

FROM THE CREATOR OF *THE DAY OF THE JACKAL*

ARMY of SHADOWS

STUDIOCANAL

A CANAL+ COMPANY

*Confidential – the information is subject to change.
Not to be reproduced or circulated without prior written permission.*

PITCH

From acclaimed showrunner Ronan Bennett (*MobLand*, *The Day of the Jackal*, *Top Boy*) comes **ARMY OF SHADOWS**.

Ex-soldier Berry thought his fighting days were over. But as Britain enters a new era of control, he's drawn into one last, dangerous fight. Around him, a fragile resistance takes shape: Adam, Vanessa and Sophie, students pulled into politics before they're ready; Simon, a charismatic novelist driven by urgency and anger; and Esther, a radiotherapist whose calm, ordinary life becomes entangled in the risks Berry is taking.

As their secret war escalates from whispered meetings in safe houses to street battles in London, their private sacrifices drive a gripping, emotion-charged thriller. This is a story about ordinary people forced into extraordinary decisions – and the quiet bravery it takes to hold onto your humanity as freedom begins to slip away.

Inspired by Jean-Pierre Melville's *Army of Shadows* and Joseph Kessel's writings from the French Resistance during the Second World War, the series reimagines those moral questions for today, asking one provocative question:

if your freedom were taken tomorrow, how far would you go to get it back?

KEY FACTS

FORMAT: **6 x 1HR**

GENRE: **THRILLER**

LANGUAGE: **ENGLISH**

COMMISSIONING BROADCASTERS: **CANAL+, CHANNEL 4**

TX DATE: **Q4 2027**

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: **STUDIOCANAL TELEVISION** in coproduction with **TWO CITIES TELEVISION**

CREATOR & WRITER: **RONAN BENNETT**

DIRECTOR: **LISA GUNNING**

STATUS: **IN PRE-PRODUCTION**

CREATOR AND WRITER

RONAN BENNETT

TOP BOY



5 SEASONS

BAFTA AWARD
BEST DRAMA

RANKED #1 MOST WATCHED SHOW ON
NETFLIX UK FOR 6 WEEKS

TOMATOMETER 97%

NETFLIX

THE DAY OF THE JACKAL



GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION
BEST DRAMA

BIGGEST SKY ORIGINAL EVER
RENEWED FOR A SECOND SEASON

sky original

MOBLAND



BIGGEST GLOBAL SERIES LAUNCH EVER
ON PARAMOUNT+

RENEWED FOR A SECOND SEASON

Paramount+

DIRECTOR

LISA GUNNING

**THE
POWER**



"ELECTRIFYING POTENTIAL" (VARIETY)

BASED ON NAOMI ALDERMAN'S
AWARD-WINNING NOVEL



BLACK DOVES



RANKED #1 ON NETFLIX'S TOP 10 LIST

RENEWED FOR A SECOND SEASON

TOMATOMETER 92%

NETFLIX

THE WANTED MAN



UPCOMING APPLE TV+ ORIGINAL SERIES

STARRING HUGH LAURIE
(HOUSE, THE NIGHT MANAGER)

AND THANDIWE NEWTON
(WESTWORLD, CRASH)



COMPARABLES



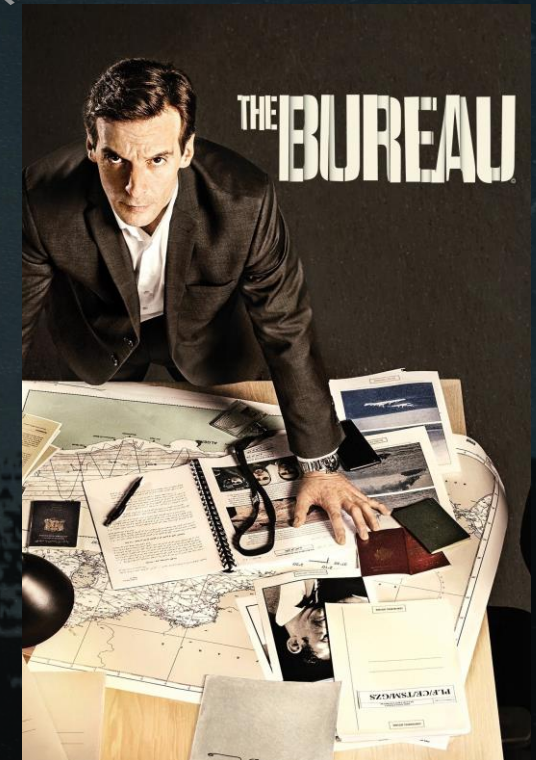
RESISTANCE
AND OPPRESSION



COMPLEX CHARACTERS
AND MORAL MURK



TENSION
AND SUSPENSE



PSYCHOLOGICAL
REALISM

HIGHLIGHTS

A GRIPPING RESISTANCE THRILLER FROM THE INSIDE OUT

The series will immerse viewers in a world of fear and paranoia, but also courage and love, as a small group of ordinary people dares to rise against a ruthless regime.

