

Panalux Story:

Billy Tracey



PROJECT SUMMARY

Logistically-speaking, the new Channel 4 police drama “No Offence” was a challenge even for experienced gaffer Billy Tracey. Season one of the Manchester-based television show featured several scenes in and around busy city centres, including some particularly tricky ones in the vicinity of Piccadilly train station, prompting Billy to get creative with lighting. *“There are strict regulations with what you are able to do in the area of a railway, specifically around adjacent roads. Because we were spread across the station, we used four Panalux generators – which is a lot – to power the different locations.”*

In addition to multiple load carrying generators, lighting trucks, cherry pickers and nearly three kilometres of cable, customised practical lighting was needed to accommodate the wide array of locations, many shot at night.

Before filming ever started, Billy had his work cut out for him, carrying out pre-planning with local authorities, completing method statements, and electrical risk

assessments. Because the big shoots in and around the surrounding streets of the train station required significant lighting, he says that getting the OK from authorities wasn't simple. *“You can't just film around most railways, so planning was long and I had to recce several times with different local authorities to figure out how to do the job without disrupting transportation services.”*

In order to film chase scenes, Billy had to set up equipment around several Manchester city centre streets, many of which were close to or adjacent to the train station, railway lines and bus routes. *“Everything was handled extremely well by Panalux, which helped in making the night shoots run smoothly.”*

Filmed over 20 weeks around Greater Manchester, “No Offence” follows a band of tough but big-hearted policewomen and men as they attempt to keep their streets clean.

“Everyone knows things can change instantly on a job and Panalux are able to come up with the goods anytime at short notice. There aren't many companies that can do that.”



BILLY TRACEY Gaffer

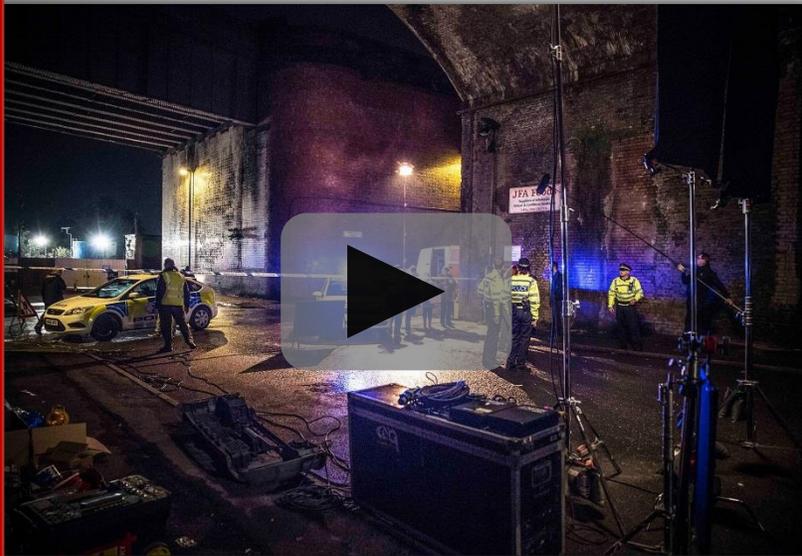
CHANNEL 4 POLICE DRAMA
“NO OFFENCE”

ITV Drama - "Foyles War"
BBC Drama - "From There to Here"
ITV Drama - "Leaving"
Feature Film - "Believe"
Film 4 - "Red Riding: In the Year of Our Lord 1974"

FIRST-CLASS SERVICE

Panalux Regional Director and Head of TV Drama John Lawton is known throughout the Manchester area and, indeed, the rest of the UK as a human Rolodex – assistance that Billy doesn't take for granted. *"I've known and worked with John for 20 years. He always knows what jobs are on, and, therefore, which person is best suited to which jobs."*

Billy cites a problem-solving attitude as a major reason he has continued to collaborate with Panalux. *"Whenever I'm on a job and need something, I'm on the phone to them and will have something within an hour. The service is all-around great, and I know for a fact that I always get the equipment that I want."*



"As a Gaffer, I need to make everyone happy - the DOP, the Directors, the Line Producers, everyone. John [Lawton] and Panalux work with me with budgets and equipment to make sure I have what I need and everyone is happy."

QUICK LOOK

- 123 lights used on location and in the studio, including five 18ks, 37 MSRs, Arri "M" range, Kino Flo Celeb kits and numerous LED lights
- More than 2,700 metres of cable used in addition to 250 metres of .1 3-Core cable

ABOUT PANALUX

Panalux offers the world of film, television and media production the very best in lighting rental equipment and associated facilities.

Created specifically to cater to the exacting needs of the global entertainment industry, the Panalux service is unrivalled in its ability to provide creative solutions to the full spectrum of production types, regardless of size or genre.

Over 30 years of continual innovation and experience in addition to the largest inventory of lighting equipment in the UK, supported by a team of highly skilled professionals set Panalux apart from the competition. Clients trust Panalux to deliver practical, effective lighting systems for projects throughout the world.

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