



Acceptable Risk

Press Pack



PAST THAT HAUNTS Secrets of new Irish thriller *Acceptable Risk* revealed before RTE debut – what is it about, who stars in it, what spoilers do we know so far and when does it start?

Sarah Manning discovers she knows nothing of her murdered husband Lee's past and the investigation that follows leaves her with more questions than answers

SPOILER

By Claire Healy

20th September 2017, 4:10 pm

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RTE will debut new Irish drama on Sunday night as contemporary thriller *Acceptable Risk* lands on our screens.

RTE will debut new Irish drama on Sunday night as contemporary thriller *Acceptable Risk* lands on our screens.

The Irish/Canadian co-production kicks off on Sunday night, just days after the national broadcaster brought new Brendan Gleeson series *Mr Mercedes* to the channel.



Acceptable Risk kicks off on RTE One this weekend



And Sarah Manning is about to discover she really didn't know a thing about her husband's past

What's *Acceptable Risk* all about?

Set in the high stakes of Big Pharma, Lee Manning is found dead in Montreal – and his wife Sarah's world is thrown into a tailspin in this new psychological thriller.

The investigation that follows leaves her with more questions than answers, as she realises she knows nothing about her murdered hubby's past as her own life comes under increasing surveillance.

Sarah – who was a solicitor in a large pharmaceutical company – begins to question who he really was, and what he did in his work for a powerful global organisation. Plus how did the salesman come to need to carry a gun?

But will her own life be put in danger by what she uncovers?

The dramatic trailer reveals the moment Sarah discovers her husband has been carrying a gun.

And Sarah says of her husband: "It's like I married someone who wasn't there, he was the invisible man."

And RTE have hinted at a quote from the mysterious Lee: "I promise. I wouldn't wreck what you have."

Who stars in Acceptable Risk?

Heading up the cast is Wicklow star Elaine Cassidy, of Harpers Island and No Offence fame. Cassidy plays Sarah Manning.

Paul Popowich plays Sarah's husband Lee.



Risteward Cooper of Apres Match fame is among the cast of Acceptable Risk

Apres Match funnyman Risteward Cooper and Commitments star [Angeline Ball](#) are just two more of the Irish names on the castlist. Ball plays Detective Emer Byrne.

And Morten Suurballe, who played Detective Chief Inspector Lennart Brix in The Killing, also stars, along with Lisa Dwyer Hogg and Eddie Jackson.

What have the stars said about it and have they dropped any hints?

Angeline Ball revealed her role as Detective Emer Byrne was her hardest yet – but revealed the show is "gripping and intriguing".



Angeline Ball is back on RTE after a recent stint in Redwater

She told TV Now: "Emer is a very good policewoman – the puzzle is not quite fitting together the way she wants it to and that's when the can of worms gets opened and the deeper she gets, she finds her own job is on the line.

"You're not just scratching the surface of the crime, the crime is the last bit of the puzzle but when you start digging deeper there is so much more to uncover."

And she revealed to the RTE Guide: "I tried to make her (her character Emer) as bland as possible in terms of her looks and her life, she really has nothing else going on other

than work and finding the truth.



Morten Suurballe plays Hans Werner Hoffman

"Her image is not at the forefront at all. She's there to do a job and she's very good at it. You don't see an emotional side to her at all.

"It was great to play but hard also because I'm so bubbly. I have to say I wanted to cry sometimes it was so tough."

And in an interview with *Those London Chicks* magazine Elaine Cassidy revealed: "It is a psychological thriller set in the high stakes of Big Pharma. I play Sarah, who was a solicitor for a big pharmaceutical company.

Detectives reckon there's more to Lee's death than meets the eye

"When her husband suddenly dies under suspicious circumstances she starts to search for answers and the truth. She finds herself walking further and further into a complex world of every shade of grey and her life becomes in danger."

Where was Acceptable Risk shot?

Filming for Acceptable Risk was split between Dublin and Montreal.



Just what will detectives discover about Lee Manning's past?

The drama comes from Irish writer Ron Hutchinson and is directed by Kenny Glenaan – but the producing team features a mix of Irish and Canadian names.

It was produced for RTÉ by Siobhán Bourke and Kathryn Lennon of Saffron Pictures along with James Mitchell of Soho Moon Pictures and Canadian producers are Stephen Greenberg, Jamie Greenberg and Anna-Sue Greenberg all of Facet4 Media.

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When does Acceptable Risk start on RTE and how many episodes will there be?

The six-part series kicks off on RTE One on Sunday September 24 at 9.30pm.

