

EMBARGOED UNTIL NOVEMBER 20, 2023 at 9AM ET

MASTERPIECE announces

Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light

Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis Reprise Roles in Hilary Mantel's Tale of Thomas Cromwell's Thrilling Final Act

MASTERPIECE PBS and the BBC have announced that *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light*, based on the final novel in Hilary Mantel's multi award-winning trilogy, will begin filming shortly.

Reuniting the creative team from the BAFTA and Golden Globe® winning first series, *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light* will be directed by seven-time BAFTA award winner Peter Kosminsky (*The Undeclared War*, *The State*), adapted for television by Academy Award® nominee Peter Straughan (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Frank*) and produced by Playground (*All Creatures Great and Small*, *The Undeclared War*) and Company Pictures (*Van Der Valk*, *Blood*).

Academy Award® winner Mark Rylance will return to his BAFTA-winning role of Thomas Cromwell, with Emmy® Award winner Damian Lewis returning as King Henry VIII, alongside Academy Award® nominee Jonathan Pryce as Cardinal Wolsey. Also returning are Kate Phillips as Henry VIII's third wife Jane Seymour and Lilit Lesser as Princess Mary, the daughter of Henry and his first wife Catherine of Aragon. Further returning and new cast members will be announced at a later date.

May, 1536. Anne Boleyn, Henry's second wife, is dead. As the axe drops, Thomas Cromwell emerges from the bloodbath to continue his climb to power and wealth, while his formidable master, Henry, settles to short-lived happiness with his third queen, Jane Seymour.

Cromwell, a man with only his wits to rely on, has no great family to back him, and no private army. Navigating the moral complexities that accompany the exercise of power in this brutal and bloody time, Cromwell is caught between his desire to do what is right and his instinct to survive. But in the wake of Henry VIII having executed his queen, no one is safe.

Despite rebellion at home, traitors plotting abroad and the threat of invasion testing Henry's regime to breaking point, Cromwell's robust imagination sees a new country in the mirror of the future. All of England lies at his feet, ripe for innovation and religious reform. But as fortune's wheel turns, Cromwell's enemies are gathering in the shadows.

The inevitable question remains: how long can anyone survive under Henry's cruel and capricious gaze?

Eagerly awaited and years in the making, *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light* will trace the final four years of Cromwell's life, completing his journey from self-made man to the most feared, influential figure of his time. Cromwell is as complex as he is unforgettable: a politician and a fixer, a diplomat and a father, a man who both defied and defined his age.

— more —

Director Peter Kosminsky says: "*The Mirror and the Light* picks up exactly where *Wolf Hall* ended, with the execution of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn. I'm overjoyed to be able to reunite the extraordinary cast we were lucky enough to assemble for *Wolf Hall*, led by the brilliant Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis, with the original creative team of Gavin Finney (DOP), Pat Campbell (Designer) and Joanna Eatwell (Costume Designer). We are all determined to complete what we started – and to honour the final novel written by one of the greatest literary figures of our age, Hilary Mantel."

Colin Callender, CEO of Playground, says "Following the success of the BAFTA and Golden Globe winning original television adaptation of the first two books in Hilary Mantel's acclaimed *Wolf Hall* trilogy, we are thrilled and honoured that, nine years later, we have been able re-unite Peter Kosminsky and his brilliant team, in front of and behind the camera, to bring Thomas Cromwell's final chapter to the screen. Intimate, thrilling, and deeply moving, *The Mirror and the Light* shines a fresh light on the politics of power and the personal price paid by those who wield it. Cromwell's story is as contemporary as ever – a story of loyalty and betrayal that just happens to be about people 500 years ago."

Charlotte Moore, BBC Chief Content Officer, says: "A stunning and unforgettable adaptation of Hilary Mantel's sublime novels, *Wolf Hall* quickly established itself as one of the all-time great television dramas, with millions of adoring viewers across the U.K. and around the World. Almost a decade on we're delighted to have reunited this exceptional creative team and lead cast to conclude Mantel's thrilling saga on the BBC."

Susanne Simpson, Executive Producer of MASTERPIECE says: "I am incredibly proud to bring *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light* to MASTERPIECE and the American audience. It is thrilling that such brilliant actors as Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis will reprise their roles for this final chapter of Thomas Cromwell's story. The level of excellence on and off screen for this series is incomparable." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light is a Playground and Company Pictures co-production for the BBC and MASTERPIECE. The series will be distributed internationally by Banijay Rights. The series is directed by Peter Kosminsky, adapted by Peter Straughan, and produced by Lisa Osborne. Executive Producers are Colin Callender and Noëlette Buckley for Playground, Peter Kosminsky, Lucy Richer for the BBC, and Susanne Simpson for MASTERPIECE.

Wolf Hall series one is available to watch on the PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel in the US and on BBC iPlayer in the UK and is available from Banijay Rights. *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light* will begin filming across the UK soon.

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

Press Contacts

Laura Garvey: laura_garvey@wgbh.org
Kelly Moloney: kelly_moloney@wgbh.org

About MASTERPIECE:

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 18 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans for over 50 years. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer. Series funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking Cruises, Raymond James, The MASTERPIECE Trust, and public television viewers. Produced for PBS by GBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for hits such as *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Wolf Hall*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*. For more information, please visit pbs.org/masterpiece and follow us on social media @masterpiecepbs.

