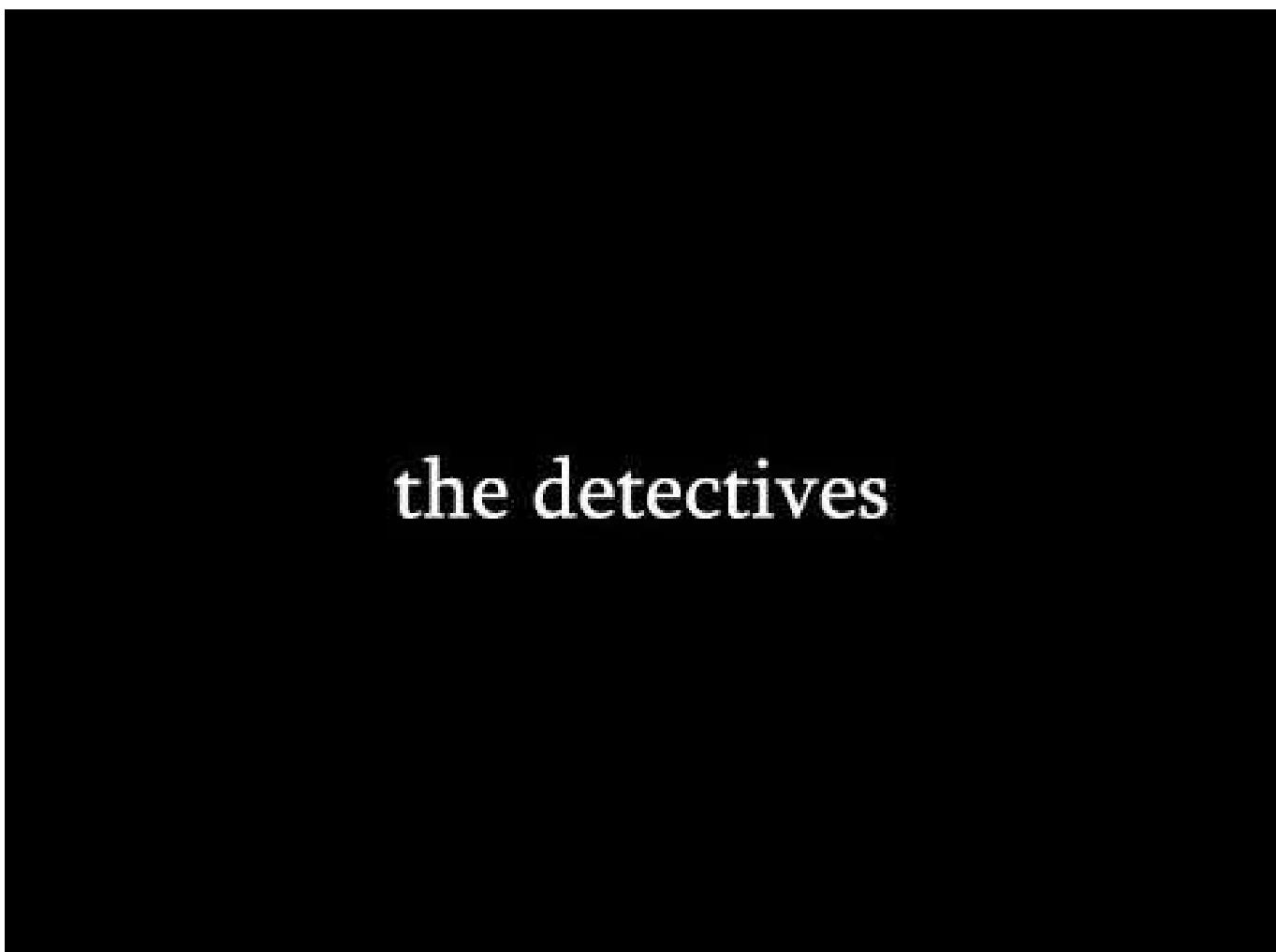


# Watching ‘The Detectives’



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NEWS

By Alexander Baron



the detectives

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SHARES

Recently, the BBC screened a [three part documentary](#) about the investigation into Ray Teret. The team followed the special sexual crimes unit of Greater Manchester Police which put together the case. As well as Teret, a number of other alleged rapes were investigated. This programme was as much a propaganda exercise as a documentary. In the third and final part, one detective said stranger rapes are rare, ie far less common than acquaintance rapes – they are most definitely not.

This episode also included a bizarre incident in which a young woman was apparently raped after leaving a night club. There was CCTV evidence, which one would imagine would make this an open and shut case, yet the man accused was acquitted. How can this be? Well, to begin with, there was no one in the frame, but when an appeal was put out, he contacted the police and told them it was him on the camera, which is not the hallmark of a guilty man. As might be expected, he claimed the

encounter was consensual. The young woman had just left a night club and was taking a taxi home but decided she wanted to urinate, so left the taxi to do it in a dark place. She was approached by the suspect, and says he raped her, although her memory of the incident was vague because she had had so much to drink. The other big problem with her account was that an independent witness had watched the incident, and this individual said the encounter looked like consensual sex. There is no suggestion that the man and woman knew each other, so are young women in Manchester so promiscuous they will have sex with passing strangers? Whether or not that is the case, the jury has spoken. Of course, if this young woman had not got so plastered, she would not have put herself in such a compromising position, and would have fought off an attacker or screamed for help. Alas, any suggestion she should have moderated her drinking is likely to be denounced as "blaming the victim".



*Ray Teret*

Although the antiquity of the charges against Ray Teret made their prosecution dubious, the evidence was a lot stronger than the evidence – so-called – against **Rolf Harris**. To begin with there was the little matter of the wall on which a large number of alleged victims had written their names, phone numbers and such. Also, the police appeared to realise the importance of avoiding cross-contamination, memory being a fragile thing.

Just how fragile can be seen from the case of one woman who claimed to have been indecently assaulted by Teret although she was almost definitely not. She contacted the police after hearing a report on Radio Stoke that she said "triggered a memory" from nearly thirty years ago of how he had tried it on with her in his car when she was under age. This woman may have met Teret but it is extremely unlikely that he did indecently assault her, even though she believes he did. He was rightly cleared of this charge, he was also cleared of a number of others, but he was convicted of a sufficient number to ensure that he will most likely die in prison.

Although no one should be concerned about Teret's conviction, the way sex cases are handled needs to be altered drastically. There is absolutely no need for witnesses to testify from behind screens, which are extremely prejudicial. There needs too to be less demonisation of rape and lesser sexual offences. Yes, they can be traumatic, but women – and men – suffer far worse trauma and cope with it. Is being raped really worse than suffering a whiplash injury, or having a limb amputated? According to the false narrative of anti-rape organisations, it is, but we should not pay too much attention to them considering the venality of **the women who run them**.