



*Top: Gil Grissom (William Petersen) masks his interest from Lady Heather (Melinda Clarke). Left: Melinda on set with consultant pro dom Mistress Juliana. Bottom: Catherine Willows (Marg Helgenberger), Grissom and Jim Brass (Paul Guilfoyle) about to enter Lady Heather's Dominion*

Images courtesy of Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

When top TV drama CSI wanted to set a story in a pro dungeon, they knew just who to call. LIZ TRAY handled the enquiry, and here she reports on how it all turned out

**R**emember that episode of the popular TV crime drama series CSI: Crime Scene Investigation about the pro dom who was murdered while working 'off the books'? Well, SKIN TWO had a part to play in the way the story panned out.

Much of the episode's action took place on the premises of a wonderfully equipped domination establishment called Lady Heather's Dominion – a gothic mansion, supposedly somewhere in Las Vegas, whose facilities included a fabulous sunken 'classroom' presided over by a Lucy Liu-style oriental headmistress.

Actress Melinda Clarke was impressive as the urbane and sophisticated Lady Heather, who for once was not presented as your stereotypical PVC-clad, whip-wielding, teeth-gnashing telly-dom. Cool and enigmatic throughout the CSI team's enquiries, she seemed less interested in the murder of one of her girls (who turned out to have been a switch who did private pro-subbing work) than in the prospect of persuading chief investigator Gil Grissom (William Petersen) to try some kinky stuff himself.

What was our contribution? Before starting work on shooting

the episode – called *Slaves of Las Vegas* – the CSI production team contacted us for advice on the typical demographic make-up of a fetish club. We did our best to help them out. Only after the episode aired here (in March) did we discover that they were using the term 'fetish club' to describe what the rest of us would call a professional dungeon. Whoops! Such a basic error was even more surprising considering that the programme also employed a "real dominatrix", Mistress Juliana, as a consultant on the episode.

Lady Heather's apparent surprise that the murdered pro dom switched privately also had us scratching our heads. The possibility that a real dom in her position would not know one of her girls was a switch is very remote, and surely something any consultant pro dom would have pointed out.

Nevertheless, the episode had much to recommend it, not the least in the non-judgmental way the CSI team dealt with what was basically a kinky sex murder. Pervery was depicted not only as a valid sexuality but also one that members of a Las Vegas crime investigation team might enjoy. Amazing!