

## Tekst 7

### Welcome to the mad, mad world of the psychiatrist

1 **I**t is pandemonium on Nicholson ward. Two doctors are rowing over whether Billy, a paranoid drug addict, should be released back into the community. An attempted suicide arrives in a state of severe depression. A disturbed young woman is raving in the background and two men who both believe they are Jesus are being kept apart for fear of sparking a religious war.

2 Welcome to Muirpark psychiatric hospital, the setting for a new Channel 4 drama which begins next month. Not a frame has yet appeared on television but the series is already making waves. Its title, *Psychos*, has deeply insulted mental health campaigners, particularly because the series was launched just as Mind, the mental health charity, begins a campaign against the use of derogatory terms for the mentally ill.

3 The programme-makers insist the title refers to the doctors rather than the patients and after a few minutes in the company of the charismatic, manic-depressive Dr Daniel Nash, the central character, played by Douglas Henshall, you can certainly see why.

4 *Psychos*, a prime-time six-parter being flagged up on posters throughout the land, follows a familiar pattern; eccentric, crusading doctor/police officer kicks against boss who doesn't understand what life is like out there on the front line. The hero also clashes with his posh, buttoned-up female junior (in this case Dr Kate Millar played by Neve McIntosh) who is bound, eventually, to fall for his flawed, fatal charm.

5 What gives *Psychos* its edge is



Screen doctors: Douglas Henshall and Neve McIntosh

the setting, and the insight it gives into the pressure-cooker atmosphere in which real-life psychiatrists and support staff are forced to work every day. The work is compelling but emotionally draining: one moment you might be dealing with someone in a deep depression after a marriage break-up or bereavement, the next with someone who believes aliens are sending messages through the television screen or has delusions about stabbing their children.

6 In recent years, though, what should be a fulfilling career has too often become a battleground, with psychiatrists held responsible for sometimes dangerous and deranged people without adequate back-up. Since 1960 hospital beds available for the mentally ill have fallen from 150,000 to 37,000 even though patient numbers have gone up. Some of the most urgent problems are being tackled as the gov-

ernment seeks to overhaul the mental health system, but wards are still coping with 120-140% occupancy and psychiatrists are leaving the profession in droves.

7 A recent report for the Royal College of Psychiatrists described a crisis in staffing; 10% of consultant psychiatrist posts are permanently vacant and hospitals struggle to find staff to fill even lowly jobs. Psychiatrists can become consultants in their early thirties, unheard of in other medical specialisms.

8 Nobody is daft enough to think a television drama will get medical students beating a path to psychiatry's door. But the community care debate has highlighted the problems in mental health care. *Psychos* gives us some understanding of how they come about.

**Margaret Driscoll**

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## ■ Tekst 7 Welcome to the mad, mad world of the psychiatrist

- 1p 31 ■ Which of the following becomes clear about the television series *Psychos* from paragraphs 1 and 2?
- A It is causing indignation even before the first episode has been broadcast.
  - B It makes fun of mentally handicapped people.
  - C It presents a false picture of the way psychiatrists work.
  - D It promotes a new approach to dealing with psychiatric patients.
- 1p 32 ■ How could paragraph 3 also start?
- A After all, the programme-makers...
  - B For example, the programme-makers...
  - C However, the programme-makers...
  - D Moreover, the programme-makers...
- 1p 33 ■ What is the main point made about *Psychos* in paragraph 4?
- A It basically represents a romantic love story.
  - B It involves a very expensive advertising campaign.
  - C Its formula is similar to that of other drama series.
  - D Its main characters are played by well-known TV actors.
- 1p 34 ■ What is the writer's main aim in paragraph 5?
- A To explain what makes *Psychos* special.
  - B To give examples of scenes from *Psychos*.
  - C To point out how difficult acting in *Psychos* is.
  - D To question whether *Psychos* is realistic.
- 1p 35 □ 'the insight it gives into the pressure-cooker atmosphere' (alinea 5, eerste zin)  
Welke andere alinea van het artikel illustreert het realistische beeld dat *Psychos* van de psychiatrische gezondheidszorg geeft?  
Schrijf het nummer van deze alinea op.
- 1p 36 ■ What is paragraph 6 mainly about?
- A The effectiveness of the way hospitals treat mental patients.
  - B The policies proposed to improve the mental health service.
  - C The pressures of working in the psychiatric profession.
  - D The violence psychiatrists are confronted with at work.
- 1p 37 □ 'In recent ... a battleground' (alinea 6, eerste zin)  
Wat is volgens het artikel het belangrijkste gevolg van deze situatie?
- 1p 38 ■ What will the effect of *Psychos* be according to the writer?
- A It may give the present treatment of psychiatric patients a bad name.
  - B It may stimulate young people to pursue a career in psychiatry.
  - C It will improve people's insight into the state that psychiatric care is in.
  - D It will increase public awareness of the causes of mental illnesses.