

DON ON WOMEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

I can’t really tell you what men want; I can only talk in terms of what I want. An ideal relationship where you don’t have to give your partner constant attention. Instead, you can have time out without having to dole out permanent TLC. I like just to be able to have time alone and to be allowed to do my own thing.

Your idea of a good date?

To be with somebody who is going to laugh at everything I say. In terms of their personality, I like someone who is a little bit mad, a little silly. It’s alright to be childish. I fall for people who have that naughty humour which got them into trouble when they were at school, but who also have a responsible, mature outlook on the world. I feel that that would have the hallmarks of a good date.

What are the things you like most about women?

That they’re women. I like women a lot, they’re great. They seem to warm to me. I have more female friends than male friends. I naturally gravitate towards forming relationships of whatever kind with women. I am attracted to them. I’ve loved women all my life and will continue to do so.

What do women want most in a close relationship?

To be close and intimate, really. To be given attention, to be made to feel special on a regular basis and also to be given space. The right level of reassurance.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

I’ve never been with anybody who has irritated me - maybe I’ve just been lucky.

Are women better than men at talking openly with friends about their problems?

Who else are you going to be close and confessional with if not your mates? The male friends in my life are going to be the first people with whom I’ll share things; they’ll even be in the know before I’ve talked to the person I’m with, especially if my friends have been in a similar situation. And, besides, you respect their opinion because they’re mates. Personally speaking, I’m very open and honest with my male friends.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

Women are more rooted to the ground. Sometimes I tend to have my head in the clouds.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes, I have been hurt. Any occasion I have been hurt has been because of my own irresponsibility or my own blindness. I regained my wisdom because I had been dumped, so I had to sit and stew to analyse where and how it had all gone wrong. Sharing and honesty will remedy all that.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes, sort of. I certainly believe in deep attraction at first sight and I believe you can fall in love pretty quickly. But I also think that you can fall out of love with that person pretty quickly as well. I believe that love is an emotion which has a limited shelf-life - I don't think you can be in love with someone forever and ever.

Who would you most like to be the mother of your children - metaphorically speaking, of course?

Nicola Stephenson - she's very funny, very talented and she can also be very deep, meaningful and inspiring. So I suppose I'd let her carry my children if I could.

BABYFATHER 2

ANGELA GRIFFIN PLAYS CHANTELLE



Born – Cottingley, Leeds

Trained – Children's Theatre group in Leeds

Appeared in – Under The Bedclothes; Coronation Street from aged 16; Holby City; Waking The Dead

Angela Griffin, the 26-year-old award-winning star of Holby City and Cutting It, is celebrating almost 10 years in the business and says: "This is my best year yet!" The sexy Leeds-born actress, who plays Chantelle, a salsa teacher, in Babyfather, is dancing for joy following starring roles in three major BBC dramas, including Down To Earth and the second series of Cutting It. Although a couple of the characters Angela portrays willingly gave up their single status, the bubbly actress reveals she has no immediate plans to marry – just yet.

Unlike Chantelle, who met Gus [played by David Harewood] in the first series and married him after only a short period of time, Angela isn't planning on tying the knot any time soon. "I can't see myself in that situation," admits the young actress. My friends are a lot older than me and are looking into the marriage thing. I do want to get married, but maybe I'm being quite cynical to say that it's never going to happen in the near future. Who knows? Someone could come along and sweep me off my feet and all of a sudden I might say, 'This is the person I'm going to marry', but I can't see it happening at the moment."

With a very hectic schedule, including filming three major BBC dramas back to back, the National Television Award-winner has little time for herself, let alone for a full-time relationship. Sounding rather exhausted, Angela admits to working 12-hour days, but refuses to rule out a long-term commitment entirely.

"One massive thing I've learnt over the past year is never to say never. I always thought that I was someone who needed to be in a relationship; I never thought I could just go out to dinner with this person and then that person. I always saw myself as relationship material, but I just don't have the time at the moment to start a relationship anyway.

"I'm really, really enjoying my jobs. I hardly ever go out - I've been out about three times in the last three months. I decided in January that this year was going to be my year, a year in which I just do stuff for myself. I was going to be completely selfish and have no ties and no responsibilities to anybody."

Focusing on herself this year has certainly paid off! Not only will the popular actress be seen in three different guises over the next six months, she's also managed to cut her 30-a-day smoking habit.

