

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES on MASTERPIECE CLASSIC

Hosted by Laura Linney

Sundays, January 4 and 11, 2009 at 9pm ET on PBS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A poor but proud young woman falls prey to a very wicked man and very good one in this latter-day Greek tragedy, set in England's West Country in the late 1800s. Gemma Arterton (*James Bond: Quantum of Solace*) stars as Tess, joined by Hans Matheson (*Dr. Zhivago*) as her seducer, Alec, and Eddie Redmayne (*Elizabeth: The Golden Age*) as Angel, the idealistic and self-deceiving man she loves.

Part 1 – January 4, 2009 at 9pm on PBS

Tess Durbeyfield (Gemma Arterton) learns that she is descended from the aristocratic D'Urbervilles and seeks employment with claimants to their name. Fleeing Alec (Hans Matheson), the family's dissolute son, she falls in love with Angel (Eddie Redmayne), an idealistic farmer.

Part 2 – January 11, 2009 at 9pm on PBS

A dark secret intrudes on Tess and Angel's wedding night, driving them apart—each in a separate struggle for survival. Love brings them back together, but not before Alec has reentered Tess's life.

CAST & CREDIT LIST

Tess Durbeyfield..... Gemma Arterton (*Quantum of Solace, RocknRolla*)
Alec d'Urberville..... Hans Matheson (*Dr Zhivago, The Tudors*)
Angel Clare..... Eddie Redmayne (*The Other Boleyn Girl, Elizabeth: The Golden Age*)
Joan Durbeyfield..... Ruth Jones (*Little Dorrit*)
Mrs. d'Urberville..... Anna Massey (*Oliver Twist, The Importance of Being Earnest*)
Izz Huett..... Jodie Whittaker (*Venus*)
Mr. Clare..... Kenneth Cranham (*Valkyrie, Rome*)
John Durbeyfield..... Ian Puleston-Davies (*Waking the Dead*)
Groby..... Christopher Fairbank
Parson Tringham..... Donald Sumpter
Marion..... Rebekah Staton
Mr. Crick..... Trevor Cooper
Retty Priddle..... Emily Beecham
Mercy Chant..... Jeany Spark
Mrs. Clare..... Jessica Turner

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Adapted by..... David Nicholls (*Cold Feet*)
From the classic novel by Thomas Hardy
Director..... David Blair (*Anna Karenina*)
Producers for BBC David Snodin (*Persuasion*)
Executive Producer for BBC..... Kate Harwood
Executive Producer for WGBH..... Rebecca Eaton

Tess of the D'Urbervilles is a BBC/WGBH coproduction. It is directed by David Blair (*Anna Karenina*), and adapted by David Nicholls (*Cold Feet*) from the classic novel by Thomas Hardy. The producer is David Snodin (*Persuasion*). 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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Online press materials available at pressroom.wgbh.org and pbs.org/pressroom

WGBH Press Contacts

Ellen Dockser/ 617-300-5338
ellen_dockser@wgbh.org

Olivia Wong/ 617-300-5349
olivia_wong@wgbh.org

PMK/HBH Los Angeles Press Contact

Heidi Schaeffer/ 310-289-6200
heidi.schaeffer@pmkhbh.com

PMK/HBH New York Press Contact

Mandi Warren/ 212-582-1111
mandi.warren@pmkhbh.com

