

# MEMORY IS UNRELIABLE

IN ANTICIPATION FOR THE LONG AWAITED RADIO DRAMA COMING THIS MONTH FROM BBC RADIO 4, **EXCIDERUNT**, WE CAUGHT UP WITH CO-WRITER AND STAR, **LOGAN MACLEOD**, TO TALK ABOUT THE MAKING OF.

Photography by Alvin Madtuli



“I FOUND THE PROCESS VERY FRUSTRATING...”

## EXCIDERUNT

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## BBC RADIO 4

**L**ogan, talk us through how the story came about and what was going through your mind. How did it start?

I'm a big film fan so I was watching a bunch of mystery thriller films, and the film *Memento* by Christopher Nolan sort of inspired me to create something like this. I loved the whole concept of non-linear narrative, the whole issue of short-term memory loss and what kind of storyline you can do with it. Then I watched more thriller films with a big twist in the end like M. Night Shyamalan's films *Unbreakable* and *The Sixth Sense* and it made me develop my story.

Where did the title "Exciderunt" come from? What does it mean?

"Exciderunt" means retribution in Latin. Well I think so anyway. (laughs) I don't really know how the title sort of came about. We were thinking of several complicated titles that had meaning and I guess *Exciderunt* were one of them. It was a working title and we just went along with it.

Can you tell us a brief storyline of *Exciderunt*?

It's set in the slums of Cockney, London and it revolves around a man who has short-term memory loss, and was charged for murder during a bank heist that occurred 10 years ago. 10 years later, he was released from prison and seeks revenge for the people that framed him. Then secrets start to unravel. I can't really give any more information about it.

So you're basically dealing with short-term memory loss and revenge?

Yeah, it's already been done before but the storyline itself is very different. I mean yes, it does have references from films like *Memento* and *The Lookout*, but the twists and turns in the story is very unusual. The references from all the films I watched are basically put together in this radio drama. And I like exploring the issues of short-term memory loss. It's something that has not been really explored in radio dramas.

Is it accurate?

We tried to make it as accurate as possible. I did some research with short-term memory loss so yeah I had some ideas about this issue.

How was the process of making this radio drama?

It was extremely stressful. I found it very frustrating in the process. There was just too much stuff to deal with, like making the script, the audition process and the editing process. There was just too much stress. But we got it the way we wanted in the end so we were happy with the result.

What was the most stressful experience you had making *Exciderunt*?

Probably making the script. When I had an idea of making such a convoluted story, others didn't really get it and they were confused. So we had to re-write so many parts of the script so that it makes sense. To be honest, I was sometimes confused with the story too. (laughs) It was hard to keep up with it. I was at that one point where "Okay, this doesn't make any sense!" But you know that's what I like about it. We had to make it challenging for the audience but in a way that it still makes sense in the end.

How well do you think the voice actors did?

They were amazing. I loved working with them. We improvised at most parts but they stick to the script and they delivered it really well. Working on that sort of environment really made it easier for me. So overall, I was happy in the end how it worked out.

Finally, what are we expecting in the future from you then?

Depending how well this radio drama will be, I will probably be making a series with this. I mean I had fun working with the script, so I could do something else and progress this story further. Who knows what might happen?