Angela, who first burst onto our screens almost 10 years ago as 16-year-old Fiona Middleton in *Coronation Street*, decided to resort to hypnosis to stub out her smoking habit and get her health onto the right track. "I've smoked since I was thirteen, so this is a real turning point for me. I'd given up before by reading Allen Carr's 'Easy Way To Stop Smoking', so I knew I could do it.

I just got bored with smoking. I'd find myself smoking up to 30 cigarettes a day on every job I was doing. One day I was speaking to someone about it and he recommended a hypnotist who has a 95 per cent success rate. Before hypnotising me, he talked me through the whole process, so I knew everything that was going on. Hypnosis is not this magical thing; you have got to want to give up smoking. It's been two weeks so far, and I feel so much better. My sense of taste and smell are starting to come back again. I've been drinking more water and exercising. I can actually run a lot further than before, and I wake up in the morning with a lot more energy. Smoking just sucks everything out of you; it takes all the nutrients and vitamins out of your food."

Even such an ordinary experience as watching a film is an eye-opening revelation for Angela. "Going to the cinema is a completely different experience now. Before, I'd sit there thinking, 'Hurry up and finish, hurry up and finish,' just because I wanted to step outside and light up a fag!"

With her health hitting a new high, Angela can devote all her energy to starring in *Babyfather*, *Down To Earth* and *Cutting It*. Even though it might mean working longer hours, Angela says appreciatively that "the three projects are so different to each other: that's what I enjoy about them."

But at least it's not always hard work. Reminiscing about recent filming, Angela says: "I had to do sex scenes in *Babyfather*: the first time I'd ever done that on television. One of the funniest moments was when the bed broke in the middle of one of the sex scenes with David. All the slats and the mattress fell through and we rolled off the bed and onto the floor!"

"In *Down To Earth*, I play a farmer's wife who's a step-mum to his three kids. I've had to put my hand worryingly close to a goat's behind and muck in with the pigs. Working with kids and animals are all new challenges! And then there's Darcey, Henshall Ferraday's resident beautician in *Cutting It*. The new series begins filming in three weeks time."

With such a punishing schedule Angela is certain to be rushed off her feet, but it's clear that whatever challenges lie ahead she is poised and ready to take up the baton.

ANGELA ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

I think they pretty much want what women want - intimacy and freedom. They look for someone they can completely trust, someone who will be there for them.

Your idea of a good date?

To be picked up and driven to an airport, then flown by plane or helicopter for dinner somewhere like New York.

What are the things you like most about men?

Their simplicity. If a man says, 'you look nice', they mean it. They generally say what they mean, although they're not very good at reading between the lines.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

The way they generalise about women by claiming 'all women are like this' or 'all women are like that'. They assume women are going to be clingy and won't want them to go out with their mates.

What do women want most in a close relationship?

Exactly the same as men: intimacy and freedom.

Are women better than men at talking openly with friends about their problems?

Girls do talk a lot, but they only tell girlfriends what they want them to know. Men do talk, however. I was recently with a group of men and I discovered that they're really scared about going up and talking to girls - I never realised that.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

I truly believe in the saying 'men are from Mars and women are from Venus'. Men and women have two completely different ways of thinking and acting, and I think that the more we realise that, the better we will all get on.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes, I have been hurt and yes, it changed my attitude to relationships. It made me more cynical and I've learnt there's more interesting things to do than worry about what someone else is doing.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

No. I believe in lust at first sight, which can lead to love. How can you possibly love someone when you don't know them?

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

Brad Pitt and Simon from the boy band Blue!

BABYFATHER 2

DIANE PARISH PLAYS LESLEY



Born – Tottenham, London

Trained – RADA

Appeared in – Picking Up The Pieces, The Vice, Clocking Off, EastEnders, Lovejoy, The Bill

Lesley has been let down so badly by Johnny the father of her children. But should she take him back? “I wouldn’t!” says award-winning actress, Diane Parish.

“If I were in Lesley’s situation, I would move on,” says Diane. “As much as it would hurt, I would go out and buy some self help books to get myself through it because life has got to be better than putting up with the same nonsense all the time.”

Tough talking from the RADA trained actress who plays Lesley, the woman who discovered in the first series of *Babyfather* that her partner Johnny had fathered a child by another woman.

