

Biographical Notes

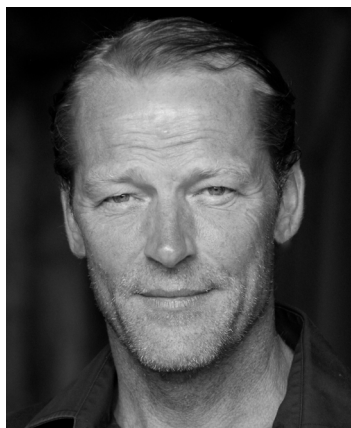
Mrs. Wilson



Ruth Wilson

Alison Wilson and executive producer, *Mrs. Wilson*

Ruth Wilson is the executive producer and star of *Mrs. Wilson*. The three-part limited series is the true story of Wilson's grandmother, whom she plays, who finds out her late husband was involved in espionage for MI6 and was also married to three other women. MASTERPIECE viewers know Wilson well through her Golden Globe® and BAFTA-nominated performance in *Jane Eyre* as well as her starring role in *Small Island* with Benedict Cumberbatch and David Oyelowo. She is known to U.S. audiences for her Golden Globe® Award winning performance in the hit TV series *The Affair* (opposite Dominic West). Wilson is also a celebrated West End and Broadway stage actor, winning two Olivier Awards and a Tony® nomination. Her many film credits include *Dark River*, *I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House*, *Suite Française*, *Saving Mr. Banks*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Anna Karenina* and most recently *The Little Stranger*. In upcoming work, she continues her starring role in the popular British TV crime series *Luther*, and she will star in the forthcoming British fantasy adventure series *His Dark Materials*, based on Philip Pullman's bestselling novels. This April, she opens in the highly-anticipated Broadway production of *King Lear* starring Glenda Jackson.



Iain Glen

Alexander Wilson, *Mrs. Wilson*

Iain Glen notes that playing Alexander Wilson, the man of many identities in *Mrs. Wilson*, came naturally. "There's a huge overlap with your work as an actor," he points out, "because that's what we do. We pretend to be different people." He adds that the role was delightfully complicated. "It's a lovely thing playing somebody with so many different qualities to them." Best known recently for starring as the outcast Jorah Mormont in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, Glen is remembered—and reviled—by *Downton Abbey* fans for his portrayal of the reptilian press mogul Sir Richard Carlisle, who tries to blackmail Lady Mary into marriage. For that part, he shared a Screen Actors Guild® Outstanding Ensemble award with the other *Downton Abbey* stars. Glen first appeared on MASTERPIECE in *Painted Lady* with Helen Mirren and went on to star in *Wives and Daughters*, *The Wyvern Mystery*, *Kidnapped*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Breathless*, and guest star in an episode of *Poirot*. His many other television credits include lead roles in *Cleverman* and *Jack Taylor*, and a Shakespearean turn in the acclaimed adaptation of *The Hollow Crown* on PBS. Among his notable films are *My Cousin Rachel*, *Resident Evil*, and *Gorillas in the Mist*. He also earned best actor honors in the Evening Standard British Film Awards for *Mountains of the Moon*, *Fools of Fortune* and *Silent Screams*, and was nominated for an Olivier Award for his stage performance in *The Blue Room* opposite Nicole Kidman.



Anna Symon
Writer, *Mrs. Wilson*

“From the moment I started reading it, I thought this is an incredible story,” says screenwriter Anna Symon of her first look at the unpublished memoir by Alison Wilson, the woman who would become the title character in *Mrs. Wilson* (played by Alison’s granddaughter, Ruth Wilson). Symon’s scripts are familiar to MASTERPIECE viewers from her two episodes for the series *Indian Summers*, about the British Raj period in India. Interestingly, British India plays a crucial role in *Mrs. Wilson*, as the spawning ground for the spy career of Alison’s husband-to-be, the novelist and adventurer Alexander Wilson. In writing the program, Symon interviewed most of the key people still alive who remember Alison and Alexander, assembling a story that has never been told in all of its stranger-than-fiction detail. Symon got

her start in television as a producer/director in current affairs and documentaries before turning to scriptwriting. *Mrs. Wilson* is her first complete series. Upcoming, she has scripted the six-part emotional thriller *Deep Water*, based on novels by Paula Daly, which will air in the U.K. in 2019.