It premieres on Acorn TV in the US on Monday October 16.

<https://www.thesun.ie/tvandshowbiz/tv/1491783/secrets-of-new-irish-thriller-acceptable-risk-revealed-before-rte-debut-what-is-it-about-who-stars-in-it-what-spoilers-do-we-know-so-far-and-when-does-it-start/>

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Writing between the lines: Ron Hutchinson's new RTÉ series is one of his easier roles



Thursday, September 21, 2017

He was once stuck in the Outback with a belligerent Brando, but screenwriter Ron Hutchinson found working on RTÉ's new drama a much more enjoyable experience, writes **Ed Power**



Acceptable Risk begins on RTÉ One on Sunday, and stars Elaine Cassidy, Angeline Ball, Morten Suurballe, and Lisa Dwyer Hogg.

IN LATE 1995 Ron Hutchinson found himself marooned in remote northern Australia, staring at Marlon Brando dozing in a hammock. Hutchinson, an Irish-born screenwriter who had become one of Hollywood's most in demand "script doctors", had been flown into Queensland to help rescue a \$40m adaptation of HG Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

"It was a nightmare," recalls Hutchinson, 70, who this week returns to the screen with a new RTÉ thriller, *Acceptable Risk*. "I have a memoir of my 30 years in Hollywood coming out the end of next week. At the end are 40 pages on *Moreau*. It was the most bizarre experience."

Doctor Moreau would become a shorthand for catastrophe in Hollywood and assume near-iconic status as one of the great turkeys of our time. Original director Richard Stanley was sacked but, refusing to give up on his dream, lived in the wild and sneaked back onto the set. Even with veteran John Frankenheimer (The

one of the great turkeys of our time. Original director Richard Stanley was sacked but, refusing to give up on his dream, lived in the wild and sneaked back onto the set. Even with veteran John Frankenheimer (The French Connection) parachuted in as replacement, Brando's behaviour remained highly eccentric, even by his standards. The film's other star, Val Kilmer, threw hissy fits throughout and openly questioned the competence of his collaborators.

"It was the most bizarre experience," says Hutchinson. "You had a 350lb Brando. All he would do is sit on a hammock with a midget on his chest, refusing to say a word to anyone. They had flown me in at vast expense to do his lines for him. It is a movie about the making of monsters – in a way it turned everybody involved into a monster."

Hutchinson, who was born just outside Lisburn, Co Antrim, has lived the Hollywood dream in a very literal sense. He won an Emmy for the 2004 HBO remake of the Channel 4 drugs drama Traffic (in turn expanded into a movie by Steven Soderbergh). And he was one of the first A-list screenwriters to write for cable television – then regarded as a backwater.

"I used to work on The Equaliser [hit crime show starring Edward Woodward]. The guy who invented The Equaliser was told by Paramount that the character couldn't have a dark side. Nowadays you can't sell a show with a hero or a heroine unless they are flawed. They've got to be somebody who had a darkness that is probably deeper than the darkness of the villain they're chasing."

He joined HBO in the late '80s and was struck by the creative freedom he was allowed under the company's new chief executive, Bob Cooper. This was a decade before the network's double-punch of Oz and The Sopranos ushered in the era of "prestige television". Still it was clear that something revolutionary was under way. The contrast with Hollywood's way of doing business was stark.

"You drive onto those studio lots and you see all these park spaces with names stencilled in bright yellow. All of those people have to justify that they have a parking space. If they don't have a dozen bright ideas a day, why is anyone paying their salary? Those ideas may be to the detriment of the show, but they still have to stay them. They can't say, 'this is fabulous let's shoot it.'"

The balance of power between television and cinemas has, in the intervening decades, flipped. When he started, television is where you went when your movie career wasn't happening. The opposite is arguably now the case. Look how pleased Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon looked being feted at the Emmys. "There was a sense that you were a lost case if you wanted to work in TV. Now, who the hell would want to be a writer working only in movies – where you are dictated to by comic strips and by merchandising and marketing? You want to write long, complicated stories, make characters, put them in situations that test them – make the actor work harder. You want to be in television. You are writing the equivalent of a 700-page novel."



Ron Hutchinson, Irish screenwriter.

He brings the full weight of his experience to bear in *Acceptable Risk*, one of RTÉ's big new autumn dramas. Elaine Cassidy plays a wife and mother whose sales rep husband dies in murky circumstances.

