

LATE DATES

BY HETTY BAYNES

Palomino Productions Ltd in association with David Paradine Productions Ltd • Hetty Baynes • Wilfred Frost • Michael Rosenberg OBE • Rosamunde Hutt • Steve Tiller

LATE DATES



Returnable TV Drama series exploring love, romance and sex with the older generation. The tone is jaunty realism with dark edges – akin to *'Modern Love'*.

Our protagonist, artist **KATARINA FELLOWS**, is 65, looks 55, feels 45 – and still glowing with the stardust of her certain 'Je ne sais quoi'! **KAT** navigates her way on a bumpy ride to find love.

The 'Bad Date' changes each episode, until **KAT** has realised who 'The One' might be by the end of episode 6, (season 1). This ends in a romantic marriage ceremony on a beach in Spain... but to whom? We don't find out until the beginning of season 2.

KAT lives with **JACK (her Shih Tzu dog)** and her 49-year-old commitment phobic nephew **XAVIER**, who turns up for a few days and ends up staying for all of season 1, he's trapped in a cycle of only falling in love once the horse has bolted! **KYLIE**, Kat's best friend, frustrated by her bad luck with men that has left her childless at 47.

Set in Manchester, but could easily be relocated to any major UK city. Also transferable internationally.

THE DATES – SEASON 1

EPISODE 1: **THE SHMOOZER…** *(I LIKE A NICE CLEAN, TIDY HOUSE)*
TIMO, 65, handsome and charming South African retired CEO with a shady past.

EPISODE 2: **THE POP-UP BOYFRIEND…** *(I AM JUST A BRAIN ON A STICK. A MONK ON A BUNK)*
ZEB, 60's, an attractive American intellectual, who turns out to be a recluse and sexually/emotionally blocked.

EPISODE 3: **SHAG 'EM & SHOOT-UP HILL…** *(LEAVE YOUR 'MIND' AT THE DOOR AND JUST BE IN YOUR 'ANIMAL'!)*
CORRIN, late 50's, sexy punk artist and singer from the 80's, ex-heroin addict with a bit of an S&M habit.

EPISODE 4: **THE DOT-COM NON-MILLIONAIRE…** *(WHY DO OTHER PEOPLE MANAGE TO MAKE MILLIONS FROM THEIR INTERNET BUSINESSES… AND I DON'T?)*
ZANDOR, early 60's, handsome, dashing, Danish fantasist, who turns out to be a bit of a sociopath with violent tendencies.

EPISODE 5: **I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR DADDY ALL THESE YEARS…** *(OOPS!! AND IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES)*
MARTIN, mid 70's, semi-retired lawyer, probably the most suitable contender but is trapped in a toxic marriage. Kat's been having an on/off relationship with him for 10 years.

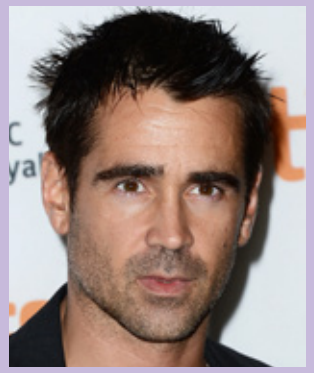
EPISODE 6: **THE STALLION'S RETURN…** *(WHEN A GOYL DON'T NEED DEM GUYS NO MORE, DEY COME A RUNNIN')*
DAMIAN, 60's, Stuck in Baggage Reclaim, charismatic, creative professional. He's stuck in a cycle of over responsibility to his exes and adult kids, unable to commit.
All the men come back to Kat offering commitment, the episode ends with her wedding, but we don't know which of the 'bad dates' has come good...