“Lesley has a strong belief in family, and she’d do anything to keep her family together, but Johnny went too far the last time. She will always have feelings for him. There is love there, but she also feels very let down, and if he’s going to find his way back in, it’s going to be a long, slow process.”

Diane Parish has had an incredible year, landing a role as a regular in *The Bill* and scooping three awards including the RTS for best actress for *Babyfather*. “Until those three awards, the only thing I’d ever won was a medal for 100 metre sprinting!” she laughs. “I’ve been nominated before for an EMMA but lost out to Angela (Griffin) who won it for *Holby City*. So I didn’t expect to win it this year. Winning the Black Film Maker award for best actress was also great, but the RTS was especially meaningful to me because it was in a room full of peers - people throughout the business whom I’d worked with and who matters to me.

“You do your work and you do the best you can, you don’t work for awards. An award comes along and that’s very nice; then two come along and you think whoa, three come along and you’re blown away. At the moment I’m keeping my head down and just getting on with it really.”

A very busy schedule means Diane has little time for relaxation. “Come the weekend, that’s if I get a weekend off because the schedules on *The Bill* are so heavy, I catch up with domestic things. I also spend time with my partner. We love watching *Only Fools And Horses*, and our favourite thing is to snuggle up in front of the television with a TV dinner. That’s my idea of complete relaxation.”

In the new series, not only does Johnny want Lesley back, she also finds herself caught up in a personal issue involving two of the characters. “Lesley doesn’t like lies and people sneaking around behind people’s back. She knows what it’s like to be a part of something which was quite awful in that everybody knew apart from her, including her friends about Johnny’s infidelity.

She has a sense of justice and she would get involved in other people's affairs, which happens in the series.

"From a personal point of view, if I knew something was going on behind my friend's back, I would ask her partner to tell her, and if he didn't, I would find a way of telling her myself unless it's a friend who knows but chooses to ignore what's going on. But if I knew she thought her relationship was based on integrity and honesty, then I think she would have the right to know."

DIANE ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Loyalty first and foremost. Good sex – often! A certain amount of freedom which is important to them. Men are like Tom Cats if they can't roam, they'll just go off and find someone else to look after them who will let them roam. Also they need tenderness and understanding.

Your idea of a good date?

Something which took place in the daytime where I was driven somewhere like a forest for a walk. Then on to a pub for a drink and maybe going to see a matinee. Finally being dropped off home and called later on that evening for a brief chat.

What are the things you like most about men?

Their bawdy sense of humour. I enjoy men's company a little bit more than an average females. I have a lot of male friends and I think it's important to get a male perspective.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

When they behave differently because they're with other men. I respect men who are able to be one thing all of the time. I don't like my time being devalued, I don't mind what you do, but respect my time.

What do women want most in a close relationship?

Integrity, intimacy and their freedom.

Are women better able to talk openly about problems with friends than men are?

I don't know about that because with some of my male friends you can scratch below surface. I've had a male friend come round and cry his eyes out, which I found intriguing. Certain women can talk freely and there are others who can't.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes, but I think it was important that it happened when it did. It made me address things which I really needed to look at and I discovered so much about myself and then I went through a whole learning process when I realised it would be best to not jump straight into the next relationship and think that that could fix me, the only thing that could do that was me. Being hurt has been the most valuable thing in my life.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes, it has happened to me.

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking of course?

Samuel L. Jackson would be ideal.

BABYFATHER 2

CAROLINE CHIKEZIE PLAYS KANDII



Born – London

Trained – Anna Scher & Italia Conti

Appeared in – C4's As If; Films: Virtual Sexuality, Babymother.

Caroline will appear in 40 (C4) in 2003

If Kandii thinks that sleeping with the boss will get her that little bit further, then she'll jump into bed. She's a naughty girl; very feisty and very confident.

"Kandii is a 17-year-old wannabe model. She's at that age where she thinks she can get whatever she wants, who ever she wants, whenever she wants," explains Caroline Chikezie. She believes she's got the world at her feet. She's a bit of a princess, although she doesn't come from a wealthy background, and nor has she had any special privileges. She is idolised by men, and women want to be her friend. Kandii is embarking on her modelling career, something she wanted to pursue once she left school. She meets Linvall, the photographer from *Babyfather*, in the street and he gives her his card.

