

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### *Grantchester*



#### **Robson Green**

DI Geordie Keating in *Grantchester*

As Detective Geordie Keating in *Grantchester*, Robson Green returns to his legions of MASTERPIECE fans, who couldn't take their eyes off him in *Reckless* (1998), *Reckless, the Sequel* (1999), *The Prince of Hearts* (1999), *Touching Evil* (1999-2001), *Me & Mrs. Jones* (2003)—and, of course, last season's premiere episodes of *Grantchester*. In intervening years, he has starred in a string of popular British television series, including the huge hit *Wire in the Blood*, which ran for six seasons and had Green playing a clinical psychologist who specializes in

serial killer cases—in the UK mostly, but his foray to Texas in a special episode won the Edgar Allan Poe Award. Other star turns include the series *Strike Back*, *Waterloo Road*, *Being Human*, *Rocket Man*, and *Northern Lights* and its sequel *City Lights*. In non-dramatic work, he shares his passion for sport fishing with his own series, *Extreme Fishing with Robson Green*, and the spin-off *Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge*, and he hosted the documentary *Robson Green's Wild Swimming Adventures*, a tour of swimming locales around the UK. He also landed on the pop music charts thanks to an episode of *Soldier Soldier*, in which he starred in the 1990s. The script called for Green and costar Jerome Flynn to supply entertainment at a wedding reception. Their soulful rendition of *Unchained Melody* became a number one hit in the UK, followed by more chartbusting duets.



#### **James Norton**

Reverend Sidney Chambers in *Grantchester*

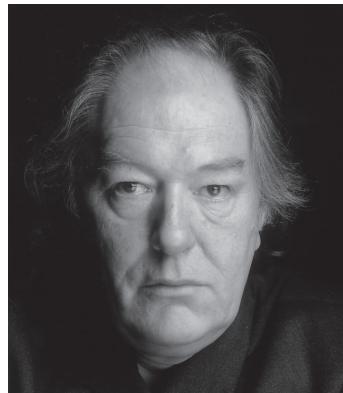
In 2014, MASTERPIECE viewers saw James Norton help tie up the loose ends of Jane Austen's most popular novel in *Death Comes to Pemberley*, P.D. James's clever continuation of *Pride and Prejudice*, with Norton playing a suitor for one of the women Austen had neglected to espouse. Now he is back for his second season as the ecclesiastical hero of James Runcie's *Sidney Chambers* mysteries—jazz-listening, scotch-swilling, sermon-spouting, and vexed by female relationships as usual. Norton has had a remarkable recent run. He can currently be seen in BBC's six-part adaptation of Tolstoy's

*War and Peace*, starring as Prince Andrei opposite *Downton Abbey*'s Lily James as Natasha. And last year, he played Sir Clifford Chatterley, Constance Chatterley's unfortunate husband in the BBC version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, alongside Holiday Grainger and Richard Madden. Also in 2015, he was seen in the BBC miniseries about the Bloomsbury Group, *Life in Squares*, exploring the relationship of sisters Vanessa Bell and Virginia Wolf, and Vanessa's enduring, sexually complicated alliance with gay artist Duncan Grant, played by Norton. He was also in the 2014 hit BBC thriller *Happy Valley*, for which he received a BAFTA nomination.

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## Churchill's Secret



### Michael Gambon

Winston Churchill in *Churchill's Secret*

Sir Michael Gambon has a thing or two in common with Sir Winston Churchill, whom he plays in *Churchill's Secret*. He's a knight, he can pilot an airplane, and he can hold an audience in the palm of his hand. It's hard to think of another actor who could pull off Churchill's unique combination of truculence, rascality, and classical eloquence. (It's not known whether Gambon flies an airplane like Sir Winston did—with a cigar jutting from his mouth.) MASTERPIECE viewers revere Gambon for a string of distinguished performances, most recently in David Hare's *Page Eight*, in which he plays the spymaster mentor for Bill Nighy's character. Before that, he was Mr. Woodhouse opposite Romola Garai in *Emma*, earning him an Emmy nomination; Mr. Holbrook in *Cranford* with Judy Dench; Edward VII in Stephen Poliakoff's *The Lost Prince*; and the beloved Squire Hamley in *Wives and Daughters*, which won him a BAFTA Best Actor award. Gambon has been seen in many memorable screen roles, including

