Contents

Introduction

Chris Murray, Writer

Synopses

Character Descriptions

Marc Warren

Maimie McCoy

Emma Fielding

Cast and Crew List
VAN DER VALK

Marc Warren stars as streetwise Dutch detective Van Der Valk in a new detective series filmed entirely on location in Amsterdam.

VAN DER VALK - three feature length episodes on ITV produced by Company Pictures with Dutch company NL Film co-producing. Starring Marc Warren (Safe, Mad Dogs) in the eponymous role and written by Chris Murray (Lewis, Midsomer Murders).

VAN DER VALK also stars Maimie McCoy (The Three Musketeers) as Lucienne Hassell, his gutsy and fiercely competent right-hand woman. Luke Allen-Gale (Dominion), Elliot Barnes-Worrell (Jericho), Darrell D'Silva (Strike Back) and Emma Fielding (Les Misérables) complete the team. Guest starring Kees Boot (Judas), Reinout Bussemaker (Flight HS13), Frances Grey (Home Fires), Daniel Lapaine (The Durrells), Stephanie Leonidas (Snatch), Mike Libanon (Kill Switch), Vineeta Rishi (Line of Duty) and Tom York (Poldark).

VAN DER VALK centres on the investigations of detective Piet Van Der Valk in and around the city of Amsterdam as he investigates a series of high profile cases. This season Van Der Valk and his team are immersed in the worlds of art, politics, addiction, mysticism and the fashion industry.

The original series, set in the 1970s and 90s was loosely based on the novels by Nicolas Freeling and provided British audiences with their first truly international detective – a complex, thoughtful and ‘real’ sleuth who tackled tough crimes against a picturesque Dutch backdrop. The new series re-imagines VAN DER VALK in the contemporary world of Amsterdam and follows an engaging, unapologetic and street-smart detective as he leads his dynamic team in solving a raft of mysterious crimes using astute human observation and inspired detection.

Writer Chris Murray says: "We wanted a show that felt modern, contemporary and at ease with itself. It’s a procedural without being stuck on procedure. The Dutch setting helps with this. After all no one's expecting Amsterdam to do everything by the book! Van Der Valk reflects ‘his’ city: he has seen it all, done it all, lived a life and mirrors the energies of Amsterdam: its multicultural, multiracial mixture of tolerance and liberalism."

Producer Keith Thompson adds: "This is not an homage in any way to the original Van Der Valk, this is a re-imagining of the whole concept. A fresh start in terms of the tone of the show, the look of the show and the characters involved."
The series is executive produced by Michele Buck (*Endeavour, Parade's End, Lewis Agatha Christie's Miss Marple and Poirot*) for Company Pictures and Louise Pedersen (*Blood*) for all3media international with Sabine Brian as co-producer for NL Films and Keith Thompson (*Vikings, Foyle’s War*) serving as series producer. Germany's ARD and all3media international have co-commissioned the series.

*VAN DER VALK* is produced by Company Pictures for ITV and co-produced by NL Film, ARD, All3Media International, and Masterpiece.
Chris Murray - Writer

**How does this show differ from the 1970s series?**

Obviously it’s more contemporary but also we wanted to avoid the stereotypes of the city that have developed since the original aired. The Amsterdam of today is so much more varied and interesting and we wanted to bring an audience up to date with that. Also, I think we have more humour.

**What similarities will Marc Warren’s Piet Van Der Valk have with the original, what sort of man is he?**

Well there’s a sense of the ‘everyman’ to both of them. Both Van Der Valks can mix with people from all walks of life judges or criminals. They both care for the ordinary person on the street and will go to whatever lengths necessary to get justice for them. That notion came from the books and the original character, a down-to-earth sense of fairness.

**Is this series still loosely based on Nicolas Freeling’s novels?**

In the end we moved away from the books almost entirely. Great though they are, the books are quite existential and introspective and the stories wouldn’t have worked for a contemporary television audience.

**Tell us about your Van Der Valk and his team...**

I was interested in finding a lead detective who didn't have a moral stick up his backside - and was a real person. We should believe, as I think we do with Marc Warren, that this man has lived a life. He's not whiter than white. He's not dull. There is a self-deprecation to him rooted in strength. He's not perfect but neither is he embittered. Not one of those dark screwed-up cops we've seen a hundred times before. When there isn't a murder to be solved, when his city isn't out of kilter, he'll be out sailing his boat or playing pool. Yes he can be enigmatic and a loner but only for emotional reasons to do with his past. He doesn't stand on ceremony. He's a rule-breaker without being a maverick. He's a team player. Comfortable in his own skin, he is also not one of those detectives who need to solve everything himself.

