

# MASTERPIECE

## An Ensemble of Superb British Talent in Mike Bartlett's *Press* for MASTERPIECE on PBS and BBC One

Boston, MA; September 10, 2017 — An ensemble cast of some of Britain's hottest talent will portray the committed and passionate characters behind the daily news at two fictional, rival newspapers in Mike Bartlett's (*Doctor Foster*, *King Charles III*) drama series, *Press* for MASTERPIECE on PBS and BBC One.

**Charlotte Riley** (*King Charles III*, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*) will play the News Editor of fictional broadsheet, *The Herald* and **Ben Chaplin** (*Apple Tree Yard*, *The Thin Red Line*) will play the Editor of fictional tabloid newspaper, *The Post* while **Priyanga Burford** (*London Spy*, *King Charles III*) will play *The Herald*'s Editor. **Paapa Essiedu** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, The Royal Shakespeare Company's *Hamlet*) will play *The Post*'s newest reporter and **Shane Zaza** (*Happy Valley*, *The Da Vinci Code*) its News Editor; while **Ellie Kendrick** (*Game of Thrones*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*) will be a junior reporter; **Al Weaver** (*Grantchester*, *The Hollow Crown*) an investigative journalist and **Brendan Cowell** (The Young Vic's *Yerma*, *Game of Thrones*) the Deputy Editor at *The Herald*.

They will be joined by **David Suchet** (*Poirot*) who will play the Chairman & CEO of Worldwide News, owner of *The Post*.

*Press* will be directed by Tom Vaughan (*Victoria*, *Doctor Foster*) and produced by Paul Gilbert (*Humans*).

Writer and Executive Producer, Mike Bartlett said: "I'm so happy to be working with the incredible Tom Vaughan again, and the talent of this amazing cast make me feel like the luckiest writer around. *Press* is a series packed full of stories and now we have the very best people to tell them."

Set in the world of newspapers in London - its past riven by hacking scandals, its present at the mercy of the digital age and the 24-hour news cycle, its future uncertain - this razor sharp and observant drama will explore the current, turbulent media landscape and the ethical dilemmas that journalists and editors face each day.

Charlotte Riley said: "I am delighted to be working with Mike Bartlett again, and with Tom Vaughan on a truly brilliant piece of writing. Mike is a phenomenal storyteller and I am excited to be part of this project".

Faith Penhale, Executive Producer for Lookout Point said: "It's a real thrill to be working with such an exciting group of some of Britain's best actors. They are each individually, gobsmackingly talented, but together, and with Mike's stunning scripts, they will create something extraordinary."

Rebecca Eaton, Executive Producer for MASTERPIECE said: "News, fake news, business and politics have long been bedfellows – now more than ever. Mike Bartlett understands how to make all this real and immediate." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston.

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Piers Wenger, Controller, BBC Drama said: “The newspaper business is part of Britain’s identity and Mike’s gripping stories of crusading journalists in this ever-changing industry, brought to life by this brilliantly talented cast make for a fresh, thrilling and utterly British contemporary drama”.

*Press* is a Lookout Point, BBC Studios, Deep Indigo production, co-produced with MASTERPIECE, for BBC One. Executive Producers are Faith Penhale and Mike Bartlett for Lookout Point, Bethan Jones for BBC Studios, Nigel Stafford-Clark for Deep Indigo, Mona Qureshi for BBC One and Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE. International Distribution will be handled by BBC Worldwide.

*Press* begins filming in London in October and will broadcast on BBC One in 2018. *Press* will air on MASTERPIECE on PBS following the UK broadcast.

#### **About MASTERPIECE**

The top-rated primetime show on PBS, MASTERPIECE celebrated 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 Cruises and Farmers Insurance® with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. MASTERPIECE is known for presenting iconic shows such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Poldark*, *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey*, and *Victoria*.

[pbs.org/masterpiece](http://pbs.org/masterpiece)

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