

## MASTERPIECE

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



#### Claire Foy

Anne Boleyn in *Wolf Hall*

Temptress, political manipulator, and canny survivor (up to a point), Anne Boleyn is one of the most fascinating figures in English history. Claire Foy brings an impressive résumé to the part. MASTERPIECE viewers can never forget her as the wickedly self-destructive Lady Persie in the revival of *Upstairs Downstairs*, in which she plays Keeley Hawes' troubled sister. By contrast, she made goodness and virtue absolutely seductive as the title character in the Emmy®-winning MASTERPIECE adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Little Dorrit*, with co-stars Matthew Macfadyen and Tom Courtenay—her big breakthrough role, which earned her a nomination for Best Actress at the 2009 RTS Television Awards. Most recently, Foy appeared opposite Gael García Bernal in Jon Stewart's true-life political thriller, *Rosewater*, released in American theaters last November. Earlier in 2014, Foy sailed the seven seas of NBC in *Crossbones*, a swashbuckling TV series about the notorious Blackbeard, played by John Malkovich, with Foy as a free-spirited fugitive living on the legendary cutthroat's pirate paradise. Also in 2014, she appeared in *Vampire Academy*, based on the bestselling paranormal romance novels. Her past work includes starring roles in such productions as the BBC series *White Heat*, written by MASTERPIECE veteran Paula Milne; the fantasy thriller *Season of the Witch*, with Nicolas Cage; the feature film *Wreckers*, with Benedict Cumberbatch; and the controversial Channel 4 serial *The Promise*, written and directed by *Wolf Hall* director Peter Kosminsky.



#### Damian Lewis

King Henry VIII in *Wolf Hall*

MASTERPIECE fans will likely never forget Damian Lewis' portrayal of Soames Forsyte in the early 2000s remake of *The Forsyte Saga*. The Golden Globe® and Emmy® Award winner for his critically-acclaimed performance as Nicholas Brody in *Homeland* now stars as another deceitful character in *Wolf Hall*: the double-dealing English king Henry VIII. The English native has had great success playing American soldiers. Lewis starred as U.S. Army Major Richard Winters in the Steven Spielberg-directed HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*, for which he earned a Golden Globe® nomination. Also on television, Lewis starred as the complex and eccentric Detective Charlie Crews in two seasons of the NBC drama series *Life*. Lewis' recent films include the soon-to-be-released spy thriller *Our Kind of Traitor*, adapted from John le Carré's novel of the same name, with co-stars Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgård and Naomie Harris, and Werner Herzog's *Queen of the Desert* in which he appears opposite Nicole Kidman, James Franco, Robert Pattinson and Jenny Agutter.

-more-



### Mark Rylance

Thomas Cromwell in *Wolf Hall*

Author Hilary Mantel wowed critics by making Henry VIII's henchman Thomas Cromwell the sympathetic hero of her Booker Prize-winning novel *Wolf Hall*. Mark Rylance doubles the miracle by playing the master manipulator with amazing dignity, charm, and world-weary resignation. "It's a curious part because so much of what makes Cromwell interesting is what he doesn't say and doesn't do," says the Tony®- and BAFTA-winner. Rylance has wide experience with the Tudor dynasty, having acted in 52 productions of plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and he was also the Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe in London from 1996 to 2006. In more contemporary roles, he played the stoned

renegade, Johnny "Rooster" Byron, in Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem*, on the West End and Broadway, lauded by *The New York Times* as "a seismic performance"; and he was Ron, the ruminative ice fisherman, in *Nice Fish* at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, which he co-wrote with Louis Jenkins. His film and television credits include *The Government Inspector* with *Wolf Hall* director Peter Kosminsky; and *Intimacy*, *Angels and Insects*, and *Institute Benjamenta* by the Brothers Quay. Rylance recently filmed *The Gunman* with Sean Penn and an as-yet-unnamed Cold War thriller with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, and he will star in Spielberg's upcoming children's fantasy *The BFG*.



### Peter Kosminsky

Director, *Wolf Hall*

Hailed as "Britain's most controversial television director" by *The Daily Telegraph*, Peter Kosminsky started out as a chemistry student at Oxford University. But he discovered his real love, drama, and threw himself into such productions as Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, starring fellow student Hugh Grant. On graduation in 1980, he went to work for the BBC and later for Yorkshire Television. A freelancer since 1995, he has directed such notable (and controversial) TV movies as *No Child of Mine* (BAFTA Best Single Drama), and two collaborations with writer Leigh Jackson: *Warriors* (BAFTA Best Drama Serial), starring Ioan Gruffudd, Matthew Macfadyen, and Damian Lewis; and *The Project*, with Matthew Macfadyen, Naomie Harris, Paloma Baeza, and Anton Lesser. His credits as writer/director include *The Government Inspector*, with Mark Rylance (BAFTAs for Best Single Drama, Best Actor, and Best Writer); *Britz* (BAFTA Best Drama Serial), starring Riz Ahmed and Manjinder Virk; and the miniseries *The Promise* (BAFTA nomination for Best Drama Serial),

starring Claire Foy and Christian Cooke. For Hollywood, Kosminsky has directed two feature films: *Wuthering Heights*, with Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche; and *White Oleander*, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Renée Zellweger. In 2011, his work was honored with a retrospective at the British Film Institute.



