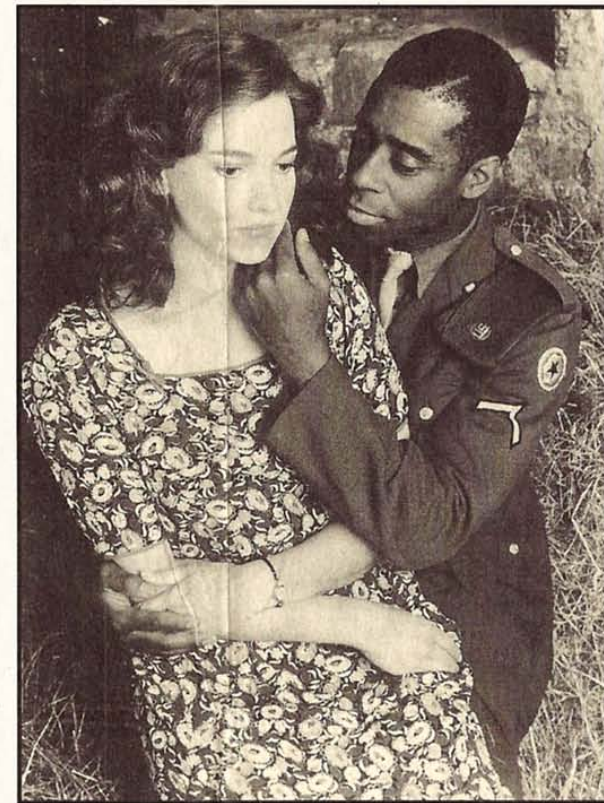




LEFT:
Extras: Master
Sgt Sam
Ingram (left)
and Technical
Sgts Kerry
Eason and
Michael
Sweatt.



RIGHT:
Kerry Fox as
Maggie and
Courtney
Vance as
Travis.

By CAROLINE BOWLER

Bulging biceps were a big problem for the BBC when filming a new drama using extras from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

The ultra-fit and healthy Servicemen were too muscular for the costumes — many had to march wearing shirts with gaping holes across the back and trousers inches too short.

BBC1 romance *The Affair*, being broadcast on Sunday, involved hundreds of American GIs, played by Servicemen from RAF Lakenheath, proudly marching in "pristine" wartime uniforms.

But if you look closer, you might see that the clothes are not quite what they seem.

The men's well-toned frames gave the BBC a headache because its costume department had borrowed authentic wartime uniforms designed for smaller, less healthy and less well-fed conscripts.

Master Sgt Sam Ingram, 32, of 48 Security Police Squadron, said: "My sleeves were far too short but I was so far

Big guys of TV drama

out of the shot that it didn't matter.

"It was quite funny because bigger guys than me had to take their collars off and had splits down the backs of their shirts. A lot of them had to march with bits of their shirts stuck together at the back."

Technical Sgt Michael Sweatt, of 48 Support Group Squadron, said the men were proud that they were too muscular to fit the clothes.

"We are among the best dudes in town," he joked.

The *Affair* is set at the height of the second world war and focuses on a black

American soldier, Travis (Courtney B Vance) who falls in love with an English housewife and mother Maggie (Kerry Fox) with disastrous consequences.

The BBC used extras from RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, and filmed around Swaffham during the summer.

Cathy Davey, BBC Press spokesman, said: "We had to stick bits of material on their backs but everyone saw the joke."

● The *Affair* is being broadcast on BBC 1 at 9.05pm on Sunday.



Actress
Beatty
Edney,
who plays
fiesty
country
girl and
Maggie's
friend
Esther.