

YORK ROAD

YORK ROAD

Way out →

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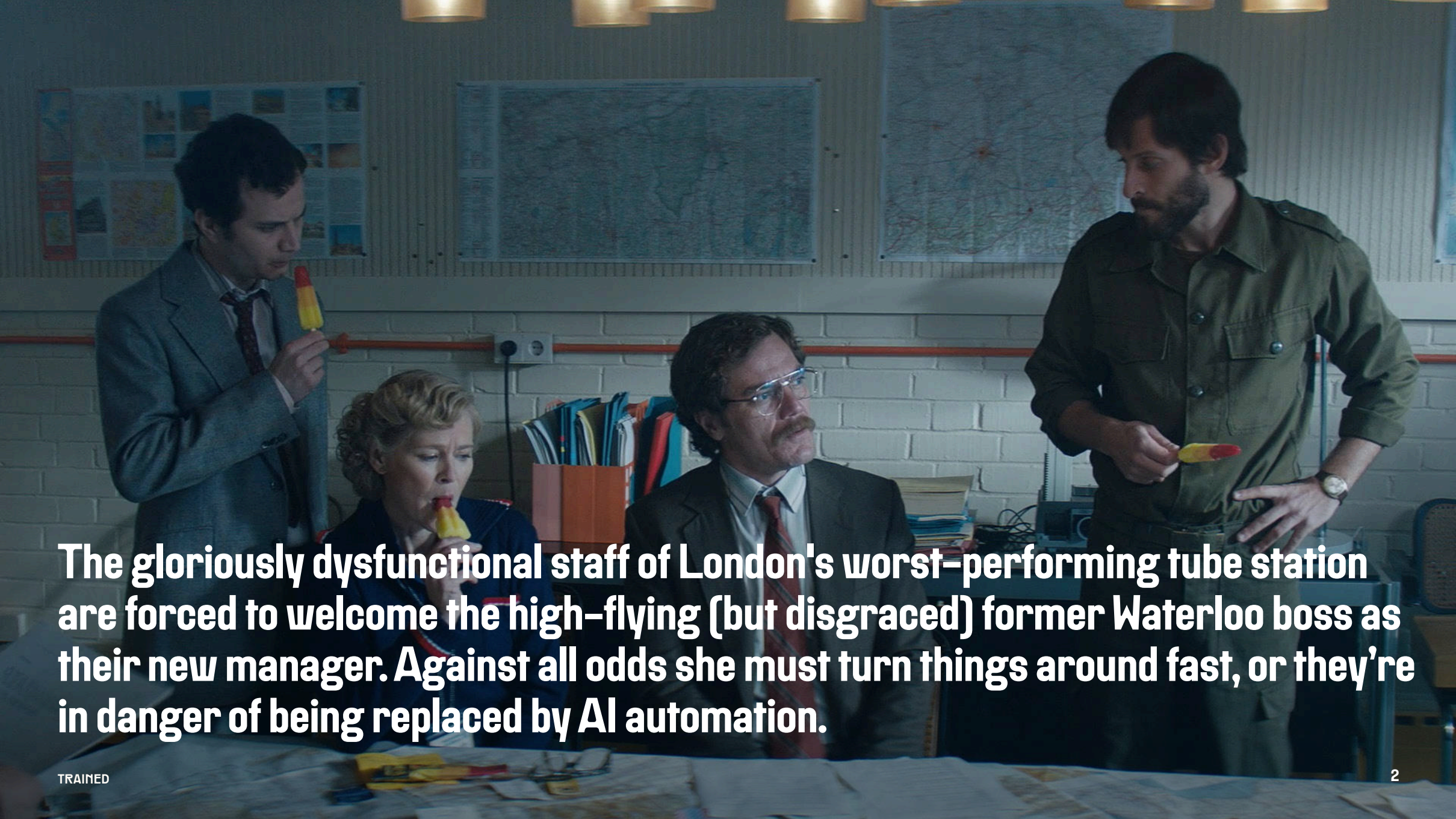
CREATED & WRITTEN BY **DAVID WILLIAM BRYAN** PRODUCED BY **JOSEPH GOLDMAN** DIRECTED BY **JAMIE TOUCHE**

