

Yorkshire making rally driver series

MICHAEL J. BIRD, creator of series such as *The Outsider* for Yorkshire and *The Lotus Eaters* and *Maelstrom* for the BBC, has devised a six-part drama series about rally-driving for Yorkshire. The series, called *The Winning Streak*, will be shown in one-hour slots on the ITV network, probably in the late autumn.

The *Winning Streak* is being produced and partly written by Michael Russell, former script editor of Yorkshire's *Emmerdale Farm*. The directors are Frank W. Smith and Richard Holthouse. Michael Glynn, producer of *The Outsider* and *The Glory Boys*, is executive producer. The other writer is Tim Vaughan.

The series is about a young man's ambition to become a champion rally-driver. His parents, Bernard Savage, played by Leslie Sands and his wife Frances, played by Dinah Sheridan, run a successful motor business called Savage Motors.

Benedick Blythe plays David Savage, the son, and Shaun Scott, who played Jack Fairchild in *Brass*, plays David's older brother Paul. This is Benedick Blythe's first major role for television.

Also in the cast are Shelagh McLeod, Laura Davenport, Jane Morant, Tony Melody and Michael Cashman.



Benedick Blythe as David Savage, a young man determined to become a champion rally driver, and Shelagh McLeod, as his girlfriend, in Yorkshire's new six-part drama series, *The Winning Streak*, devised by Michael J. Bird.

Currently in production at Yorkshire is a six-part drama serial about rally driving called *The Winning Streak*. It is for showing on the ITV network, probably this autumn in six one-hour slots.

The serial was devised by Michael J. Bird, creator of series such as *The Lotus Eaters* and the recently shown *Maelstrom*, and is being produced and partly written by Michael Russell, former scriptwriter of Yorkshire's *Emmerdale Farm*. The other scriptwriter is Tim Vaughan.

The directors are Frank W. Smith and Richard Holthouse, with Michael Glynn, producer of Yorkshire's *The Glory Boys*, as executive producer.

The story is about a young man's ambition to become a champion rally driver. It is also about conflicts within the Savage family, the wealthy owners of a garage business. Benedick Blythe plays the young man David Savage. It is his first major role for television.

Seen in the picture are some of the women in their lives – Laura Davenport (right), who plays David Savage's sister-in-law; Shelagh McLeod, (centre), a disc jockey and David's girlfriend, and Jane Morant, who plays the girlfriend of his chief rallying rival.

Also in the cast are Shaun Scott, Leslie Sands, Dinah Sheridan, Tony Melody and Michael Cashman.





The first episode of Yorkshire's six part drama series, *The Winning Streak*, starts in 10 days' time on Monday September 16 on the ITV network at 9.00pm. It is the story of a talented amateur rally driver determined to be a champion – however, competition and ambition are as rife off the race track as on.

The series, which was created by Michael J. Bird, is produced by Michael Russell and directed by Frank Smith and Richard Holthouse, with Michael Glynn as executive producer.

Seen above are, from the left, Shelagh McLeod, Benedick Blythe as rally driver David Savage, Jane Morant, and Michael Cashman