

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Poldark



Heida Reed

Elizabeth in *Poldark*

Playing Elizabeth, Ross Poldark's first and everlasting love, Heida Reed makes her MASTERPIECE debut in the new *Poldark* series, now entering its second season. As viewers discover, Elizabeth just can't get an even break from all the men who have fallen under her spell, and Reed renders this emotional dilemma with bewitching forbearance. Her previous television credits include BBC's *Silent Witness*, Fox Crime's *Jo*, and ITV's *DCI Banks*. Reed's movie debut was in Lone Scherfig's 2011 romantic comedy *One Day*, adapted from David Nicholls' bestselling novel and also featuring Anne Hathaway, Jim Sturgess, and Romola Garai. In 2012 she starred as a vampire hunter in the sci-fi horror film *True Bloodthirst* (UK title, *Vampyre Nation*) with Andrew Lee Potts and Neil Jackson. Her recent stage work includes the title role (among four rotating actresses) in *Scarlet* at the Southwark Playhouse, about the unwitting star of a sex tape gone viral, along with *Summerfolk*, *The Winter's Tale*, *All My Sons*, and *The Seagull* at Drama Centre London, and *Cross Purpose* at Find a Penny Theatre Company.



Eleanor Tomlinson

Demelza in *Poldark*

British actress and Screen International Star of Tomorrow, Eleanor Tomlinson, shot to stardom as a teenager, courtesy of roles in *The Illusionist* alongside Jessica Biel and Edward Norton and Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, where she played one of the maddening Chattaway twins alongside Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Mia Wasikowska and Anne Hathaway. Following this, Tomlinson went on to star as Princess Isabelle in Brian Singer's Hollywood blockbuster *Jack the Giant Slayer*, alongside Nicholas Hoult, Ewan McGregor and Stanley Tucci. On MASTERPIECE, Tomlinson was seen in *Death Comes to Pemberley*, based on P.D. James's sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*. Tomlinson played Georgiana Darcy, revealing how the diffident young lady escapes a frightful suitor during a murder inquiry and finds a happy ending. Tomlinson starred alongside Matthew Rhys, Matthew Goode and Anna Maxwell Martin. Tomlinson also starred as Isabel Neville in the Golden Globe® and Emmy® nominated TV Series, *The White Queen*, a BBC drama about the female protagonists in England's War of the Roses. The series was also nominated at the 2014 People's Choice Awards for Favorite TV Movie/Miniseries. Tomlinson was individually recognized and nominated for the Radio Times British Breakthrough Actress Award for this role. Today, she is better known as the fiery Demelza in the BAFTA award-winning adaptation of Winston Graham's *Poldark*, the hit series that returns to MASTERPIECE this fall. Demelza is a mistreated miner's daughter who undergoes a miraculous transformation after she falls in love with Captain Ross Poldark, an Army officer who returns home to Cornwall from the American War of Independence to find his former life in tatters. Tomlinson received a Golden Nymph Award nomination for Best Dramatic Actress at the Monte-Carlo Television Festival for this role. Tomlinson will next be seen in the first feature film from acclaimed director Ian Bonhote, *AlleyCats*, a high-octane action/thriller exploring the underground world of illegal bicycle racing in London. Eleanor has also finished shooting the world's first feature-length painted animation *Loving Vincent*, which tells the story of the final months and mysterious death of artist Vincent Van Gogh. Tomlinson will star alongside Douglas Booth, Jerome Flynn, Chris O'Dowd, Saoirse Ronan, John Sessions and Aidan Turner.



Aidan Turner

Ross in *Poldark*

With notable past roles as a dwarf, vampire and a famous Pre-Raphaelite painter, Aidan Turner transforms himself yet again — this time into Captain Ross Poldark, a rebellious British Army officer and mining heir who returns to his downtrodden Cornish countryside and his disloyal sweetheart after fighting in the American Revolutionary War. On film, Turner next co-stars in Jim Sheridan's forthcoming *The Secret Scripture*, an adaptation of Sebastian Barry's acclaimed novel. The film stars Rooney Mara as a woman who chronicles her early years in a Roscommon mental hospital. Jack Reynor, Theo James, Eric Bana and Vanessa Redgrave co-star. Turner also stars with Saoirse Ronan, Douglas Booth, and Eleanor Tomlinson in *Loving Vincent*, the first painted animated feature that follows the final months and mysterious death of artist Vincent Van Gogh. Live action footage was filmed and then projected, frame by frame, onto canvas and painted over in oils in the style of Van Gogh. Dorotea Kobiela and Hugh Welshman direct. In the independent comedy *Look Away*, Turner

stars as an eccentric psychiatrist alongside Matthew Broderick, Chloë Savigny, and Shannon Tarbet. *Look Away* is directed by Andy Delaney and Monty Whitebloom of BigTV! from a screenplay by Jennifer Schuur. Previously, Turner co-starred as Kili, the rogue dwarf who romances Evangeline Lilly's elf in Peter Jackson's epic trilogy *The Hobbit*, with Martin Freeman, Cate Blanchett and Sir Ian McKellen. For his performance in the second film, *The Desolation of Smaug*, Turner garnered Best Male Newcomer at the 2014 Jameson Empire Awards. A native of Ireland, Turner graduated from Dublin's prestigious Gaiety School of Acting in 2004. Following graduation, he worked extensively on stage. Turner's noteworthy credits include the roles of Paris in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Arden in the world premiere of Vincent Woods' *A Cry from Heaven*, both at Ireland's national theatre — Dublin's The Abbey. He also played Corporal Stoddard in the Abbey Theatre production of Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* at London's Barbican Theatre. In 2009, he moved to the UK to take on a starring role in the BAFTA-nominted hit series *Being Human*. Other TV credits include three seasons as spellbinding vampire Mitchell, during which he also starred as libertine artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti in the BBC mini-series *Desperate Romantics*. Last year, he starred as the mysterious world traveler and former military man Philip Lombard opposite Charles Dance, Miranda Richardson, Sam Neill and Maeve Dermody in an acclaimed two-part adaptation of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* for the BBC.

