



CCTV analysis: Mark Blanco death

TWO potentially crucial pieces of evidence from world leading experts in neurobiology and injury biomechanics suggest that actor Mark Blanco was deliberately pushed from a balcony where he had been at a party with junkie Peter Doherty.



Talented Cambridge graduate Mark, 30, fell to his death after rowing with the Babyshambles frontman at an east London flat three years ago this month.

A first police investigation concluded in 2007 that he either killed himself or died accidentally trying to jump the 12ft drop.

However, a coroner dismissed the police report and ordered a second investigation.

The police indicated to Mark's family 12 months ago that renewed inquiries had proved inconclusive, but were persuaded to postpone the release of their report to allow his mother Sheila to compile her own evidence.

It is that evidence which has now been obtained by the Sunday Express.

With the backing of her barrister Michael Wolkind QC, who is helping her free of charge, Mrs Blanco commissioned two experts to examine the circumstances of Mark's death.

The pair worked in tandem, with Canadian anatomy and neurobiology professor Richard Wassersug assessing the nature of Mark's injuries, and injury biomechanics specialist Dr Corrina Cory analysing how he might have fallen if pushed.

Their reports are now being considered by the police.

Prof Wassersug concluded that if he had jumped deliberately from the balcony, he would have sustained injuries to his hands in an attempt to break his fall.

But as those injuries were not there, it was more likely that he was pushed over the balcony railing backwards or that he was unconscious before he fell.

He wrote in his report: "The two most likely explanations are that he was backed into the railing and pushed over, or that he was not conscious and was dropped over the railing."

Based on that possible "unlawful killing" conclusion, Dr Cory team then tried to simulate on a 3-D computer model how he may have fallen if pushed.

The basis for her team's work, which can be seen here exclusively on the Sunday Express website, was **grainy CCTV footage of Mark's actual fall** (<http://express.co.uk/posts/view/145724/>).

From that, she was able to identify two useful frames: what appears to be Mark near the balcony with his arms dropping backwards, then a point after he hits a parked car where he is rebounds momentarily in front of a lamppost. (Although his final resting position was slightly away from the lamppost, it was not possible to determine the actual body position from the CCTV.)

Dr Cory then used those frames to create computer generated images of Mark's body.

Using her expertise in how bodies fall, she then modelled two possible unlawful killing scenarios—if he was pushed forwards over the balcony railing and if he was pushed off backwards.

In both cases the simulation had a good match to the identifiable body position on the balcony.

In her final report, Dr Cory told Mrs Blanco: "Initial results suggest a good match with the two CCTV still images of the body exiting the balcony and the... position near the lamppost."

She said further work would have to be done to get a more exact simulation.