"Pharmaceuticals is such an interesting industry to write about," says Hutchinson. "You can't bash it – when you are sick you want to reach for a pill. On the other hand, in order to make the stuff they have to take certain decisions that may not pass the smell test. It's a competitive business with huge amounts of money at stake – and a lot of sharks in the water."

Cassidy's character gradually discovers a dark side to a man she thought she knew. "She thinks her husband is this international sales guy who jets off every couple of weeks. Then he is dumped dead from a car in Montreal, while apparently on a routine medical conference trip. She begins to realise her entire life is unravelling. When you don't know anything about the person in bed with you, the person helping bringing up your kids, then you actually don't know anything about yourself."

He enjoyed working with RTÉ and was determined that *Acceptable Risk* sidestep cliché.

Hutchinson sees Dublin as a noir labyrinth rather than soft-focused tourist destination.

"We were all on the same page – there would be no shots of the Ha'Penny Bridge, no toothless fiddle

players. The Dublin I know is like the Vienna of *The Third Man*. All those back streets and railway arches... streets you don't want to be walking at two in the morning."

A lifetime in Hollywood has given Hutchinson a healthy scepticism about the industry – and an appreciation for its absurdities.

"Take your work seriously but not yourself – that was told to me by a guy named Brian Dennehy, a famous Irish-American actor. We both arrived in LA at the same time. Brian's job was playing the sheriff in *Rambo* part one. He had so much money he decides to buy a Stingray Corvette. He can't decide whether to get the black or white one. The guy on the lot jokingly says, 'what about both?' Which is what Brian does. Of course, neither of those cars could drive 50 miles without breaking down. Brian would say, 'LA money isn't real money... it's ridiculous and it's all going to come to a crashing stop. Let's just enjoy it while it lasts.'"



Acceptable Risk starts on RTÉ One on Sunday at 9.30pm. Ron Hutchinson's *Clinging to the Iceberg: Writing for a living on the stage and in Hollywood* is published next week.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/artsfilmtv/writing-between-the-lines-ron-hutchinsons-new-rte-series-is-one-of-his-easier-roles-459347.html>

Redwater axed as Kat and Alfie's Irish quest fails to grip viewers

Sean O'Grady - 21 September 2017 02:30 AM



Kat and Alfie, played by Jessie Wallace and Shane Ritchie



RTE drama Redwater will not return for a second series after being axed by the BBC.

The EastEnders spin-off followed soap favourites Kat and Alfie Moon, played by Jessie Wallace and Shane Ritchie, as they searched for Kat's estranged son in Ireland.

Despite EastEnders' enduring popularity with viewers, Redwater failed to hold fans' attention.

RTE confirmed there were "no current plans" for another series, but said it would continue to work with the BBC on a variety of projects.

"As the BBC has announced, there are no current plans for a second series of Redwater. RTE was a minority co-funder on the series, which was developed in-house by the BBC," said the national broadcaster.

"RTE is continuing to work with the BBC on a range of programming, from drama and comedy to documentaries and music.

"Young Offenders, a new six-part series, is one such example. It was recently shot in Cork and will be broadcast on RTE2 next year.

"RTE looks forward to bringing viewers more great new drama, with Acceptable Risk beginning on RTE One this Sunday and Striking Out in the new year."

Meanwhile, the BBC said the move came about in order to "increase the range of new original drama" on the channel.

Speaking on ITV chat show Lorraine, Wallace (45) was asked if there would be another series, and said: "I don't think there will be."

The cancellation will come as a blow to the actress, who left EastEnders for Redwater.

She first appeared on East-Enders from 2000 to 2005 before returning in 2010.

Bonded

"I miss Kat. I miss the scripts with the great one-liners. I do miss my friends there," she said.

"Of course I miss working with Shane. We bonded straight away when we met. I miss my friends at EastEnders."

When asked if Kat is still alive, the actress played coy and said: "I don't know."

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Redwater debuted on a high but struggled to retain viewers.

The first episode on RTE was watched by 495,000, but this had dropped to 447,000 by the second, with a more significant drop to 389,000 for the third.

However, RTE said at the time it was "very happy with how the show is performing".

Redwater saw a similar shedding of viewers in the UK, deb- uting with 4.9 million before dropping to 2.1 million.

Set in Co Waterford, the six-part series featured a cast of well-known Irish actors including Fionnula Flanagan, Angeline Ball, Peter Campion, Maria Doyle Kennedy and Ian McElhinney.

It drew a mixed reaction from viewers, with some praising the storyline while others felt the show presented a stereotypical portrayal of rural Ireland.