About Playground:

Playground is a New York and London-based television, film and theatre production company founded in 2012 by award-winning producer Colin Callender. Playground has produced over 130 hours of primetime television drama garnering 16 Emmy nominations, 26 BAFTA nominations, and 12 Golden Globe nominations, winning a Golden Globe and a BAFTA for Best Miniseries. Recent television includes BAFTA and Golden Globe winning *Wolf Hall* adapted from the Booker Prize winning novels by Hilary Mantel and starring Mark Rylance, Damian Lewis and Claire Foy for BBC and Masterpiece, *The Dresser* starring Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen for BBC and Starz, *The Missing* for BBC and Starz, *The White Queen*, *White Princess* and *The Spanish Princess* for Starz, Kenneth Lonergan's adaptation of *Howards End* starring Hayley Atwell and Matthew Macfadyen for BBC and Starz, *Little Women* starring Maya Hawke for BBC and Masterpiece, Richard Eyre's adaptation of *King Lear* starring Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson and Florence Pugh for BBC and Amazon, *Chimerica* based on the Olivier Award winning stage play for Channel 4, *Dangerous Liaisons* starring Alice Englert and Lesley Manville for Starz, *All Creatures Great and Small* based on the iconic novels by James Herriot for Channel 5 and Masterpiece, and Peter Kosminsky's *The Undeclared War* starring Simon Pegg for Channel 4 and Peacock. Upcoming series include *Small Town, Big Story* created by Chris O'Dowd and starring Christina Hendricks and Paddy Considine for Sky, *The Hardacres* adapted from CL Skelton's bestselling novels for Channel 5, and *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light* starring Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis for BBC and Masterpiece.

About Company Pictures:

Founded in 1998, All3Media owned Company Pictures has produced hundreds of hours of critically acclaimed, award-winning drama for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky, WGBH, HBO, Starz and other leading broadcasters all over the world. It was the producer of triple Golden Globe award winning period drama *Elizabeth* starring Helen Mirren. Company Pictures' credits include the Golden Globe and BAFTA-winning adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* for the BBC starring Mark Rylance and Damian Lewis, and seminal BBC dramas *The Lakes*, *The Village*, *Inspector George Gently* and *The White Queen*. Their multi award-winning drama *Shameless* ran for eleven series and their hugely popular teen drama *Skins* enjoyed a six-year run, both for Channel 4. Their much-loved long running family series *Wild at Heart* ran for seven years on ITV. Company Pictures continues to produce high quality, distinguished drama that attracts the best talent and global audiences including *The White Princess* for Starz, Series 1 of *The Missing* for BBC1 and *Agatha Raisin* for Acorn. A re-imagined version of British detective drama *Van Der Valk* which is set and filmed in Amsterdam and starring Marc Warren, is currently filming Series 4, and further productions are commissioned for next year.

About Banijay Rights:

Leading global distributor, Banijay Rights, represents a world-class, multi-genre portfolio of 180,000 hours of standout programming. Handling the distribution for media and entertainment powerhouse, Banijay, the division specialises in the exploitation of premium scripted and non-scripted brands to broadcasters worldwide. Representing quality, excellence and experience in the business of linear and non-linear television and ancillary activity across all platforms, Banijay Rights' catalogue encompasses a host of top titles from Banijay's 130+ in-house labels, and a number of third-party producers, spanning drama, comedy, entertainment, factual, reality, family, formats and theatrical. Delivering high-quality IP, which was born locally and travels globally, the distributor offers the best stories told the best way. Its landmark brands include *Survivor*, *Big Brother*, *MasterChef*, *Peaky Blinders*, *Rogue Heroes*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Temptation Island*, *Grantchester*, *Deal or No Deal*, *Biggest Loser*, *Home and Away*, *Love Triangle*, *Mr Bean* and *Black Mirror*. Built on independence, creative freedom, entrepreneurialism and commercial acumen, Banijay Rights operates under the direction of Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Payne.

About PBS

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 42 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 15 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, and 56 million people view PBS content on social media, 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's 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 LearningMedia](#) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](#) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV – including a PBS KIDS channel – and streaming free on [pbskids.org](#) and the [PBS KIDS Video app](#), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](#), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](#).

About GBH

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. GBH is the creator of such signature programs as *MASTERPIECE*, *ANTIQUES ROADSHOW*, *FRONTLINE*, *NOVA*, *AMERICAN EXPERIENCE* and *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali* and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. GBH's television channels include GBH 2, GBH 44, GBH Kids and national services GBH WORLD and Create. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston's Local NPR; CRB Classical 99.5; CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station and as a partner to NEPM in Springfield. Dedicated to making media accessible to and representative of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to audience members who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. With PBS LearningMedia, GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide. GBH's local programming includes Boston Public Radio, Greater Boston, Stories from the Stage, Open Studio with Jared Bowen, Basic Black and High School Quiz Show. GBH has been recognized with hundreds of the nation's premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at [gbh.org](#).