TRAINED

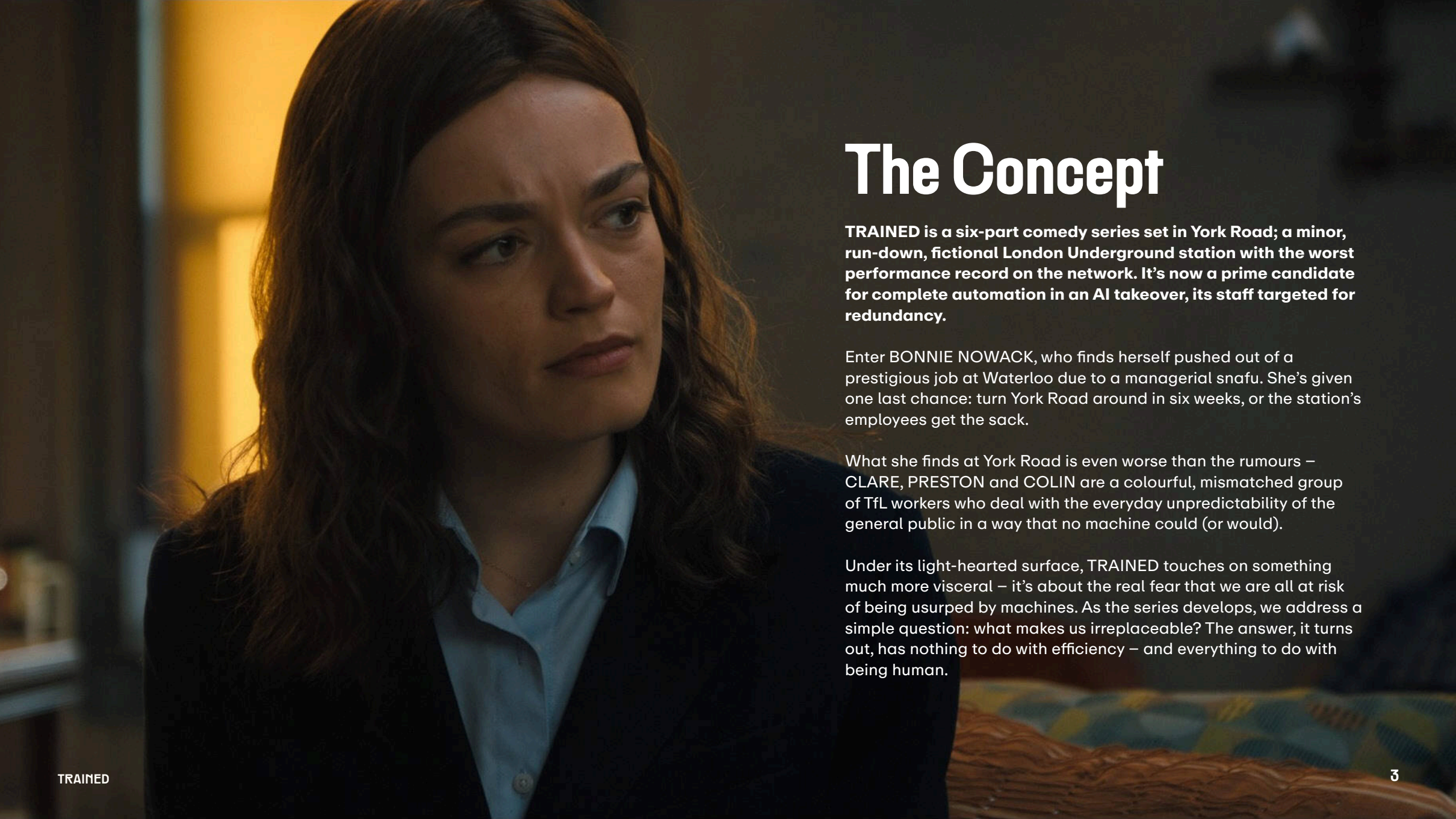
TV SERIES - 6 EPISODES



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The gloriously dysfunctional staff of London's worst-performing tube station are forced to welcome the high-flying (but disgraced) former Waterloo boss as their new manager. Against all odds she must turn things around fast, or they're in danger of being replaced by AI automation.



