



Michael Kitchen as Christopher Foyle.

'War' crimes

British detective tackles WWII cases

By MICHAEL GILTZ

THE British mystery series "Foyle's War" — which shows police investigating crimes during World War II — is enjoying its second season on U.S. television with a series of four two-hour movies. "Among the Few," the second of them, is a corker set in 1940 in which thieves filch precious fuel from the local depot and Foyle's son, Andrew, finds himself embroiled in a scandal in the RAF.

A smash hit in the UK, "Foyle's War" has a properly upstanding detective in Christopher Foyle (Michael Kitchen), but little else about the show is predictable.

"Setting a detective series in the second World War was like opening Pandora's Box," says creator Anthony Horowitz, whose wife, Jill Green, is one of the show's producers. "Everywhere we looked there's a great story."

Indeed, the show depicts the war's demoralizing effect on the British. We see citizens wailing during a bombing strike, attacks on stores owned by Italians and even English businessmen trying to arrange secret deals with the Third Reich.

"Everything we put into 'Foyle's War' is true, with the exception of the murders that [provide] the stories," says Horowitz, 49. "One of our frustrations is how little people realize that to be the case."

One of the most memorable aspects of the show are the characters themselves, from Foyle (named after a famed London bookshop) to his female driver, Sam (played by the wonderfully named Honey-suckle Weeks), and the wounded veteran Paul Milner (Anthony Howell), who has lost a leg and has been recruited by Foyle to help him solve crimes.

"Having a personal involvement gives Milner a passionate drive that neither Foyle nor Sam have," says Howell, 33. "He's fighting a war that he was part of."

And, of course, war seems like a distant threat compared to the byways of fictional England where, thanks to writers such as Agatha Christie and Horowitz, so many towns like the one in "Foyle's War" seem to have an inordinate amount of murders.

"New York is probably a much safer place to live," says Horowitz, with a laugh. "If you're going to live in [a place like] Oxford or Hastings, you're probably a goner."

FOYLE'S WAR
Sunday, 9 p.m., PBS