*The King's Speech*, the *Harry Potter* films, Julian Jarrold's movie version of *Brideshead Revisited*, Wes Anderson's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, Robert Altman's *Gosford Park*, and Peter Greenaway's notorious *The Cook the Thief His Wife and Her Lover*. On television, he played Lyndon Johnson in *Path to War*, which earned him Emmy® and Golden Globe® nominations for Best Actor; and he starred in *Perfect Strangers*, *Longitude*, and the 1980s BBC serial *The Singing Detective*—winning Best Actor BAFTAs for all three roles.



### Romola Garai

Millie Appleyard in *Churchill's Secret*

Previously seen on MASTERPIECE in the roles of two great 19th-century heroines—Gwendolen Harleth in George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda* and the title character in Jane Austen's *Emma*—Romola Garai skips ahead to the 20th century in *Churchill's Secret*, playing a fictional nurse who responds to the very real and devastating stroke that Winston Churchill suffered in 1953. In other work, she occupied the same era in her Golden Globe®-nominated performance in the BBC hit series *The Hour*, about TV newsroom intrigue during a particularly hot moment of the Cold War (Garai also earned a Golden Globe® nomination for *Emma*). She just finished filming *Dominion* for writer/director Steven Bernstein, in which she stars as Caitlin Thomas, wife of the melancholy Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, played by Rhys Ifans. Her other recent work includes *Suffragette*, released in theaters last fall, with costars Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Meryl Streep, and Anne-Marie Duff; *Legacy*, a film

for BBC Two adapted by Paula Milne from Alan Judd's spy thriller, in which Garai stars with Andrew Scott and Charlie Cox; and the feature films *Having You*, *The Last Days on Mars*, and *Junkhearts*, as well as the miniseries *The Crimson Petal and the White*, the last of which earned her three Best Actress nominations, including a BAFTA nod. Her notable past film work includes Joe Wright's Oscar-nominated *Atonement*, in which she starred as the teenaged Briony Tallis; and Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It*, by William Shakespeare, in which she played the "fair and excellent" Celia.



### Charles Sturridge

Director of *Churchill's Secret*

Charles Sturridge's big directing break came with a television drama that MASTERPIECE fans voted among the top-ten programs ever broadcast on the series. In fact, *Brideshead Revisited* aired on PBS's GREAT PERFORMANCES. But it's an easy mistake to make, since the 1982 serial was MASTERPIECE material through and through: gorgeous, sophisticated, impeccably cast, and grippingly entertaining—and also highly lauded, with two Golden Globes® and six BAFTAs, as well as an Emmy nomination for Sturridge for Best Directing. He went on to direct some of the most honored

productions on television in recent years, including *Gulliver's Travels* with Ted Danson, Omar Sharif, and Peter O'Toole, which won six Emmys, including Best Series; *Longitude*, starring Michael Gambon and Jeremy Irons, winning the BANFF TV Festival Best Series award plus five BAFTAs; and *Shackleton*, starring Kenneth Branagh, which was shot on location in the Arctic and won two BAFTAs and seven Emmy nominations. In 2009 Sturridge went to Botswana to direct the first three episodes of *The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. In 2012 he wrote and directed *The Scapegoat*, based on the novel by Daphne Du Maurier, with Matthew Rhys, Eileen Atkins, Sheridan Smith, and Andrew Scott. And in 2014 he directed two episodes of the historical fantasy *Da Vinci's Demons* on Starz. Sturridge's films include E.M. Forster's *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, *FairyTale—A True Story*, and an adaptation of Eric Knight's classic novel *Lassie*, which he also scripted. His film debut, in 1968, was as an actor—playing one of the benighted junior boys in Lindsay Anderson's boarding school satire, *If...*