Calm and centred, Inspector Lucienne Hassell is more than his match. They are close friends; she is the only person that he'll listen to if she tells him he's out of order. Which she does. She is kickass but also has a compassionate side that helps oversee the other two members of the core team, the ever-so keen ‘brains’ Job Cloovers and the laid-back ‘brawn’ Brad De Vries, a chalk and cheese contrast who complement each other fantastically. All overseen by the watchful eye of velvet fist in an iron glove boss Chief Commissaris, Julia Dahlman and the somewhat eccentric forensics of Hendrik Davie.
Synopses

Episode 1

**LOVE IN AMSTERDAM**: a story set in the worlds of politics and art.

Set against the backdrop of impending elections, VAN DER VALK and team investigate the mysterious deaths of two innocents with no connection to each other or to crime. It is a puzzle that leads VAN DER VALK into the world of politics as well as both the mainstream and avant garde art scenes. It will bring him up against the city’s high-flying politicians and risk the life of one of his team before ultimately uncovering a clock-ticking kidnapping that fuses political elements with a heart-rending personal story of betrayal, loss and obsession.

Episode 2

**ONLY IN AMSTERDAM**: the battle belief and rationalism

VAN DER VALK is contacted following the death of a young woman in the vicinity of a library and museum, owned by a wealthy philanthropist, that specializes in the promotion of global mysticism. The investigation will bring him and his team into contact with a nun interested in erotica, the followers of an obscure Christian sect that worship the wounds of Christ and a drug facility with a controversial approach to addiction as well as going to the heart of a longstanding family feud.

Episode 3

**DEATH IN AMSTERDAM**: a story exploring the fashion world’s attempt at being ethical

When the brutal killing of a fashion vlogger is broadcast live, VAN DER VALK and his team find themselves drawn into investigating the contemporary fashion world. They are soon immersed in issues surrounding ethical design and sustainability and uncover a world of lies, drug-taking and double-dealing that leads to a second murder, of a well-known fashion designer killed on the catwalk at the launch of her latest range. The search for anonymous street artist, Omega 616, whose bold graffiti statements seem linked to both deaths, eventually leads the team to unravel a darker truth about interconnectedness and insecurity as the net closes in on the killer. Separately, a past case comes back to haunt for DAHLMAN and VAN DER VALK leading to a climactic shootout involving the entire team.
Character Descriptions

PIET VAN DER VALK (MARC WARREN)
Commissaris in the Dutch police, a man who reflects 'his' city. An easy-going boss respected by his team. Comfortable in his own skin, street smart, instinctive and unapologetic.

LUCIENNE HASSELL (MAIMIE MCCOY)
Inspector working alongside Van Der Valk. Calm amid a storm, centred, down to earth, gay. Van Der Valk's trusted confidante.

BRAD DE VRIES (LUKE ALLEN-GALE)
No Einstein, a good-looking mid-ranking Sergeant, more interested in women than promotion.

JOB CLOOVERS (ELLIOET BARNES-WORRELL)
Lieutenant, junior officer, fresh-faced, keen and eager to impress, and investigatively brilliant.

HENDRIK DAVIE (DARRELL D'SILVA)
Pathologist. Foul-mouthed, hard living, hard-drinking but effective.

JULIA DAHLMAN (EMMA FIELDING)
Chief Commissaris, Van Der Valk's boss, physically debilitated by injuries sustained four years ago. A velvet fist in an iron glove, a politician and sincere supporter of the team.
Marc Warren is Commissaris Piet Van Der Valk

Marc describes playing his role as a voyage of discovery, not least because his character lives on a boat.

"Van Der Valk is an everyman sort of character. He reflects the energies of Amsterdam: its tolerance and liberalism. He can be a loner, and at times he might seem a little taciturn or moody but he has some stuff going on that we find out about as the show goes on. There’s definitely a sadness there and by the end of the series we find out why.

"He does get on well with his Inspector, Lucienne Hassell, played by Maimie McCoy. They are close, nothing more though - she is always trying to get him to go on dates, find love. She is the only person that might have a go at him when he is being hard on people. There is a lot of respect between them but sometimes he is just in his own world.

"He is surrounded by a great team, really characterful, very likeable and watchable so they do a lot of work for him really. All he does is use his instinct and intuition to put the pieces together and join the dots to figure it all out."