<http://www.herald.ie/news/redwater-axed-as-kat-and-alfies-irish-quest-fails-to-grip-viewers-36153451.html>

REVIEW: Acceptable Risk is a bright ball of confusion

Updated / Monday, 25 Sep 2017 07:53



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John Byrne reviews the opening episode of new RTÉ One drama *Acceptable Risk*, starring Elaine Cassidy and Angeline Ball.

Just looking at the cast list had me eagerly anticipating this new drama. I've been a big fan of Elaine Cassidy's since *Harper's Island* almost a decade ago, while *No Offence* is one of my favourite TV shows of the last ten years.

The often underrated Angeline Ball was back on the box for the first time in a while, while the inclusion of Danish actor Morten Suurballe (he was the boss copper in *The Killing*) added intrigue.

This bears all the hallmarks of RTÉ really going for it, on the back of recent successes such as *Love/Hate* and *Striking Out*. There's even an Emmy award-winner on board, in the shape of Canadian screenwriter Ron Hutchinson, who gained his gong with the miniseries *Traffic*.

Here, the story oscillates between Dublin and Montreal, as Lee Manning (Paul Popowich), a top executive for Gumbiner-Fischer, a multi-national pharma company, is shot dead and his body dumped while he's on a business trip to Canada.



Back in Ireland, his wife Sarah Manning (Elaine Cassidy) is devastated by the sudden and inexplicable death of her husband. But the horror show is only starting.

Detective Sergeant Emer Byrne (Angeline Ball), is the Garda who breaks the bad news and liaises with Montreal police, who get doubly curious when they uncover a gun in Lee's hotel bedroom. We all know the pharma business can get nasty, but guns?

For viewers, the mystery deepened earlier. Right at the start, as someone broke into Sarah and Lee's house just before Sarah arrived. The same guy is spotted by Sarah's sister when she's collecting her late brother-in-law's car. In his haste to get away, he drops something.

It turns out to be a pretty high spec GPS tracker, which gets the Gardaí into a spot of collective chin-scratching when CCTV reveals that our bearded bloke meets up with a woman with a car registered to the US Embassy in Dublin.



It all rolls along at a languorous pace, much like many of the Scandi dramas that have become hugely popular in recent years. No fun for the goldfish generation maybe, but it allows the plot to percolate, and the cast to show off their acting chops. Elaine Cassidy stands out, as ever.

Angeline Ball initially presents her detective Byrne as a bored mid-lifer, but as the intrigue grows you can see the lights going back on as her enthusiasm and curiosity grow. It's a nice turn.

We see little of Morten Suurballe in this opening episode – he plays Lee's boss – but the role should increase as there's clearly something funny going on here. Especially as Sarah used to work for the same firm, while her first husband – who drowned three years earlier in a canal after an apparent drunken stumble – was also employed there.

As the episode comes to a climax, Risteárd Cooper's character, who is head of security at the firm, ends up lying on the road after chasing the mysterious lady with the US Embassy car when she was caught snooping around Sarah's house.

I have no idea what's going on here, but am desperate to find out.

Job done, then.

Acceptable Risk continues on Sundays on RTÉ One.

<https://www.rte.ie/entertainment/2017/0924/906788-review-acceptable-risk-is-a-ball-of-confusion/>

Monday 25 September 2017

Entertainment Newsletter



Entertainment TV Review

Acceptable Risk review: 'RTE drama is strictly run-of-the-mill stuff - reasonably watchable but not grippingly so'

Three star rating



Pat Stacey

September 25 2017 7:39 AM



RTE's much-hyped new six-part drama, *Acceptable Risk*, is a co-production with Canadian company Facet4 and is filmed in Montreal and Dublin.

Such is its glossy, machine-tooled blandness, however, that it could be set in Montreal and London, Montreal and Berlin, Montreal and Paris, or indeed in any two modern cities anywhere in the western world with no appreciable difference in tone, style or content.

Written by the seasoned Ron Hutchinson, whose long list of credits includes highs such as HBO's *The Tuskegee Airmen* (1995) and lows like the disastrous 1996 film of *The Island of Dr Moreau* – though the blame for that turkey rested squarely with its eccentric and self-indulgent star Marlon Brando's destructive behaviour – it's a one-size-fits-all conspiracy thriller aimed very much at the broad international market.

There's nothing wrong with that. Irish TV drama could always do with being a bit more outward-looking anyway, while co-productions, which provide a vital injection of lifeblood for comparatively small broadcasters like RTE, are the way forward.



