

## ***Prime Suspect: Tennison* to Air on MASTERPIECE on PBS** **Series Portrays Early Career of Jane Tennison,** **one of TV's Most Iconic Detectives**

Boston, MA; October 11, 2016—*Prime Suspect: Tennison*, the highly anticipated prequel to the hit series *Prime Suspect*, is scheduled to air on MASTERPIECE on PBS in 2017.

The six-part drama portrays the early career of one of television's most iconic detectives, Jane Tennison—the role that established Dame Helen Mirren as a household name in the groundbreaking MASTERPIECE series *Prime Suspect*.

“Jane Tennison was adored by MASTERPIECE audiences, who cheered her on as she tried to make it in a man's world,” said MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton. “*Prime Suspect: Tennison* will imagine the events that made Jane the tenacious, difficult, and brilliant detective she became.” MASTERPIECE is presented by WGBH Boston.

A coproduction of ITV Studios, NoHo Film & Television and MASTERPIECE for ITV, *Prime Suspect: Tennison* is a visually-stunning, cinematic style drama which rewinds to 1970s London where viewers meet Jane (Stefanie Martini, *Doctor Thorne*) as an ambitious, single-minded 22-year-old probationary officer, starting out in an environment where chauvinism and rule-bending are the norm.

*Prime Suspect: Tennison* is adapted from the bestselling novel *Tennison* by acclaimed author Lynda La Plante, who created the original *Prime Suspect* series.

“MASTERPIECE on PBS was the original home of *Prime Suspect* so we are thrilled that they are continuing their association with this brilliant series,” says Greg Johnson, EVP ITV Studios Global Entertainment. “*Prime Suspect: Tennison* will feel very topical and fresh, through the many complex and very current themes it explores.”

Jane's dedicated, instinctive approach is evident from the start as she is thrown into a brutal murder inquiry, witnessing first-hand the devastating effect of violent crime, and experiencing tragic ramifications herself. Immersed in the music, fashion and politics that defined a generation, the series follows her as she establishes herself in a workplace dominated by men, revealing the complexities of the ambition and personal life that shaped one of television's most famous female characters.

Jane Tennison stormed onto MASTERPIECE in 1992. By the time the series ended in 2006, it had introduced a character with massive appeal and transformed the crime series genre. Admired equally by critics and audiences, *Prime Suspect* won Emmys® for Outstanding Miniseries and Outstanding Actress for Helen Mirren.

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## 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 *Prime Suspect: Tennison* is provided by Viking River Cruises, 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*.

## About PBS

PBS, with nearly 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wgbh.org).

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

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