"If Kandii knows sleeping with the boss, a photographer or whoever would get her that little bit further, then she would do it. Linvall can't resist her charms. He justifies his behaviour because Kandii is as emotionally mature as an adult. She's a real challenge. Besides, Linvall is initially unaware that Kandii is only two years older than his son Eric!

"Personally I do go for older men," says the 26-year-old star of C4's *As If*. "But not too old: up to six years older is my limit," she laughs. "But I never say never, because life has a way of putting challenges before you to see how you cope."

The Anna Scher and Italia Conti-trained actress says she slotted in nicely with the old hands on the production team. "Being the new girl on set was great because everyone went out of their way to make me feel welcome. I already knew Wil Johnson, who plays Beres, because I worked with him on my first film, *Babymother*, and also Don Gilet, because of *Brothers And Sisters*. After the read-through we went for a meal and we bonded, so things were cool from then on, really."

Caroline admits she finds watching herself on screen very difficult, particularly when the scenes are of an intimate nature. "I hadn't done intimate scenes to such an extent before. My parents are going to be horrified when they see them. I won't watch them, I get embarrassed watching myself, but I might watch it in about 20 years time.

“The good thing about it all is that I wasn’t Caroline, I was Kandii playing a role - so that took the edge off it. I was doing the scenes with Fraser James, who is a highly experienced actor,” continues Chikezie. I was totally comfortable with him, and that’s really important. I prepared myself in advance by listening to some mood music - Kandii music, I call it. Before doing those intimate scenes with Fraser, I listened to soulful music by the singer Joe.”

The ex-medical school student, who initially intended to realise her parents’ dream of seeing their daughter go into medicine, dropped out of medical school after only a year to follow her dream of becoming an actress. “There are no actors in my family. I come from a very academic background. My father’s a doctor, two of my sisters are lawyers and one is a businesswoman. So my parents were horrified when I decided to go into acting professionally. But they’re really proud of me now.

The 5’10” London-born actress admits indecisiveness is her stock in trade: “If someone said to me, ‘what do you want to do tonight?’ I wouldn’t be able to make up my mind,” she smiles. However, indecision was swept aside when she was asked to be in Brian Elsley’s latest drama, *40* for Channel 4, in which she plays an advertising executive alongside Eddie Izzard and Hugo Spear. I knew immediately that I wanted to be in this project, it’s so different to anything I’d done before,” she says excitedly.

CAROLINE ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Loyalty and passion.

Your idea of a good date?

Definitely a meal. Good food in a nice restaurant. I also love going to the theatre.

What are the things you like most about men?

After a hard day’s filming, coming home and getting a big hug and loads of attention from your partner. I like guys who are able to display their affections.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Guys who lie.

What do women want most in a close relationship?

Honesty - we like to be able to trust our partner 100%

Are women more able than men to talk openly with friends about problems?

Women are much more open than men with their friends, yes.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

Again, I’d have to say that women are more open.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

I haven’t been hurt yet. I protect myself. But even if it were to happen, I don’t necessarily think it’s a bad thing really, because you can grow as a person, so it can do you some good.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

No. But I do believe you can meet someone and think that they are going to have a huge impact on your life.

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

Someone who is a cross between Will Smith and Tyson Beckford.

BABYFATHER 2

BILLIE-CLAIRE WRIGHT PLAYS CAROLINE



*Born – Wolverhampton
Trained – Webber Douglas
Appeared in – Messiah, The Bill, Casualty, Waking The Dead*

Beres, the new man in Caroline's life, has all the right attributes to sustain a loving relationship, but is he person Caroline's really looking for?

"Caroline is spending a lot more time with Beres whom she represented in the first series when Beres went to court to gain custody of his daughter, Lara," explains Billie Claire Wright. Unexpectedly, he proposes to her, but is he really the person she wants to settle down with? Beres has all the right qualities - he's loyal, caring and loving. But Caroline is very ambitious. Do they get married in the end? Well, you'll just have to wait and see."

"The reaction to the first series of *Babyfather* was amazing, it really had an impact," says Billie. I was stopped by a lot of young people in the street. I lived in Tottenham, which as a large black population, and I was recognised all the time."

