

Biographical Notes

Roadkill

Sundays, November 1 - 22, 2020 at 9/8c



Hugh Laurie

Peter Laurence, *Roadkill*

Hugh Laurie is a two-time SAG® Award and three-time Golden Globe® Award-winning actor, comedian, and musician. Laurie currently stars in HBO's *Avenue 5* as the lead character Ryan Clark, the charming American Captain of Avenue 5. Created and executive produced by Armando Iannucci, the space tourism comedy is set 40 years in the future. Recent performances include his award-winning turn in *The Personal History of David Copperfield* opposite Dev Patel and Tilda Swinton, the role of Tom James, a senator and running mate opposite Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) in the fourth season of the Emmy® Award winning HBO series, *Veep*, and his role as Major de Coverley in Hulu's six-part limited series *Catch-22* directed by George Clooney, which was nominated for Best Limited Television Series at the 2020 Golden Globes®. His performance as Dr. Gregory House garnered him two Golden Globe® Awards for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series, six Emmy® nominations for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, and two SAG® Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series. He has been honored twice by the Television Critics Association with TCA Awards for Individual Achievement in Drama. Other memorable roles include Richard Roper in *The Night Manager* alongside Tom Hiddleston and Olivia Colman, Vincent Minnelli opposite Judy Davis in *Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows* and Mr. Little in the *Stuart Little* films. Laurie produced *The Cellar Tapes* with Stephen Fry and Emma Thompson, which propelled the trio into several groundbreaking British television shows, including four seasons of *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, which Laurie co-wrote for BBC with Stephen Fry; and three seasons of *Blackadder*. In addition, four seasons of *Jeeves and Wooster*, based on the novels of P.G. Wodehouse, aired on MASTERPIECE from 1990-1995. Laurie's first novel "The Gun Seller" was published to critical acclaim and adapted into a screenplay. Laurie also recorded the celebrated New Orleans blues album "Let Them Talk" which was released in the US in September 2011. The album was the biggest-selling blues album of 2011 in the UK. The performance documentary about Laurie's musical passion, *Hugh Laurie: Let Them Talk – A Celebration of New Orleans Blues* also aired on PBS's *Great Performances* that same year. His second album, "Didn't It Rain," was released in August 2013 along with his second PBS special *Live on the Queen Mary*. Laurie was born in Oxford, England and educated at Cambridge University, where he received a degree in anthropology.



David Hare

Writer and Executive Producer, *Roadkill*

David Hare is a playwright and film-maker. He has written over thirty stage plays which include *Plenty*, *Pravda* (with Howard Brenton), *The Secret Rapture*, *Racing Demon*, *Skylight*, *Amy's View*, *The Blue Room*, *Via Dolorosa*, *Stuff Happens*, *The Absence of War*, *The Judas Kiss*, *The Moderate Soprano* and *I'm Not Running*. For film and television he has written over twenty-five screenplays which include *The White Crow*, *Licking Hitler*, *Dreams of Leaving*, *Saigon: Year of the Cat*, *Wetherby*, *Damage*, *The Hours*, *The Reader*, *Denial* and *The Worricker Trilogy: Page Eight*, *Turks & Caicos* and *Salting the Battlefield*. Most recently David created the four-part series *Collateral* for the BBC and Netflix starring Carey Mulligan and Billie Piper. In a millennial poll of the greatest plays of the 20th century, five of the top 100 were his.

