

Series 1 - 1 x 2 hours, 3 x 90 minutes

Nothing but the Truth

James Kavanagh Q.C. is called upon to defend an alleged rapist in the first feature length episode of Kavanagh Q.C. Housewife Eve Kendall (Alison Steadman) accuses a young labourer (Ewan McGregor) working at her home of rape.

Heartland

Kavanagh is asked to prosecute an ex-cop turned vigilante, who is the driver of a car which hits a teenage tearaway and puts him in hospital. The mother of the boy refuses to believe it was an accident. Kavanagh is unconvinced that he can win the case but her emotional appeal wins him over.

A Family Affair

When a father takes the law into his own hands and snatches his young son, it leads to a custody battle and another case for Kavanagh. Allegations of child abuse and professional misjudgements create further complications.

The Sweetest Thing

Kavanagh takes on a difficult and unpopular case when he defends a prostitute accused of murdering a wealthy businessman who was also a client. Meanwhile he has to face the possibility of his wife taking on an equally demanding new job in Strasbourg.

Series 2 – 6 x 90 minutes

True Commitment

A young man is accused of murdering a 17 year old skin-head while on a demo that turns nasty. His girlfriend tells the police that she saw him do it and Kavanagh will have to dent her evidence if he is to help his young client.

Men of Substance

A lorry from Holland is found on a trading estate with a load of condemned meat and 15 kilos of heroin hidden inside the carcasses. The depot manager and his boss are arrested and deny all knowledge of the haul. Kavanagh takes on the prosecution case against them and, when his wife is threatened by their heavies, is determined to put them behind bars.

The Burning Deck

A naval court martial in Portsmouth brings Kavanagh and his long time friend and sometime adversary Eleanor Harker (Geraldine James) together, each defending clients on an arson charge. Meanwhile members of Kavanagh's family plan a celebration for his wedding anniversary.

A Sense of Loss

A young policewoman, Clare Kemble is murdered and the police are quick to arrest 18 year old Paul Warwick. Kavanagh and his junior, Julia Piper (Anna Chancellor) defend the teenager and soon discover that the case is not all it appears – why would Paul kill one of the few people who took a real interest in him?

A Stranger in the Family

A brilliant student sustains spinal and brain damage and Kavanagh is called on to represent him. However, defence counsel are out to show that the young student is not as disabled as he would have people believe.

Job Satisfaction

A brother and sister face a double murder charge when their half brother finds the bodies of his parents – and a shotgun – in their farmhouse. Kavanagh defends the sister but finds his own domestic preoccupations weighing heavily on his mind during the trial.

Series 3 – 6 x 90 minutes

Mute of Malice

Kavanagh takes on the defence of an ex-soldier who served with the United Nations forces in Bosnia and is now accused of murdering his brother. However Edgar steadfastly refuses to speak. Is he being unco-operative or has the trauma of his time in Bosnia rendered him mute?

Blood Money

A computer tycoon involved in a car accident dies after a supposedly successful operation. Kavanagh must find out what happened when he prosecutes on behalf of the widow. At home he and his wife face another crisis when their son fails his A levels.

Ancient History

How reliable is the human memory after 50 years? Kavanagh is forced to ask himself the question when he prosecutes an apparently blameless family doctor in an unprecedented war crimes trial. The court hears devastating testimony as victims of Nazi atrocities re-live their experiences, but it's left to a witness for the defence to reveal the final truth.

Diplomatic Baggage

Kavanagh discovers how dark the corridors of power can be when he defends the daughter of a British Ambassador (Michael Feast) on a charge of murdering an Austrian journalist.

The Ties that Bind

Kavanagh fights for justice on behalf of a young man brutally killed, in a rare private prosecution for murder. The odds, however, are against him, since there are powerful reasons for the truth to be kept hidden.

In God We Trust

Driven by a desire for justice and to help his former colleague Julia Piper, now married to an American lawyer, Kavanagh flies to the United States to assist with the appeal of a convicted murderer on Florida's death row.

Series 4 – 6 x 90 minutes

Memento Mori

Kavanagh is back at chambers after the death of his wife. He agrees to defend a mild mannered doctor, Dr Felix Crawley (Tom Courtenay) who has been accused of killing his wife although he claims that the drug he prescribed was to cure her manic depression.

Care in the Community

Kavanagh defends a young man who with his partner is accused of murdering their baby daughter in their run down, high rise building. Kavanagh's tactics have to change however when it becomes clear that the young couple are telling different stories.

Briefs Trooping Gaily

Kavanagh defends a young woman accused of killing her dentist husband who insists from the start that she is guilty because, after repeated violence from him, she finally could take no more.

