

**Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Jemima West,
Nikesh Patel, Roshan Seth and Lillete Dubey to star in
MASTERPIECE on PBS and Channel 4's
epic period saga *Indian Summers***

Boston, MA, April 29, 2014 — Julie Walters (*Harry Potter, The Hollow Crown*), Henry Lloyd-Hughes (*The Inbetweeners, Harry Potter, Madame Bovary*), Jemima West (*The Borgias, The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*), Nikesh Patel (*Bedlam, Honour*), Roshan Seth (*A Passage to India, Ghandi*) and Lillete Dubey (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Monsoon Wedding*) will star in MASTERPIECE's ten-part epic drama *Indian Summers*.

Also joining the cast are Alexander Cobb (*Mr. Selfridge, Call the Midwife*), Craig Parkinson (*Line of Duty, Misfits*), Fiona Glascott (*Episodes*), Amber Rose Revah (*What Remains*), Aysha Kala (*Shameless*), Olivia Grant (*Endeavour*) and Edward Hogg (*The Borgias*).

Set against the sweeping grandeur of the Himalayas and tea plantations of Northern India, the drama tells the rich and explosive story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India, from both sides of the experience. But at the heart of the story lie the implications and ramifications of the tangled web of passions, rivalries and clashes that define the lives of those brought together in this summer which will change everything.

It's the summer of 1932. India dreams of Independence, but the British are clinging to power. In the foothills of the Himalayas stands Simla, a little England where every summer the British power-brokers of this nation are posted to govern during the summer months.

Ralph Whelan (Lloyd-Hughes), coolly ambitious, a coming man and tipped for promotion, is Private Secretary to the Viceroy of India. His sister, Alice (West), returns to Simla alone with her child and finds herself drawn to Aafrin (Patel), a Junior Clerk in the Viceroy's office and son to Roshana (Dubey) and Darius (Seth), a gentle man and veteran of The Great War. Aafrin is brother to Sooni (Kala), severe and beautiful, and his spoilt younger sister Shamshad.

At the heart of Simla's society is Cynthia (Walters), widowed doyenne of the Royal Club who is as at home in the tack room as she is the ballroom. A force to be reckoned with, her influence spreads throughout the community.

-more-

The cast of characters also includes Douglas (Parkinson), who runs a missionary school, his wife Sarah (Glascott) who yearns for the comforts of home, Ian McLeod (Cobb), the young and naïve Scottish tea plantation heir, and the mysterious Anglo-Indian woman Leena (Revah).

As *Indian Summers* begins, the stories of promises, secrets, politics, power, sex and love play out as the British Raj begins to falter and a nation opens its eyes to the possibilities of freedom.

Filming will take place this summer with the series due to be broadcast on Channel 4 and MASTERPIECE on PBS in 2015.

Indian Summers is the first Channel 4 commission from New Pictures. It is a coproduction with MASTERPIECE on PBS in the U.S. It is created and written by Paul Rutman (*Vera*). It will be directed by Anand Tucker (*Red Riding*) and produced by Dan McCulloch (*Endeavour*). Executive Producers are Charlie Pattinson (*Shameless*, *Skins*, *Elizabeth I*), Elaine Pyke (*Mad Dogs*, *Strike Back*) and Simon Curtis (*My Week with Marilyn*, *Cranford*), and Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE on PBS (broadcaster of *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey*). Indira Varma is Co-Executive Producer. Commissioned by Piers Wenger and Beth Willis for Channel 4, *Indian Summers* will be distributed internationally by All3M International.

MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Rebecca Eaton is Executive Producer for MASTERPIECE. Funding for the series is provided by Viking 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.

pbs.org/masterpiece

Press contacts:

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

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