LATE DATES
CAST SUGGESTIONS



KATERINA



XAVIER

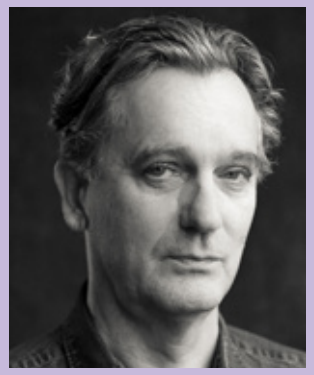


KYLIE



RAJ PATEL

THE DATES:



TIMO,
THE SHMOOZER



ZEB
POP-UP BOYFRIEND



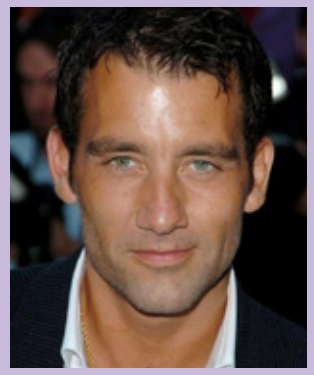
CORRIN
SHAG 'EM &
SHOOT-UP HILL



ZANDOR
DOT-COM
NON-MILLIONAIRE



MARTIN
LOOKING FOR DADDY
ALL THESE YEARS



DAMIAN
STUCK IN BAGGAGE
RECLAIM

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PLOTLINES SEASON 1

Episode 1

THE SHMOOZER…
(I LIKE A NICE CLEAN, TIDY HOUSE)

We are introduced to the world of Katarina Fellows. 65, looks 55, feels 45, living in a loft warehouse conversion in the canal district of Manchester. Present day.

We see the montage of her back story, which began in a middle-class home just outside Manchester and seemingly normal with a sister and loving parents… but when her father leaves for another woman in her early teenage, she suffers the life-threatening illness of Anorexia Nervosa and is sent to rehab at The Elliot. Her subsequent rise to university and a varied career as an actress, journalist, TV presenter and somewhat 'It Girl' of the 80's. A wild child lifestyle leads her to marry Rock star Peter Durkin. When this ends in divorce she finds herself at The Elliot in rehab once more, this time for substance abuse. However, she rises like a Phoenix to reinvent herself, this time as an artist.

Here we find her at 65, living alone with her Shih Tzu dog Jack, and risking herself on the dating website Over Fifty and Fabulous! Her nephew, Xavier, 49, attractive TV & Film editor, pitches up at her flat after another of his failed relationships. He only falls in love once the girlfriends leave him for his lack of commitment; this time is no different. We meet Kat's best friend Kylie, 47, as they share coffee and laughter bemoaning their misfortunes with men.

'The Man' of episode 1, Timo, a handsome retired CEO was brought up and worked in South Africa. We enter Timo's life and discover where the truth ends and the lies begin. He appears to be a somewhat charismatic yet slippery character, but we realise his life revolves around his mentally ill daughter Hannah, who is at The Elliot just like Kat was for Anorexia Nervosa. Kat gradually becomes involved with him once he reveals the truth about himself. Despite the fact that he is married, he now lets her in to his reality so there is room for something real to develop. However, the relationship is doomed for tragic reasons… Hannah dies.

Damian, 60's, – one of her 'Floaters' (men who come in and out of her life) – stylish, charismatic creative professional, makes a timely entrance at the end of the episode with just about the right amount of 'Cary Grant' panache…

Episode 2

THE POP-UP BOYFRIEND…
(I AM JUST A BRAIN ON A STICK. A MONK ON A BUNK)

We continue to dance through Kat's life, but in this episode, she has been entranced by Zeb, 60's, whom she meets at a party given by Ariadne, wife of Bon Deal, the rather loathsome retired commercials director, who Kat knew in her flashy back story, who we met in episode 1.

Her lovesick nephew, Xavier, now has temporary residency with Kat, and dances alongside his aunt's life with unequivocal charm and support.

Zeb is an attractive American intellectual, who turns out to be a recluse and sexually and emotionally blocked. He is a subterranean alcoholic, and we discover exists solely in his flat, hardly venturing out at all, except to shop for food and deliver his lectures. The flat has two sitting rooms and no bedroom, he recreated a one-bed into a no-bed, this should have been a warning red flag to Kat. He sleeps in a single bunk bed/sofa bed and admits he has no relationship with his body.

