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***Great Performances* Presents the U.S. Premiere of Tony Award Nominee Conor McPherson's Adaptation of *Uncle Vanya*, Friday, May 7 on PBS**

Starring Toby Jones and Richard Armitage

Marrying the intimacy of the screen with the electricity of live theater, ***Great Performances: Uncle Vanya*** premieres nationwide Friday, May 7 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/gperf and the PBS Video app. Tony Award nominee **Conor McPherson** breathes new life into Anton Chekhov's masterpiece with his acclaimed adaptation of the drama, portraying life at the turn of the 20th century filled with tumultuous frustration, dark humor and hidden passions. Recorded in August 2020 from the Harold Pinter Theatre in London after the production's sold-out run closed early due to the coronavirus pandemic, the play is directed by **Ian Rickson** and directed for screen by **Ross MacGibbon**. Starring **Toby Jones** in the title role and **Richard Armitage** as Astrov, the cast also features **Rosalind Eleazar** as Yelena, **Aimee Lou Wood** as Sonya, **Anna Calder Marshall** as Nana, **Dearbhla Molloy** as Mariya, **Roger Allam** as Serebryakov and **Peter Wight** as Telegin.

Uncle Vanya begins as Sonya and her Uncle Vanya throw their lives into maintaining the crumbling family estate occasionally visited by the radical and inspiring local doctor Astrov. However, when Sonya's father, Professor Serebryakov, suddenly returns with his restless, alluring new wife, Yelena, long-hidden truths begin to emerge.

Throughout its more than 40-year history on PBS, ***Great Performances*** has provided an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America's most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. The series is available for

streaming simultaneously on all station-branded PBS platforms, including pbs.org/gperf and the PBS Video app, which is available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and Chromecast. PBS station members can view episodes via Passport (contact your local PBS station for details). **Great Performances** is produced by THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET.

Great Performances: Uncle Vanya is a Sonia Friedman Productions and Angelica Films co-production in association with BBC Arts. Producers are Sonia Friedman and Sally Angel; Executive Producer for the BBC is Emma Cahusac. For **Great Performances**: Bill O'Donnell is Series Producer and David Horn is Executive Producer.

Major funding for **Great Performances** is provided by The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Jody and John Arnhold, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, Rosalind P. Walter, The Starr Foundation, the Seton Melvin Charitable Trust, the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, Ellen and James S. Marcus, public television viewers and PBS.

Websites: <http://pbs.org/gperf>, [facebook.com/GreatPerformances](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPerformances), [@GPerfPBS](https://www.instagram.com/GPerfPBS), <https://www.youtube.com/greatperformancespbs/> #PBSForTheArts

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the nonprofit parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; and [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider. The WNET Group also operates [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network, and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#). Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series **Nature**, **Great Performances**, **American Masters**, **PBS NewsHour Weekend** and **Amanpour and Company** and trusted local news programs **MetroFocus** and **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi**. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series **Cyberchase**, interactive **Mission US** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. Community-supported, The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.