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WOLF HALL TO AIR ON MASTERPIECE ON PBS Mark Rylance Stars in New Adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Best-Selling Novel

Boston, October 12, 2013—A major new adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning novels *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies* will air on MASTERPIECE on PBS. Internationally acclaimed actor Mark Rylance will star as Thomas Cromwell.

Wolf Hall will follow the meteoric rise of Cromwell in the Tudor court, from his lowly start as the son of a blacksmith to becoming King Henry VIII's closest advisor.

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton says: "Only an enormously gifted actor like Mark Rylance could do justice to Hilary Mantel's nuanced characterisation of Thomas Cromwell. I have no doubt that our PBS viewers will be dazzled by his performance in *Wolf Hall*."

A coproduction of Company Pictures, Colin Callender's Playground Entertainment, and MASTERPIECE for BBC Two in association with BBC Worldwide, *Wolf Hall* will be directed by Peter Kosminsky (*White Oleander*, *Warriors*) and adapted by Peter Straughan (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*), who will bring both of Mantel's novels to television.

"This sweeping drama reinforces PBS' commitment to be the leading destination for British drama in the US," says Beth Hoppe, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming, PBS.

Colin Callender, Executive Producer, Playground Entertainment, says: "Hilary Mantel is a master storyteller and Playground is proud to be working with her and the remarkable award winning team of Peter Straughan, Peter Kosminsky and Mark Rylance to bring these two great books to the screen. Ben Stephenson and Polly Hill at the BBC have been staunch advocates and supporters of the project since day one and we are delighted that MASTERPIECE and BBC Worldwide have now joined us as partners also."

Filming will begin in Spring 2014 for broadcast in 2015, with further cast to be announced.

Janice Hadlow, Controller, BBC Two says: "I'm so pleased that BBC TWO will be the home to the adaptation of two of the great books of the last ten years and I'm delighted we have talent of the standing of Mark Rylance and Peter Kosminsky at the helm of the drama."

Mantel says, "Peter Straughan's scripts are a miracle of elegant compression, and I believe that with such a strong team the original material can only be enhanced."

Last year Mantel became the first British author to win the Man Booker twice. Her gripping, brutal and compelling novels are international bestsellers and she has been credited with re-illuminating the Tudors and bringing the 16th century to life as never before. She is currently writing the last in her Thomas Cromwell trilogy, *The Mirror and the Light*.

Former artistic director of The Globe Theatre, Mark Rylance gained international acclaim for his Tony® and Olivier award-winning stage performance as Johnny 'Rooster' Byron in *Jerusalem*. This autumn he will star in the Globe's all-male productions of *Richard III* and *Twelfth Night* on Broadway as well as having directed Vanessa Redgrave and James Earl Jones in the current production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Old Vic Theatre.

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Funding provided by



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Wolf Hall is a Co-Production of Company Pictures (*Elizabeth I*, *Shameless*, *The Devil's Whore*, *The Shadow Line*), Colin Collander's Playground Entertainment (*The White Queen*, *Dancing on the Edge*, *Dracula*) and MASTERPIECE for BBC Two in association with BBC Worldwide. Polly Hill, BBC Head of Independent Drama, will executive produce for BBC Two, Rebecca Eaton will executive produce for MASTERPIECE, Martin Rakusen and Ben Donald will executive produce for BBC Worldwide, Colin Callender will executive produce for Playground Entertainment, and John Yorke will executive produce for Company Pictures.

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