



PBS



West Yorkshire meets "West Wing" **THE AMAZING MRS. PRITCHARD** on MASTERPIECE THEATRE

October 21 to November 18, 2007 on PBS (check local listings)

What happens when a perky supermarket manager from West Yorkshire finds herself at the head of a political movement that sweeps her into office as Britain's new prime minister? For starters, how about moving England's capital, demoting the queen, and doing something about global warming? MASTERPIECE THEATRE charts the frantic life of a truly unusual politician on *The Amazing Mrs. Pritchard*, airing Sundays, October 21 through November 18, 2007 at 9pm ET on PBS (check local listings).

Jane Horrocks (*Life Is Sweet, Little Voice*) stars as Ros Pritchard, a perfect boss and attentive mother hen to her workers at Greengages Superstore in rural Eatanswill, until one day a fistfight erupts outside between two local candidates for Parliament—men, of course.

"I could do better than you lot!" she exclaims after breaking up the scuffle to the applause of bystanders and reporters. Egged on by the media, who see her as a breath of fresh air during a lackluster campaign, Ros impulsively files as a candidate.

In no time, she is leading a feminist revolution in British politics, with like-minded women all over the country following her example to run for Parliament as part of the new Purple Democratic Alliance. And before you can say "throw the rascals out"...Well, Ros's improbable triumph has to be seen to be believed.

The five-part miniseries features Steven Mackintosh (*Our Mutual Friend, Prime Suspect 5*) as Ros's overwhelmed husband, Ian, who has mysterious reasons for wanting her to stay out of politics; Jodhi May (*Daniel Deronda*) as Miranda Lennox, Ros's idealistic advisor, who has a practical Karl Rove side; and Janet McTeer (*Tumbleweeds, Portrait of a Marriage*) as Catherine Walker, a high-ranking member of the Conservative Party, who defects to the Purple Alliance at a crucial moment and is rewarded with the post of Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister.

Also appearing are Tom Mison (*Venus*) as Ben Sixsmith, Catherine's twenty-something aide, who is like a son to her—an Oedipal son; Carey Mulligan (*Bleak House*) as Ros's older daughter, Emily, who is fascinated to learn that the press will pay handsomely to photograph her nude; and Frances Tomelty as Kitty Porter, the wealthy owner of Greengages, who bankrolls Ros's political career in order to become even richer.

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Obviously, Ros doesn't know what she's getting into. But once in power she strides through the halls of 10 Downing Street as briskly as any occupant of the West Wing. Clearly, experience running a successful superstore has equipped her for facing feuding cabinet ministers, vain heads of state, terrorist maniacs, and parliamentary hecklers—while managing to steer the country where it needs to go.

"There's plenty to recommend *The Amazing Mrs. Pritchard*," wrote *Time Out*. "[Writer Sally] Wainwright's trademark crackling dialogue, Horrocks' charming performance...this is feel-good, triumph-of-the underdog fare."

The Amazing Mrs. Pritchard has a sly literary reference: Ros's hometown, Eatanswill, was the fictional site of a hilarious by-election in Charles Dickens' first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*.

The Amazing Mrs. Pritchard is produced by Kudos Film and Television. MASTERPIECE THEATRE has been presented on PBS by WGBH since 1971. Rebecca Eaton is executive producer. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers provide funding for MASTERPIECE THEATRE.

For more information about *The Amazing Mrs. Pritchard* and MASTERPIECE THEATRE, visit pbs.org/masterpiece.

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

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