

A lot can happen in **Five Days**



DP Stephan Pehrsson has just completed shooting *Five Days*, a drama series which was strip-scheduled by the BBC across a whole week in the first quarter of this year. The drama concerns two seemingly unrelated incidents; a baby gets left in a toilet in a Yorkshire hospital and a person jumps in front of a train. A police officer (played by Suranne Jones) gradually realises that these two events are connected. As she follows the trail through people involved in the case such as social workers, hospital staff, police and passengers on the train, she discovers that there may be something bigger going on.

The drama was shot on location in Yorkshire using several locations including Wakefield, Dewsbury and Pontefract. Stephan Pehrsson says he was aiming for “a naturalistic approach, almost documentary, but with a glossy edge; everything had to feel as real as possible.”

Five Days was shot using two Kodak 16mm film stocks, a 250 daylight and a 500ASA (KODAK VISION3 250D 7207 and KODAK VISION3 500T 7219). Pehrsson explains why he and the director Toby Haynes chose these stocks, “We chose Kodak because of the lack of grain. It’s a much finer stock and you can push it a lot more. We wanted to capture as much detail as possible and it gave us just the right degree of realism that we were looking for. Let me give you an example: several scenes were shot on the 4th floor of a police station where I couldn’t light through the windows. So I lit the inside for a stop of T2.8-4 and left the outside to itself. With the 250 daylight stock, I was getting detail in the sky outside which on video would have disappeared a long time ago.”

“Film also has a nice flow,” Pehrsson continued, “I like the natural feel you get with film stock. I like to be able to work freely

“... a naturalistic approach, almost documentary, but with a glossy edge; everything had to feel as real as possible.”

and quickly and 16mm is a perfect option for this. The equivalent digital cameras to get the same sort of quality are all very cumbersome, quite heavy and bulky. They will never achieve the same freedom that 16mm gives you” he concluded.

Pehrsson has been shooting TV drama almost continuously since he graduated from the NFTS in 2003. He has worked on *Bad Girls*, *Hustle*, and most recently *Silent Witness*. At present he is shooting on the new series of *Dr Who* in Cardiff. His long-term ambition is to break into feature films.

Key Data at a glance

Director	Toby Haynes
Director of Photography	Stephan Pehrsson
Format	16mm
Film stock	KODAK VISION3 250D 7207 and KODAK VISION3 500T 7219

1 A scene from the BBC TV drama *Five Days* ©BBC.