COMPELLING, UNIVERSAL THEMES

At its core lies a powerful, universal question:
How far would you go to protect your freedom when neutrality is no longer an option?

A PRESTIGIOUS CREATIVE TEAM

Written by acclaimed writer Ronan Bennett (*The Day of the Jackal*, *MobLand*, *Top Boy*) and directed by Lisa Gunning (*Black Doves*), uniting two bold and distinctive creative voices.

LEGACY WITH A CONTEMPORARY EDGE

Honours the spirit of Melville's iconic film and Kessel's novel—loyalty, sacrifice, resistance—while reimagining their resonance for a modern audience.



SERIES OVERVIEW

Following years of unrest and political instability, the UK accepts the “assistance” of its closest ally. US troops are deployed to support the civil authority. But democracy is quietly suspended, surveillance intensifies, and dissent is crushed. Elections are postponed. The media is muzzled. Flags fly, Union Jack and Stars & Stripes, side by side.

The official line is “emergency”. But the reality is occupation. Amid the confusion ex-soldier Berry sees the truth. Drawing on military experience and deep historical knowledge, he understands how occupations fail – and how resistance must begin. He’s building a cell. Slowly. Cautiously. With one rule: don’t act before you’re ready.



But others aren't so patient. 22-year-old Adam, a student and former Student Union president, joins the cause, eager to prove himself but untested, impulsive and already under surveillance. With him is Vanessa, a confident and brilliant student from a wealthy Nigerian family with ties to the establishment. Together, they represent a new generation who must choose: collaborate, comply, or resist?

Complicating everything is Simon, a charismatic ex-officer and media darling who leads a rival resistance cell focused on spectacle and immediate action. For Simon, the optics of rebellion matter more than its substance.

For Berry, it's a fatal miscalculation.

Meanwhile, the occupying forces tighten their grip. Ruthless CIA agent, Jessie, leads a covert campaign to dismantle Berry's emerging network. Her first target: Sophie, a captured student. Others will follow.



Across six thrilling episodes, Season 1 chronicles the early days of the Resistance. From first kills and internal betrayals to propaganda campaigns, internment camps, and a climactic political assassination. This is a story about how freedom is taken and how it can be won back.

ARMY OF SHADOWS is an emotionally charged thriller grounded in the psychological realism of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the propulsiveness of *The Day of the Jackal*, and the moral murk of *The Night Manager*. It explores collaboration, resistance, trauma, and trust, as ordinary people are radicalised by extraordinary events. But can you resist an occupier without becoming a monster yourself?



BERRY

EX-MILITARY, STRATEGIST

BERRY (40s) IS THE ARCHITECT OF THE RESISTANCE. A FORMER ROYAL ENGINEER WITH A METHODICAL MIND AND A SOLDIER'S PRAGMATISM, HE BELIEVES IN PLAYING THE LONG GAME.

Cautious, disciplined, emotionally contained - he's not a man who improvises. Every step he takes is calculated, every risk weighed. He's driven by a deep moral conviction that Britain's soul is at stake, but he's no romantic. For Berry, resistance isn't about symbols, it's about erosion, networks, structure.

Yet underneath the discipline lies trauma, illness (he's undergoing radiotherapy), and buried guilt. He's trying to win a war while quietly running out of time. His challenge across the series is balancing trust and control and holding his fragile alliance together. He's the adult in the room - but even adults crack.

VANESSA

STUDENT, DAUGHTER OF NIGERIAN ELITES

VANESSA (21) IS SHARP, SELF-ASSURED AND UTTERLY CONVINCING IN ANY ROOM. THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY NIGERIAN FAMILY WITH STRONG TIES TO THE BRITISH ESTABLISHMENT, SHE HAS LONG STRADDLED THE LINES OF PRIVILEGE, RESISTANCE AND IDENTITY.

Culturally fluent and intellectually formidable, she knows how the world works - and how to game it. She hides in plain sight, using her charm and background to navigate a surveillance state. But behind the confidence is deep conflict: her commitment to the Resistance is real, but it comes at the cost of her relationship with her beloved father, a loyalist who sees the occupation as a stabilising force. Vanessa's emotional arc is driven by secrecy, betrayal and an almost unbearable longing to be understood.