The Concept

TRAINED is a six-part comedy series set in York Road; a minor, run-down, fictional London Underground station with the worst performance record on the network. It's now a prime candidate for complete automation in an AI takeover, its staff targeted for redundancy.

Enter BONNIE NOWACK, who finds herself pushed out of a prestigious job at Waterloo due to a managerial snafu. She's given one last chance: turn York Road around in six weeks, or the station's employees get the sack.

What she finds at York Road is even worse than the rumours – CLARE, PRESTON and COLIN are a colourful, mismatched group of TfL workers who deal with the everyday unpredictability of the general public in a way that no machine could (or would).

Under its light-hearted surface, **TRAINED** touches on something much more visceral – it's about the real fear that we are all at risk of being usurped by machines. As the series develops, we address a simple question: what makes us irreplaceable? The answer, it turns out, has nothing to do with efficiency – and everything to do with being human.



Working With TfL

TRAINED is, above all, a celebration of the people who keep London moving.

While our York Road tube station is fictional, the world around it is inspired by one of Britain's greatest and most famous institutions. We want the series to reflect the warmth, humour and humanity that exists across the Underground every day.

Our ambition is to work alongside TfL throughout development, drawing on real insight into the challenges, triumphs and unexpected moments that define life on the network.

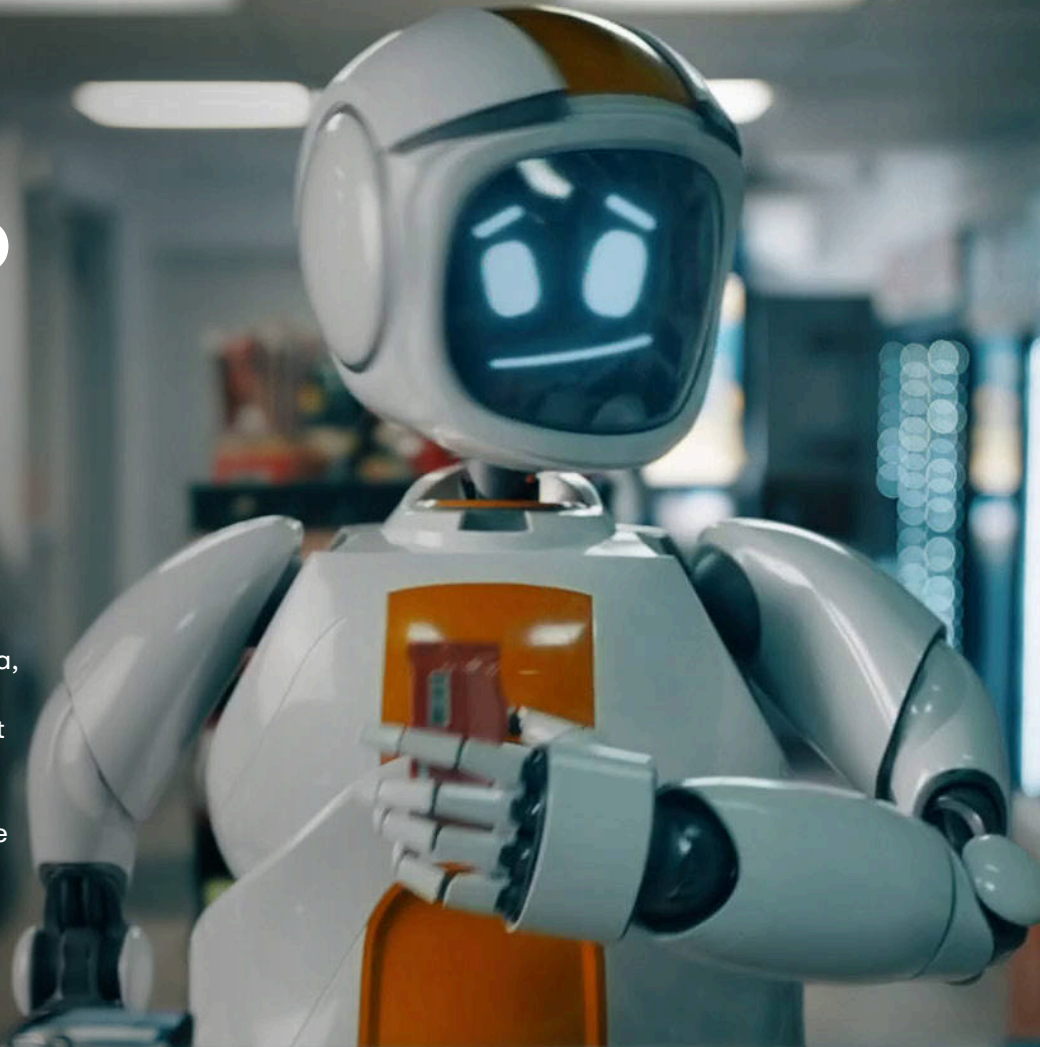
Together, we believe we can create a comedy that not only entertains audiences, but leaves them with a greater appreciation for the people behind the roundel.