The problem with *Acceptable Risk* is that it's strictly run-of-the-mill stuff: reasonably watchable but not grippingly so.

There's nothing much to make it stand out from a crowded field of murder mysteries and conspiracy thrillers set in the murky world of corporate skulduggery.

Hutchinson's script, at least in last night's opener, is efficient rather than compelling, while director Kenny Glenaan, who helmed RTE's risible Charlie Haughey biopic in 2015, gives the whole thing a slick but soulless sheen.

Sarah Manning (Elaine Cassidy) is distraught when her Canadian husband Lee (Paul Popowich), a high-flying executive with Dublin-based global pharma giant Gumbiner-Fischer, is shot in the back of the head and dumped on the street while on a business trip to Montreal.



To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, to lose one husband may be regarded as unfortunate; to lose two looks like dirty tricks. Sarah's first hubby, and the father of her two children, seemingly drowned after falling into a canal while drunk. As it happens, he also worked for Gumbiner-Fischer.

Come to that, Sarah herself used to work for the company and has just turned down the chance to return to her job when world-weary cop Det Sgt Emer Byrne (Angeline Ball) turns up at the door of her swanky home (which, I read somewhere the other day, is Def Leppard guitarist Rick Savage's Wicklow pad) to break the bad news from Montreal.



Things take a decidedly sinister turn when the Montreal cops discover a handgun made from polycarbonate, which would be undetectable to airport scanners, in Lee's hotel room. What was a glorified salesman doing packing a piece?

Meanwhile, some bloke with a man-bun, who DS Byrne later recognises as a lowly handbag-snatcher, breaks into Sarah's house. When Sarah's sister (Lisa Dwyer Hogg) goes to the airport to pick up Lee's car, she catches Man-Bun Guy rooting around the underbody. He was obviously looking for the sophisticated tracking device someone had put there.

But who? Could it be Hans Werner Hoffman (Morten Suurballe from *The Killing*), the suave but slightly sinister head of Gumbiner-Fischer, or perhaps his head of security Barry Lehane (Ristard Cooper), an ex-cop who spits out his lines as though he spends his entire leisure time reading hardboiled crime novels. And could Lee's murder be linked to the death of Sarah's first spouse?

The more she tries to dig into Dead Hubby No 2's past, the more she realises he doesn't appear to have a past to dig into. No old family photos. No...



“He’s the Invisible Man,” she tells her sister, confiding that she actually knows nothing about his life before they met, let alone what he got up to on his frequent business trips.

Given they’d been married for 18 months, you’d imagine she might have figured this out before he ended up on a Montreal street with a bullet hole in the back of his head.

Acceptable Risk is well-made in a highly polished, antiseptic kind of way, but so far its intrigues aren’t all that intriguing and the whiff of cliché hangs heavy.

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Herald

<http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/television/tv-reviews/acceptable-risk-review-rte-drama-is-strictly-runofthemill-stuff-reasonably-watchable-but-not-grippingly-so-36164753.html>



BY CONOR HENEGHAN

Set in Dublin and Montreal and with an Emmy-award winning writer behind it, the signs are promising for *Acceptable Risk*.

Watching what we want to watch, whenever we want to watch it, is something that television viewers have become accustomed to in the age of on-demand TV.

Game of Thrones showed us, however, that there's still an appeal for many in having to wait patiently for the next episode in a series to arrive and to allow suspense and anticipation to build like it used to in the days before Netflix.

With that in mind, a new six-part series begins on RTÉ One on Sunday night called *Acceptable Risk*, a contemporary thriller played out in Dublin and Montreal.



Clip via [RTÉ](#)

An original drama, it's written by Ron Hutchinson, who won an Emmy award way back in 1989 for a miniseries titled Murderers Among Us: The Simon Wiesenthal Story and was nominated for another in 2004 for his work on the drug trafficking miniseries, Traffic.

The series documents the fatal shooting of a much-loved and successful Irish husband and stepfather on a business trip to Montreal and the potential involvement of his wife, who Gardaí suspect is not as innocent as she seems.

Directed by Kenny Glennan, who worked on the RTÉ series, Charlie, Acceptable Risk stars Elaine Cassidy (No Offence), Angeline Ball (The Commitments), Morten Suurballe (The Vikings) and Lisa Dwyer Hogg (The Fall) and is a co-production for RTÉ and Canadian producer Facet4.

The first episode of six of Acceptable Risk airs on RTÉ One tonight at 9.30pm.

<https://www.joe.ie/movies-tv/tv-acceptable-risk-602056>