The young, free and single actress believes the industry is not only tough for women, but is even tougher for a black woman. "Although it's fabulous to see more black actresses on screen, it still feels very restrictive. I have been disappointed by the roles I have been offered since *Babyfather*. In order to get better as an actress one needs to get consistent work. I don't think there's one person to blame, but I do think it's a serious cause for concern."

"In the first series," confesses Wright, "there was hardly any sex, but they've made up for it this time! It's really saucy. Before *Babyfather* I'd never done a sex scene, not even a kissing scene – but I have plenty of experience now!

"One of the funniest things to happen on set was filming my sex scene with Beres (Wil Johnson). Wil and I were really going for it with the sound effects! We came out to rousing applause from the whole crew, all of whom were standing outside the closed set. Apparently we could be heard two streets down," she says laughing.

BILLIE ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Women who are self sufficient and independent

Your idea of a good date?

A candlelit dinner at home specially-cooked for me by my date.

What are the things you like most about men?

I love hanging out with groups of men; my brother, for example, who gives me a fantastic insight into how men really think. I also love the way men can get over conflicts without dragging things out.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Their inability to communicate their feelings.

What do you want most in a close relationship?

Communication as well as love, support and equality.

Are women more able than men to talk openly with friends about problems?

I am very open with my girlfriends, but if things are going badly in a relationship, I am less open.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

The way we communicate is different. Women do feel the need to talk things through.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes I have.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

No. I've never experienced it, but I know others who have. I do believe in lust at first though.

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

Viggo Mortensen, who plays Aragorn in the Lord of the Rings trilogy - he's perfect.

BABYFATHER 2

PETRA LETANG PLAYS PAULINE



Born – Plaistow, London

Trained – Anna Scher Theatre

Appeared in – Family Affairs; Stage - Local Boys, Breath Room, Rough Road To Survival

Upcoming –Film: Wondrous Oblivion with Delroy Lindo

Pauline knows she's affecting Johnny by not allowing him to see his son Tarjan. She's going to revel in that as revenge for all the hurt he has made her feel.

“Pauline is a lot more grown up and independent than she was in the first series. Her hairstyles and makeup are more sophisticated and, most importantly, she’s a mum now,” says Petra Letang. “Now it’s Johnny who seems to be chasing her, because he wants to have a lot to do with their child. Of course, deep down she would like Johnny to be there and to live happily ever after with her, but she knows that’s not going to happen. She is aware that preventing Johnny from having access to his son Tarjan is really affecting him. Pauline’s going to play on that to try and get money out of him. There are no two ways about it - Johnny Lindo has hurt her very badly.

Since *Babyfather* hit our screens Petra has had a great year, trying out many things for the first time. After *Babyfather* she did two radio plays one of which was written by Roy Williams [one of the writers on the new series of *Babyfather*. She also appeared in the film *Wondrous Oblivion*, alongside Delroy Lindo. *Wondrous Oblivion*, which is written and directed by Paul Morrison, is due for theatrical release sometime next year.

Petra has strong feelings about her character’s vengeful behaviour. “I totally disagree with what Pauline is doing because she’s taking away the child’s right to bond with his father. Pauline is just holding a grudge. I was brought up in a single parent family and my mum never once stopped me from seeing my father, regardless of whether he contributed financially to my upbringing.”

“Petra received something of a rude awakening on her first day on the set of *Babyfather*. She explains: “My first scene was in the men’s shower rooms! The guys were completely butt naked. I had to burst into the showers and deliver this line to Johnny. Thankfully, the guys kept on making mistakes, so it took forever. The guys were trying to be professional, they had these jock straps on but the director, Alrick Riley, wanted to do a wider shot, so the jock straps eventually had to go. It was a very enjoyable day for me!”

PETRA ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Honesty and a woman who looks good so that they are made to look good too.

Your idea of a good date?

I love food, so it would have to include a meal. I'd also love to be picked up from home and taken out for a drink and then on to a movie. It doesn't take much to please me, really.

What are the things you like most about men?

The first thing I notice are nice eyes, nice lips and pert bums.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Men who lie, although that applies to both sexes, really.

What do you want most in a close relationship?

I want someone who is honest, someone who would make me laugh. Ideally, I'd like someone who is a friend as well as a lover.

Are women more able than men to talk openly with friends about problems?

Definitely. My friends and I will talk about every single detail. Women also talk a lot more about their personal feelings and personal experiences .