Why Now?

The Most Urgent Story of Our Generation.

Will AI replace all ordinary jobs? Are we facing mass redundancies and unemployment like we saw during the closure of the coal mining industry in the 1980s?

TRAINED breathes life into this existential dilemma, offering a unique angle to the often cold analysis of the problem, by setting it in one of Britain's most iconic and idiosyncratic institutions – the London Underground. Resilience and easy chemistry between the staff is at the heart of this story, as we realise that their ability to handle the chaos of the station makes them invaluable.

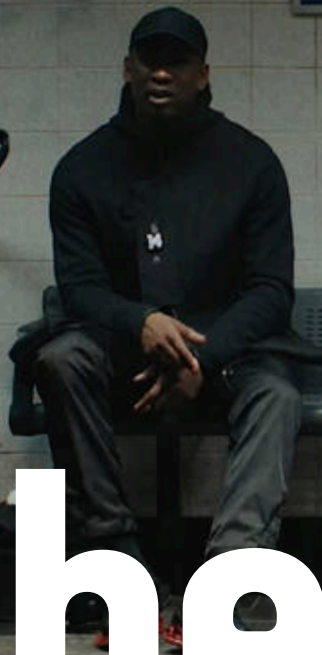


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The World

York Road Station

York Road is understaffed, underinvested, and – on paper – indefensible. It is, by every metric, a shambles: it's the laughing stock of the London Underground.

But, like many similar stations, it's alive with history and a depth of endearing character that commuters, tourists and locals love. Part nostalgia, part familiarity. Even the rats on the track are part of that. Every day, an extraordinary cross-section of humanity shares the same delays and struggles to decode the crackly PA announcements. It's a warm, if slightly filthy, hug.

The flow of customers also means that anything can happen at any moment at York Road... and it usually does.

Note: York Road is a real, historically disused station on the Piccadilly line. In the world of TRAINED, it has been reimagined as an active station – giving the show a genuine sense of place while allowing a higher degree of creative freedom.





The Characters

BONNIE NOWAK

30 | STATION MANAGER

Bonnie was the best station manager Waterloo had seen in years, and she had the awards to prove it. Sharp, driven, focused, personable – she is the best and everyone knows it. Mainly because she keeps reminding them.

Then came the incident. One moment of catastrophically bad luck has sent her to York Road, the last place on earth she wants to be. With a sick mother at home, an embarrassing number of cats, and a team who couldn't care less about her CV, the odds are stacked against her.

Bonnie can run a station with her eyes closed. She just never anticipated that everyone else would have theirs closed too.





CLARE CHIVERO

28 | ACTING MANAGER

Clare is the acting manager of York Road, doing a terrible job of running it – but she thinks she’s doing brilliantly.

The fact that she was the only person who applied for the position is, as far as she’s concerned, the reason she’s entitled to it. She wanted the job, she deserved the job, and instead they sent Bonnie, who didn’t even want the job! Yes, she’s bitter, and will freely admit it.

Clare is quick, funny, and fiercely loyal to the people she considers her own — which currently does not include Bonnie. Not afraid of exploring grey areas, she sees professional conduct as a sliding scale, and is always holding the ruler.

Underneath the bravado is someone who genuinely cares about York Road more than she lets on. It’s her station. Over the course of Series 1, Clare’s real journey is learning that caring about something means being accountable for it.



