

SIXTH SEASON of *DOWNTON ABBEY* to AIR on MASTERPIECE on PBS Production Begins in 2015

Boston, MA—November 6, 2014— *DOWNTON ABBEY*, the Emmy® and Golden Globe® award-winning drama that has become an international hit, will return to MASTERPIECE on PBS for a sixth season.

A Carnival Films/MASTERPIECE co-production, *Downton Abbey*, Season 5 completes its run in the UK on Sunday, November 9th. Season 5 will premiere on MASTERPIECE on PBS on Sunday, January 4, 2015.

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton says, “Good news! Just as our audience settles in for the beloved Crawley family drama, we can announce that Season 6 will arrive a year later. How lucky can you get?”

The sixth season will go into production in 2015 and will be written by Julian Fellowes.

Carnival’s Managing Director Gareth Neame, Executive Producer of *Downton Abbey*, said, “We have had an amazing reaction to the story lines, acting and production values of *Downton Abbey* this year and the whole team is thrilled to be moving ahead with a new season of the show. This will provide audiences with a fresh opportunity to see what will befall our much loved characters.”

Viewership and social media stats have soared since *Downton Abbey* launched in January 2011. Season 4 drew an average audience of 13.2 million viewers, making it the top PBS drama of all time and one of the highest-rated dramas now on American television.

“At its heart, television is about storytelling, and *Downton Abbey* is certainly storytelling at its finest. *Downton Abbey* and the Crawley family have kept us on the edge of our seats as they navigate through some of the biggest moments of the 20th century,” said Paula Kerger, PBS President and CEO. “Along with our member stations, PBS can’t wait to share the next season of *Downton* drama with our audiences.”

Downton Abbey is a Carnival Films/MASTERPIECE Co-Production written and created by Julian Fellowes. The series is Executive Produced by Gareth Neame, Julian Fellowes, Liz Trubridge, and Nigel Marchant. Rebecca Eaton is the Executive Producer for MASTERPIECE. MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Funding for the series is provided by Viking River Cruises and Ralph Lauren Corporation with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust.

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About MASTERPIECE

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

About Carnival Films

Carnival Films is a division of NBC Universal International TV Production and is the UK's largest drama specialist. The company is responsible for the global TV sensation *Downton Abbey*, winner of two Golden Globes® and ten Primetime Emmy® awards, including Best Mini-series. It is the most nominated non-US show in the history of the Emmys® with a total of 51 nominations and is now in 250 territories worldwide. Among numerous national and international awards, the show has even garnered a Guinness World Record for highest critical ratings for a TV show. *Downton Abbey* is executive produced by Carnival's Managing Director Gareth Neame, who sold the production company to NBCU in 2008.

Founded in 1978, Carnival has produced many hundreds of hours of popular drama both in the UK and US, including primetime series such as *Poirot*, *Hotel Babylon*, *Whitechapel*, *Jeeves & Wooster*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *As If*, *Dracula* and *The Philanthropist*. As well as award-winning mini-series such as C4's iconic *Traffik*, David Hare's Worricker Trilogy (*Page Eight*, *Turks & Caicos* and *Salting the Battlefield*), *The 7:39* by David Nicholls, William Boyd's BAFTA award winning Best Serial *Any Human Heart*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Enid* starring Helena Bonham-Carter.

Peter Morgan's *Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* will broadcast in 2014 and Carnival's latest series *The Last Kingdom* is in production for BBC2 and BBC America. Carnival co-produced Royal Television Society award winning drama *The Hollow Crown*, a screen version of Shakespeare's history plays (with Neal Street productions) and the sequel *The War of the Roses* is currently in production, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Judi Dench.

Carnival has recently announced major new development projects such as *Freud*, Bill Gallagher's *Jamestown*, Neil Cross's *Bay of Plenty* with Libertine Pictures for the BBC, *Magnum* with the iconic photographic co-operative Magnum Photos and *Nostradamus* with Joseph Fiennes and Anonymous content.

Carnival was recognized as best production company at the 2011 Bulldog Awards and 2012 Broadcast Awards.

About PBS

PBS, with its over 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches nearly 120 million people through television and over 29 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, pbskids.org, are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at www.pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet, or by following PBS on Twitter, Facebook or through our apps for mobile devices. Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following PBS PressRoom on Twitter.

About WGBH

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster and the largest producer of PBS content for TV and the Web, including *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Arthur*, *Curious George*, and more than a dozen other primetime, lifestyle, and children's series. WGBH also is a leader in educational multimedia, including PBS LearningMedia, and a pioneer in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards...even two Oscars. Find more information at www.wgbh.org.

pbs.org/masterpiece

For photos and other materials: pressroom.pbs.org

MASTERPIECE Press Contacts

Ellen Dockser, ellen_dockser@wgbh.org, 617-300-5338

Olivia Wong, olivia_wong@wgbh.org, 617-300-5349