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

Women are more emotional and more willing to talk about their feelings. I think men can be emotional as well, but are less likely to discuss it.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes!

Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes. It has happened to me!

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

A combination of Denzel Washington's face and Chris Rock's sense of humour

BABYFATHER 2

EVELYN DUAH PLAYS MARCIA



Born – Hackney

Trained – Middlesex University, Anna Scher Theatre

Appeared in – Holby City, The Bill; Films - dead (playing Lenny Henry's wife), Sliding Doors

Marcia and Linvall didn't get it together after Gus and Chantelle's wedding at the end of last series. Marcia still feels Linvall has a lot growing up to do.

"It's been almost a year since we last saw Marcia and Linvall together," says Evelyn Duah. "Things haven't quite worked out, and the only interaction they have now is with regard to Eric, their son. Marcia believes a woman can't teach a boy to be a man, so she's hoping that Linvall will be a role model. But a year on, he has forsaken that promise and it has been left up to Marcia to pick up the pieces again."

A slow year in terms of acting work, meant that Evelyn was able to immerse herself in her other great love – teaching. "I have been teaching drama and choreography for seven years at the Anna Scher Theatre. I started out as a young professional at the Anna Scher Theatre, so it's quite ironic that I now teach the young professional group.

"I do enjoy teaching: it gives me the opportunity to give something back and perhaps be an inspiration. It's not necessary for them all to become actors, because I think this business is a hard path to follow and can be incredibly deflating. I have had a tiny input into some of the rising stars you see on our screens in dramas such as *2000 Acres of Sky*, *Byker Grove*, *Tracey Beaker* - there's so many," she says proudly.

"I've been fortunate to have taught all over the world. Through my teaching, I have been able to work with so many people, from all kinds of backgrounds. I have found it fascinating because it has helped to keep my creative energy alive."

With some sadness, Evelyn recalls one of the most traumatic events which touched her life last year. "After filming the first series of *Babyfather*, I took a group of young professionals from the Anna Scher Theatre School to America. We were there on September 11, literally 20 miles away from the Pentagon where the plane crashed. It was so awful."

EVELYN ON MEN AND RELATIONSHIPS

What do you think men want most in a close, intimate relationship?

Companionship, intimacy and lots of space as well.

Your idea of a good date?

To spend a Sunday afternoons with someone who is relaxed within himself.

What are the things you like most about men?

I like men who smile and who are confident; not arrogant or egotistical.

What irritates you most about the opposite sex?

Men who don't put the loo seats down!

What do women want most in a close relationship?

The same as men really.

Are women more able than men to talk openly with friends about problems?

Yes, I think men just scratch the surface because it would appear weak for a man to breakdown and admit things were going wrong.

What do you think are the subtle differences between men and women?

From my experience women go through things logically, although women can also be flighty sometimes. I think men are more that way inclined.

Have you ever been hurt in a relationship?

Yes, I have been hurt. But it's all part of the learning process.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

No. I believe you can be overwhelmingly, physically attracted to someone, but love is something that progresses over time

Who would you most like to be the father of your children metaphorically speaking, of course?

*Someone who writes poetry like Langston Hughes, who has a singing Luther Vandross and Barry White, with a mixture of Wesley Snipes, Will Smith and Samuel L. Jackson thrown in
!*

BABYFATHER 2

MONA HAMMOND PLAYS MILLIE POTTINGER

A mother who only wants health and happiness for her son should be applauded. But there is a fine line between being supportive and being interfering! Chantelle's mother-in-law is every wife's nightmare - nothing is quite good enough for her only son, Gus, and Millie seizes every opportunity to let him know as much. Is Millie simply being overly protective or is she still coming to terms with the fact that Chantelle is her husband's illegitimate daughter? The journey for the Pottinger family in series two is a roller-coaster of emotions, a roller-coaster which ends abruptly by episode seven.

Best known for her role as Blossom in *EastEnders*, Mona was recently seen in C4's *White Teeth*. Her TV/Theatre credits also include: *Storm Damage*, *Trial and Retribution* (TV), *Romeo and Juliet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth* and *The Crucible* (Theatre).

T-BONE WILSON PLAYS LLOYD POTTINGER

Lloyd finds himself caught in the middle of Gus and Chantelle's marriage problems; he can't help but take Chantelle's side, leaving Gus equally frustrated. Lloyd also offers Johnny some sound advice.