PRESTON TORRENCE

23 | STATION OPERATIVE

Preston is one of the most formidable Call of Duty players on the planet. Known to his devoted online following as 'El Toro', he's a legend in the virtual world, capable of winning every single 1v1 against his adversaries.

Sadly for Preston, deleting noobs doesn't pay the bills, even though he has a loyal fanbase and godlike status to go with it. Hence York Road. At work, he operates at the bare minimum level of effort. He is unflappable and almost impossible to offend. He is also, somehow, impossible not to like.

Preston has never quite learned how to exist in the real world, since he's been chronically online most of his life — even looking people in the eye is alien to him.

Over Series 1, Preston's journey is one of the most unexpected and touching of the Ensemble. York Road slowly, reluctantly, pulls him into the messy, unscripted, un-respawnable world of real human relationships.



COLIN O'DONNELLY

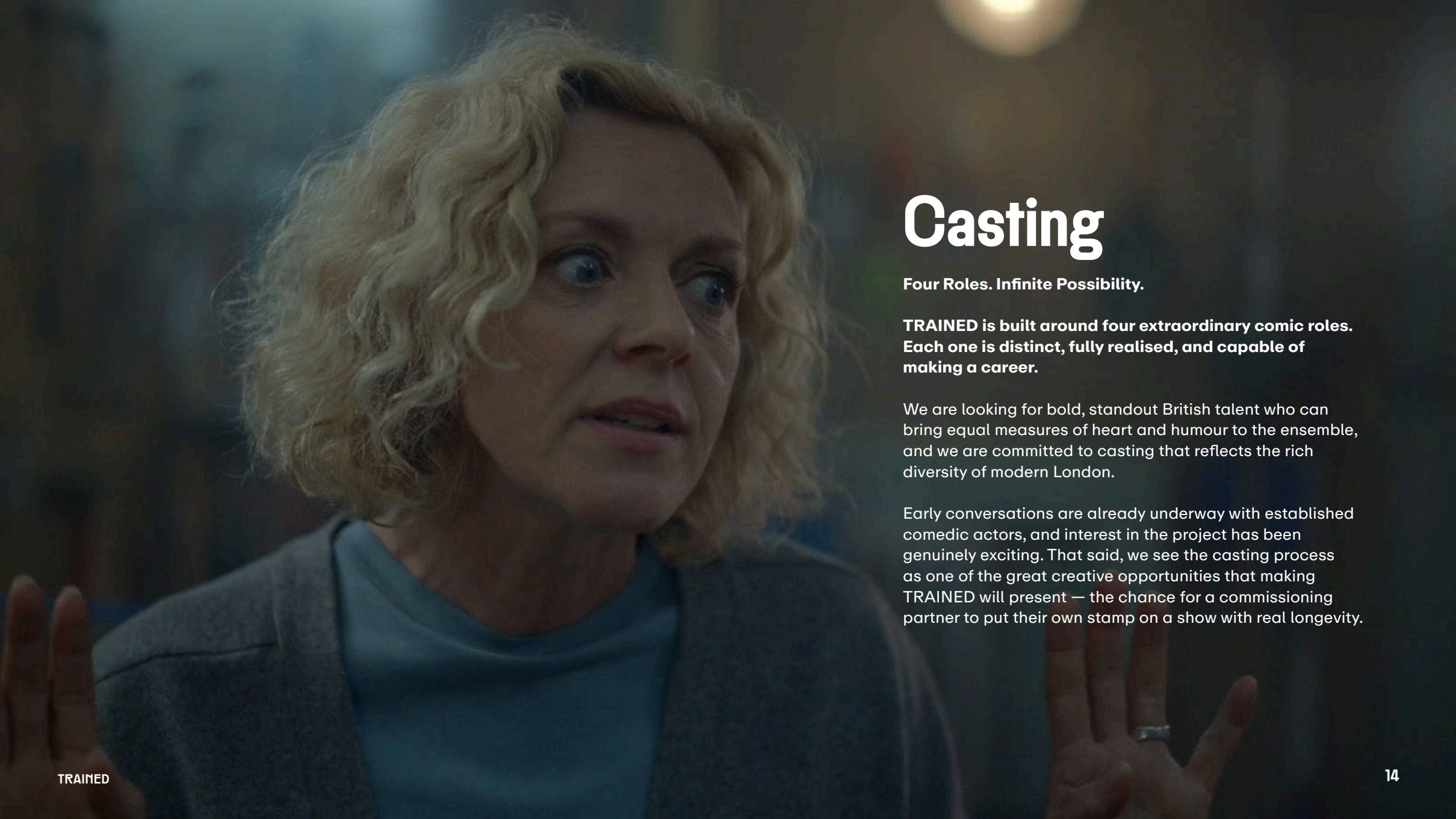
55 | STATION OPERATIVE

Colin is the heart of York Road. Warm, patient, wise about life (but naive about the world), and almost certainly the only person in the station who genuinely loves his job. Colin just cracks on while everyone else grumbles — and he's also one of those people who tends to fall upwards in the end.

He's just received confirmation of his divorce. After decades of marriage, he is single for the first time in his adult life and has absolutely no idea what to do about it. While Colin is a man who makes a brew, takes a deep breath, and carries on, he's lonelier and more frightened by the future than he lets on.

What comes next, it turns out, is a chance encounter at a jammed lift door – involving a dress, a considerable amount of lubricant, and Colin's complete and total lack of self-awareness – sparking something completely unexpected.

Colin's arc across Series 1 is a second chance at love, told with all the awkwardness, tenderness, and hope that comes with starting again at 55.



Casting

Four Roles. Infinite Possibility.

TRAINED is built around four extraordinary comic roles. Each one is distinct, fully realised, and capable of making a career.

We are looking for bold, standout British talent who can bring equal measures of heart and humour to the ensemble, and we are committed to casting that reflects the rich diversity of modern London.

Early conversations are already underway with established comedic actors, and interest in the project has been genuinely exciting. That said, we see the casting process as one of the great creative opportunities that making TRAINED will present — the chance for a commissioning partner to put their own stamp on a show with real longevity.



