

Inspector Morse Prequel To Air On MASTERPIECE

Shaun Evans Plays Young Endeavour Morse

One of the most popular detectives in television history is returning to MASTERPIECE on PBS. A prequel of the long-running series *Inspector Morse*—titled *Endeavour*, a reference to Morse's first name—will air on MASTERPIECE MYSTERY! in 2012, marking the 25th anniversary of the series' 1987 premiere.

British actor Shaun Evans (*Ashes to Ashes*) will step into John Thaw's shoes to play the younger version of Colin Dexter's iconic character, giving the audience the chance to discover the origins of the detective famed for his love of crosswords, classical music, real ale and classic cars.

"Inspector Morse was one of my favorite detectives," says MASTERPIECE executive producer Rebecca Eaton. "Shaun Evans has a similar depth and quiet charm. I can't wait to see his Endeavour."

Set in 1965, the story follows the hunt for a missing schoolgirl, which draws Endeavour Morse back to the place that will ultimately shape and define his destiny: Oxford.

Oxford is also the setting of the hit MASTERPIECE series *Inspector Lewis*, starring Kevin Whately in the role he originated in *Inspector Morse*. Four new episodes of *Inspector Lewis* begin on MASTERPIECE on September 4, 2011.

Endeavour is written by Russell Lewis (creator of *Lewis*, *Cadfael*, and writer of *Inspector Morse*) and is made by Mammoth Screen for ITV1.

Endeavour is a coproduction of ITV Studios Productions and MASTERPIECE. Michele Buck and Damien Timmer are executive producers, and Rebecca Eaton is executive producer for MASTERPIECE.

MASTERPIECE on PBS is presented 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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