In the first series, long forgotten secrets threatened to tear the Pottinger marriage apart. Not only did Lloyd discover that his son Gus was the product of an illicit affair, he also discovered that Chantelle, his soon-to-be daughter-in-law, was in fact his own daughter! Chantelle had been searching for her absent father following the death of her Irish mother. Fate has a way of turning your world upside down when you least expect it.

T-Bone, who came from Britain in the '60s from Guyana, trained to be an actor at the Mountview Theatre School. His Film/TV/Theatre credits include: *Babylon* (Film); *Storm Damage*, *Prime Suspect 2* (TV); *Smile Orange* (Theatre).

JAY BYRD PLAYS MRS LINDO

What else is a good mother for but babysitting duties? Mrs Lindo has her arms full when friends and family exploit her time.

Mrs Lindo really loves her errant son Johnny, the young man who made two women pregnant at the same time in the first series. If only he would wise up, settle down and sort himself out! She's worried that if Johnny doesn't get his act together, his children are going to lose out. Like Jimmy Cricket, her role is to be Johnny's conscience, and she wastes no time when the opportunity arises to give him a good piece of her mind!

Jay Byrd has been concentrating on her writing for the past nine years. Born in Jamaica, her TV/Theatre/Radio credits include: *Casualty*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, *Jerusalem The Golden* (TV); *Revolution at Saint Barbara* (Radio); *The Ride Down Mount Morgan, Hair* (Theatre).

BABYFATHER 2

AVRIL E. RUSSELL - SCRIPT WRITER

Avril Russell trained as a film technician by Intermedia and is a self-taught writer, with over 10 years experienced in television. Born in Nottingham where she still lives, Avril's credits include *Silent Witness*, *Crucial Tales: Revolver*, *The Bill*, *Back-up* and the first series of *Babyfather*. Avril's career as a writer/director was kicked started by the writers' workshop launched by actor/comedian, Lenny Henry and his independent production company, Crucial Films 10 years ago. Avril says: "I've never forgotten Lenny's generosity and support and will pay him back one day."

ROY WILLIAMS - SCRIPT WRITER

Winner of the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright award, 2001, Roy Williams is an accomplished writer whose many theatre credits include: *Sing Yer Heart Out* (Lyttleton Loft); *Clubland* (Royal Court); *The Gift* (Tricycle); *Local Boy* (Hampstead); and *Starstruck* (Tricycle) winner of the 31st John Whiting Award and the EMMA for best play and *The No-Boys Cricket Club*. Radio/TV credit to-date: *Homeboys* for Radio 4 and *Offside*, a 30-min TV drama for BBC Factual & Learning.

Roy, who has recently completed a six-month residency at the Royal Court Theatre, is currently commissioned to write new plays for The Tricycle, the Royal Court, the Polka Children's Theatre, and Nottingham Playhouse.

SHARON FOSTER - SCRIPT WRITER

Babyfather 2 is Sharon Foster's first major project for television. A talented and gifted writer, with a degree in media studies, Sharon has been a scriptwriter for 10 years and was one of 12 upcoming writers selected to take part in the Lenny Henry/Crucial Films writers' workshop 10 years ago. Inspired by writers such as David E Kelly, Debbie Horsfield, Paul Abbott and Tony Marchant, she is currently developing a film project for television. Sharon was born in Hackney, East London where she still lives.

BABYFATHER 2

BABYFATHER WEBSITE

TOP 10 CHAT UP LINES AS SUBMITTED TO <http://www.bbc.co.uk/drama/babyfather>

TOP 10

1. Can I check your label to see if you were made in heaven?
2. I think there's something wrong with my eyes because I can't take my eyes off you.
3. If I had invented the alphabet, I would have put U next to I.
4. That dress looks good on you - can I talk you out of it?
5. I like my man just like my coffee, sweet, black and strong.
6. If your smile wants an audience, I'm buying a season ticket.
7. I have seen stars in the sky, but this is the first time I have seen them in someone's eyes.
8. I might not be Fred Flintstone, but I can make your bed rock!
9. You look so good in orange that I just want to peel you.
10. You're all curves and no brakes!

*** Website also includes: The Commitment Quiz, London Life, competitions, interviews, clips, the Short writing project and much, much more....**