***All Creatures Great and Small* January 2021**



Anna Madeley

Mrs. Hall, *All Creatures Great and Small*

Anna has worked extensively in television, film and theatre. Most recently, she starred in Channel 4's *Deadwater Fell* alongside David Tennant, and the sensationally received *Patrick Melrose* for Sky/Showtime, opposite Benedict Cumberbatch. Her other TV credits include *The Child in Time*, *The Crown*, *Virtuoso*, *Crossing Lines* and *Affinity* for which she won the Best Actress Golden Nymph award. On film she has appeared in *The Nutcracker & the Four Realms* for Walt Disney Pictures playing Mackenzie Foy's mother, *The Little Stranger*, *The Mercy*, *Strawberry Fields*, *Brideshead Revisited*, *In Bruges* and *Stoned*. Anna also has a successful and varied career in theatre, most recently starring in *Les Blancs* at the National Theatre (Dir. Yael Farber), *The Height of the Storm* with Eileen Atkins and Jonathan Pryce (Dir. Jonathan Kent), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Young Vic (Dir. Joe Hill-Gibbins), *The Crucible* at the Old Vic (Dir. Yael Farber) for which she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress What's On Stage Award in 2015, *Private Lives* in Toronto and New York (Dir. Richard Eyre), *Becky Shaw* at the Almeida Theatre (Dir. Peter du Bois) and *Earthquakes* in London at the National Theatre (Dir. Rupert Goold). Anna has just finished filming series one of *All Creatures Great and Small* playing Mrs. Hall and can be seen in both *Sitting in Limbo* on BBC 1 and *Unprecedented: Real Time Theatre from a State of Isolation* on BBC, a series of shorts made during lockdown.



Nicholas Ralph

James Herriot, *All Creatures Great and Small*

Nicholas Ralph trained at the prestigious Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has since performed in various roles predominantly on stage, until 2019 when he secured the leading role of James Herriot in *All Creatures Great and Small*. His portrayal of the British veterinary surgeon will mark his debut television role. Ralph's past theatre credits include playing Logan in *Interference*, a 2019 futuristic trio of plays directed by Cora Bissett at National Theatre of Scotland, and *Captain Amazing*, a one man show directed by Tess Munro-Summerville at Glasgow's Citizens Theatre. In 2017 Ralph appeared in feature film *The Wife*, directed by Bjorn Runge. He was recently cast in the upcoming supernatural thriller, *The Devil's Light*, which is to be directed by Daniel Stamm and begins filming later this year.

**Rachel Shenton****Helen Alderson, *All Creatures Great and Small***

Fluent in British Sign Language, Rachel won an Oscar® for the live action short she wrote and stars in, *The Silent Child*. She will soon appear as regular role Helen in Channel 5 and MASTERPIECE's upcoming revival of the classic *All Creatures Great and Small*. Rachel starred in *A Very British Christmas* for Showtime in December of last year and appeared in the lead cast for the second series of the BBC's *White Gold*, as well as Jeff Pope's acclaimed ITV drama *A Confession* - based on the highly publicised murder of Sian O'Callaghan. Rachel was originally best known for portraying the regular role of Mitzeeee in *Hollyoaks* for Channel 4, a character she played for 3 years, before temporarily relocating to LA to star as a regular in U.S. series *Switched at Birth*.

**Samuel West****Siegfried Farnon, *All Creatures Great and Small***

Samuel West has dozens of credits to his name across TV, film, theatre and audio. He stars as Siegfried Farnon in the new TV adaptation of *All Creatures Great and Small*. Recent screen work includes the art historian and spy Anthony Blunt in Season Three of *The Crown* and Lord Pressfield in Guy Ritchie's *The Gentlemen*. In 2017 West appeared as Churchill's right-hand man Anthony Eden in *Darkest Hour* directed by Joe Wright, and the British drama *On Chesil Beach*, directed by Dominic Cooke. Other films include *Van Helsing*, *Hyde Park on Hudson*, Zeffirelli's *Jane Eyre* and *Howards End*, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA award. Among his many television credits are Frank Edwards in four seasons of *Mr Selfridge* for ITV and MASTERPIECE, Anthony Blunt (again) in *Cambridge Spies*, Sir Walter Pole in *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* and Richard Cartwright in the BBC's *W1A*. West is also busy on stage, most recently appearing in *The Writer* by Ella Hickson at the Almeida. He played Hamlet and Richard II for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Valentine

in the first production of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* at the National Theatre and in 2010 was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award for his performance as Jeffrey Skilling in *Enron* in the West End. He has directed thirteen plays and two operas; his most recent production was *The Watsons* by his partner Laura Wade, which was due to transfer from the Chichester Festival Theatre to London's Harold Pinter theatre when Covid-19 hit. West is an Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company and Chair of the National Campaign for the Arts.

