

MASTERPIECE

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Just what the veterinarian ordered
All Creatures Great and Small, Season 2

Beloved country vet James Herriot returns for a new season
of the PBS MASTERPIECE Hit Series

Described as “charming... ravishing (and) transportive” by the *New York Times*, *All Creatures Great and Small* returns for a second season of heartwarming and humorous stories based on James Herriot’s beloved bestselling novels about a young vet and his surrogate family in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales of the 1930s. With an acclaimed ensemble cast headed by Nicholas Ralph as James Herriot, the seven new episodes will air on MASTERPIECE on PBS.

The premiere season of *All Creatures Great and Small* was one of PBS’s biggest hits of 2021, delighting television viewers exhausted by lockdown and ongoing political crises. Critics were equally enthralled by the show, with *Vogue* rhapsodizing “A visit to the fields, farms, and pubs of the faraway English countryside feels ... like just what the doctor ordered,” while *New York Magazine* proclaimed, “every tiny piece of it is absolutely perfect.”

“People helping animals, people quietly falling in love, people romping through the green dales, people valuing honor ... it’s all lovely and comforting,” concurred the *Boston Globe*.

Ralph (*The Most Reluctant Convert*) returns as James Herriot, a young vet from Scotland who moves to Yorkshire to take a job in a local veterinary practice in the farming town of Darrowby. The cast also features Samuel West (*Howards End*) as James’s charismatic but eccentric boss, Siegfried Farnon; Callum Woodhouse (*The Durrells in Corfu*) as Siegfried’s womanizing and carefree younger brother, Tristan; Anna Madeley (*Patrick Melrose*) as Mrs. Hall the wise and compassionate housekeeper who becomes a surrogate mother to the three men in her charge; and Rachel Shenton (Academy Award®- winner, *The Silent Child*) as the independent-minded and alluring farmer Helen Alderson who becomes the focus of James’ attention. Matthew Lewis (*Harry Potter, Happy Valley*) also returns as Helen’s former fiancé, Hugh Hulton.

Patricia Hodge (*A Very English Scandal*) joins the cast as Mrs. Pumphrey, owner of the overly indulged Pekingese Tricky-Woo. The role of the doting dog-owner was played by the late Dame Diana Rigg in season one. It was Dame Diana’s last on-screen role in a career spanning more than sixty years, before her death in September 2020.

The climax of season one saw Helen call off her impending wedding to wealthy landowner Hugh, having developed a close friendship with James over the course of the first season. After working hard to become accepted by the local farmers and prove himself indispensable, Siegfried made James a senior vet in the Skeldale House veterinary practice. Following years of half-hearted effort, Tristan believed he had finally passed his veterinary exams. Siegfried, however, learned that Tristan failed once again, but didn't have the heart to tell him. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hall was heartbroken when she was unable to reconnect with her estranged son.

As season two opens, James returns from Glasgow where he has been visiting his parents for Easter. While there he is offered a job at a modern local veterinary practice and must decide between staying home in Glasgow with his elderly parents or returning to his new life in Yorkshire.

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 (Golden Globe® and BAFTA-winning *Wolf Hall*, *Little Women*), Ben Vanstone, Caroline Cooper Charles for Screen Yorkshire, Rebecca Eaton and Susanne Simpson for MASTERPIECE, which is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston and Louise Pedersen for All3Media International. The producer is James Dean. The lead writer is Ben Vanstone (*The English Game*, *The Last Kingdom*). The lead director is Brian Percival (*Downton Abbey*, *The Book Thief*), with Sasha Ransome (*The A Word*) and Andy Hay (*Jamestown*, *The Last Kingdom*) also directing episodes.

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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 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 GBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for recent 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*.