# Sheridan Smith captivates in Liverpool crime drama The Cage amid personal reflection



Sheridan Smith is back in the spotlight, demonstrating her remarkable versatility as an actress while filming her latest project, the highly anticipated drama *The Cage*. This five-part series, set against the backdrop of a Liverpool casino, sees Smith portray Leanne, who, alongside her co-star Michael Socha as Matty, finds herself embroiled in a life of crime that spirals dangerously out of control. The story, penned by BAFTA nominee Tony Schumacher, promises to blend dark humour with poignant moments, reflecting on love amidst chaos.

Recently, Smith was seen filming an emotionally charged scene that showcased her profound acting skills. Dressed in checked pyjamas and socks, she was caught sprinting down the street, desperately trying to stop a silver car. Her performance, replete with screams and tears, left onlookers and crew alike captivated by her authenticity. Once the director called cut, the actress quickly transitioned back to her upbeat self, chatting cheerfully with crew members and sharing a warm hug with director Al Mackay, highlighting her ability to shift between intense emotion and light-heartedness.

The portrayal of Leanne in *The Cage* adds another layer to Smith's already impressive repertoire. Her work in previous performances, such as *Four Lives*, where she portrayed a grieving mother, and *Mrs Biggs*, which also delved into personal loss, illustrates a pattern of drawing from her own life experiences. In those instances, Smith often found herself emotionally affected, frequently referencing the psychological toll these roles took on her—experiences that resonate deeply considering her history of mental health struggles.

The timing of this role seems particularly poignant given Smith's decision to shelve her long-awaited autobiography, *Honestly*, which was supposed to reveal her battles with mental health, alcohol struggles, and relationships. Sources close to her have indicated that she no longer feels compelled to share those aspects of her life in such an open forum, suggesting a shift in her personal outlook. Reflecting on her past, the actress has stated she feels grateful for her current life and hopes for "the best to come".

Despite her professional triumphs, shadows of her earlier challenges linger. In 2016, she faced a public breakdown during her West End role in *Funny Girl*, an experience that underscored the intense pressures faced by those in the spotlight. Smith has been candid about her journey to regain stability, frequently acknowledging the public's unwavering support during her most vulnerable moments.

Produced by Element Pictures and Fremantle, *The Cage* aims to captivate audiences not only with its crime narrative but also through its exploration of relationships under strain. As executive producers Christopher Aird and Hilary Martin describe, this series is rich in character-driven storytelling that promises to evoke a spectrum of emotions—from laughter to tears.

Upcoming scenes shot around Liverpool have kept fans intrigued as well, with the local setting contributing to the authenticity of the story. As Smith, Socha, and the rest of the cast delve into their characters’ morally complex world, viewers have much to anticipate.

In essence, Sheridan Smith continues to evolve as an actress, moving seamlessly between genres while personal experiences inform her profound performances. With *The Cage* positioning her to tackle new challenges, it reaffirms her status as one of the UK's most talented and relatable acting talents.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3
2. Paragraphs 1, 4
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 6
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 2

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14696119/Sheridan-Smith-breaks-screaming-sobbing-street-clad-pyjamas-delivers-emotionally-charged-performance-filming-new-drama-Cage.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.memorabletv.com/news/sheridan-smith-michael-socha-cage/> - Memorable TV reports that Sheridan Smith and Michael Socha star in the BBC crime drama 'The Cage,' created by Tony Schumacher. The series follows Leanne (Smith) and Matty (Socha), employees at a Liverpool casino who discover they are both stealing from their workplace, leading to dangerous consequences involving a local gangster and the police. The five-part series is directed by Al Mackay and filmed in and around Liverpool. ([memorabletv.com](https://www.memorabletv.com/news/sheridan-smith-michael-socha-cage/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-68605265> - BBC News discusses Sheridan Smith's role in the musical 'Opening Night,' where she portrays an actress facing mental health challenges before the first night of her new show. Smith draws on her own experiences, including a period in 2016 when she faced a public breakdown during a West End production. She reflects on her journey and the importance of therapy in her recovery. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-68605265?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.heart.co.uk/showbiz/tv-movies/pregnant-sheridan-smith-isolation-stories/> - Heart reports on Sheridan Smith's emotional performance in ITV's 'Isolation Stories,' where she portrays a heavily pregnant woman during the COVID-19 pandemic. The show was filmed inside her own home, with her fiancé Jamie Horn assisting in the production. Viewers praised Smith's portrayal, noting its emotional depth and authenticity. ([heart.co.uk](https://www.heart.co.uk/showbiz/tv-movies/pregnant-sheridan-smith-isolation-stories/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2022/01/03/four-lives-viewers-praise-sheridan-smiths-haunting-performance-15859118/> - Metro News highlights Sheridan Smith's acclaimed performance in the BBC One drama 'Four Lives,' where she plays Sarah Sak, the mother of one of the victims of the Grindr Killer. Viewers praised her portrayal as 'haunting,' with Smith revealing the emotional toll the role took on her, stating she was 'going home in bits, crying' during filming. ([metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk/2022/01/03/four-lives-viewers-praise-sheridan-smiths-haunting-performance-15859118/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/344027/Sheridan-Smith-I-broke-down-and-they-kept-the-cameras-rolling> - Express.co.uk reports on Sheridan Smith's emotional experience while filming 'Mrs Biggs,' where she portrays Charmian Biggs, the wife of train robber Ronnie Biggs. Smith found some of the scenes harrowing, particularly one where her character learns of her son's death, leading her to break down on set. She drew on personal experiences to deliver an authentic performance. ([express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/344027/Sheridan-Smith-I-broke-down-and-they-kept-the-cameras-rolling?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://thecinemaholic.com/sheridan-smith-the-cage/> - The Cinemaholic reports that Sheridan Smith is set to star in the BBC series 'The Cage,' with filming scheduled to begin in Liverpool in March 2025. The plot details are currently under wraps, but the series is directed by Al Mackay. Smith is known for her versatile acting, having gained prominence in sitcoms and received critical acclaim for her dramatic roles. ([thecinemaholic.com](https://thecinemaholic.com/sheridan-smith-the-cage/?utm_source=openai))