

# MASTERPIECE

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### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



#### Laura Carmichael

Lady Edith Crawley in *Downton Abbey*

Lady Edith has been through a lot since the early seasons of *Downton Abbey*, when she was treated like the ugly duckling of the Crawley clan. She's been jilted at the alter, had a fling with a married man, and now—unbeknownst to her parents and sister—she's a mother! Actress Laura Carmichael plays this complex character with charm and vulnerability. A graduate of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, she headlined a 2012 production of *Uncle Vanya* in the West End opposite Anna Friel and Sam West to critical acclaim, and she will appear in a new film adaptation of *Madame Bovary* opposite Mia Wasikowska and Paul Giamatti. Carmichael's television and film credits include *The Heart of Thomas Hardy*, *House at the End of Our Street*, and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, in which she played Sal opposite Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and Benedict Cumberbatch. Her previous stage appearances include *The London Cuckolds*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and *As You Like It*—all at the Bristol Old Vic. She has recently appeared in glamorous shoots for *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*.



#### Michelle Dockery

Lady Mary Crawley in *Downton Abbey*

Emerging from her deep depression after Matthew's sudden death at the end of Season 3, Lady Mary is now an active partner in running Downton Abbey. Since the estate seems to be shaping up, she can focus on what to do about her suitors. Decisions! Decisions! Actress Michelle Dockery has sailed through Lady Mary's troubles with critical accolades, including Best Actress nominations for the Golden Globe® Award and for a string of Emmys® (Seasons 2, 3, and 4).

In recent work, she starred with Liam Neeson and Julianne Moore in the action film *Non-Stop*; she appeared with Charlotte Rampling in the BBC spy thriller *Restless*; she played the socialite Princess Myagkaya opposite Keira Knightley and Jude Law in Joe Wright's *Anna Karenina*; and she was Kate Percy in an all-star production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part One* and *Part Two* on PBS' *Great Performances*. Upcoming, she stars with Ryan Reynolds and Ben Kingsley in the sci-fi thriller film *Selfless*. A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Dockery was nominated in 2006 for the Ian Charleson Award for her performance in *Pillars of the Community* at the National Theatre. In 2007, she won second prize at the Ian Charleson Awards for her portrayal of Eliza Doolittle in Sir Peter Hall's production of *Pygmalion* at the Theatre Royal, Bath, which also earned her a nomination for Best Newcomer at the Evening Standard Awards. In 2009, she appeared in *Burnt by the Sun* at the National Theatre, for which she received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

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### Joanne Froggatt

Anna Bates (née Smith) in *Downton Abbey*

The victim of last season's most traumatic plot development, Anna is now on the mend. And her husband, Bates, has been loyal in ways she hardly imagines. Actress Joanne Froggatt won an Emmy® nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress for that performance and also for Season 2, in which she portrayed Anna's emotional rollercoaster ride with the enigmatic Bates, who ended up in prison (since released). What could possibly be next for *Downton Abbey*'s most sweet tempered character? Joanne recently starred as Detective Inspector Sarah Clayton in the film *U Want Me 2 Kill Him?* by *Amityville Horror*-remake director Andrew Douglas. She also starred in *Still Life* opposite Eddie

Marsan, directed by Uberto Pasolini (*The Full Monty*), and *Filth* alongside James McAvoy and Jamie Bell. In 2012 she was featured in *True Love*, a five-part series for the BBC, in which she starred with David Tennant and Vicky McClure. In 2010 she delivered a hard-hitting performance as a female soldier returning from the Iraq war in the independent film *In Our Name*, earning the Best Newcomer Award at the British Independent Film Awards. On stage, Froggatt starred in a run of *The Knowledge/Little Platoons* at London's Bush Theatre, earning rave reviews; and in December 2010 she took a guest role in the Christmas special of the acclaimed comedy series *The Royle Family*. Her other television work includes *Danielle Cable: Eye Witness* (Best Actress nominee Royal Television Society Awards), the BAFTA award-winning *See No Evil—The Moors Murders, Murder in the Outback, Island at War*, and the multi-award-winning series for the BBC: *Life on Mars* and *The Street*.



