

Murder In And Out Of The Soaps

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 11, 2016



6
SHARES

The plots of the UK's leading soap operas are a wonder to behold; the tiny *Emmerdale* has more deaths per square metre than Damascus; *EastEnders* once saw two different murders the same night. Unbelievable as that is, what happens off-screen is often even more unbelievable.

In 2012, an actress who appeared in over thirty episodes of the soap was murdered by her brother. Gemma McCluskie was apparently stabbed to death by drug addict Tony McCluskie, who then dismembered her body and dumped it in the Regent's Canal. The torso was soon found, but her head took another six months to turn up. Tony McCluskie **was convicted** at the Central Criminal Court in January 2013 and given the mandatory life sentence.

Now history has repeated itself. Sian Blake appeared in over fifty episodes of the soap between 1996 and 1997. Her final **IMDb credit** was last year for a voice part in a video

game. She had not worked much in recent years, having been diagnosed with motor neurone disease.



Sian Blake played Frankie Pierre in the EastEnders soap between 1996 and 1997

On January 5, three bodies were found buried in the garden of her Erith home. On January 7, they **were confirmed** to belong to her and her two sons – 8 year old Zachary and 4 year old Amon. A detective said they wanted to trace Arthur Simpson-Kent, the father of both boys. Miss Blake went missing on December 13, and Simpson-Kent went missing a few days later, after being questioned by the police.

Sad though this is, it is not the most bizarre murder tale from *EastEnders*. At the age of 18, Leslie Grantham joined the British Army, and not yet twenty, murdered a taxi driver in Germany where he was posted. Returned to the UK to serve his sentence, he took up acting, was paroled after only ten years, and in 1985 he landed the part of the local pub landlord, which he played in total for **over three hundred episodes**. Having been murdered in February 1989, he came back from the dead in 2003, and was murdered again, in February 2005. This time there would be no resurrections because he was buried under his pub, and the body was later exhumed. Looks like *karma* comes around and around at times!



Sian Blake's sons Zachary Bilal Kent-Blake (8 years old, left) and Amon Ben George Kent-Blake (4 years old, right)

There will of course be no resurrections for Miss Blake and her sons either, but we can only hope her killer is brought to book soon. Whoever it is.

On Saturday night **it was reported** that Arthur Simpson-Kent had been arrested in Ghana. He is now expected to be extradited to the UK.

6
SHARES