Series 1 Arc

SIX EPISODES. ONE TICKING CLOCK.

EPISODE 1 A FRESH START

BONNIE arrives as the new manager at York Road, but her shameful secret threatens to unravel her authority before she's even established it.

On arrival she meets her new team – CLARE, PRESTON and COLIN – and quickly discovers the station is in a far worse state than she could have ever imagined. Unbeknownst to the team, if BONNIE can't turn this useless place around in a few weeks, they're all getting the boot and will be replaced by AI automation.

EPISODE 2 MARATHON DAY

London Marathon day brings the station to breaking point.

BONNIE fights to keep the shameful reason for her transfer from Waterloo hidden, and PRESTON uses some inside info to blackmail her in an attempt to maintain a cushy existence – with those demands becoming increasingly ludicrous. Convinced BONNIE is hiding something big, CLARE makes it her personal mission to find out the truth. Pressure mounts as COLIN nervously prepares for his first date in thirty years (on the train platform of course). CLARE finally uncovers the uncertain future of York Road – TfL has set near impossible performance targets. Meet them, or the AI gets implemented.

EPISODE 3 THE RETURN OF RON

RON, the legendary former manager of York Road and best known for attempting to steal a train, makes an unexpected return.

He has been tasked with piloting a new AI powered robot in the station, and wastes no time attempting to woo BONNIE in the process. CLARE, unimpressed by the robot's presence, takes matters into her own hands, relentlessly sabotaging it. Depression sets in for PRESTON as he finds himself battling (and losing to) a mysterious new online rival. COLIN, meanwhile, discovers that winning HARRIET'S heart was the easy part. Winning over her adult children is another matter entirely.

EPISODE 4 GRAFFITI

As a wave of targeted graffiti plagues the station, BONNIE's mother arrives unannounced at York Road, adding more chaos to an already impossible shift.

As RON's presence in the station grows increasingly suspicious, the team begins to reveal the full story behind his notorious attempt to steal a train. PRESTON comes face to face with his online arch nemesis for the first time, and discovers that his greatest enemy might also be his first love. CLARE's hatred towards BONNIE takes an unexpected turn when she develops a crush she would really rather not have. COLIN's blossoming romance with HARRIET hits an unexpected obstacle when his ex-wife is revealed as the mystery graffiti artist.

