

MASTERPIECE

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MYSTERY!®

**Born to Sleuth
Endeavour**

Starring Shaun Evans as Detective Constable Endeavour Morse
Sunday, July 1, 2012 at 9pm ET on PBS

"Shaun Evans is beguiling in the title role..." - *The Guardian* (UK)

Before *Inspector Morse*, there was the rookie Constable Morse, fed up with police work and ready to nip his career in the bud by handing in his resignation. That is, until a murder turned up that only he could solve. Shaun Evans (*The Take*, *The Virgin Queen*) stars as the young Endeavour Morse, before his signature red Jaguar but with his deductive powers already running in high gear, on *Endeavour*, airing on MASTERPIECE MYSTERY! July 1, 2012 on PBS.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the UK premiere of *Inspector Morse* in 1987, *Endeavour* turns back the clock to 1965 to tell the story of the making of the legendary detective, who was played by John Thaw in 33 episodes of *Inspector Morse* that aired on MYSTERY! from 1988 to 2001. Thaw died in 2002. But his daughter Abigail Thaw (*Vanity Fair*) makes a very special appearance in *Endeavour*.

Novelist Colin Dexter authored the Morse plots and characters, including the thrilling back-story to *Endeavour*, which is scripted by Russell Lewis. Lewis also created the spinoff series *Inspector Lewis*, featuring the exploits of Morse's sergeant.

Endeavour co-stars Roger Allam (*The Queen*) as Inspector Thursday, Morse's mentor on the Oxfordshire Constabulary; Richard Lintern (*Page Eight*) as Professor Rowan Stromming, an Oxford don shocked to see the inside of a murder inquiry; Charlie Creed-Miles (*White Teeth*) as used Jaguar dealer Teddy Samuels; Patrick Malahide (*Middlemarch*) as a high-handed government minister; and James Bradshaw (*Brideshead Revisited*) as police pathologist Dr. Max DeBryn, perhaps the first to notice Morse's queasiness in the face of death.

Evoking the conflict between tradition and the new youth culture of the '60s, *Endeavour* answers a lot of questions about the young Morse, who happens to prefer Puccini to the Beatles. Just how did this working-class, opera-loving, crossword-addicted, Oxford University dropout land on the Oxford police, develop a thirst for fine ale, fall into a problematic relationship with women, and manage to slip behind the wheel of a classic car as part of his low-paying job?

Oh, and how did he solve his first big case?

It all starts when a fifteen-year-old girl goes missing. Morse and colleagues are called in from a neighboring town to help with the investigation, which is being led by Inspector Thursday.

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Seeing that Morse is not the usual by-the-numbers cop, Thursday lets him follow some unusual hunches that take the case into English Romantic poetry, cryptic crosswords, clever disguises, and other clues that seem daft to the rest of the police. Anyone familiar with *Inspector Morse* recognizes the pattern.

The difference is that in 1965 Morse is the low man on the force with no track record and his future on the line. How impressive then to watch him piece together a murder, a suicide, an underage love nest, a shocking academic experiment, and follow the trail straight to the lair of an obsessed killer and high-level corruption—all on the way to learning his craft.

Endeavour is a co-production of Mammoth Screen Ltd for ITV and MASTERPIECE. The director is Colm McCarthy. The writer is Russell Lewis. The executive producer for MASTERPIECE is Rebecca Eaton.

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

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