## Wallander



**Kenneth Branagh**  
Detective Kurt Wallander in *Wallander*

Kenneth Branagh is one of the world's most consistently acclaimed filmmakers and actors. As an Actor and Director, Branagh's work is trademarked by quality, truth and passion. Branagh most recently directed the live-action *Cinderella* for Disney, which was released in March 2015. The critically acclaimed film starred Cate Blanchett, Lily James, Richard Madden and Helena Bonham Carter. Additionally last year, the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company took up a year-long residency at London's Garrick Theatre. The season began with *The Winter's Tale* with Branagh and Dame Judi Dench and will include additional shows such as *Romeo and Juliet*, co-directed by Branagh and Rob Ashford, and John Osborne's *The Entertainer*, with Branagh in the lead role. Up next, Branagh will direct and play Hercule Poirot in the remake of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* for Fox. Branagh previously directed the newest installment of Tom Clancy's *Jack Ryan* franchise for Paramount in 2014, in which he also starred alongside Chris Pine and Keira Knightley.

Additionally, Branagh played and co-directed *Macbeth* for the Manchester International Festival in the summer of 2013. In June 2014, Branagh reprised the same roles in the production for his New York stage acting debut of *Macbeth* at the Park Avenue Armory, which premiered to rave reviews and packed houses. In 2011, Branagh played Sir Laurence Olivier in *My Week with Marilyn*, opposite Michelle Williams and directed by Simon Curtis. The role earned Branagh an Academy Award® nomination for Best Supporting Actor, as well as a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nomination. This marked Branagh's fifth career Academy Award® nomination, making him one of the first actors to receive five nominations in five separate categories (Actor, Supporting Actor, Director, Screenplay, and Short). In May 2011, Branagh released the anticipated *Marvel* action adventure, *Thor*, which he directed, starring Natalie Portman, Sir Anthony Hopkins, and Chris Hemsworth. The film grossed over \$448 million worldwide.

Branagh's first venture into filmmaking met instant success. His 1989 production of *Henry V*, which he adapted from the Shakespeare and both starred in and directed, won a score of international awards including Academy Award® nominations for Best Actor and Best Director. He was subsequently invited to Hollywood to direct and act in *Dead Again*, which was a huge international hit, and next directed himself in the ensemble film *Peter's Friends*, which won the Evening Standard Peter Sellers Award for Comedy. Branagh's second Shakespearean film success as actor, director, writer and producer was *Much Ado About Nothing*, which was invited to screen at the Cannes Film Festival, and in the same year his short film of the Chekhov play *Swan Song* received an Academy Award® nomination. He went on to direct Robert De Niro in the commercial hit *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* and his black and white film *A Midwinter's Tale* opened the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and won the prestigious Osello d'Oro at the Venice Film Festival. Branagh's critically acclaimed full-length version of *Hamlet*, in 70mm, received 4 Academy Award nominations. His fourth Shakespeare film adaptation was a 1930's musical version of *Love's Labour's Lost*. More recently, Branagh directed HBO Films' *As You Like It*, a film of Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* and *Sleuth*, written by Harold Pinter and starring Jude Law and Michael Caine.