EPISODE 5 THE MOLE

Everything in the station is falling apart and COMMISSIONER SIMPSON is on his way for a surprise inspection.

BONNIE battles to hold things together whilst dealing with devastating news about her mother's deteriorating health. CLARE and COLIN uncover evidence that RON has been working as a mole for COMMISSIONER SIMPSON all along, deliberately sabotaging the staff's chances of hitting their performance targets from the inside. CLARE is also doing her best to conceal and ignore an inconvenient crush on the very person she is supposed to hate. PRESTON, navigating the entirely uncharted territory of having a girlfriend for the first time, is finding the demands of a real relationship considerably harder than any online battle he has ever faced.

EPISODE 6 JUDGEMENT DAY

After finally pulling together, the York Road team does the unthinkable and hits its targets.

RON crashes the celebrations. PRESTON, overwhelmed by the realities of his first relationship, ends things with his girlfriend. COLIN, blindsided in the best possible way, receives a marriage proposal from HARRIET. As the night draws to a close, a tipsy BONNIE and CLARE share an unexpected moment, a spark neither of them saw coming. Whether either of them will remember it in the morning is another question entirely.

A hungover team arrives the next morning to find that AI implementation has begun overnight. The decision, it seems, had already been made. As the reality of what this means sinks in, the question is no longer whether they can save the station. It is whether they still have a place in it.

Series 2

– humans and AI must learn to coexist in the same station, and TRAINED asks its biggest question yet: does the rise of automation have to mean the fall of us? Or is there a version of the future where we figure it out together?





Mood Illustrations

(from selected scenes)



Preston's early morning announcement is shambolic as ever.



With the lift doors jammed (again), Colin swoops in to help the passenger in distress. Preston is too 'swamped' to lend any assistance. Little does Colin know, this passenger is Harriet, his unexpected second chance at love.



New manager Bonnie arrives to revamp the station. Clare isn't going to make it easy for her (after being passed over for the job). Preston has barely noticed the immediate rivalry, not to mention the missing passenger on the CCTV monitor.



Holding her first team meeting at York Road, Bonnie makes sure to list all her career achievements.

