



The Standard the humour is razor sharp, both Oparah and Hasna are predictably excellent (find me two more vibrantly expressive faces in contemporary television)

Dead Hot review: Bilal Hasna and Vivian Oparah delight in zany comedy-thriller

It's a relatable friendship and one that feels incredibly grounded despite the goings on around them. Hasna and Oparah have a natural chemistry that has you rooting for the pair to make it out alive. Both bring a realness and authenticity to their roles and give the show a real heart.

attitude



Dead Hot comes pre-loaded with charisma. Its leads, Vivian Oparah from Rye Lane, and Bilal Hasna, last seen in the underrated Extraordinary, sparkle their way through their scenes

The Guardian
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Mashable the series boasts two immensely compelling leads to steer this chaotic ship: Rye Lane's Vivian Oparah and Extraordinary's Bilal Hasna.

They're surrounded by a talented support cast, including the criminally underused and downright hilarious Jaylin Ye and Brandon Fellows as Jess and Elliot's friends Karis and Charlie (honestly, every time Ye and Fellows are onscreen it's a good time), and Andro Cowperthwaite as Jess' perpetually unimpressed boss Raphael, none of whom get enough screen time until later episodes.

Downton Abbey's Penelope Wilton commands her role as Elliot's bigoted aristocrat grandmother Francine (saved as 🙄👎🙄 in his phone) who refuses to acknowledge he's gay, instead literally paying him to go on dates with women. Rosie Cavaliero is gloriously unfathomable as Elliot's spoiled horse-loving aunt Bonnie, Rebekah Murrell plays the mystery card well as enigmatic stranger Mary, and Peter Serafinowicz has a grand run as the crooked DCI Danny, spewing unscrupulousness and threats as casually as ordering a coffee. **Mashable**

the cast Coben and

her team have assembled here is top draw.

Hasna and Oparah do have great chemistry together, and prove themselves more than capable of fronting a show. Oparah has already proven this, not least with her BAFTA nominated turn in the film *Rye Lane*, but Hasna by no means feels out of his depth.

Then, there's the supporting cast, including the likes of Rosie Cavaliero, Peter Serafinowicz and Penelope Wilton, all three of whom dedicate themselves to the tone and the rhythm of the show entirely.

Wilton is a particular stand-out as Elliot's bigoted, controlling grandmother, delivering cutting one-liners and killer looks, clearly having a whole lot of fun in the role.



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With all the endless surprises and offbeat scenarios thrown our way, *Dead Hot* wouldn't work half as well without Hasna and Oparah's effortless chemistry. The other characters who populate this world aren't as well rounded, but that's a deliberate choice because it gives actors like Rosie Cavaliero (*Funny Woman*) and *Downton Abbey's* Penelope Wilton room to go completely unhinged in the best way possible.

A special shout-out to Marcus Hodson, most recently seen in the BBC's witchy drama *Domino Day*, who manages to make Will simultaneously the sweetest and most deranged potential boyfriend we've seen on screen in quite some time.

Charlotte has made queerness integral to the story here.

That's refreshing in any context, especially when the main queer relationships don't involve white people for a change, but it's even more special when you consider how rare it is to see gay love in anything outside of a tragedy or coming-of-age story. Queer people exist outside of these two spaces, it turns out, yet LGBTQ+ genre fare is still noticeably absent for the most part on screen.

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