Sex is a bit of a hurdle for Zeb, and suggests calling 'the rape brigade' when Kat makes a move… and pushes her away after she makes a pass one morning, saying 'Don't be greedy'. After putting on a great show of being a 'Good Boyfriend' he bolts… "I can do the sprint, not the marathon". It turns out he has only declared Kat as a 'friend' to his son as he doesn't want his ex of 10 years ago to find out he has a girlfriend. Another red flag!

END-OF!!

Kat is left once again in a bit of a heap, struggling not to get the bottle out and ends up back at her AA meetings. Kylie proves to be a loving shoulder.

Damian turns up with his usual lack of commitment, but she can't resist his charm and their dynamic connection. He's still stuck in 'baggage reclaim', seemingly unable to let go of his battered suitcase.

PLOTLINES SEASON 1

Episode 3

SHAG 'EM & SHOOT-UP HILL…

(LEAVE YOUR 'MIND' AT THE DOOR AND JUST BE IN YOUR 'ANIMAL'!)

Our Bad Date love interest of this episode is Corrin, mid-late 50's, a sexy punk artist and singer from the 80's, who we discover can't really relate outside his rather limited viewpoint. Corrin had a trendy marriage to a celebrity's daughter, with whom he has a teenage son.
Ex-heroin addict, tricky customer, whom she meets on the Over Fifty and Fabulous! dating website, but realise they have, in fact, met socially some years before. She is hopeful, having both lived the Glam and Glitz lifestyle, plus both being artists... and there's a spark.

Corrin makes his moves by witty video chats and dates in a trendy/arty district of Manchester, where, as Kat shares to Xavier, you would have suspected he had called Boho Extras Casting beforehand. There was a 'arty-trendy friend' at every corner, including Brian, the tall thin Bitcoin trader and Eloise, his frightfully posh girlfriend, as they all congregate for fish and chips at Sam's. Corrin pretends to be working class but is in fact from a dysfunctional and privileged bohemian background. Warning bells ring when she is invited to his flat for dinner and he comes out with comments such as "Leave your mind at the door, just BE in 'your animal'" and when they reach the bedroom, "Look, do stay, I can tie you up and rape you, then in the morning we can have the 'Silent hour' well, in fact, 90 minutes, when you cannot speak". It is clear he is into S&M… something she is most definitely NOT!!! Xavier breathes a huge sigh of relief when Corrin bites the dust and Kat calls it a day.

In a characteristically sexy way Damien makes another enigmatic appearance at the end of the episode. We find out that he's stuck in a self-defeating carousel of two overly-dependent adult children; their mother Louise, and the more recent ex, 'Munchhausen-Mandy', a woman half his age whom he left the family for. Kat's protestations of his being stuck in his past do not go down well and he runs, saying he is not ready for a commitment…

The episode ends with Kat, Xavier and Kylie laughing together over dinner about Kat's narrow escape from Corrin.

Episode 4

THE DOT-COM NON-MILLIONAIRE…

(WHY DO OTHER PEOPLE MANAGE TO MAKE MILLIONS FROM THEIR INTERNET BUSINESSES… AND I DON'T?)

Kat returns to PING (the original dating site where she met Damien), swipes right and meets 'Our Man of the Episode' Zandor, Danish, who INITIALLY presents a rather dashing figure, handsome, early 60's, now living in Belgium. This POSSIBLY fascinating ex-spy, ex-photographer and ex-news correspondent sweeps in to woo her on video calls! First, he reveals all his health problems… this should have warned her of… but she can't resist his good looks and the attention!

"I'm coming to London and will be staying with friends. I am falling in love with you! Will you marry me?" Xavier is concerned for Kat because he sees obvious red flags, but to no avail, clearly our hero has displayed undying love during their 'zoom courtship' and has inspired Kat's rescue complex. It turns out that his stories of his exciting past are mostly fantasy, more Walter Mitty than John le Carré. He doesn't own anything and is homeless, and his 'friends' now have 'no room at the Inn'! "I'm an ENTREPRENEUR... Yes, I have feelings for you but can't commit until I feel better about myself, if I stay with you we can be together, otherwise, I have to return to Belgium". As timings would have it, Xavier gets a job editing in Spain and is away for a few weeks… so there is room at Kat's Inn!

