

MASTERPIECE

MASTERPIECE PARTNERS WITH FREMANTLE, DE MAIO ENTERTAINMENT, GROUNDSWELL PRODUCTIONS AND ME+YOU PRODUCTIONS TO BRING TIFF PRIMETIME SERIES *ALICE & JACK* TO U.S. AUDIENCES

Official Selection of 2023 Toronto International Film Festival To Air In the U.S. on MASTERPIECE PBS In Spring 2024

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 15, 2023) - Ahead of its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival this weekend, Fremantle, Groundswell Productions, Me + You Productions and De Maio Entertainment have announced that MASTERPIECE has joined as a co-producer and will bring the original drama series *Alice & Jack* to U.S. audiences, airing in Spring 2024 on PBS. The series is a collaboration with British broadcaster Channel 4, which will air the series exclusively in the UK.

Alice & Jack comes from award-winning writer Victor Levin (*Mad Men*, *Mad About You*), and stars Academy Award®-nominated actress and producer Andrea Riseborough (*To Leslie*, *Birdman*) alongside actor, director and screenwriter Domhnall Gleeson (*Brooklyn*, *The Revenant*). Aisling Bea (*Greatest Days*, *This Way Up*), Aimee Lou Wood (*Sex Education*, *Living*) and Sunil Patel (*This Time with Alan Partridge*, *Stath Lets Flats*) also appear in supporting roles.

Finnish film director and screenwriter Juho Kuosmanen, who co-wrote and directed the 2021 Cannes Grand Prix co-winner *Compartment 6*, is the lead director and Hong Khaou (*Lilting*) directs the second block of the series.

Created and written by Levin, *Alice & Jack* is a love story for the ages. When Alice (Andrea Riseborough) and Jack (Domhnall Gleeson) first meet they're bound by a connection so powerful it seems nothing can break it, but will their path lead them to a place of happiness and togetherness? Or will life and their own emotional complexities get in the way? Honest, intimate, and surprisingly funny, the series shows love in all its unexpected, technicolor, kaleidoscopic beauty.

Alice & Jack is an independent UK production from Fremantle in partnership with BAFTA and the Emmy® award-winning company Me + You Productions (*I Am Ruth*, *Close to You*), Academy Award®-nominated Groundswell Productions (*The Visitor*), De Maio Entertainment, and MASTERPIECE in collaboration with Channel 4 which will air the series exclusively in the UK. Fremantle is handling global sales of the series. Executive producers on the project include Victor Levin, Andrea Riseborough, Domhnall Gleeson, Juho Kuosmanen, Richard Yee and Krishnendu Majumdar for Me + You Productions, Michael London and Shannon Gaulding for Groundswell, Lorenzo De Maio for De Maio Entertainment, Rebecca Dundon and Hilary Martin for Fremantle. Tracy O'Riordan produces for Me + You Productions.

MASTERPIECE boarded the project in a deal negotiated by Lisa Honig, Senior EVP Distribution, North America on behalf of Fremantle.

Susanne Simpson, Executive Producer of MASTERPIECE said: "We're thrilled to come on board with *Alice & Jack*. This is an exceptionally beautiful and profound series that we are proud to add to our lineup, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with the U.S. audience in Spring 2024." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

Lisa Honig, Senior EVP Distribution North America at Fremantle said "We're honored to be premiering *Alice & Jack* at TIFF this weekend and that U.S. audiences will be able to enjoy this rich, emotional and cinematic series on MASTERPIECE PBS next year. It's the perfect home for this high-quality drama that explores the complexities of love and features moving performances from award-winning actors Andrea Riseborough and Domhnall Gleeson."

Lorenzo De Maio, De Maio Entertainment said: "*Alice & Jack* is an incredibly beautiful love story created by an exceptional team of storytellers, from Vic's deeply touching scripts to the amazing producing team to Juho and Hong's unique vision and the brilliant cast, led by Andrea and Domhnall. We are thrilled to have the show premiere at the prestigious Toronto Film Festival and to have its U.S. home with MASTERPIECE PBS".

Alice & Jack will have its world premiere screening on Saturday, September 16 at 5pm ET at the Toronto International Film Festival as part of its Primetime section, at the Royal Alexander Theatre.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 18 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans since 1971. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer. Series funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking Cruises, Raymond James, The MASTERPIECE Trust, and public television viewers. Produced for PBS by GBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for hits such as *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Victoria*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*.

About FREMANTLE

Fremantle is one of the world's largest and most successful creators, producers and distributors of Entertainment, Drama & Film and Documentaries. Operating in 27 territories we are a proudly independent group of content creators. We produce and deliver high-quality multi-genre IP including some of the biggest entertainment formats, most watched international dramas, award winning films and hard-hitting documentaries, amplifying local stories on a global scale. From *Idols* to *The Mosquito Coast*, *The Price is Right* to *The Hand of God*, *The Farmer Wants A Wife* to *Arctic Drift*, *Family Feud* to *My Brilliant Friend* and *Bones & All* to *Planet Sex* our focus is simple – we create and deliver irresistible entertainment. We are also a world leader in digital and branded entertainment with more than 470 million fans across 2,000 social channels and over 34 billion views per year across all platforms. Fremantle is part of RTL Group, a global leader across broadcast, content and digital, itself a division of the international media giant Bertelsmann. For more information, please visit www.fremantle.com, follow us on Twitter @FremantleHQ and Instagram @fremantle or visit our LinkedIn page.

