

MYSTERY!®

Don't Let the Knitting Needles Fool You! Geraldine McEwan Returns in a Star-Studded New Season of

Agatha Christie



On MYSTERY! Sundays, June 4 through July 23, 2006 at 9pm on PBS
pbs.org/mystery

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MISS MARPLE, SERIES II

Geraldine McEwan (*The Magdalene Sisters*, *Wallace & Gromit*) reprises her role as Agatha Christie's famous spinster sleuth Miss Marple in four new adaptations for the popular MYSTERY! series. *Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, Series II* airs on Sundays, June 4 through July 23 at 9pm to 10pm. (The final episode, *The Sittaford Mystery*, will air in one two-hour installment on July 23.)

As in the acclaimed first season of the series, Ms. McEwan is joined by an A-list of guest actors, including Anthony Andrews (*Brideshead Revisited*), Claire Bloom (*Shadowlands*), Geraldine Chaplin (*Doctor Zhivago*), Timothy Dalton (aka James Bond), Charles Dance (*Bleak House*), Phil Davis (*Bleak House*), Aidan McArkle (*Einstein's Big Idea*), Sophia Myles (*Underworld*), and Greta Scacchi (*White Mischief*).

When Ms. McEwan took on the role of Miss Marple—played previously by such luminaries as Margaret Rutherford, Angela Lansbury, and Joan Hickson (in the 1980's MYSTERY! series), the series drew millions of viewers and critical praise: "Geraldine McEwan is irresistible," raved *TV Guide*; "Great fun," said *USA Today*, and "Not your mother's Miss Marple," observed Associated Press about the latest incarnation of Christie's beloved stories.

Christie remains the most popular novelist in history, with over two billion of her books sold to date in over 100 languages. As well as the renowned *Poirot* and *Miss Marple* series, Christie also wrote the detective series *Tommy and Tuppence* and a wealth of other murder mysteries and thrillers between 1920 and 1977.

As in the first series, *Marple II* takes a fresh approach to adapting Christie, while staying faithful to the spirit and intent of the original novels. "Our creative approach to the films is to recognize the continuing demand for new *Marple* films, and to try to reinvent them in such a way that they make compelling 21st century television," said MYSTERY! executive producer Rebecca Eaton.



WGBH Boston
125 Western Ave.
Boston, MA 02134
617-300-2000



Set again in or near Marple's picturesque English village of St. Mary Meade, the new series kicks off on June 4 with *Sleeping Murder*, starring Sophia Myles as Gwenda, a beautiful young woman visiting England for the first time. While searching for a home for her and her future husband, Gwenda is instinctively drawn to a particular house in the seaside village of Dilmouth. It turns out that her "perfect" house has a terrible past, which Gwenda is forced to confront when she suffers a disturbing case of *déjà vu*. Just when Gwenda's flashbacks turn to recollections of murder, she meets Miss Marple at a performance of *The Duchess of Malfi*.

On June 18 and 25, the series presents *By the Pricking of My Thumbs*. In this new take on the classic tale, Miss Marple joins fellow Agatha Christie supersleuths Tommy and Tuppence Beresford (Anthony Andrews and Greta Scacchi) to investigate the disappearances of two nursing home residents and the unsolved mystery of a murdered child. Charles Dance (*Bleak House*) guest stars as a cynical clergyman who shares Tuppence's taste for sherry—wherever they can find it.

In *The Moving Finger* (July 9 and 16), the dashing Jerry Burton (James D'Arcy, *Master and Commander*) survives a serious motorcycle accident and comes to the sleepy village of Lymstock with his sister Joanna (Emilia Fox, *Henry VIII*) to recuperate. Their expectations of peace and quiet are quickly dashed when they discover a poison pen-writer is at large in the village. Fortunately, Miss Marple happens to be in town, ready to unravel the mystery. The film features a special guest appearance by director Ken Russell (*Women in Love*).

In the series closer, *The Sittaford Mystery*, a two-hour episode airing July 23 at 9pm, Miss Marple waits out a blizzard at Sittaford House, a remote mansion on the moors owned by eminent politician Clive Trevelyan (Timothy Dalton). The long snowy night turns deadly when Trevelyan is found with a knife in his chest and a mysterious smile on his face. The cast includes James Wilby (*Bertie & Elizabeth*) and Rita Tushingham (*A Taste of Honey*).

Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, Series II is a coproduction of London Weekend Television, WGBH Boston, and Agatha Christie Ltd. MYSTERY! is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Rebecca Eaton is executive producer of the series. Funding is provided by public television viewers.

For online press materials, visit
pressroom.wgbh.org or pbs.org/pressroom

Press Contacts

Ellen Dockser, WGBH Boston, 617-300-5338/ ellen_dockser@wgbh.org
Olivia Wong, WGBH Boston, 617-300-5349, olivia_wong@wgbh.org

©April 2006 WGBH Educational Foundation