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(l-r) Adam Brody, Mischa Barton, Benjamin McKenzie

# Getting the cold shoulder

Last fall, American viewers got excited about a new crime drama that revolves around a tough blond detective with an edgy haircut who solves cold cases.

Of course, Canadian viewers got excited by that show back in '98, when it debuted under the name *Cold Squad*. Thanks in part to the American redux, *Cold Case*, this year will be the *Squad's* last, but Sonja Bennett didn't know that when she joined the cast as Samantha Walters.

"She's the new rookie detective on the squad who nobody quite trusts," says the Vancouver-born Bennett (who recently appeared in *My Life without Me*, with Sarah Polley and Scott Speedman), of her character. "She's got a bit of a chip on her shoulder. It's a great, great role."

Because of the cancellation, *Cold Squad's* return, if it is ever scheduled (CTV

has not yet committed to a debut for the final season) is bittersweet for fans and the cast alike.

"We were prepared a little bit," says Bennett. After last season, the show's fate seemed sealed, and the production company even sold off the sets, and some of the actors got new jobs.

But Julie Stewart, the show's star, and Canada's answer to Helen Mirren, will be back as the coolest detective on television.

As for the double image, Bennett claims, as a rookie on the show, that she isn't very knowledgeable on the topic. "I have seen *Cold Case*, and the premise is identical," she says slowly. "I think CTV's decision to pick up *Cold Case* was a little bit ... yucky."

Bennett isn't letting her career go cold, though. She has already moved on and is shooting episodes of *Tru Calling* and *The Dead Zone*. **EW**



Cold front: *The Squad's* Tahmoh Penikett and Bennett