### Allen Leech

Tom Branson in *Downton Abbey*

A firebrand turned smoldering widower, Tom Branson has come the farthest of any *Downton Abbey* character. As the Crawley's chauffeur, he secretly courted and then eloped with the family's youngest daughter, Sybil, who later died in childbirth. Now Branson, an erstwhile Irish nationalist, lives the life of upstairs English gentry. But there's a deep hole in his psyche. He's heading somewhere, but where? A native of Ireland, actor Allen Leech renders Branson's brogue with easy expertise. Leech has had a thriving career in Irish and British theater and television, and he is a four-time nominee for the Irish Film and Television Academy awards, including a Best Supporting Actor nomination for *Downton Abbey*. In film, he recently starred in *Grand Piano* with Elijah Wood and John Cusack, and he was one of three cast members in the psychodrama *In Fear*, in which he played a very suspicious hitchhiker. His other film credits include *The Sweeney* with Ray Winstone, Damian Lewis, and Hayley Atwell; the award-winning *From Time to Time*, alongside Dame Maggie Smith, Dominic West, and Timothy Spall; the suspense thriller *Rewind*; and he played the lead role in the Irish comedy *Man About Dog*. Upcoming is *The Imitation Game*, in which he plays spy John Cairncross to Benedict Cumberbatch's Alan Turing (the genius who cracked the Nazi Enigma code during World War II) and Keira Knightley's comely cryptanalyst.



**Gareth Neame**  
Executive Producer, *Downton Abbey*

Gareth Neame is a Golden Globe® and Emmy® Award winning drama producer and executive based in London. Neame is Managing Director of Carnival Films, the respected British production company he sold to NBC Universal in 2008 as the cornerstone of their new international TV studios. Neame is one of the UK's leading producers and is responsible for the global TV phenomenon *Downton Abbey*, winner of the Golden Globe® for Best Mini Series and 10 Primetime Emmy® Awards, including Best Mini Series. With a total of 51 nominations, it is the most nominated non-US show in the history of the Emmys®. Neame has also been recognised by The Producers Guild of America with the David L. Wolper Award for Outstanding Producer of Long-form Television. In addition to *Downton*

*Abbey*, under Neame, Carnival Films has produced some of its most acclaimed and successful shows. Most recent among them are David Hare's three political thrillers *Page Eight*, *Turks & Caicos* and *Salting The Battlefield*; ITV's *Whitechapel*, NBC and Sky's *Dracula*, and author and screenwriter David Nicholl's *The 7.39* for the BBC. Other credits include *The Hollow Crown*; *Richard II*, *Henry IV Part 1 & 2*, and *Henry V*; William Boyd's Bafta award-winning serial *Any Human Heart* for C4; Mick Ford's adaptation of Blake Morrison's *The Last Weekend*; and BBC1's *Hotel Babylon*. *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* by Emmy® nominated and Golden Globe® and Bafta winner Peter Morgan will transmit in 2014 on ITV. Carnival's prestigious output has resulted in the company winning The Broadcast Award for Best Independent Production Company in 2012 and The Bulldog award in 2011 for Best Production Company. Prior to joining Carnival Films, Neame had a successful career as Head of Drama at the BBC, and was responsible for a range of award winning and popular shows such as *Spooks (M15)*, *Bodies*, *Outlaws*, *Hustle*, *New Tricks*, *Tipping the Velvet*, *Rome* and *Clocking Off*. Neame served on The Council of The British Academy of Film and Television Arts from 2004-06, and has spoken about the contribution of IP to the UK economy and on issues of IP piracy to the IP Alliance at The House of Commons.



**Rebecca Eaton**  
Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Rebecca Eaton took over the helm of the PBS series MASTERPIECE THEATRE and MYSTERY! in 1985, and oversaw a highly successfully relaunch of MASTERPIECE in 2008 that has attracted a new generation of viewers to the series. Eaton has brought American audiences the recent hits *Sherlock* and *Downton Abbey*, which drew more than 26 million viewers during its fourth season, as well as such high-profile titles as *Mr Selfridge*, *Endeavour*, *Wallander*, *Prime Suspect*, *Cranford*, *Little Dorrit*, *Inspector Lewis*, and *The Complete Jane Austen*. Under her leadership, MASTERPIECE has won 45 Primetime Emmy Awards®, 15 Peabody Awards, four Golden Globes®, and two Academy Award® nominations. In 2011, Eaton was named one of TIME's 100 most influential people. Her distinguished career has earned her the official recognition of Queen Elizabeth II—with an honorary OBE (Officer, Order of the British Empire). A graduate of Vassar College, Eaton began her career at the BBC World Service, then moved on to PBS station WGBH Boston where she produced programs ranging from business to sports to dance to drama before becoming Executive Producer of MASTERPIECE. Eaton's memoir, *MAKING MASTERPIECE: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery!* on PBS, was published by Viking in 2013.

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.

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