Talking about his on-screen side kick, Marc continues: "I have an effortless relationship with Maimie, we had done The Musketeers together and I really like her, she’s a lovely person and an excellent actress."

The other member of cast that Marc is particularly fond of is Trojan, his boss’s police dog.

"Trojan is a retired police dog belonging to Dahlman (Emma Fielding). Van Der Valk loves that dog - I love all dogs so it was great to interact with him on set. The thing with acting with a dog is... forget about anyone looking at you, everything you aspire to do as an actor, the dog just does naturally. I think it is nice for the character that he obviously does have a warm side. He also feeds him too many treats which his boss doesn’t like.

"Dahlman is my boss and so she is the one who gives me orders and the only one I take any crap from. It is a very respectful relationship and Emma is a great actor so she carries a lot of kudos with her."

Filming entirely on location in Amsterdam Marc got to know the city a little better.

"Before, I had only done the touristy parts but living here I walked everywhere and got to know the city a bit more. I think it is a very cool city. It is very beautiful, and such an interesting place. But the reality is I was mostly working so only scratched the surface really.

"The crew work hard, they’re really wonderful and passionate people and very warm. The local actors are excellent. They just make you look better – they give it that European, almost Scandi feel with their great accents and great acting."
So did Marc have a favourite location?

"The one I really remember was filming at the Rijksmuseum because I was stood right next to these masterpieces, Vermeer paintings and of course Rembrandt’s The Night Watch. There is a scene where I enter and it is right behind me. That was extraordinary. The whole place was closed and we were just there after hours.

"A dying man came in, and his last wish was to look at The Night Watch so he went and viewed it and then we came in and filmed. I would love to know what he saw when he looked at that painting..."

The series tackles some unusual themes, not the clichéd image of the old Amsterdam... Marc says: "That is all Chris Murray, our writer. He is a very intelligent man. He has an interest in the esoteric. So this has been a real opportunity for him to develop those ideas of alchemy and the rest... he is a seasoned writer and he has been very approachable for all of us. There doesn't seem to be any ego to him at all, he is always keen to explore and he has a great, inquisitive mind.

"He has created the world and we start playing the roles it and he adapts accordingly when he’s watched the rushes, so he'll play to our strong points. So eventually we become an amalgamation."

Indeed, Marc recalls: "One weekend I was flying home to see my parents and I remember landing at the airport – I felt like a detective, walking around, looking at everybody suspiciously. That was a bit weird..."
Maimie McCoy is Inspector Lucienne Hassell

Maimie McCoy was partly drawn to the role of Inspector Lucienne Hassell because she had previously worked with leading man, Marc Warren and instinctively knew how well her character would work with his.

"I was drawn to the fact that Marc was playing Van Der Valk. Knowing him already, his voice and humour came across so I felt I knew how my character would work with his. I just knew that there was probably a good fit there so that gave me a feeling of understanding it a bit better.

"I also liked Lucienne’s position within the team and being an equal to Marc’s character. I think they complement each other in their working methods and there seems to be a real shorthand between the characters which feels easy when working with Marc because we have a mutual respect that is unspoken.

"They have each other’s back and for us that feels authentic. They know, as characters, going into situations what their strengths are. She has much more of an empathetic or compassionate side to her so she will step up if she sees him being a little curt or slightly dismissive or rude sometimes. She can soften it. But it is softening those edges without making it too soft. They both reflect the city in a way, there is definitely a street smart there and she is physically very capable."

Describing her character Maimie explains: "She keeps pretty cool in most circumstances. There is a calmness to her but also something bold, she is very much on the front foot and fearless. There is an instance in the first episode where she is in a very dangerous situation that she went straight for, not in a reckless way but in a sense of her having a great confidence within herself and of her duty.

"I have realised how much she is like me in many respects that I didn’t see at the start. In the sense of an open mindedness; she is not judgemental and I think I am pretty open and fair and am a good listener. I am a middle child so I think that helps, I am very good at doing either side of the argument. So I didn’t see some of those natural qualities that I’ve got and I suppose it’s been developing those as the series goes on. That has been fun collaborating with writer Chris Murray, he has been very open to suggestions."

Maimie is keen on the physicality of the role too.

"There is a complex stunt in episode three for the big showdown. It is a really good fight scene and I had asked for a fight! In the first episode there are hints of a physical element and I personally love that and wanted the challenge of doing more. I always want to do more! It reveals more about the character and it is those little hints that you can get in; how does she fight, how good is she, how quick are her reflexes. Things you can tell when you see someone in that raw, animalistic state… she is good and that is very her.”
Filming in Amsterdam was a dream for Maimie despite juggling family responsibilities.