**Callum Woodhouse****Tristan Farnon, *All Creatures Great and Small***

Callum Woodhouse is a young exciting actor originally from Durham. He played the role of Leslie Durrell in ITV and MASTERPIECE's much-loved series *The Durrells in Corfu*. In the feel-good series loved by fans and critics alike, Callum played the second eldest son of the Durrell family, opposite Keeley Hawes (*Bodyguard*) and Josh O'Connor (*The Crown*). Callum also starred in seasons 6 and 8 of ITV's much-loved British comedy-drama *Cold Feet* as Josh Marsden alongside James Nesbitt, Fay Ripley, Robert Bathurst, Hermione Norris and John Thomson. The series, on screens since 1997, follows the lives of three couples as they navigate love and life in Manchester. On stage, Callum appeared at the Hampstead Theatre in *Filthy Business* by Ryan Craig and directed by Edward Hall in 2017. The play opened to rave reviews with Callum's performance highlighted as "sharply defined" (*The Guardian*), "glinting promise" (*The Telegraph*) and "a fine performance" (*The Financial Times*). Callum trained at the London Academy of Music and Drama Art (LAMDA).



Colin Callender

Executive Producer, *All Creatures Great and Small*

Colin Callender is an Emmy®, BAFTA, Golden Globe®, Tony® and Olivier award-winning television, film and theatre producer who founded Playground in 2012. Playground has produced over 90 hours of scripted television, including the Golden Globe®, BAFTA and Peabody award-winning miniseries adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, starring Mark Rylance, Damian Lewis and Claire Foy for BBC and MASTERPIECE; Richard Eyre's Emmy®-nominated adaptation of *King Lear*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson for BBC and Amazon; the Golden Globe® and BAFTA-nominated adaptation of Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser* for BBC and Starz; Academy Award®-winner Kenneth Lonergan's adaptation of EM Forster's *Howards End* for BBC and Starz; and Heidi Thomas's adaptation of *Little Women* for BBC and MASTERPIECE. Upcoming productions include *All Creatures Great and Small* for Channel 5

and MASTERPIECE, and *Dangerous Liaisons* for Starz. On stage, Callender produced Nora Ephron's *Lucky Guy*, starring Tom Hanks in his stage debut; *Macbeth*, directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh at the Park Avenue Armory; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, winner of the Tony® Award for Best Musical Revival; and *Dear Evan Hansen*, winner of the Tony® Award for Best Musical. Callender, along with Sonia Friedman Productions, is the producer of the critically acclaimed mega-hit *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End, Broadway, Melbourne, Hamburg and San Francisco. The play won a record breaking nine Olivier Awards and six Tony® Awards. Callender received a CBE in 2003 and Knighthood in 2016 for services to British film, theatre and television in the US.



Susanne Simpson

Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Named Executive Producer of MASTERPIECE in 2019, Susanne Simpson is a two-time Academy Award® nominee and two-time Emmy® winner for her documentary and dramatic films for television and theater. Since joining MASTERPIECE in 2007, Simpson has been responsible for such programs as *Sherlock*, *Wolf Hall*, and *Victoria*, and oversaw all aspects of the U.S. broadcast of the hit series *Downton Abbey*, the most watched drama in PBS history and recipient of 59 Emmy® nominations and 12 wins. She is also the Executive Producer of MASTERPIECE Studio, a podcast with more than 15 million downloads since 2016. Simpson created the MASTERPIECE Trust, a fund to ensure the future of the series.

Prior to MASTERPIECE, she was a Senior Producer for the science series NOVA, responsible for the content development, financing, and production of new programming,

and was the executive producer of IMAX productions such as the award-winning *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure* and *Special Effects* with George Lucas's company, Industrial Light & Magic. Simpson is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and the Writers Guild.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 18 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans since 1971. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer and Rebecca Eaton is the executive-producer-at-large for the series. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking and Raymond James 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*.