

MASTERPIECE Launches 50th Anniversary Season with Hit Drama *Elizabeth is Missing* Starring Glenda Jackson **Flagship PBS Drama Series Turns 50 on Sunday, January 10, 2021**

Boston, MA; July 29, 2020---MASTERPIECE on PBS will kick off its 50th anniversary season in January 2021 with *Elizabeth is Missing*, a BAFTA-nominated mystery starring two-time Academy Award® winner Glenda Jackson in her triumphant return to MASTERPIECE.

In a performance described by the *Guardian* (UK) as “harrowing, compelling, unsentimental and altogether magnificent,” Jackson portrays a woman in the grip of dementia trying to solve the case of her missing friend. Almost 50 years ago, in 1971, Jackson won two Emmy® awards for her role as Queen Elizabeth I in MASTERPIECE’s *Elizabeth R.* *Elizabeth is Missing* will premiere on Sunday, January 3 at 9pm ET.

January will also see the premiere of a new adaptation of *All Creatures Great and Small*, a seven-part series based on James Herriot’s heartwarming, entertaining and hilarious adventures as a veterinarian in 1930s Yorkshire; a 1970s adaptation was a hit when it aired on public television. Later in January at the special time of 8pm, MASTERPIECE will air *Miss Scarlet and the Duke*, a new six-part mystery starring Kate Phillips (*Peaky Blinders*) as the feisty, first-ever female detective in Victorian London.

“We’re thrilled Glenda Jackson will lead off our 50th anniversary year,” says MASTERPIECE executive producer Susanne Simpson. “MASTERPIECE has been home to some of the best British dramas of our time, and a showcase for British ‘acting royalty’ such as Maggie Smith, Kenneth Branagh, Helen Mirren and Benedict Cumberbatch, and of course, Glenda Jackson.”

One of the longest-running weekly series on primetime television, MASTERPIECE is presented by WGBH Boston and is funded by Viking, Raymond James and the MASTERPIECE Trust. Known for the hit shows *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *Bleak House*, *Inspector Morse*, *Sherlock*, *Wolf Hall*, *The Complete Jane Austen*, *Victoria*, *Downton Abbey* and many more, MASTERPIECE is cited as the #1 reason members contribute to their local PBS television stations.

When MASTERPIECE celebrates its anniversary on January 10, 2021, the programs it presented will have earned 83 Primetime Emmys®, 18 Peabody Awards, seven Golden Globes®, 175 BAFTAs and two Academy Award® nominations.

The complete slate of programming for the anniversary year will be announced at a later date. In addition, MASTERPIECE will be celebrating with a special, multi-part documentary podcast, “Making MASTERPIECE.” Complete with exclusive interviews from longtime Executive-Producer-at-Large Rebecca Eaton and MASTERPIECE talent such as Rufus Sewell, Lily Collins and more, the “Making MASTERPIECE” podcast tells the remarkable story of how a scrappy group of public media producers in the 1970s created a vibrant and longstanding cultural touchstone. Hosted by Webby Award-winning MASTERPIECE Studio podcast host Jace Jacob, “Making MASTERPIECE” will debut in early 2021.

Elizabeth Is Missing is written by Andrea Gibb, adapted from Emma Healey’s novel. The executive producers are Sarah Brown and Andrea Gibb for STV Productions and Gaynor Holmes for BBC One. The producer is Chrissy Skinns. The director is Aisling Walsh. Sky Studios deficit funded the series and NBCUniversal Global Distribution is handling international sales.

All Creatures Great and Small is a Playground production for MASTERPIECE and Channel 5 in association with All3Media and Screen Yorkshire. The Executive Producers are Colin Callender and Melissa Gallant for Playground, Ben Vanstone, Hugo Heppell for Screen Yorkshire, Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE, which is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston, and Louise Pedersen for All3Media International. The producer is Richard Burrell.

Miss Scarlet and the Duke is an A+E Networks International and Element 8 Entertainment production co-produced with MASTERPIECE in association with Eighty Seven Films and Bandidos Yanquis.

pbs.org/masterpiece

MASTERPIECE Press Contacts

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

Laura Garvey, 617-300-5342, laura_garvey@wgbh.org

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 and Rebecca Eaton is the executive producer-at-large for the series. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking and Raymond James with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. Presented on PBS by WGBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for recent hits such as *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Victoria*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*.