Les Misérables



Lily Collins
Fantine, *Les Misérables*

For her role as Fantine in MASTERPIECE’s epic retelling of *Les Misérables*, Lily Collins had the challenge of portraying her character’s entire adult life, from her carefree first love to her harrowing final days—something only the luxury of a six-hour adaptation allows. Speaking of Fantine’s heart-wrenching decline, Collins says, “I personally as an actor have never gone that low ... it was a really powerful experience for me to let go and give it all up to the moment.” Collins faced a different kind of challenge in Warren Beatty’s 2016 comedy-drama-romance *Rules Don’t Apply*, in which she played an aspiring actress mixed up in Howard Hughes’ show business aspirations. In that film, her portrayal of a religiously devout ingénue in 1950s Hollywood earned her a Golden Globe® nomination. Collins’ other film roles include Snow White in the fantasy-adventure *Mirror Mirror* with Julia Roberts, as

well as starring roles in *To the Bone*; *Love, Rosie*; *The Mortal Instruments*; and on television, the Amazon series *The Last Tycoon*. Upcoming, she will star with Zac Efron and John Malkovich in the Ted Bundy biopic thriller *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, and she will play the wife and muse of J. R. R. Tolkien in the biopic *Tolkien*.



David Oyelowo
Javert and co-executive producer, *Les Misérables*

In *Les Misérables*, David Oyelowo plays one of the most enigmatic figures in literature. What drives his character, Inspector Javert, to pursue the reformed petty criminal Jean Valjean for years on end—to Javert’s ultimate ruin? Celebrated for such complex roles as Martin Luther King Jr. in *Selma* and a PTSD-afflicted war veteran in HBO’s *Nightingale*, Oyelowo has delved deeply into Javert’s psychology. “Javert ... was born to criminal parents in prison,” he points out. “He could have gone down the path of criminality himself, but he chooses the path of righteousness... You see a man on his own personal quest for justice.” A multi-Golden Globe® and Emmy®-nominated actor and producer, Oyelowo has become one of Hollywood’s most sought-after talents. MASTERPIECE viewers remember his 2010 BAFTA-nominated performance in *Small Island*, which also featured Ruth Wilson, where he played an

irrepressibly upbeat Jamaican immigrant. Since then his career has soared with starring roles in such films as *Queen of Katwe* opposite Lupita Nyong’o, *A United Kingdom* with Rosamund Pike (which he also produced) and supporting roles in such Hollywood hits as *Lincoln*, *The Help*, *Jack Reacher*, *Interstellar* and *The Butler*. In 2019, he will star on the big screen with Angelina Jolie in the Peter Pan/Alice in Wonderland prequel *Come Away*.



Dominic West

Jean Valjean and co-executive producer, *Les Misérables*

“He’s the best superhero that’s ever been written about,” says Dominic West of his character in *Les Misérables*, the brawny protagonist, Jean Valjean. Born and raised in England, West caught the attention of U.S. audiences for his leading role (and convincing American accent) in HBO’s critically acclaimed *The Wire*, which spanned five suspenseful seasons. This spring will see the fifth and final season of another hit series starring West, Showtime’s *The Affair*, for which he earned a Golden Globe® nomination for his performance as Noah Solloway. Currently, he can be seen opposite Keira Knightley in the feature film *Colette*, in a performance that garnered him a British Independent Film Award nomination for best supporting actor. Previously, he starred in *The Square* alongside Elizabeth Moss and Claes Bang. And in

2016, he starred as Ernest Hemingway in *Genius* opposite Colin Firth, Jude Law and Nicole Kidman, and loaned his voice to Disney Pixar’s blockbuster *Finding Dory*.



