**CHANNEL 5 ANNOUNCE CAST FOR UPCOMING TRUE CRIME DRAMA *MAXINE*

JEMMA CARLTON AND SCOTT REID CAST IN LEAD ROLES**

**LONDON: Wednesday 29th June 2022:** Channel 5 and Clapperboard, Chalkboard’s scripted sister company, have today announced the casting of key roles for their upcoming drama ***Maxine (3 x 60’)***.

***Maxine*** will examine the police investigation into school assistant Maxine Carr and her caretaker fiancé Ian Huntley, who was later imprisoned for the double murder of schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, the tragic case that shocked the nation. The three-part drama will explore, through Carr’s perspective, her tumultuous relationship with Huntley; why she lied for him and how she became public enemy No.1, and will reflect the scale of the police investigation into the murders and subsequent media frenzy around the biggest manhunt ever seen in British history.

Newcomer **Jemma Carlton** will play the lead role of Maxine Carr, with **Scott Reid** (*White House Farm, Line of Duty, Carnival Row)* starring as Ian Huntley. **Steve Edge***(The Madame Blanc Mysteries, Starlings, Floodlights)* stars as journalist Brian Farmer, along with **Natalie Britton***(Them, Upcoming Reasonable Doubt, Finding You)*as tabloid journalist Jane Kerrigan. In addition, **Kate O’Toole** *(The Dead, Possession, Man on the Train)* also features.

Mike Benson and Julie Ryan are executive producers on the series. Laura Way (*The Holiday, Blood)* is directing, whilst Simon Tyrrell (*The Spanish Princess*) serves as the writer and Tamryn Reinecke and Emma Foley *(Redemption of a Rouge, It Is In Us All)* as producers. Abacus Media Rights are on board as international distributor for the series.

**Mike Benson, Managing Director, Clapperboard** commented: *“The events of Soham in 2002 were a tragedy which touched the nation at large - and as such the casting process has been of primary importance to allow us to tell the story authentically and sensitively. We believe we’ve brought together a hugely talented and intelligent cast who bring nuance and a sense of realism to some really challenging roles”*

Filming for ***Maxine*** started on location in May and is set to transmit on Channel 5 later this year.

**-ENDS-**

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**About Channel 5:**

Channel 5 is a public service broadcaster and the UK’s third largest commercial TV station. Launched in March 1997, Channel 5 has been part of Paramount Global (formerly ViacomCBS) since its acquisition in September 2014.

Channel 5 and its digital brands – 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select, 5ACTION and the on-demand service My5 – offer a diverse range of issue-led documentaries & popular factual celebrating the British countryside and drawing talent to the channel, accessible history, premium drama and critically-acclaimed children’s, news and current affairs programming. Through its agenda-driving commissions, Channel 5 leads on societal issues from inequality to homelessness and mental health, aiming to tell the story of modern Britain by reflecting the lives of people across the nation.

In 2018, Channel 5 won its first BAFTA for Cruising with Jane McDonald. The following year, Raped: My Story won best Single Documentary at RTS. In 2020, it won Channel of the Year at the Broadcast Awards and by the RTS. In addition that year, it secured its first ever Grierson award win in the ‘Best Single Documentary – Domestic’ category with Suicidal: In Our Own Words. In 2021, it won best factual entertainment at the Broadcast Awards for Springtime on the Farm. It also won best drama at Voice of the Listener & Viewer for All Creatures Great & Small the same year.

**About Clapperboard:**

Clapperboard Studios was set up in 2020 as the partner company of Chalkboard – Producers of 2019’s *Cold Call* - and Storyboard Studios. Since its inception Clapperboard have gone on to produce a diverse range of dramas including the critically acclaimed *The Teacher*, the ratings winning *Intruder* and co-produce the hit comedy drama *The Madame Blanc Mysteries*. The company is headed up by Exec Producer and MD Mike Benson.

Clapperboard is part of iZen is the Producer-led content group comprising of a network of independent production companies in Spain, the Middle East and the UK. iZen’s experience in scripted also extends to one of Amazon Prime Video’s largest original scripted series in Europe, *El Cid*.

**About Abacus Media Rights:**Abacus Media Rights (AMR) acquires and distributes a diverse slate of premium, multi-genre programming in the international market. At the same time, the company also works with producers to facilitate pre-sales and development finance as well as broadcaster commissions.

Embracing a fully transparent reporting ethos throughout, AMR focuses on building strong client relationships and generating positive solutions at every stage of the process, from initial financing to worldwide broadcast in order to successfully deliver scripted and non-scripted entertainment that counts to a global audience.

Abacus Media Rights is an Amcomri Entertainment company.

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