"Walking around the city you realise we have shot in so many places... every street corner, or by the canals – we have moved about a lot on this show so it really captures a sense of the place. I think it is a beautiful city and immensely romantic, especially when you are on the canals at night time. It is small and it feels compact when you compare it to living in London. There is a great warmth to the people here, they are very welcoming and also very direct in a way that us British are not and I think VAN DER VALK captures all of those things.

"Being on the boat, Spartacus, that Van Der Valk lives on, was an amazing experience. We sailed out of the city and when we came back that was a beautiful sight. It felt very far from what we are used to watching on screen, I think it will feel quite fresh and vibrant and it might change people's opinions of Amsterdam. The architecture is breath taking and very distinct, the height of the buildings, the tiles, the narrowsness – you can look at it and know it is Amsterdam."

Maimie's top memory of living and working in the city?

"I walked everywhere late at night which feels very safe. I think you get the beauty of it along the canals, as it is quiet and super still. Then you have the Amsterdamse Bos, the forests and woods which is slightly out of the city and that is beautiful. It is those places where you feel you are in the middle of nowhere but just on the edge of the city..."

The originality of the storylines appealed greatly to Maimie...

"There is an immense amount of colour and depth going into these stories alongside some pretty gruesome deaths and dark sadistic currency which run through it with some great humour as well. It should be quite an exciting blend as I think it feels like every episode has had a very distinct flavour to it and then you have the team of six police underpinning it with their individual characters which also seem to have this lovely, organic feel to them so it feels like a really rich tapestry."
Emma Fielding is Chief Commissaris Julia Dahlman

As Piet Van Der Valk's boss Chief Commissaris Julia Dahlman, Emma Fielding had a wonderful ally...Trojan the dog.

"Trojan is glorious! I love dogs so I was thrilled the character had a dog but Marc's (Warren) character, Van Der Valk, is always feeding Trojan treats behind her back which she frowns upon.

"Trojan is a rescue who was trained by the police. She is 12 and has never done any filming before and so you never know, until you get on the floor, how a dog will react and she was absolutely brilliant. A film set is incredibly busy, there is so much equipment, noise and loads of people and she was absolutely delightful, so calm and I got to know her quite well.

"I had the most beautiful letter from the dog handler when I got back the other night which made me slightly teary. Her owners said they saw sides of her in filming that they hadn't seen before, they didn't realise she would be so good at her job and so calm. The letter said when she knew she was going to set she would stand in the hallway wagging her tail because she was going to be with her new friend.

"When filming I used the Dutch word for stay and good dog and hopefully she understood what I was saying. Dogs don't necessarily understand the word itself but more the tone in your voice and your body language."

What other elements drew Emma to the role?

"I loved the way the character was written and I liked her back story. I was thrilled that there was a part for a woman over 45 who isn't slightly sad in a cardigan and who is still effective in the workplace. She isn't a ball breaker, she is just really good at her job and she lets people get on with their jobs and tries to get the best out of her team..."

Describing Dahlman's relationship with Van Der Valk Emma continues: "They have a back story which doesn't become clear until episode three but they hint at all the way through. They have been work colleagues for a while and something bad happened and he feels responsible – she has an injury is a result of what happened. She is in constant pain and taking morphine but she has been allowed back in the workplace and is running a team and doing really well.

"She enjoys and sees the real value in him not following the rules all of the time, she has to keep a check on him because the people who are funding the police, the local authorities, for political reasons get upset with him so she has to manage him to an extent. She is juggling between getting the crime solved in the only way he knows how to and police resources. She respects and admires him but has to keep him in check."

The injury in question causes her character problems moving about and causes Emma different issues...
"I have a limp but it is not an issue other than having to be out of breath sometimes.

"But the biggest problem is remembering which leg is injured! It is going upstairs that is a problem, as I had to work out where I could and couldn't put my weight. One of the guys playing a henchmen in episode three asked how my leg was as he thought I was really struggling up the stairs which was a good sign that I made it look authentic."

Emma admits she did more damage to herself exploring Amsterdam in flip flops during the heat wave...

"I had some days off and I walked for miles. I am not brave enough to cycle because I am rubbish on a bike. Crossing the road I felt like my nan - cars, trams, bikes all at the same time and it is the opposite side of the road but I did get used to that quite quickly.

"Amsterdam is so relaxed in so many ways and I don't just mean the drug culture but the way people are with each other, the way they are with strangers. It reminded me of NYC and Scotland, where people are so proud of their city and there was an unfortunate contrast for me, with what is happening at home."