Andrew Davies

Writer and co-executive producer, *Les Misérables*

Screenwriting legend Andrew Davies has made a career of adapting great novels for television, dating to one of his first projects for MASTERPIECE, George Eliot’s feminist classic *Middlemarch*, which aired in 1994. Since then, Davies has tackled famous works by Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, Anthony Trollope, Elizabeth Gaskell, E. M. Forster, Boris Pasternak and many others. He has also adapted contemporary plots such as MASTERPIECE’s original TV version of *House of Cards*, which inspired the Netflix series, and the first two *Bridget Jones* films. Davies’ television work has won him two Primetime Emmy® Awards and five BAFTAs. He has also authored radio plays, children’s books, stage plays, a musical, two adult novels and a book of short stories, among other projects. For someone so prolific, Davies didn’t become a full-time writer until around age 50, holding down

jobs as a teacher before that. True to form, he is currently at work on a six-hour dramatization of *A Suitable Boy*, Vikram Seth’s masterpiece set in India just after the partition in 1947.

Endeavour



Shaun Evans

Endeavour Morse, *Endeavour*

In the eagerly awaited sixth season of *Endeavour* on MASTERPIECE MYSTERY!, star Shaun Evans will sport a stylish Sgt. Pepper mustache. The year is 1969, and the Thames Valley Constabulary has loosened up along with the rest of swinging England. Unfortunately, the crime rate is up, providing plenty of gritty police work for Evans’ beloved character, D.S. Endeavour Morse. Evans also directs an episode in the new series, drawing on his inaugural experience directing three recent episodes of *Casualty* for the BBC. Before *Endeavour*, MASTERPIECE viewers caught Evans in *Silk* and *The Virgin Queen*. His other TV credits include *The Scandalous Lady W*, *The Take* and *Teachers*, all in the U.K. He has starred in a variety of celebrated films, including *Wreckers* opposite Claire Foy and Benedict Cumberbatch, and *Being Julia*, based on a W. Somerset Maugham novel, with Annette Benning, Jeremy Irons and

Michael Gambon, as well as the movies *War Book*, *Gone*, and *Boy A*.

Grantchester



Tom Brittney

Will Davenport, *Grantchester*

There's a new vicar in town! For the fourth season of MASTERPIECE MYSTERY!'s hit series *Grantchester*, Tom Brittney joins the cast as Reverend Will Davenport, a rookie crime-solving partner for Robson Green's Geordie Keating. James Norton, who created the role of Vicar Sidney Chambers, will be making his final appearance during the season. No stranger to mysteries, Brittney played a young detective constable in the cold-case missing person series *The Five*, which aired in the U.K. In other British television work, he did a bout of time travel on *Outlander*, played a father-to-be in *Call the Midwife*, fell in love with an anthropomorphic robot in *Humans* and appeared on the popular lottery drama series *The Syndicate*. Tom was also seen in the Lifetime series *UnReal*. In film, Brittney starred in *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*, and he will appear with Tom Hanks in the World War II

thriller *Greyhound*, to be released this March.



Rebecca Eaton

Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Rebecca Eaton took the helm of the PBS series MASTERPIECE THEATRE and MYSTERY! in 1985, and later oversaw a highly successful relaunch of MASTERPIECE which attracted a new generation of viewers. She has brought American audiences Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, the recent hits *Victoria*, *Sherlock*, *Poldark*, *Downton Abbey* — the most-watched drama in PBS history — as well as such high-profile titles as *Grantchester*, *Prime Suspect*, *Wallander*, *Cranford*, *Little Dorrit*, and *The Complete Jane Austen*. Under her leadership, MASTERPIECE has won 62 Primetime Emmy Awards®, 16 Peabody Awards, six Golden Globes® and two Academy Award® nominations. In 2011, Rebecca 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, Rebecca 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. Rebecca's memoir, *MAKING MASTERPIECE: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! on PBS*, was published by Viking in 2013.

About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 16 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans since 1971. Rebecca Eaton is the executive producer of the series. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. Presented on PBS by WGBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for recent hits such as *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Victoria*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*.

pbs.org/masterpiece

February, 2019