About DE MAIO ENTERTAINMENT

De Maio Entertainment is an independent premium content company specializing in production, sales, and strategic advisory, backed by Fremantle. The company is led by Lorenzo De Maio, former Partner and EVP at Endeavor Content who was instrumental in the launch and success of Endeavor Content, working on multiple award-winning shows including *KILLING EVE*, *THE NIGHT MANAGER*, and *NORMAL PEOPLE*. De Maio has spearheaded several partnerships for Fremantle including deals with Nicky Weinstock (*SEVERANCE*, *ESCAPE AT DANNEMORA*), award-winning journalist Afua Hirsch, Element Pictures (*THE FAVOURITE*, *NORMAL PEOPLE*), and Angelina Jolie. The partnership with Jolie is across film, television, and documentaries and is currently in post-production on the film *WITHOUT BLOOD* starring Salma Hayek and Demián Bichir. The company also works on projects across Fremantle's US and international eco-system, including *FERRARI* from *The Apartment* and *Steven Knight*, which was greenlit to series at Apple, Luca Guadagnino's film *BONES AND ALL*, which won two major awards at the 2022 Venice Film Festival, and *THE LEHMAN TRILOGY* to be directed by Florian Zeller.

About GROUNDSWELL PRODUCTIONS

Groundswell Productions is an independent production and financing company founded by Michael London in February 2006 and headquartered in Los Angeles. Shannon Gaulding is President of Production. Groundswell is in post-production on Searchlight Picture's "Greatest Hits," written and directed by Ned Benson and starring Lucy Boynton; and recently wrapped the sixth and final season of the hit FX series "Snowfall." London received an Academy Award nomination for best picture for *SIDEWAYS* directed by Alexander Payne and won the Golden Globe for Best Picture in the Comedy category. He was Golden Globe-nominated for Showtime's *SMILF*, created by and starring Frankie Shaw; and Emmy-nominated for HBO Films' *CONFIRMATION*, starring Kerry Washington as Anita Hill.

In addition to six television series, Groundswell has produced 16 films since its inception including *TRUMBO* directed by Jay Roach and starring Bryan Cranston, who was nominated for an Academy Award; *MILK* starring Sean Penn and *THE VISITOR* written and directed by Tom McCarthy, both of which were nominated for Academy Awards in 2008; and *THE INFORMANT!*, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon.

About ME + YOU PRODUCTIONS

Me + You Productions is an award-winning UK based independent film and television production company founded by BAFTA and EMMY winning filmmakers Richard Yee and Krishnendu Majumdar. They develop and produce cinematic, authored drama and comedy with the very best writing and directing talent and have a track record in making global hit series. They are in post-production on the feature film CLOSE TO YOU starring Elliot Page from writer and director Dominic Savage. Me + You's critically acclaimed anthology drama series I AM for Channel 4 written and directed by Dominic Savage, starring Kate Winslet, Samantha Morton, Letitia Wright and Vicky McClure won two BAFTAs (Single Drama, Leading Actress – Kate Winslet), won a Royal Television Society Award (Leading Actress – Kate Winslet), and was nominated for two Baftas (Single Drama – I AM VICTORIA, Leading Actress – Samantha Morton). They produced two series of the critically acclaimed 6-part scripted comedy drama series SICK OF IT, written by Karl Pilkington and Richard Yee for Sky One and Royal Television Society winning THE DALI AND THE COOPER, a single film for Sky Arts / Showtime written by Roger Drew & Ed Dyson, directed by Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard, and starring David Suchet & Noel Fielding with music by Jarvis Cocker & Richard Hawley. Me + You's other output includes two series of INTERNATIONAL EMMY winning comedy HOFF THE RECORD (starring David Hasselhoff, Brett Goldstein & Asim Chaudhry) for UKTV and Netflix. They are the co-creators and show runners of three series of the BAFTA-nominated global hit AN IDIOT ABROAD starring Ricky Gervais, Stephen Merchant and Karl Pilkington. Their work has won two BAFTA's, two Royal Television Society awards, an International EMMY, a C21 International Drama award, a MIND Media Award and a WFTV award in addition to being nominated for three BAFTAs, a National Television Award, three Royal Television Society Awards and multiple Broadcast Awards. Diversity is in the DNA of Me + You: the company is owned and creatively led by two people of colour. Krish has an Indian (Bengali) heritage and was born in Wales. Richard has Chinese heritage and was born in Scotland. Krish is the former Chair of BAFTA (2020-23). He is the first person of colour to be appointed to the role in BAFTA's 76-year history and the youngest chair in nearly 40 years. He has personally led BAFTA through seismic changes and a cultural shift, from passive to proactive and progressive in tackling inequality. He has a long history of leading on diversity issues across the Industry for PACT and Directors UK. Me + You is committed to reflecting and representing the diversity of the UK and beyond. They ensure that diversity and Inclusion is hardwired into everything they do – how they work with their audiences, their people and their partners and especially the types of stories they tell. They're passionate about championing diverse voices and talent in front of and behind the camera.

About PBS

PBS, with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS's premier children's media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math, and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV – including a 24/7 channel – online at pbskids.org, via an array of mobile apps, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at PBS.org one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, Facebook, or through our apps for mobile and connected devices. Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following PBS Communications on Twitter.

About GBH

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. GBH is the creator of such signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali* and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. GBH's television channels include GBH 2, GBH 44, GBH Kids and national services GBH WORLD and Create. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston's Local NPR; CRB Classical 99.5; CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station and as a partner to NEPM in Springfield. Dedicated to making media accessible to and representative of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to audience members who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. With PBS LearningMedia, GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide. GBH's local programming includes *Boston Public Radio*, *Greater Boston*, *Stories from the Stage*, *Open Studio with Jared Bowen*, *Basic Black* and *High School Quiz Show*. GBH has been recognized with hundreds of the nation's premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at gbh.org.