Victoria



Jenna Coleman
Queen Victoria in *Victoria*

Every inch a queen in MASTERPIECE's stunning costume epic about Queen Victoria's eventful early reign, Jenna Coleman was previously seen on MASTERPIECE in a startlingly different role—as the hysterical youngest Bennet sister, Lydia, in P. D. James's Jane Austen-inspired murder mystery, *Death Comes to Pemberley*. In an even more remote part of space-time, she starred in BBC One's long-running sci-fi series *Doctor Who* as Clara, the title character's trusty companion who departed the plot at the end of 2015 to travel the universe. In other TV work, Coleman appeared opposite Chiwetel Ejiofor in the BBC Two drama *Dancing on the Edge*; she was seen in the BBC Four adaptation of John Braine's novel *Room at the Top*; and she played Annie Desmond in the epic four-part ITV series *Titanic*, scripted by Julian Fellowes. On the big screen, she appeared in the box-office smash *Captain America: The First Avenger*, and she can currently be seen in Thea Sharrock's *Me Before You*, alongside Sam Claflin, Emilia Clarke, and Charles Dance, which was released in May 2016 in the US and UK.



Tom Hughes
Prince Albert in *Victoria*

Starring as Prince Albert in *Victoria*, Tom Hughes tackles perhaps the trickiest royal role in British history: the minor German prince who against all expectations took the hand of the young queen and persevered to win over her skeptical subjects. MASTERPIECE viewers previously saw Hughes in two contrasting roles: the naively rebellious but charming legal assistant in the courtroom drama *Silk*, scripted by Peter Moffat; and the devious son of a scheming MI5 official in David Hare's spellbinding *Page Eight*. A 2008 graduate of RADA, Hughes has lived up to his billing as one of Screen International's "Stars of Tomorrow" with a number of films slated for release, including *The Incident*, which premiered at the 2015 Edinburgh Film Festival, and a starring role in the upcoming sci-fi thriller *Realive*, about the first resuscitated cryonized person in history (so far fictional). 2013 saw him take a role in the Richard Curtis film *About Time*, supporting Rachel McAdams, Bill Nighy, and Domhnall Gleeson, while a 2010 role in the feature film *Cemetery Junction* won him a BIFA Award nomination for Most Promising Newcomer. That same year he appeared with

Andy Serkis in the BAFTA award winning Ian Dury biopic, *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*. On television, Hughes starred in the espionage thriller series, *The Game*; in a new adaptation of the Hitchcock classic *The Lady Vanishes*; and in Stephen Poliakoff's award-winning series *Dancing on the Edge*, alongside Chiwetel Ejiofor, Matthew Goode, and John Goodman.



Daisy Goodwin
Creator, Writer, and Executive Producer of *Victoria*

There's no question that Daisy Goodwin knows how to tell a good story. Her best-selling first novel, *The American Heiress* (*My Last Duchess* in the UK), was praised as "archly entertaining" by Janet Maslin in the *New York Times*. And *The Fortune Hunter*, her second, also chart-topping novel, was called "gorgeous...the perfect storm of escapism, suspense, romance, and superb historical research" by *The Times* of London. Goodwin's background includes a history degree from Cambridge University, a Harkness Fellowship at Columbia University Film School, a decade at the BBC making arts documentaries, and stewardship of her own TV production company, Silver River, which she sold to Sony in 2012. Along the way, she has compiled nine poetry anthologies including *101 Poems that Could Save your Life*. In 2014 Goodwin decided to concentrate on writing full time and promptly got a commission to write her first screenplay, *Victoria*.



Rebecca Eaton

Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Rebecca Eaton took over the helm of the PBS series MASTERPIECE THEATRE and MYSTERY! in 1985, and oversaw a highly successful relaunch of MASTERPIECE that attracted a new generation of viewers to the series. She has brought American audiences the 2015 Emmy®-nominated and Golden Globe® and Peabody Award winning *Wolf Hall*, the recent hits *Sherlock* and *Downton Abbey* — the most-watched drama in PBS history — as well as such high-profile titles as *Mr. Selfridge*, *Endeavour*, *Wallander*, *Prime Suspect*, *Cranford*, *Little Dorrit*, *Inspector Lewis*, and *The Complete Jane Austen*. Under her leadership, MASTERPIECE has won 58 Primetime Emmy Awards®, 16 Peabody Awards, six Golden Globes®, and two Academy Award® nominations. In 2011, Eaton 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, Eaton 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. Eaton's memoir, *MAKING MASTERPIECE: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! on PBS*, was published by Viking in 2013.

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 ensure the series' future.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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