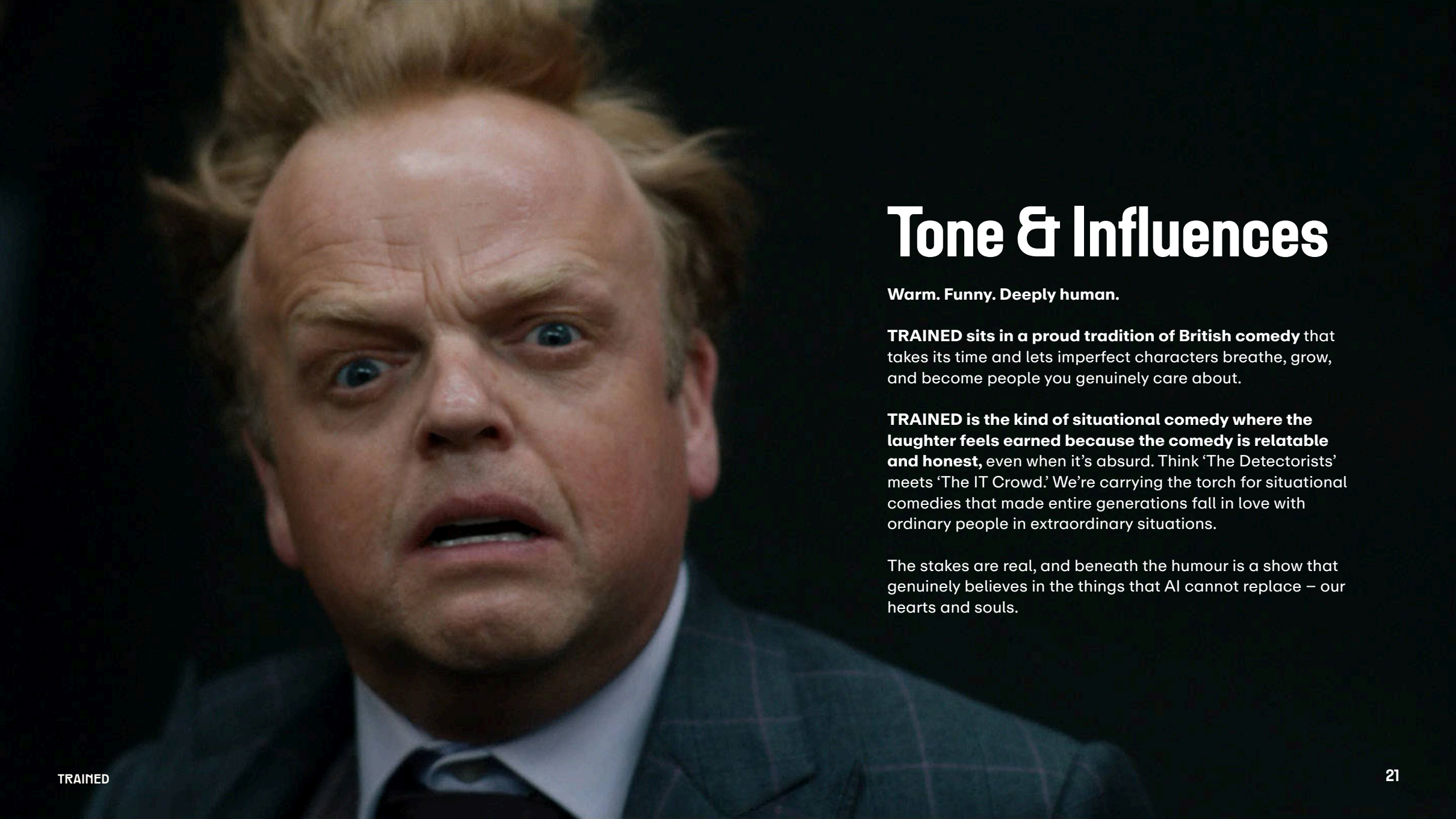


Bonnie begins the impossible task of revamping the worst station on the underground. But will she be able to hide her checkered past?



Bonnie jumps into action to find the missing passenger, dragging the rest of the team along with her.

[CLICK TO SEE ILLUSTRATION DECK ↗](#)



Tone & Influences

Warm. Funny. Deeply human.

TRAINED sits in a proud tradition of British comedy that takes its time and lets imperfect characters breathe, grow, and become people you genuinely care about.

TRAINED is the kind of situational comedy where the laughter feels earned because the comedy is relatable and honest, even when it's absurd. Think 'The Detectorists' meets 'The IT Crowd.' We're carrying the torch for situational comedies that made entire generations fall in love with ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

The stakes are real, and beneath the humour is a show that genuinely believes in the things that AI cannot replace – our hearts and souls.





The Team

THE CREATIVES BEHIND TRAINED

DAVID WILLIAM BRYAN
WRITER & CREATOR

JOSEPH GOLDMAN
PRODUCER

JAMIE TOUCHE
DIRECTOR

JAMES DEAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

WIMBLEDON

DAVID WILLIAM-BRYAN

David is a Writer and Actor, a multiyear Edinburgh Fringe sellout, and has toured internationally for over a decade with his one man show, for which he has received over 50 professional five star reviews.

He has spent years developing Trained, and it's finally ready to leave the station.

VAUXHALL

JOSEPH GOLDMAN

Joseph is an award-winning Producer working across feature film, narrative shorts, commercials and music videos.

He has been twice nominated as Best Producer, with credits for global artists and brands including Ariana Grande, Billie Eilish, Coldplay, Adidas and Jaguar.

PUTNEY BRIDGE

JAMIE TOUCHE

Jamie is an award winning Director and Cinematographer. His feature film Sunflower Child (2027) has picked up international sales and attention.

He has shot multiple RTS Award winning drama docs, and promises visual authorship, sensitivity and a comedic eye.

MAIDA VALE

JAMES DEAN

James is an accomplished Producer, who has worked on numerous high-profile primetime TV comedies and dramas with global appeal for over 25 years.

He has Produced and Directed some of the biggest factual/reality programmes in the UK and the US, with many becoming global formats: Come Dine with Me and many more.