

Television

with
Pat
Stacey

The original of the species, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, as *Love/Hate*'s villain, the neurotic Nidge

Will Americans learn to love their own *Love/Hate*?



COMMENT: HOPED-FOR REMAKE OF THE GANGLAND DRAMA WILL FACE A TOUGH TURF WAR

LOVE/HATE has been off our screens for six months now and looks increasingly unlikely to return. RTE would, of course, love to have a sixth season of the most successful drama in its history.

So, presumably, would the hardcore fans who didn't seem to mind that the gangland saga, which was superb in its second and third seasons, lost its way completely in its fourth. Some of us also feel it never convincingly recovered in the run-up to the bloody finale of the fifth.

The series' creator and sole writer, Stuart Carolan, said last week he doesn't have the energy to do another one, which seems to be a way of saying "That's all, folks!" without actually coming out and saying it.

But the *Love/Hate* hype machine — a noisy contraption when it's at full throttle — has jerked into action again with the news that an American remake could genuinely be on the cards.

There have been murmurings about a remake for years; a lot of the time this seemed to be nothing more than shape-throwing by RTE drama honchos who, high on the series'

ratings success, simply couldn't stop talking — and talking and talking and talking — about how *Love/Hate* was the greatest thing since sliced white *Goodfellas* (that's the Martin Scorsese movie, by the way, not the brand of frozen pizza).

This time, though, the talk is justified. The great American, Dennis Lehane, who was in Dublin last week, revealed that he's currently working on a draft script for a pilot episode set in Oahu, a rundown area of Hawaii.

OBVIOUS

Lehane, who just happens to be one of my favourite novelists, is the obvious choice to retool *Love/Hate* for the US audience. His crime-fiction pedigree is impeccable. Three of his novels, *Mystic River*, *Shutter Island* and *Gone, Baby, Gone*, were turned into excellent movies, and he also wrote scripts for two great American crime series, *The Wire* and *Boardwalk Empire*.

It doesn't hurt, either, that he's the son of Irish emigrants, born and raised in Boston, where he still lives, and would perhaps have an understanding of the source material that some other American writers might lack.

But, without wishing to rain on anyone's parade here, let's park the bus for a moment and gain some perspective. If Lehane's fin-

ished script is filmed, it doesn't automatically mean we'll eventually see a full series of *Love/Hate* Hawaii-style.

Pilots are stand-alone episodes, designed to sell a series to a network. *Variety* estimates that of the 20 or more pilots each US network commissions every year, only three or four will make it to a full series. Lehane himself said last week: "Either we're going to be green-lit in the next two months, or it's not going to happen."

Some pilots don't get beyond being screened for network executives. Several years ago, a pilot for an updated series of *The Rockford Files* was filmed but deemed unfit for broadcast. Plans to revive the classic private-eye show were quietly scrapped.

In the fiercely competitive US TV world, a series being a runaway success in its own country counts for nothing. The American version of the BBC's *Life on Mars* went through two pilots and a change of cast and location (from New York to LA), yet the series still failed to connect with the US audience.

Other failed remakes of "foreign" series include *Cracker*, *Skins*, *The Inbetweeners*, *The Killing*, *Prime Suspect* and *The IT Crowd*.

I hope the *Love/Hate* remake clicks, and with Lehane in charge, it has a great chance. But let's not count our dead cats just yet.

YOUR NIGHT IN

Emotional Cindy breaks

EASTENDERS

RTE One, 7.30pm

DURING an emotional meeting with the social worker, Cindy admits she wants to be as far away from Beth as possible — and then presents Ian and Jane with an ultimatum. Paul plans a surprise birthday party for Pam, but his grandmother cannot help picking up on the tension between him and Les, and Lola feels awkward when Abi asks her for advice on seducing Ben.

Roots of Facebook

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

RTE Two, 9.30pm

(2010, Biopic) Fact-based drama following internet billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's rise to wealth and fame. An online prank played on an ex-girlfriend gives Harvard student Zuckerberg the idea for Facebook, which soon expands away from the famous university into a worldwide phenomenon. However, in getting his project off the ground, he makes enemies of those who helped him along the way. With Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield and Justin Timberlake.

ONE TO WATCH

EXILES

RTE 2, 9pm

REALITY TV show

set in Canada.

Dylan's girlfriend

flies in from

New York for the

weekend, and

Nicola is asked to

model for a

magazine shoot.

Stars Nicola

Hughes

(pictured),

Dylan

Townsend,

Dean Rossiter,

India Dawson,

George Hutton,

Jade Stone

and Sean

McConnon.



Surviving aircrashes

I SURVIVED A FATAL FLIGHT

TV3, 10pm

DOCUMENTARY in which three people who were the lone survivors of aircraft crashes discuss their ordeals, detailing the conflicting emotions they experienced after realising everyone else on board had died. D-Day veteran Phil Bradley was trapped in his seat for 36 hours after the plane he was travelling on crashed in Virginia in 1959, while Annette Herfkens drank rainwater to stay alive after a Vietnam Airlines jet crashed into a mountain in 1992. Juliane Koepcke, meanwhile, tells of being lost for 10 days in the Peruvian rainforest.

Exploring dementia

DEMENTIAVILLE

Channel 4, 9pm

NEW series. Documentary series exploring different aspects of dementia, beginning with a visit to care home Poppy Lodge, where a controversial approach is taken to help people with the condition relive their pasts. The staff help residents embrace memories that remain intact by recreating moments from their earlier years, including holding a day of 1940s-themed celebrations for a 91-year-old man that culminates in a trip in a vintage car.

PRIME CUT: The Game (BBC2, 9pm) - finale of the stylish spy drama