



MASTERPIECE
Classic

OLIVER TWIST **on MASTERPIECE CLASSIC**

Hosted by Laura Linney

Sundays, February 15 and 22, 2009 at 9pm ET on PBS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A young orphan is branded as a rebel for wanting more gruel, leading to a phantasmagoria of adventures in early 19th century London. William Miller stars as Oliver Twist in Charles Dickens' much loved story, with Timothy Spall (*Harry Potter*) as Fagin the cutpurse king, Adam Arnold as the Artful Dodger, and a galaxy of other great actors creating the seedy, sentimental, and colorful world that can only be called Dickensian.

Part 1 – February 15, 2009 at 9pm on PBS

Having endured a miserable childhood, Oliver (William Miller) is sold to an undertaker, where his mistreatment forces him to escape to London. There he is adopted by a criminal gang led by Fagin (Timothy Spall) and soon falls afoul of the law.

Part 2 – February 22, 2009 at 9pm on PBS

Wounded during a night burglary attempt with the psychopath Sikes (Tom Hardy), Oliver is nursed back to health by Nancy (Sophie Okonedo). Little does he know that a battle is raging between those who want to save him and kill him.

Oliver Twist is a BBC-WGBH/Boston co-production. It is directed by Coky Giedroyc (*The Virgin Queen*), and adapted by Sarah Phelps from the classic novel by Charles Dickens. The producer is Sarah Brown. The executive producers are Kate Harwood for the BBC and Rebecca Eaton for WGBH. MASTERPIECE has been presented on PBS by WGBH since 1971. Rebecca Eaton is executive producer. Laura Linney is the host of MASTERPIECE CLASSIC. Public television viewers provide funding for MASTERPIECE.

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pbs.org/masterpiece

Online press materials available at **pressroom.wgbh.org** and **pbs.org/pressroom**

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