

ANCIENT LIGHTS

Shelagh Stephenson

TOM:

Thank you very much ... Thank you ... Hey, who says the British are tight-arsed? Am I allowed to say that on TV? Excuse me. My pleasure, totally, it's great to be here, Michael. I love England. I did a couple of years here as a student and I totally fell in love with just about everything. That whole experience has kind of resonated down my life, you know? I always knew I'd come back, it was just a matter of when ... I mean, like, to stay a long while ... maybe take a house ... Excuse me? ... I'm over to see some old college friends actually ... we were like the three musketeers, shared a house for two years, me and two women, knew each other inside out. Still do. It's good to get together occasionally ... I remember this thing from like twenty years back for some reason, I've never forgotten it. I was walking along a river bank in England this time, on a beautiful breezy summer's day, and there was an old house right there on the towpath, with chestnut trees and honeysuckle, and roses falling over the gate, and on the side of the house, high up, near the roof, was a wooden sign that said 'Ancient Lights'. And it struck me like a poem, like an echo of something long gone, kind of pagan and all tied in with this old, old river and this tumbling greenery, and it's just, I guess, kind of stayed with me, it's kind of reverberated inside of me all these years, you ... Excuse me? Sorry, sorry, I just got in from LA, so I'm a little tired, a little slow on the uptake. Have you tried melatonin? Some kind of mineral or vitamin or maybe it's an herb. I don't think it's chemical. Something to do with your pineal gland. It kind of takes the edge off jet lag. I'm double-dosing. Maybe I should triple-dose. There's some other thing where you shine a light at the back of your knee, d'you know if that works? But right, yeah, the weather ... well ... it's pretty scary after California, but I kind of like it. Real snow. I haven't seen snow for, like, ten years. I mean, I can't believe it. Real actual snow ... Well, what can I say? Big sky ... it did pretty good business in the States, so we're hoping, you know ... Right, I play Joe Washington, he's a paraplegic forensic guy whose marriage is in a mess and he's drinking too much and there are some really weird killings going on and you know he gets to thinking ... I don't know, basically I play a cripple in an Armani suit who gets to have sex with a lot of women.