

MASTERPIECE

MASTERPIECE®

All Creatures Great and Small
**James Herriot's celebrated life as a country
vet is dramatized in an all-new series
on MASTERPIECE**

Sundays, January 10 - February 21, 2021 on PBS

James Herriot's adventures as a veterinarian in 1930s Yorkshire get a glorious new adaptation in *All Creatures Great and Small*, a seven-part series based on his beloved books. Airing Sundays, January 10 - February 21, 2021 on MASTERPIECE on PBS, *All Creatures Great and Small* is a Playground production for MASTERPIECE and Channel 5 in association with All3Media and Screen Yorkshire.

Exciting newcomer Nicholas Ralph will make his television debut as the iconic vet who became renowned for his inspiring humor, compassion and love of life. Samuel West (*Mr. Selfridge*, *On Chesil Beach*) plays Siegfried Farnon, the wonderfully eccentric veterinary surgeon and proprietor of Skeldale House, who reluctantly hires the recently qualified Herriot into his rural practice. Mrs Hall, the resident housekeeper and matriarch of Skeldale House, is played by Anna Madeley (*The Child in Time*, *Patrick Melrose*). Siegfried's errant and charismatic younger brother, Tristan, is played by Callum Woodhouse (*The Durrells in Corfu*). Rachel Shenton (*Switched at Birth*, *White Gold*) takes the role of Helen Alderson, an independent local farmer's daughter who helps her father manage the family farm and care for her younger sister. Dame Diana Rigg (*Victoria*, *Game of Thrones*) plays Mrs. Pumphrey, the delightfully eccentric owner of the overly indulged Pekingese Tricki Woo, while Matthew Lewis (*Harry Potter*, *Ripper Street*) plays Hugh Hulton, a wealthy landowner and rival to James for Helen's affections.

The Executive Producers are Colin Callender and Melissa Gallant for Playground (Golden Globe® and BAFTA-winning *Wolf Hall*, *Little Women*), Ben Vanstone, Hugo Heppell 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 Richard Burrell. The lead writer is Ben Vanstone (*The English Game*, *The Last Kingdom*). The lead director is Brian Percival (*Downton Abbey*, *The Book Thief*), with Metin Hüseyin (*Outlander*, *Merlin*) and Andy Hay (*Jamestown*, *The Last Kingdom*) also directing episodes.

All Creatures Great and Small opens in 1937, when James Herriot, fresh out of Glasgow Veterinary College, follows his dream to become a vet in the magnificent Yorkshire Dales, one of England's most beloved and beautiful landscapes. He soon discovers that treating the animals is as much about treating their owners, and the Dales' farmers are a tough crowd to please. At Skeldale House, James gets to know his newly formed dysfunctional family: his chaotic and erratic boss Siegfried Farnon, his wayward brother Tristan and the shrewd Mrs. Hall, who is endlessly steering the ship. When local beauty Helen Alderson attracts James's attention, he finds another, more enduring reason to stay in the Dales.

Since their first publication in 1970, the beloved books of James Alfred Wight, published under the pen name James Herriot, have held a special place in people's hearts throughout the world. Chronicling the heartwarming and humorous adventures of a young country vet, the books introduced readers to his unconventional mentor and the cast of farmers and townsfolk who lived and worked in the Yorkshire Dales in the 1930s. This new adaptation preserves the rich and uplifting spirit, tone and values of Herriot's iconic characters and stories, and will bring to life his sharply observed, entertaining and incredibly funny tales of country life in the North of England for a modern audience, introducing a new generation to his life-affirming stories. An earlier television adaptation of the books captivated millions of public broadcasting viewers when it aired in the 1970s.

Never out of print, the books have sold more than 60 million copies internationally, becoming a global cultural phenomenon with devoted fans around the world. Their focus on community and its importance in our lives gives Herriot's work an enduring power and contemporary resonance that reminds us all that belonging to a community makes us part of something greater than ourselves.

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About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 16 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*.