

The Making of Death in Paradise (behind the scenes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZnl3s3DgQ8>
Transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/deathinparadise1.pdf>

When you're sitting down watching Death in Paradise it's like being in the Caribbean, sunshine, the beaches, it just transports you, and the atmosphere is really special, it's magical.

It's the same fun show it always was, it has a little spring in its step and occasionally has its tongue in its cheek.

You have to have puzzles that really intrigue the viewers, very strong characters, amazing actors, there's not another show like it.

You know this Spanish family came up to me and saw it you're telling me you've read two of you, no, no, no, no, no, Death in Paradise.

Welcome to Guadeloupe, ~~Geneva, New York, Guadeloupe, vineyard, Newport.~~ [???

Two sides of the island looks like a platinum butterfly and we're on the left-hand one which is very tropical.

It's like Jurassic Park without the dinosaurs [with] stunningly beautiful, beautiful waterfalls and all that sort of stuff.

And then the other island is flatter, it's more touristic.

It's a real surprise, you can go climb into the volcano, you can go surfing, it's just, it's just an amazing place.

It is paradise, it really is paradise.

It's a massive undertaking to get the whole show written, filmed and out on TV.

You have challenges that you, you don't have in the UK.

You have sand that gets inside the cameras, terrain that's very, very difficult to access.

Sometimes it's very complicated in the forest, in the mountains, sand, when it's very wet, when it's raining.

We can't find everything we need here, there's no prop stores and we certainly can't afford to import much stuff, so we actually have to make it and it's hard labor, you know, people are working full tilt and my team's fantastic.

Humidity is a killer, it really saps your strength and the boys are throwing around great big glams. (??? glam is short for glamorous)

Lou who's our grip, carrying about 40 foot of track across the beach. They never complain, they're brilliant. (grip = stagehand who helps in moving scenery)

Once at a thunderstorm, one night, when literally everything turned black and white and, you know, we had downpours, you couldn't see each other anymore, but they're over in before you know it, you know.

So it's like in one day, you can go through all climates apart from snow.

The sand department has a really tough job on this show, it's very windy this year.

Frogs start chirping very loudly if it's about to rain.

We film in the police station next to a church that has very distinctive bells.

Chief = see this is what we have when we're shooting, all the time, uh, chickens all around the place all the time.

It's just mental and then the bells and then the cock, then the circular saw and it just goes around in this big circle.

If you've been (???) you'll have heard about (???), a long millipede and they give you a nasty nip.

The mosquitoes are crazy, I've got bite, a war scar on my cheek.

We've been here when dengue fever's bad or last year it was chikagunya but mainly it is just a joy and a privilege to be able to come out to a country like this and meet the local people who become really good friends.

We worked on, on this TV show for five years so, so, everybody knows [us] and everybody [all of us] are friends.

They're so giving and keen and they're brilliant, fun to work with.

I miss them when I'm back in the UK, they're like a mini family.

I'm a French girl so I love to kiss, yeah, we share some love it's really important because we should for a really long time. (???)

We are six thousand kilometers, far away from home, so we have to be a family.

We have to be all together and we are spending a lot of time [together].

We are working 11 hours a day, six days a week, so we are living more together than we are with our family.

A bit different to Clapham. (Clampham is a part of London)

We're set on a beach, here. It's extremely beautiful it's halcyon stuff. (The meaning of HALCYON is characterized by happiness, great success, and prosperity : golden —often used to describe an idyllic time in the past that is remembered as better than today.)

However, as soon as you move inside, ramp up the lights, and put 30 crew into a very enclosed space, the temperature goes to 140 which is incredibly hot to work in.

But it's not just ~~that~~ humidity and the lack of air.

If you think that Death in Paradise is all paradise and beaches and cocktails turn the table, turn the table.

The tables, give me the camera, hang on, there we go, look at that, there we go, that's just standing still for 10 minutes, there you go.

We have to put fans, a com unit, we have to have enough rest in between takes.

I've never worked with a separate unit before, but they, they are invaluable.

Every time you look around they've got sunscreen, water.

I don't know what's happened to Magnum P.I., that was that was quite fun, that was a couple of series ago.

It's flute (?) time now, everyone has flutes. These flutes stay juicy all the way down to the bottom.

Today is the scene when we shoot what we call the dinimal, which is a French word for unknotting, but it's a hell of a lot of work for Chris.

I'm trying to shoot it in such a way that he only has to do it as little as possible.

You and everyone else conspired to protect someone else.

It's like being in a steam room at all times because it's really, really wet, it's a lot of sweat and a lot of vests.

I think Danny's walking about in a towel with his top off, it's just portal (???) for people so shammy leathers with ice cold water, air-con units, lots of fixer, lots of primer, lots of tissues.

This had nothing to do with your dad's plans for you, however much you hate it there.

Sometimes we do 12-minute takes so I literally am like a drowned rat by the end of it.

Your whole body is so hot you just have to get it off in order to cool down.

Once he's cooled down we start the whole process again.

The girls will change them into a new fresh shirt and then that one can dry off while he's doing the take.

Every take, regardless whether the camera's on him or not, you know it's consistent performance.

Now it looks like we are watching Robert at work.

When you're confronted by this sort of rock face of dialogue with just the odd interjection. I think he's incredible and he's got so much nuance and color and he he plays with it and he's he's really free with it, it's very impressive.

We may not have any lines but we stand [and] listen for ten pages, okay.

It's like being in Madame Tussauds, you know what I mean, wax models, or you know those guys on High Street that move every half an hour.

As the show goes on I, I become thinner and thinner as the remaining fluid in my body gets expunged.

And, um, I go back to England in October like a, like a sort of dried out husk.

Quite often we'll have people coming up to us saying they came to Guadeloupe because they saw it in *Death in Paradise*, I would recommend it to everyone, it's an amazing island.

A bit warm in this country.