

Interview: Mad Men's Jared Harris Talks About Sunday's Shocking Episode (Spoiler Alert!)



Luckily, we were able to get on the phone with Jared Harris, the actor who played Lane, to talk about his time as the British transplant in AMC's world of 1960's advertising, what it was like to film a scene as a hanging dead body with his co-stars, how he found out about his character's exit from the show.

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Here are some of our favorite bits of info that we learned from our conversation:

If you're anything like some of us diehard «Mad Men» fans here at the Glittarazzi office, then you're probably still recovering from Sunday's episode.

If you haven't seen it yet, we recommend you stop reading.

SPOILERS BEGIN NOW.

OK, are they gone? HOLY CRAP! Can you believe how that episode ended? Lane Pryce's suicide is the defining moment of the season!

We knew his embezzlement to pay off his massive tax debt would come back to bite him, but when Don found out, confronted, and then fired him -- we had no idea he'd take hanging himself in his office as a way out. What's worse is that [our bosses](#) didn't let us have the day off to deal with our shock!!

«It's a fictional character,» they said. «He isn't even a real person.»

Jared found out his character was getting killed off when Matt Weiner invited him up to his office after a cast reading of this season's tenth episode.

«Which I knew wasn't a good sign,» says Jared. «And then he offered me incredibly expensive brandy and I knew it wasn't going to go well. And then, he said 'there's something I need to talk to you about.' And I went 'uh-oh, this doesn't sound good.'»

The filming of the scene where the other partners of Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce discover Lane's body in his office wasn't very cheery.

«On the day we actually shot the hanging scene it was pretty grim,» Jared said. He then explained that he had to endure two hours of makeup for his «dead for a little while» look and was then hung from a harness while his cast members reacted to his appearance. «The hardest thing for me was I kept wanting to breaking into the Monty Python song 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' while

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I was balancing,» Jared jokes.

And the reason Lane chose to kill himself at the agency office after that darkly comic suicide attempt with the Jaguar that wouldn't start?

«It was vindictive,» Jared explains. « He was angry and it was an expression of his anger. It was a passive aggressive act. His choice of doing it there was a 'fuck you' to the office and to the people working there and particularly to Don.»

How has Jared held up this season, knowing just what was going to happen to his character?

«I've been lying for a long time,» he says. «It's tough. I couldn't tell my agent, I couldn't tell my manager. I didn't take part in the pilot season this year, because I know if I signed on to a new show people would know something had happened.»

So, will Jared miss being on everyone's favorite show?

«Of course, it was a great place to work,» admits Jared. «Since I just signed a three-year contract, I did not think that I wouldn't be on for season 6 and 7, but I am extremely happy I got to go out in a big and significant way.»

When asked if he thinks he'll be defined by his role of Lane Pryce, Jared doesn't think so. He's had some great roles over the years and there will probably more to come. He's playing Ulysses S. Grant in Spielberg's upcoming «Lincoln.»

«I make a deliberate attempt to be as different as I can be from role to role,» he says. «From a performance point of view, this has been another in a long line of great characters I've been able to play. That's what give me pleasure is when you look from one to another – it's the differences in the characters that you enjoy.»

Finally, what were some of Jared's favorite Lane Pryce moments? Of course, it was this season's first-fight with Pete Campbell.

«Oh ... and the Jaguar not starting,» Jared adds. «I laughed my arse off when [Matt] told me the Jaguar wasn't going to start. I just fell off the chair laughing. «

Thank you, Jared, for taking time out of your busy schedule to chat with Glittarazzi!

VIDEO: «Mad Men» - Season 5 Episode 5 - Lane Pryce Fights Peter Campbell

