



**DVD**

**DISC DETAILS**

**OUT:** 4 January  
**RRP:** £24.99  
**DISCS:** 2  
**ASPECT RATIO:** 1.78:1  
**AUDIO:** DD5.1  
**PICTURE:** ★★★★★  
**SOUND:** ★★★  
**EXTRAS:** 'Bricks & Mortar' featurette; 'Tony Jordan - The Hustler' featurette; Subtitles

**SHOW DETAILS**

**DISTRIBUTOR:** Warner Home Video  
**CERT:** 12  
**RUN TIME:** 312 mins (6 episodes)  
**YEAR:** 2009  
**STARS:** Adrian Lester, Robert Glenister, Matt Di Angelo



"Don't you ever come to work in a clip-on tie again."

**SHOW ★★★ EXTRAS ★★★**

# HUSTLE: SERIES 5

*How to use friends and alienate people...*

"Mickey Bricks! I 'eard you was Down Under, flogging the Sydney Opera House. Some people'll buy anything," says Cyclops (guest star Bill Bailey). That's *Hustle* in a nutshell: people will fall for and pay for all kinds of daft nonsense. The show was founded on Robin Hood-esque delusions: Mickey Bricks (Adrian Lester) and friends supposedly only pilfer from people who can afford it (though this doesn't always prove true...) and season five scrambles to establish itself as bang up-to-date by referencing the credit crunch. "Recessions only seem to affect ordinary people," says Bricks, before getting on with screwing the filthy rich.

Oh-so-slick and easy to watch, *Hustle* has its long-running plot threads, although individual episodes work as stand-alones because they're stuffed full of scams, from forming fake PR companies to hoodwinking judges. It's pure escapism. Creator Tony Jordan is keen to emphasise it's not just con after con: "Finding writers for *Hustle* is really tough because sometimes they make mistakes by thinking it's just a con show and all you have to do is come up with a clever con," he says in 'Bricks & Mortar', one of the two passable featurettes that make up the extras. "They miss the fact

that it's about relationships, it's about a family, it's about raging against the system."

Perhaps, if you want it to be. But while a certain amount of character investment is possible, it's not essential - you can dip

**"You can dip into an episode here or there, watch them out of sequence and chuckle at the cons."**

into an episode here or there, watch them out of sequence and, if you want, chuckle at the cons without really caring about all that pseudo-family stuff (sorry, Tony).

The hour-long episodes make for prime escapism, and in this series we also see the *Hustle* crew getting a taste of their own medicine.

Some familiar faces are missing, namely Danny (Marc Warren), Stacie (Jaime Murray) and Billy (Ashley Walters). Matt Di Angelo (ex-*EastEnders*) and Kelly Adams (*Holby City*) play the new crew members, Sean and Emma. Happily, the wondrous Robert Vaughn is still on board, as is Robert Glenister, while the guest stars also include Tim McInnerny (*Blackadder*). And while the newbies can't quite fill Warren'n'Murray's shoes, this is a solid enough series.

There's life in the *Hustle* formula yet - good thing, too, as there's a sixth series on its way [see page 45]. If you want all the seasons, there's a boxset for £59.99, but there's sadly no sign of a Blu-ray release despite the show being shown on BBC HD.

**Anne Wollenberg**

**FINALWORD**

*Hustle rustles up more glorious escapism, though the loss of a few regulars is a blow. Shame it couldn't rustle up more extras.*



"It's waffer-then."

**BEST IN SHOW**



**ALBERT STROLLER**

A veteran of the long con, Albert (Robert Vaughn) is in charge of roping the mark. Series 5 finds him incarcerated over a slight misunderstanding, but you can't keep a good conman down...