At first there is passionate sexual chemistry, which is soon curtailed by his health issues. Zandor begins to show chronic mood swings, gaslighting and threats. He works all the time on his internet schemes, which don't produce any money at all, they're just fantasies... 'Get Rich Quick' that prove to be Get Poor Quick! As his frustrations rise, so does his temper. From Spain, Xavier becomes worried for Kat's safety and encourages her to go the police and investigate Zandor via Clare's Law. The policewoman she sees helps her navigate this, and so when he becomes violent she kicks him out.

Kat can't believe she fell for him but thinks he was less of a con-man, more of a fuck-up! This destabilises Kat more than she thought it would and succumbs to the bottle for a night. Kylie accompanies her to an AA meeting the following day, we discover that recovering from alcohol is part of their bond.

PLOTLINES SEASON 1

Episode 5

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR DADDY ALL THESE YEARS…
(OOPS!! AND IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES)

The episode begins with Kat on a 5-day group therapy retreat in old Malaga, Spain, linked to her AA meetings. Kat has the realisation that each of the men mirrors something of her own characteristics and dysfunction. She relates it back to the trauma of losing her father as a young teen and always on some level she's been looking for 'Daddy'. While Kat's away, Xavier returns and he and Kylie start seeing each other.

We learn about another 'Floater' that she has been having an on/off relationship with for ten years. Martin Levin, mid 70's, a handsome, married, semi-retired lawyer. He's been in a long marriage to social climbing snob Joan, and lives in a fabulous mansion in Cornwall; everything appears idyllic when in fact it's the opposite. The idea of him leaving his marriage, or opening his life to include Kat, is too terrifying for him. He loves Kat, would do anything for her, but his dependence on the structure of his world is welded like superglue to his sense of identity.

With the retreat over and Kat back in England, Martin is in hot pursuit, he takes the train up to Manchester to see her. They meet at a swish restaurant, we find out he is trapped in a self-sacrificing circle, but despite these challenges, he declares his love for Kat. We flashback a few years when his relationship with Kat was at it's height and first revealed to his family… Shit hit the fan… Rebecca, 40, the spoilt daughter, despite knowing her parents weren't happy, furious, threw all her toys out of her very expensive pram if Daddy was to leave the family unit.
We cut back to present day in the restaurant… then her flat and they are in bed.

The following day, when Kat is alone again with her dog Jack in her flat, listening to music and struggling not to have a drink, Damien texts with some flannel about why he hasn't been in touch. He has an uncanny knack of turning up just when she needs him, but this time she calls him out and gives him an ultimatum...
"ABC: A is friendship, B is fuckbuddies, C is a relationship… I don't do B anymore and I have enough friends!" Damien, taken aback, retreats into the night, saying how much she means to him but doesn't think he is ready to be a BOY FRIEND whilst still sorting himself out. Kat is alone once more, but stronger now.

Episode 6

THE STALLION'S RETURN…
(WHEN A GOYL DON'T NEED DEM GUYS NO MORE, DEY COME A RUNNIN')

Xavier suddenly finds Kylie less appealing as she has now fallen in love with him… say no more.
Martin has returned, declares his love and his real intention of leaving Joan. He proposes they live together.
Zandor has faced his reality, is well from his health issues is in therapy for anger management, making money from his internet businesses with his own place in hip area outside Manchester. He declares his feelings for her and wants a second chance.
Zeb is in AA, is eager to change, so wants to 'Pop' the relationship back up again…
Corrin gets in touch saying he's ready for real, has joined NA and S&M Addicts Anon, wants a chance 'At REAL'!!.
So what about Timo? The next day he texts Kat, she can't believe it!! She calls him and they meet for lunch…Sam and he have split up, they are co-parenting the other two girls and grandpa John is helping. He is having grief counselling and has started working again on a consultancy basis in business, lives in the Batch Pad where she came. He wants to have another chance with her too…