His other film work includes acting roles in Pat O'Connor's *A Month in the Country*; Oliver Parker's *Othello*; Robert Altman's *The Gingerbread Man*; Woody Allen's *Celebrity*; Danny Boyle's *Alien Love Triangle*; Paul Greengrass's *The Theory of Flight*; Barry Sonnenfeld's *Wild Wild West*; Philip Noyce's *Rabbit Proof Fence*; *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*; the Richard Curtis comedy, *Pirate Radio*; and Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie*. Branagh has appeared in several outstanding television dramas including a recent turn as Detective Kurt Wallander in the BAFTA winning series *Wallander*, which earned him Emmy® and Golden Globe® nominations. He has also starred in the title role of *Shackleton* for Channel 4; A&E's *Conspiracy* in which he won an Emmy® for Best Actor and earned a Golden Globe® nomination; *Warm Springs* in which he played FDR and was nominated for an Emmy®, Golden Globe® and a SAG Award. Branagh's stage work began when he made his West End acting debut in *Another Country* which earned him the Society of West End Theater's Award for "Most Promising Newcomer." He founded the Renaissance Theatre Company for whom he either starred in or directed the following works: *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Look Back in Anger*, *Uncle Vanya*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Coriolanus* and *The Life of Napoleon*. He also wrote the plays *Public Enemy* and *Tell Me Honestly*. Numerous stage appearances include the RSC's *Henry V*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Hamlet*. His more recent theatrical endeavors include directing the hit stage comedy *The Play What I Wrote* which transferred from London's West End to Broadway where it received a TONY nomination, and five-star performances on the British stage in *Richard III*, Mamet's *Edmond*, *Ivanov*, and the new comedy *Painkiller* in the opening season at the New Lyric Theatre, Belfast, Branagh's hometown. Branagh is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art where he won the Bancroft Gold Medal. He succeeded Lord Attenborough as President of RADA in the summer of 2015. He received the prestigious Michael Balcon Award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), for outstanding contribution to cinema. In 2012 he received a Knighthood for his services to drama and the community in Northern Ireland.

## Dark Angel



### Joanne Froggatt

Mary Ann Cotton in *Dark Angel*

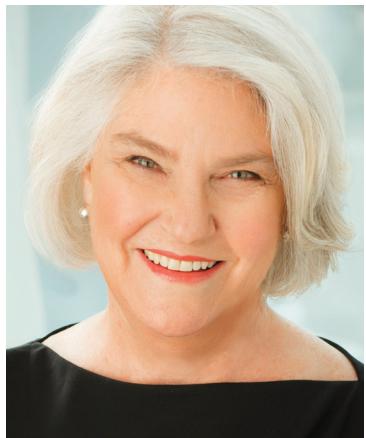
Golden Globe®, SAG and British Independent Film Awards winner and three-time Emmy® nominee, Joanne has become one of the UK's brightest stars working across television, film and theatre.

Joanne can currently be seen in the role as the much-loved head housemaid 'Anna' in the multi-award-winning and critically acclaimed *Downton Abbey*, which airs on MASTERPIECE on PBS.

She just wrapped production on three exciting new projects. In film, she will next be seen in *A Street Cat Named Bob*, based on the best-selling novel by James Bowen as well as *Starfish*, based on the extraordinary true life story of Tom and Nicola Ray, in which she stars and served as Producer. She

will return to MASTERPIECE in ITV's two-part true story *Dark Angel*, playing Victoria serial killer "Mary Ann Cotton."

Joanne also starred opposite Eddie Marsan in the independent film *Still Life*, directed by Uberto Pasolini, and in the role of 'Mary' opposite James McAvoy, Jamie Bell and Jim Broadbent in Irvine Welsh's feature adaptation of his own novel, the black comedy *Filth*. She starred alongside Jamie Blackley and Toby Regbo in *U Want Me 2 Kill Him?*, and in 2010 she starred in the topical independent film *In Our Name* as 'Suzy', a soldier returned from the Iraq war and struggling to reintegrate into her former civilian life, for which she won a 'Best Newcomer' award at the British Independent Film Awards.



### 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 successful relaunch of MASTERPIECE that attracted a new generation of viewers to the series. She has brought American audiences the 2015 Emmy®-nominated and Golden Globe® winning *Wolf Hall*, the recent hits *Sherlock* and *Downton Abbey* — the most-watched drama in PBS history — 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 54 Primetime Emmy Awards®, 15 Peabody Awards, six 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.

The top-rated primetime show on PBS, MASTERPIECE is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2016. MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Rebecca Eaton is Executive Producer. Funding for the series is provided by Viking River Cruises and Audible with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust, created to help ensure the series' future.

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January 2016