

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Dame Eileen Atkins

Maud, Lady Holland in *Upstairs Downstairs*

Upstairs Downstairs was the bright idea of two English actresses who thought it odd that servants were largely invisible in period dramas. Together with Jean Marsh, Eileen Atkins brought a new series to life. Other projects prevented her from playing a role in the original *Upstairs Downstairs*, but now she appears in the sequel as the imperious mother of the new owner of 165 Eaton Place. PBS viewers recently saw Atkins in *Murder on the Orient Express* on MYSTERY! and recall her fondly from other MASTERPIECE productions, including *Cranford*, for which

she won Emmy and BAFTA Awards; *Madame Bovary*; *Talking Heads 2*; and her one-woman show as Virginia Woolf in *A Room of One's Own*. Her film credits include *Gosford Park*, in which she played a downstairs role; Ridley Scott's recent *Robin Hood*; *Cold Mountain*; *The Dresser*; and *Equus*. Her many honors also include an Evening Standard Film Award for Best Script for *Mrs. Dalloway*. Atkins was awarded a CBE in 1990 and became a Dame in 2001. In 2010, she received an honorary doctorate from Oxford University.



Jean Marsh

Rose Buck in *Upstairs Downstairs*

Co-creator with Eileen Atkins of the original *Upstairs Downstairs*, Jean Marsh also acted in the series, winning an Emmy Award for her unforgettable portrayal of Rose Buck, the outspoken, resilient parlormaid. She is the only original cast member to return to 165 Eaton Place for the sequel; moving up in the downstairs world, she has graduated to housekeeper, the top female job. MASTERPIECE viewers

last saw Marsh as Mrs. Ferrars in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. In a wide-ranging career on stage, television, and film, she has played everything from a compassionate robot in an early episode of *The Twilight Zone* to her Broadway debut as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* starring and directed by John Gielgud, to the evil Queen Bavmorda in the Lucasfilm fantasy *Willow*, directed by Ron Howard. Her other major film credits include Alfred Hitchcock's *Frenzy*, the World War II thriller *The Eagle Has Landed*, and Walt Disney's *Return to Oz*. She starred in the American sitcom *Nine to Five* and with Atkins created the popular British television series *The House of Eliott*. She has published three novels: *The House of Eliott*, *Finders Keepers*, and *Iris*.

MASTERPIECETM 40 YEARS



Keeley Hawes

Lady Agnes Holland in *Upstairs Downstairs*

One of Keeley Hawes's first major roles was for MASTERPIECE in 1997, when she starred with Greg Wise in Wilkie Collins's vintage mystery *The Moonstone*. She has gone on to star in a remarkable array of MASTERPIECE productions, including *Our Mutual Friend*, in which she played the fetching daughter of a corpse robber; *Wives and Daughters*, where her character was an unusually likable rival to the heroine; *Othello*, a modern retelling of Shakespeare's tragedy in which she played the doomed "Dessie"; Kingsley Amis's campus comedy *Lucky Jim*; and *Under the Greenwood Tree*, one of Thomas Hardy's sunniest plots. Hawes starred as Zoe opposite her husband Matthew Macfadyen in the cult hit *MI-5* and as Alex Drake in the UK *Life on Mars* spin-off *Ashes to Ashes*. She also created a sensation in the BBC's *Tipping the Velvet* with Rachael Stirling, Anna Chancellor, Jodhi May, and Hugh Bonneville. Among her many other TV roles, she once played a jilted girlfriend who murdered her rival in *Murder in Mind*; the two-timing boyfriend in question was played by Ed Stoppard. Now, she and Stoppard are paired in *Upstairs Downstairs* as the happily married new owners of 165 Eaton Place. Among her film roles, Hawes starred in Michael Winterbottom's *Tristram Shandy* and appeared in *Death at a Funeral* and *The Bank Job*, based on London's notorious Baker Street heist.