Who does Kat really love? More importantly does she love herself enough now! Kat goes to an AA meeting where she breaks down. She meets Raj Patel, a middle-class man of dual British/Indian heritage, in his 50's, brought up in London who can't find love since his divorce. We see that potentially he has the same affliction as Kat… looking for love in all the wrong places (Raj is the protagonist for season 2). Kat faces that her need to rescue the 'Dysfunctional Man', or capture the 'Unavailable Man', was about avoiding loving herself.
But what about Damien?! He returns with a declaration of love and commitment and gets down on one knee. Then we see all the men getting down on one knee in a mirrored fantasy sequence. Kat faints. She and Xavier have a heart to heart and both decide to commit to marriage.
We end the episode on a double wedding in Malaga, Old Town…
Xavier and Kylie, and Kat and WHO?? We only see his back, it could be any one of the 'Bad Dates'.

SEASONS 2-3

SEASON 2

Our male protagonist, **RAJ PATEL**, 50, Indian, raised in a middle class family, lives alone in West Manchester, recovering from a divorce with a bullying wife. He has a good relationship with Tanvi, his grown-up daughter from the marriage.

He becomes friends with **KAT** from the AA meetings in episode 6 of season 1, and she encourages him to join OVER FIFTY AND FABULOUS too. Each episode is similarly a different 'Bad Date' alongside his life as an IT consultant.

EPISODE 1: **SLINKY MALINKY…**
Jasmine, head-to-toe in black with piles of makeup, a recovering alcoholic.

EPISODE 2: **MEDITERRANEAN BEAUTY…**
Sofia, barrister, much older than she says, her profile description is 'Mediterranean Beauty' but omits to mention she's still married… more of a waning wall flower than a Dorothy Lamour.

EPISODE 3: **MOTHER HUBBARD…**
Raya, dual British/Indian heritage, maths professor, very intelligent, but can't be alone, ever. 10 children, 4 of her own and 6 adopted, needs to be needed all the time.

EPISODE 4: **SUBURBAN BUBBLE…**
Jane rocks up for first date, under the clock at Manchester Piccadilly, bursting out of her dress, somewhat drunk and all over the place.

EPISODE 5: **BOO TO YOU!…**
Tatiana, attractive, Russian, lives in the city centre with a son; she blows hot and cold, defensive, not really available and it turns out she's a man hater.

EPISODE 6: **THE ONE…**
Genevieve, troubled and entitled 50 something living in affluent area on the outskirts of Manchester. Raj falls... but it's not an easy ride. She has money and weighs everything like a cash machine; has an elderly mother she despises but uses for school fees for her son Robin, 11. Does he stay the course?

SEASON 3

We return to **KATARINA** and find out who she married and what has happened… More of a bumpy ride than she had hoped, every silver lining has a cloud... Combining of the two lives is more complicated than first imagined.

XAVIER and **KYLIE** are settling in to 'married bliss' whilst struggling with the decision whether to accept the offer of an egg donor after failed ivf... when an ex leaves a baby in a basket on the doorstep with a note saying 'Bonjour Papa'...

And as for **RAJ**, he moves in with **GENEVIEVE**, discovers she has a borderline personality disorder and an ongoing relationship with her psychotherapist. As her son **ROBIN** navigates teenage years, gender identity issues arise, not helped by 'Mommie Dearest'.

> "I enjoyed meeting our charming protagonist Kat in **LATE DATES. FRESH** and **DISTINCTIVE** – there's a **JOYFUL ORIGINALITY** in this project."
>
> Global entertainment executive behind premium TV series creation.

PRODUCTION TEAM

David Paradine Productions, founded by the late Sir David Frost, was in fact the first British Independent production company, now managed by his son **Wilfred Frost** and **Michael Rosenberg** – who are also producers on **'Hooked'**.



Wilfred Frost
Executive Producer



Hetty Baynes
Writer / Executive Producer



Rosamunde Hutt
Script Editor



Michael Rosenberg OBE
Executive Producer



Steve Tiller
Script Consultant