### Colin Callender

Executive Producer, *Wolf Hall*

Callender founded PLAYGROUND in 2012 and last year received five Emmy® and six Golden Globes® nominations with Jacqueline Bisset winning Best Supporting Actress for Stephen Poliakoff's *Dancing on the Edge*. This year Callender executive produced the critically acclaimed BBC/Starz Golden Globe® nominated *The Missing* starring James Nesbitt and Frances O'Connor, and is executive producer of the BBC/MASTERPIECE mini-series *Wolf Hall* based on Hilary Mantel's best-selling novels starring Mark Rylance, Damian Lewis and Claire Foy, and the upcoming BBC production of Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser* starring Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen, directed by Richard Eyre. On Broadway, Callender produced Nora Ephron's multiple Tony®-nominated *Lucky Guy* starring Tom Hanks, this season's Tony®-nominated *Casa Valentina* by Harvey Fierstein and Ken Branagh's New York debut *Macbeth*. Currently on Broadway are

Jez Butterworth's *The River* starring Hugh Jackman and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, winning Callender a Tony® Award for Best Musical Revival. Prior to Playground Callender was president of HBO FILMS responsible for an unprecedented range of prestigious award-winning original movies and mini-series including Mike Nichols' adaptation of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, *John Adams* starring Paul Giamatti, and the Tom Hanks/Stephen Spielberg *The Pacific*. Under Callender's leadership, HBO Films garnered a record-breaking 104 Emmy® Awards, 29 Golden Globes®, 9 Peabody Awards, 12 Humanitas Awards, 3 Oscars®, the Sundance Film Festival four years in a row and the Cannes Film Festival Palm D'Or. Prior to HBO, Callender was a leading independent producer in the UK winning his first Emmy® for his television adaptation of the RSC's landmark *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. In 2003, Callender was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty the Queen for his services to the UK film and television industries in the US.



**Eleanor Tomlinson**  
Demelza in *Poldark*

Famed for her role as the princess in Brian Singer's Hollywood blockbuster *Jack the Giant Slayer*, Eleanor Tomlinson now finds herself in a different kind of fairy tale. Her character in *Poldark*, Demelza, is a sort of Cinderella—a mistreated miner's daughter who undergoes a miraculous transformation after she is taken in by the hero, Ross Poldark. Except Cinderella never had a temper like Demelza's! Last fall Tomlinson was seen on MASTERPIECE MYSTERY's *Death Comes to Pemberley*, based on P.D. James's sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*. There, Tomlinson played Georgiana Darcy, revealing how the diffident young lady escapes a frightful suitor during a murder inquiry and finds a happy ending. Her notable past work includes the spooky feature film *The Illusionist*, in which she appeared as Young Sophie alongside Jessica Biel and Edward Norton; 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; and the acclaimed BBC drama *The White Queen*, about the female protagonists in England's War of the Roses. In that production Tomlinson's performance as Isabel Neville was nominated for the Radio Times British Breakthrough Actress Award. More recently, she stars in Oliver Murray's surreal short film, *A Stranger Kind*, due for release in January 2015.



**Aidan Turner**  
Ross Poldark in *Poldark*

With notable past roles as a dwarf, a vampire, and a famous Pre-Raphaelite painter, Aidan Turner transforms himself yet again—this time into the most romantic redcoat ever to gallop across the Cornish countryside: Captain Ross Poldark. Turner fills the part made immortal by Robin Ellis in the 1970s-era adaptation of Winston Graham's stirring *Poldark* novels, seen on MASTERPIECE during its sixth and seventh seasons. Turner most recently appeared as Kili in Peter Jackson's epic movie trilogy *The Hobbit*, with Martin Freeman, Cate Blanchett and Ian McKellen. His performance in the second *Hobbit* film, *The Desolation of Smaug*, won him Best Male Newcomer at the 2014 Jameson Empire Awards. Previously, he was Mitchell the vampire in the UK horror-comedy series *Being Human* on BBC3. And he starred as the libertine artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti in the mini-series *Desperate Romantics* on BBC2. A native of Ireland, Turner graduated from Dublin's prestigious Gaiety School of Acting in 2004. In addition to his film and television work, his many stage roles

include Paris in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Ardán in the world premiere of Vincent Woods' *A Cry from Heaven*, both at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin; and Corporal Stoddard in *The Plough and the Stars* by Seán O'Casey at London's Barbican Theatre.



**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 successfully relaunch of MASTERPIECE that attracted a new generation of viewers to the series. She has brought American audiences 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 53 Primetime Emmy Awards®, 15 Peabody Awards, four 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.

Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking River Cruises and Ralph Lauren Corporation with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust, created to help ensure the series' future. Exclusive corporate funding for *Wolf Hall* is provided by Viking River Cruises.