

ITV STUDIOS TO PRODUCE GRIPPING NEW CRIME DRAMA

SHETLAND FOR BBC ONE

Detective drama is adapted from best-selling series of novels by Ann Cleeves

8 MAY 2012 – ITV Studios has been commissioned by BBC One to produce *Shetland* (w/t, 2x60'), a powerful detective drama through BBC Scotland, based on international best-selling crime writer Ann Cleeves' quartet of novels.

Set against the arresting and distinctive backdrop of the Shetland Isles, *Shetland* stars acclaimed Scottish actor Douglas Henshall (*Primeval*, *The Kidnap Diaries*, *The Silence*) as Detective Jimmy Perez, a native Shetlander who has returned home after a long spell away. Recently widowed Perez possesses a bone dry sense of humour and an idealistic desire to protect his beloved Shetland Isles from inevitable change, making him a fascinating detective to watch at work.

When a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains, the island community is intrigued to know if it's an ancient find or a contemporary mystery. And when an elderly woman is shot on her land in a tragic accident, Perez and his team find themselves at the centre of two feuding families whose envy, greed and bitterness has divided the surrounding community.

Elaine Collins, Executive Producer, ITV Studios, said: "We're delighted to be working with the BBC on this commission. *Shetland* combines eccentric yet warm characters and a classic murder mystery story with the beautiful landscape and rich history of the Shetland Islands, and we believe it will be hugely popular with viewers."

Christopher Aird, Head of Drama, Scotland and Executive Producer, BBC said: "*Shetland* has a fantastic combination of writing, acting, directing and producing talent. It is a hugely exciting story and part of a project to bring the very best drama to BBC Scotland in the coming years."

Shetland is written by David Kane (*The Field of Blood, Taggart, Rebus*), produced by Sue de Beauvoir (*Merlin, Waterloo Road*) and directed by Peter Hoar (*Vera, Silk, Five Days*). It is executive produced by Elaine Collins (*Vera*) and Kate Bartlett (*White Heat; The Jury*) for ITV Studios and Christopher Aird for BBC Scotland (*Call The Midwife, Prisoners' Wives*). It was commissioned by Ben Stephenson, Controller, BBC Drama Commissioning and Danny Cohen, Controller, BBC One.

Shetland starts filming on location in Scotland and will transmit later in 2012. Further casting will be announced in the coming weeks.