

***Victoria* to air on MASTERPIECE on PBS in the *Downton Abbey* Time Slot**

Major New Drama Stars Jenna Coleman as the Young Queen Victoria

Pasadena, CA; January 18, 2016—*Victoria*, the highly anticipated new drama series about the epic life of Queen Victoria, will air on MASTERPIECE on PBS in 2017 in the Sunday night time slot which *Downton Abbey* has occupied for six years. Jenna Coleman (*Doctor Who*) stars as the young Victoria, a tiny (4' 11"), neglected teenager who overnight became Queen and eventually the most powerful woman in the world.

In an announcement at the Television Critics Association press tour in Pasadena, MASTERPIECE executive producer Rebecca Eaton said: “*Downton Abbey* has proved that millions of viewers will turn up year after year for a beautifully-crafted period drama. *Victoria* has it all: a riveting script, brilliant cast, and spectacular locations. And it's a true story! This is exactly the kind of programming MASTERPIECE fans will love.” MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston.

Victoria is a coproduction with Mammoth Screen, producers of high profile recurring dramas such as *Poldark* and *Endeavour*, for ITV and is distributed internationally by ITV Studios Global Entertainment. It is created and written by best-selling novelist Daisy Goodwin (*The American Heiress*) in her screenwriting debut. Ms. Goodwin read through 62 million words of Victoria's diaries, which vividly portray her astonishing transformation from rebellious teenager to Queen.

The eight-part drama follows Victoria from the time she becomes Queen in 1837 at the age of 18, through her courtship and marriage to Prince Albert. Famous for her candor and spirit, she was the first woman who seemed to have it all: a passionate marriage, nine children, and the job of being Queen of the world's most important nation. Victoria's often tumultuous reign lasted for 63 years; she was England's longest-serving monarch until she was overtaken by Elizabeth II in September, 2015.

“MASTERPIECE is the perfect home for an ambitious series like *Victoria*,” said Damien Timmer, executive producer for Mammoth Screen. “We're proud to inherit the *Downton Abbey* time slot and delighted to continue our longstanding partnership with MASTERPIECE.”

Greg Johnson, EVP Distribution for the Americas for ITV Studios Global Entertainment, said: “We have enjoyed numerous successful collaborations with Rebecca Eaton and MASTERPIECE across our portfolio of quality British drama, from *Mr Selfridge* to *Home Fires* and *Poldark*. We're delighted to be working together again on *Victoria*; it's an epic new drama following the fascinating life of one of Britain's most iconic monarchs and we look forward to it debuting to US viewers next year.”

In addition to Ms. Coleman, the stellar ensemble includes Rufus Sewell (*The Man in the High Castle*, *The Pillars of the Earth*) as Lord Melbourne, her first prime minister and intimate friend; Tom Hughes (*Dancing on the Edge*) as her husband Prince Albert; Alex Jennings (*The Lady in the Van*) as Leopold I, King of Belgium and uncle to both Victoria and Albert; Paul Rhys (*Borgia*, *Being Human*) as Sir John Conroy, the ambitious controller of the household of Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent; and Peter Firth (*MI-5*) as Victoria's conniving uncle, the Duke of Cumberland.

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Victoria is a coproduction of Mammoth Screen and MASTERPIECE. It is created and written by Daisy Goodwin. The director is Tom Vaughn (*He Knew He Was Right*). The producer is Paul Frift (*Restless*). The Executive Producers are Dan McCulloch and Damien Timmer for Mammoth Screen and Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE, presented by WGBH Boston. It is distributed internationally by ITV Studios Global Entertainment.

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 the series is provided by Viking River Cruises and Audible 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* and *Downton Abbey*.

About PBS

PBS, with 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches more than 103 million people through television and over 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, 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 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.

About Mammoth Screen (DRAFT)

Mammoth Screen is one of the UK's leading production companies. Current and forthcoming BBC productions include *Poldark II* (10 x 1 hour), *And Then There Were None* (3 x 1 hour) with Agatha Christie Productions for Lifetime and BBC One, *The City and the City* (4 x 1 hour) for BBC2, *Endeavour III* (4 x 2 hours) for ITV and *Agatha Raisin* (8 x 1 hour) for Sky One. Recent shows have included *Remember Me* and *Blandings* for BBC One, *Parade's End* for HBO/BBC2, *Best Possible Taste – The Kenny Everett Story* for BBC4, *Black Work* for ITV and *Tripped* for E4. Mammoth Screen is an ITV Studios Company.

About ITV Studios Global Entertainment

ITV Studios Global Entertainment (ITVS GE) is one of the world's leading international TV distribution, home entertainment, publishing, merchandising and licensing businesses. ITVS GE distributes celebrated content across all genres from both its in-house production business, ITV Studios, and in collaboration with leading producers from around the world. Part of ITV PLC, which includes the UK's largest commercial broadcaster, ITV Studios Global Entertainment has offices in London, Hong Kong, Los Angeles and Sydney.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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