

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Diary of Anne Frank on MASTERPIECE Classic

Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 9pm ET on PBS



Ellie Kendrick

Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Like many 19-year-olds, Ellie Kendrick is wrapped up in her first year at college—in her case, Cambridge University. But at the moment she is also showing up on the big screen in the acclaimed coming-of-age film *An Education*, in which she plays one of Carey Mulligan's school friends. Last spring and summer, Kendrick starred as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. And in the past few years, MASTERPIECE viewers have glimpsed her in all-too-brief roles in *Lewis: Whom the Gods Would Destroy* and *Prime Suspect 7*. With *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the up-and-coming actress commands our full attention at last—literally—by appearing in virtually every scene, charming, shocking, and vexing us in the role of the precocious teen who reports the ordinary and terrifying events for eight Jews hiding from the Nazis during World War II. Writing in the *Independent on Sunday*, Hermione Eyre was enthralled, describing Kendrick's Anne Frank as “perfect. As well as being a true heroine, she is tart and willful and naughty.”



Deborah Moggach

Screenwriter, *The Diary of Anne Frank*

A prolific novelist (16, so far, including the bestseller *Tulip Fever*), Deborah Moggach had her biggest audience to date with her movie adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, a blockbuster starring Keira Knightley that received the 2005 BAFTA nomination for best screenplay. MASTERPIECE fans fondly recall her adaptation of Nancy Mitford's loopy satire, *Love in a Cold Climate*, which aired in 2002. Poles apart is *The Diary of Anne Frank*, for which Moggach won the right from the Anne Frank Estate to use Anne's actual words in the dialogue and voiceover. Of her approach, she says that past adaptations have tended to sanctify Anne and make her over-sweet. “I wanted to be true to the real girl. Sure, she got on people's nerves; but she was also full of life, her own sternest critic, and, above all, she made people laugh.” A novelist at heart, Moggach admits a fondness for writing for television and film. “I like moving back and forth, between the interior world of the novel and the conflict-driven life of drama. I also like actors because they call me ‘darling’.”



Rebecca Eaton

Executive producer, MASTERPIECE

Since taking over the helm of the PBS series MASTERPIECE THEATRE and MYSTERY! in 1985, Eaton has been responsible for such high-profile titles as *Prime Suspect*, *Bleak House*, *The Lost Prince*, *Inspector Morse*, *Lewis*, Tony Hillerman's *Skinwalkers*, *Coyote Waits*, and *A Thief of Time*, *The Complete Jane Austen*, *Cranford*, *Wallander*, and *Little Dorrit*. She has accrued a bookcase of accolades, with twenty-eight Primetime Emmy Awards (including seven in 2009 for *Little Dorrit*), sixteen 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 the new MASTERPIECE, with new scheduling (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 size of the series' core audience. Rebecca Eaton's distinguished career has earned her the official recognition of Queen Elizabeth II—with an honorary OBE (Officer, Order of the British Empire), presented by the British ambassador in Washington, DC, in 2003. An alumna of Vassar College, Eaton was a producer for the BBC World Service before coming to WGBH.

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The Diary of Anne Frank is a Darlow Smithson Production (an IMG Media company), presented on PBS by MASTERPIECE. The director is Jon Jones. The screenwriter is Deborah Moggach. The producer is Elinor Day. MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. The executive producer is Rebecca Eaton. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by public television viewers. Laura Linney is the host of MASTERPIECE Classic.

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