Bearing Witness

Kavanagh represents a Jehovah's Witness mother when a hospital wants her young son to have a blood transfusion. The hospital wins its action but when the boy dies and his father brings an action for manslaughter against his estranged wife, Kavanagh is called as a witness.

Innocency of Life

Kavangh is asked to represent a vicar who has been accused of sexual harassment by a widowed parishioner but the woman withdraws her complaint and the case collapses. Later Kavanagh discovers that she has become engaged to the vicar and finds himself defending her against charges that she murdered her husband.

Dead Reckoning

Kavanagh travels to North Yorkshire to prosecute a local trawler owner (Kenneth Cranham) after a boat sinks with the loss of five young lives. He must counter the owner's defence that a Royal Navy submarine surfaced near the trawler and unbalanced her.

Series 5 – 4 x 90 minutes

Previous Convictions

Kavanagh is called on to defend an idealistic young woman, charged with murder, after an RAF plane crashes into a packed moto-cross event, from which Kavanagh's student son eventually emerges alive.

The More Loving One

Kavanagh is puzzled by the reluctance of his client – a young man charged with murdering his drug-addict girlfriend – to explain what happened when she died in an explosion at their flat.

Time of Need

Against his better judgement, Kavanagh represents a Home Office Minister who brings a case for malicious prosecution against the police after she is found not guilty of indecent assault on a young man.

Endgames

At an appeal, Kavanagh represents a man imprisoned for murder at an earlier trial, where he was negligently defended by an arrogantly pompous barrister whose junior was one James Kavanagh...

2 hour special

The End Of Law

The body of a beautiful young Hungarian computer science graduate is discovered and a middle aged business man denies her murder, although her body was found in his hotel room. When he is found guilty, an appeal is prepared and questions emerge about the dead woman - was she working as a prostitute or plying a more secretive trade? Guest starring Samantha Bond, Tim Pigott-Smith and Nicholas Le Provost.



Kavanagh QC

2 x 2 hours + 25 x 90 minutes

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Kavanagh QC

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Kavanagh QC is a powerful drama series starring John Thaw (*Inspector Morse*) as barrister James Kavanagh QC, one of the most highly respected criminal advocates in London.

From a northern working-class background, James Kavanagh has climbed to the top of an elite profession through hard work and a love of the law. He has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and opponents alike, as well as a lifestyle to accompany his high salary, but his dedication to work, the long hours and difficult cases, have taken their toll on life at home with his wife and two teenage children.

Despite his success, Kavanagh does not always have an easy time in court or in chambers. His sympathy for minority causes, and his willingness to take on worthy cases for minimal reward, does not always go down well with his peers.

It is Kavanagh's rapier-like cross-examination technique which has been fundamental to his success in court. His ability to act for the prosecution in some cases and the defence in others is demonstrated as Kavanagh acts for a man accused of rape, a pornography star, a bitter family man, a vigilante and a prostitute accused of murder. Other cases include a doctor charged with murdering his wife, a vicar accused of sexual harassment, the death of a baby and the sinking of a trawler with the loss of five young lives.

As the series develops Kavanagh must not only deal with challenging new cases at work but he and his teenage children also have to come to terms with the death of his wife and face the future without her.

Kavanagh QC goes beyond traditional courtroom dramas to uncover the pressures, both personal and professional, of legal battles and provides a compelling representation of the euphoric ups and costly downs of success and failure in the Law.

Also starring Oliver Ford Davies, Lisa Harrow, Geraldine James, Valerie Edmond, Anna Chancellor, Cliff Parisi and Nicholas Jones. Guest artists include: Alison Steadman, Tom Courtenay, Kenneth Cranham, Virginia McKenna, Michael Williams, Sheila Hancock and Corin Redgrave.

Writers include: Russell Lewis, Andy de la Tour, Malcolm Bradbury, Charles Wood and Stephen Churchett

"It's a pleasure to see all these classy actors, week after week." – The Times

"Another triumph for John Thaw." – Daily Mail

"What attracts me to Kavanagh is the excellence of the acting and the intelligence of the script." – Daily Express

"... a succession of explosive, resonant stories..." – The Guardian

Producer:

Chris Kelly

Directors:

Charles Beeson, Jack Gold, Peter Smith, Ferdinand Fairfax, Tristram Powell, Ken Grieve, David Thacker, Andrew Grieve, Colin Gregg, Renny Rye and Paul Greengrass

Executive Producer:

Ted Childs

Award:

Gold Award, Worldfest-Charleston

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