

MASTERPIECE on PBS to Air Film of Tony® Award-Nominated Play *King Charles III*

Los Angeles, CA; July 28, 2016— MASTERPIECE on PBS and the BBC announced today that the hit Broadway show *King Charles III* will be adapted for television. A 2016 Tony® nominee for Best Play, *King Charles III* imagines Prince Charles' ascension to the throne following Queen Elizabeth's death. It will air on MASTERPIECE on PBS in 2017.

Lauded by the *New York Times* as a "flat-out brilliant portrait of a monarch in crisis," the play was critically acclaimed in London and New York. The 90-minute adaptation will reunite the Tony®-nominated creative team behind the play: Writer Mike Bartlett will adapt from his own script —daringly written in blank verse—and Rupert Goold will direct.

"*King Charles III* is an ingenious play that promises to be as riveting on television as it was on stage," says MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton. "It's a play set in the near future, but with Shakespeare never far away." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston.

"We are delighted and excited in equal measure that Mike Bartlett, one of Britain's most gifted writers, and the visionary Rupert Goold will re-unite to bring their extraordinary theatre production to television. Alongside MASTERPIECE and the BBC we are as proud as anything to be the producers of this standout event," said Executive Producers Greg Brenman and Roanna Benn.

Screenwriter Mike Bartlett said, "I'm thrilled that on Broadway, American audiences have responded so well to the story of *King Charles III*. It's therefore fantastic that the film of the play has found a perfect home at MASTERPIECE. It will mean that, along with original director Rupert Goold, we can tell this story to people across the whole country."

King Charles III is a coproduction of the BBC and MASTERPIECE, in association with Drama Republic. The screenwriter is Mike Bartlett and the director is Rupert Goold. The Executive Producers for Drama Republic are Greg Brenman and Roanna Benn, alongside Mike Bartlett and Rupert Goold. The Executive Producer for MASTERPIECE is Rebecca Eaton

About MASTERPIECE

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. MASTERPIECE is known for presenting iconic shows such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Poldark*, *Sherlock* and *Downton Abbey*.

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About Drama Republic

Drama Republic is a dynamic independent television production company, specialising in quality TV drama. It recently produced the multi award-winning BBC hit show *Doctor Foster* written by Mike Bartlett and also Hugo Blick's Golden Globe®, RTS and BAFTA winning *The Honourable Woman* for BBC/Sundance TV. Previously the company also produced the award-winning *My Mad Fat Diary* for E4 (in association with Tiger Aspect) and the star-studded, award winning *An Inspector Calls* for BBC One.

About PBS

PBS, with 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 100 million people through television and nearly 33 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 *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Arthur*, *Curious George* and more than a dozen other prime-time, lifestyle, and children's series. WGBH also is a major supplier of programming for public radio, and oversees Public Radio International (PRI). As a leader in educational multimedia for the classroom, WGBH supplies content to PBS LearningMedia, a national broadband service for teachers and students. WGBH also is a pioneer in technologies and services that make media accessible to those with hearing or visual impairments. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors. More info at www.wgbh.org.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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