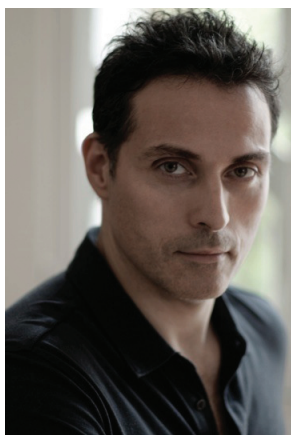


Ed Stoppard

Sir Hallam Holland in *Upstairs Downstairs*

Earning a MASTERPIECE trifecta in the new season, Ed Stoppard stars in *Upstairs Downstairs* while also appearing in *Zen*, airing Summer 2011 and *Any Human Heart*, airing in February. Of his role as Sir Hallam, the new owner of 165 Eaton Place in *Upstairs Downstairs*, he says, "If it was a single word then it would be the 'complexity' of the character that attracted me to him. The more layers I have to play the happier I am. I enjoy the digging away to reveal what's below the surface." In *Zen*, he plays the title character's ruthless rival in love and professional advancement. *Any Human Heart* presents him as the hero's lifelong best friend. MYSTERY! viewers saw Stoppard in *Miss Marple: At Bertram's Hotel* and *Inspector Lynley: Limbo*. His other television credits include the title role in *Tchaikovsky* for BBC TV, the title role in *Enzo Ferrari* for Italian TV, and *Empire* for ABC. His film work includes *Brideshead Revisited*, *Fugitive Pieces*, *Joy Division*, and the Oscar-winning *The Pianist*. Stoppard was last seen in the West End in *Arcadia* (written by his father Tom Stoppard), *The Glass Menagerie*, and playing the title role in *Hamlet* for the Oxford Stage Company.

MASTERPIECETM 40 YEARS



Rufus Sewell
Aurelio Zen in *Zen*

Wearing the role of Michael Dibdin's suave Italian detective like an Armani suit, Rufus Sewell battles Italy's insane bureaucracy, entrenched mob, and virtuoso killers as Inspector Aurelio Zen. MASTERPIECE viewers remember him as the ardent leading man in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, in which he played the heroine's soulmate. Also on television, Sewell played the lead role in Joe Wright's BAFTA-winning *Charles II: The Power and The Passion*. He starred in the CBS drama *Eleventh Hour* and the Emmy Award-winning *John Adams* and was recently seen in the acclaimed adaptation of Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth*. In film, he currently appears alongside Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie in *The Tourist*. His other film credits include *The Woodlanders*, *Dangerous Beauty*, *Dark City*, *A Knight's Tale*, and *The Illusionist*. On stage, he originated the role of Septimus Hodge in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* and the role of Jan in Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll*, which earned him an Olivier Award and a Tony Award nomination.



Rebecca Eaton
Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Since taking over the helm of the PBS series MASTERPIECE THEATRE and MYSTERY! in 1985, Rebecca Eaton has been responsible for such high-profile titles as *Prime Suspect*, *Bleak House*, *The Lost Prince*, *Inspector Morse*, *Miss Marple*, Tony Hillerman's *Skinwalkers*, *Coyote Waits* and *A Thief of Time*, *The Complete Jane Austen*, *Cranford*, *Wallander*, *Little Dorrit*, and the 2010 hit *Sherlock*. She has accrued a bookcase of accolades, with 28 Primetime Emmy Awards (including seven in 2009 for *Little Dorrit*), 17 Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe and two Academy Award nominations for the MASTERPIECE co-production *Mrs. Brown*. In 2008, she oversaw the highly successful launch of MASTERPIECE with three distinct program strands (Classic, MYSTERY! and Contemporary), new hosts and a new look. The revamped series has drawn a new generation of drama fans and at the same time increased the core audience. Eaton's distinguished career has earned her the official recognition of Queen Elizabeth II—with an honorary OBE (Officer, Order of the British Empire).

MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Rebecca Eaton is executive producer. Funding for the series is provided by public television viewers with additional support from contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust, created to help ensure the series' future.

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