Discussing the drama and it's themes Emma explains: "Each story is in a completely different world. Although it is all in Amsterdam. We have had three directors and camera men and then the regular team to keep it consistent. It was also great to be a part of a mixture of Dutch and British actors, that will make it feel different.

"It was all done on location, which is unusual. Especially to film right in the centre of Amsterdam, even for the Dutch crew it was unusual. It was quite light footed, there were no trailers, just a little wagon you got changed in and there would be a green room on set somewhere so it felt quite mobile.

"Like anywhere if you say I am with a film crew and you get access to the most extraordinary places. The finale of episode three was filmed on what was an oilrig but is now a fancy restaurant overlooking the river outside the Courts for Justice. It was extraordinary so hopefully the atmosphere will come through in the show."
Cast List

Core Cast:

Piet Van Der Valk................................................................. Marc Warren
Lucienne Hassell.............................................................. Maimie McCoy
Brad De Vries................................................................. Luke Allen-Gale
Job Gloovers...................................................................... Elliot Barnes-Worrell
Hendrik Davie................................................................. Darrell D'Silva
Julia Dahlman....................................................................... Emma Fielding

Episode 1:
Cliff Palache................................................................. Mike Libanon –
Homeless Frank .............................................................. Peter Van Heeringen
Ed De Klerk ........................................................................ Reinout Bussemaker
Paul Oosterhuis.............................................................. Daniel Lapaine
Claudia Oosterhuis ........................................................ Frances Grey
Tim Brouwer........................................................................ Hylke Van Sprundel
Kalari Ramecker................................................................... Arian Nik
Therese Ramecker............................................................ Vineeeta Rishi
Manus Bakker....................................................................... Victor Low
Bartel Peters.......................................................................... Kees Boot
Eva Meisner........................................................................... Stephanie Leonidas
Dave Smit........................................................................ Danny Westerweel
Agatha Vos........................................................................ Frieda Barnhard

Episode 2:
Cliff Palache................................................................. Mike Libanon –
Klaas Gilbert.......................................................................... Tim Dutton
Sister Joan Paulwels......................................................... Juliet Aubrey
Isaak Graaff........................................................................ Jeroen Spitzenger
Lionel Veith.......................................................................... Martin Nieuwerf
Janneke Paulis ................................................................. Anniek Phiefer
Aamina/Zafira Jabara......................................................... Taj Atwal
Talib Jabara........................................................................ Taheen Modak
Zaim Jabara.......................................................................... Paul Tylak
Otto Nelissen........................................................................ Teun Kuiboer
Spike ................................................................................... Martijn Oversteegen

Episode 3:
Cliff Palache................................................................. Mike Libanon
Homeless Frank .............................................................. Peter Van Heeringen
Dani Nioh........................................................................... Tom York
Heidi Abelen ......................................................................... Christina Cole
Gustav Schneider ............................................................. Maarten Heijmans
Claudia Cabrera .............................................................. Marieke Heebink
Lotta Nagel.......................................................................... Shaniqua Okwok
Mila De La Parra................................................................ Claire Bender
Willem Visser....................................................................... Tom Mothersdale
Crew List:

Executive Producer ................................................................. Michele Buck
Executive Producer ............................................................. Chris Murray
Series Producer ................................................................. Keith Thompson
Writer .................................................................................. Chris Murray
Executive Producer All3Media International ......................... Louise Pedersen
Executive Producer All3Media International ......................... David Swetman
Executive Producer ARD ....................................................... Sebastian Lüeckel
Co-producer NL Film & TV ......................................................... Sabine Brian, Ronald Versteeg, Kaja Wolffers
Director ................................................................................... Colin Teague (Ep1),
Max Porcelijn (Ep2),
Jean Van De Velde (Ep3)
Director of Photography ......................................................... Tibor Dingelstad (Ep1),
Coen Stroeve (Ep2),
Willem Helwig (Ep3)
Editors .................................................................................. Sándor Soeteman (Ep1,3),
Annelies Van Woerden (Ep2)
Production Designer .............................................................. Alfred Schaaf
Costume Designer ................................................................. Bho Roosterman
Make-Up Designer ............................................................... Marjon Hoogendoorn
Casting Director (UK Cast) ................................................... Susie Parriss
Casting Director (NL Cast) ....................................................... Betty Post
Locations Manager ............................................................... Maarten Buurlage
Composer ........................................................................ Matthijs Kieboom