Her bond with Adam is complex — part romance, part rivalry, part challenge to his beliefs. She's the insurgent face of a generation raised in privilege but radicalised by injustice.





ADAM

STUDENT, WORKING-CLASS HERO IN THE MAKING

ADAM (22) IS IDEALISTIC, PASSIONATE AND SLIGHTLY NAIVE. THE SON OF A WORKING-CLASS LONDON FAMILY, HE'S THE FIRST IN HIS HOUSEHOLD TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY.

Charismatic and principled, he was student union president before the occupation - someone who wanted to change the system from within. Now that system no longer exists. Adam is new to violence, but not to conviction. His arc is that of transformation: from moral idealist to committed insurgent, learning what resistance actually costs. His relationships - with Vanessa, with his estranged brother Colin (a sympathiser), with his mentor Berry - force him to choose between personal loyalty and political necessity. There's a tragic optimism to Adam: a young man whose potential is being forged and deformed in the crucible of occupation. He wants to fight back - but must decide what kind of man that fight will turn him into.

SIMON

**EX-ARMY, CHARISMATIC MAVERICK,
INSURGENT CELEBRITY**

SIMON (40S) IS THE RESISTANCE'S LOOSE CANNON. A FORMER OFFICER TURNED MEMOIRIST TURNED REBEL LEADER, HE HAS CHARM, SWAGGER, AND DANGEROUS INSTINCTS.

He believes war is theatre, and that revolution must be visible to exist. Where Berry moves in shadows, Simon wants explosions, headlines, martyrs. He surrounds himself with the young and the idealistic, offering them purpose, identity and a cause to die for. And they follow him - for now. But under the public-school charisma lies deep vanity, emotional volatility, and a creeping sense that he may be performing a role he no longer fully believes in. He's a warlord in the making - or a freedom fighter with a death wish. His rivalry with Berry is strategic, ideological and deeply personal. He may be a hero, or a threat to everything the Resistance is trying to build.





RUSSELL

**INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER,
THE SYSTEM'S FAITHFUL SERVANT**

RUSSELL (EARLY 40S) IS A PROUD AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, UTTERLY CONVINCED BRITAIN IS BEING SAVED, NOT OCCUPIED.

He sees the presence of American forces as a vital alliance, the partnership that pulled the country back from chaos. Russell is certain the system works, and that he is helping to keep it steady. Confident and dismissive, he refuses to entertain any alternative view. Any talk of “resistance” is, in his view, a fantasy invented by troublemakers. There is nothing to resist. The government is stabilising the country, and he is doing his part. He is the quiet, stubborn denial that allows a crisis to grow in plain sight.

TWO CITIES TELEVISION

BLUE LIGHTS



2 SEASONS
(RENEWED FOR 3 & 4 SEASONS)

BAFTA WINNER
BEST DRAMA SERIES



Patrick Melrose



BAFTA WINNER
BEST DRAMA SERIES

PRIMETIME EMMY AWARD NOMINATION
BEST LIMITED SERIES

sky original

AMADEUS



"A RIP-ROARING SERIES"
(FINANCIAL TIMES)

TOMATOMETER 88%

sky original

STUDIOCANAL

A CANAL+ COMPANY

STUDIOCANAL, CANAL+'s in-house studio, is Europe's leading film and television studio, with worldwide production and distribution capabilities. It operates directly in nine major European markets including Austria, Benelux, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as in Australia and New Zealand, and offices in the United States and China. STUDIOCANAL finances, produces, and distributes 200 films per year. It owns one of the most prestigious catalogues in the world and the largest catalogue of European titles, boasting more than 9 400 titles from 60 countries. With a catalogue spanning 100 years of film history, STUDIOCANAL has invested close to 25 million euros into the 4K restoration of nearly 1 000 classic feature films over the past 7 years.

STUDIOCANAL also produces over 15 series each year, including local creations and premium international co-productions, and distributes its scripted productions and CANAL+ Originals globally (2,000 hours of current and library content in distribution). Projects are produced in-house by STUDIOCANAL or through its worldwide network of production companies, including 2e Bureau, Flab, Kissman, Pernel, Upside and Grands Ducs Films in France; Birdie Pictures, Urban Myth Films, Strong Film & Television, Sunny March TV and Brock Media in the UK; Bambú Producciones and Te Espero en Marte in Spain; Lailaps Films and STUDIOCANAL Series in Germany; Opus TV in Poland; Sam Productions in Denmark; Dingie in Belgium; and The Picture Company in the United States.



ARMY of SHADOWS

STUDIOCANAL

A CANAL+ COMPANY

Confidential – For internal purposes only.

The information is subject to change. Not to be reproduced or circulated without prior written permission