



Hit and run *Guilt*

Mark Bonnar and Jamie Sives star as two brothers caught in an insane cover-up on MASTERPIECE

Sundays, September 5 & 12, 2021 on PBS

"It's not the crime, it's the cover-up" goes the old saying. But that didn't stop brothers Max and Jake from hiding their guilt after running into an elderly pedestrian during an inebriated drive home from a wedding. Mark Bonnar (*Unforgotten*) and Jamie Sives (*To the Ends of the Earth*) star as Max and Jake in a darkly absorbing tale of rascality and deceit, on *Guilt*, airing in four parts with back-to-back episodes on MASTERPIECE, Sundays, September 5 & 12 at 9/8c on PBS.

TV critics were hooked during *Guilt*'s recent UK run, calling the miniseries "entertainingly outlandish" (*The Telegraph*); "a pin-sharp black comedy" (*Evening Standard*); and "an utter triumph, a word-of-mouth dazzler. I loved it" (*The Guardian*).

Guilt costars Ruth Bradley (*Pursuit*) as Angie, the niece and closest relative of the hit-and-run victim, named Walter. Arriving in Edinburgh from her home in Chicago, Angie meets Max and Jake at Walter's wake, where they have come to retrieve incriminating evidence. Angie and Jake hit it off, which complicates Max's plan to escape justice.

Also appearing are Emun Elliott (*The Paradise*) as Kenny, Max's alcoholic private detective; Sian Brooke (*Sherlock*) as Claire, Max's suspicious wife; Moyo Akandé (*The Hurricane Heist*) as Claire's more-than-gym buddy, Tina; Ellie Haddington (*Foyle's War*) as Walter's pathologically vigilant neighbor, Sheila; and Bill Paterson (*Wives and Daughters*) as Roy, a sinister mob boss in Edinburgh.

Hit-and-run perpetrators usually leave the body at the scene, but Max and Jake carry Walter's corpse to his house nearby and set him up in an easy chair. There, they find a letter revealing that Walter had terminal cancer. "He was dying slowly. We just made it quick," says Max with relief. "He'd probably thank us."

Since Max is a high-powered attorney and savvy in the ways of police and coroners, he takes charge of the cover-up. Jake was actually behind the wheel of Max's car during the accident, but he was stoned and uninsured, while Max was swilling champagne in the passenger seat. It's hardly the image of a respectable lawyer.

For his part, Jake is a classic slacker, running a marginal used record shop with enough time on his hands to write custom liner notes for the albums.

Although the brothers are no longer close, they are now co-conspirators in a crime that grows in severity as they dig a deeper and deeper pit of evasions and desperate stratagems.

Meanwhile, lovelorn Jake and fun-loving Angie are falling in love. Max's wife, Claire, is uncovering the depth of her husband's lies. Private eye Kenny, hired by Max to botch the investigation, has decided to go sober and get to the bottom of the case. Sheila cryptically blurts out, "I saw." And Roy says to a sweat-drenched Max, nearing the end of his rope: "For many years, myself and the people that work for me have committed significant amounts of extreme violence. Of course, that's all in the past. I'm a businessman now. A businessman who in the past has committed significant amounts of extreme violence."

Series Description

Sundays, September 5 & 12, 2021 at 9/8c on PBS

Short: A hit-and-run plunges Max and Jake into a farcical cover-up.

Long: A drunken drive home from a wedding lands two brothers in increasingly hot water, as they commit more and more serious crimes to hide their culpability in a hit-and-run. Mark Bonnar and Jamie Sives star as the brothers, with Ruth Bradley as the victim's niece, who falls for her uncle's killer. "A darkly delicious tale," declared *The Guardian* (London).

Episode One

Sunday, September 5, 2021; 9-10pm ET on PBS

Short: Jake and Max hit an elderly pedestrian and then run from the truth.

Long: Returning intoxicated from a wedding, Jake and Max run down an old man and decide to tell no one. Their cover-up quickly snowballs in complexity.

Episode Two

Sunday, September 5, 2021; 10-11pm ET on PBS

Short: Max's detective goes rogue, and the price for the cover-up soars.

Long: Max tries to sabotage Kenny's investigation, but the detective closes in on damaging evidence. Sheila adds a new wrinkle to the case. Claire gets suspicious.

Episode Three

Sunday, September 12, 2021; 9-10pm ET on PBS

Short: Suspicions fly between Jake, Angie, Max, and Sheila. Who is hiding what?

Long: Spurred by Angie, Jake probes Max's control of his finances. Jake also grows suspicious of Angie. Roy tightens the screws on Max by threatening Jake.

Episode Four

Sunday, September 12, 2021; 10-11pm ET on PBS

Short: As the cover-up verges on collapse, Max tries a desperate gamble.

Long: With facts surrounding Walter's death increasingly in question, Max risks all to come out on top. Jake and Angie also take a gamble. Claire cuts her losses.

Guilt is an Expectation and Happy Tramp North production for BBC Scotland. The series is written and created by Neil Forsyth. The executive producers are Neil Forsyth, Kirstie MacDonald and Neil Webster. The producer is Jules Hussey. The director is Robert McKillop.

About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 18 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans since 1971. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer and Rebecca Eaton is the executive producer-at-large for the series. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking and Raymond James with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. Produced for PBS by GBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for hits such as *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Victoria*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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