

MASTERPIECE

GRANTCHESTER RETURNS TO MASTERPIECE & ITV FOR ITS EIGHTH SEASON

BOSTON, MA – August 11, 2022: Fan-favorite crime drama *Grantchester* is set to return for an eighth season on MASTERPIECE PBS in the US and ITV in the UK.

Filming for the hugely popular show produced by Kudos (a Banijay UK company) has started, with Robson Green returning as DI Geordie Keating and Tom Brittney as Reverend Will Davenport.

Will is the happiest he's ever been but his world will be rocked by a terrible accident. He's always preached the word of a compassionate God – but how can he now, when his despair leads him on a dangerous downward spiral?

Geordie has found a new contentment in his relationship with Cathy, but when they are both confronted with shocking announcements at work their happiness is threatened. As Mrs. C, Leonard, Jack and Daniel rally around, both Will and Geordie find themselves in unfamiliar, emotional waters and murder is always around the corner.

The eighth season of *Grantchester* will range from Speedway to spies, exploring the lives of invisible women and the very visible problems caused by Leonard's new vocation which may, once again, find him battling the law.

Exploring faith, forgiveness, and redemption – this explosive series tests Will and Geordie to the limit.

Charlotte Ritchie (*Ghosts*) returns as Bonnie, alongside Tessa Peake-Jones as Mrs C, Al Weaver as Leonard Finch, Kacey Ainsworth as Cathy Keating, Oliver Dimsdale as Daniel Marlowe and Nick Brimble as Jack Chapman.

Special guest actors for this series include Shaun Dingwall (*Top Boy, Noughts & Crosses*), Jeff Rawle (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Doc Martin*) and Jemima Rooper (*Gold Digger, The Girlfriend Experience*).

Kudos Executive Producer Emma Kingsman-Lloyd says:

"We are delighted to be returning to our beloved *Grantchester*. It's a testament to the fantastic creative work of our cast and crew that the audience want us back series after series."

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Susanne Simpson says:

"We are thrilled to bring MASTERPIECE viewers back to *Grantchester* for an eighth season. The talented ensemble cast and captivating storylines have made *Grantchester* one of our most beloved series. We can't wait for fans to see it!"

Robson Green added:

"It's so good to be back on *Grantchester*. A series that just gets better with age. Everyone involved is at the top of their game and this incredibly charming, likeable, dark and edgy show is an absolute privilege to be part of."

Tom Brittney said:

"I'm absolutely chuffed that we're going ahead with another series of *Grantchester* and that I get to continue playing a character I adore so much. To be part of a show as well loved as this one, that is now in its eighth series, is an absolute honour."

Drama commissioner Chloe Tucker will oversee production from an ITV perspective.

Chloe Tucker said:

"We are delighted to be returning to *Grantchester* for an eighth series. With an incredibly talented cast and crew, and storylines that always deliver, *Grantchester* is a real treat for the audience."

Adapted from *The Grantchester Mysteries* novels by James Runcie, the series was developed for television by Daisy Coulam. Writers this series include Richard Cookson (episode one), Helen Black (episode three), Anita Vettesse (episode four) and Richard Cookson and Karla Williams (episode five).

The series is directed by Rob Evans, Al Weaver (who makes his directing debut) and Martin Smith.

Grantchester is commissioned by PBS MASTERPIECE and PBSd for US audiences and is one of ITV's most popular returning series. MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston. Banijay Rights will be responsible for international distribution.

pbs.org/masterpiece

Press Contacts

Ellen Dockser: ellen_dockser@wgbh.org

Laura Garvey: 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. 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 Banijay Rights

Leading independent global distributor, Banijay Rights, represents a world-class, multi-genre portfolio of over 130,000 hours of standout programming. Leading distribution for the largest international creator and producer, Banijay, the division handles the exploitation of some of the planet's best scripted and non-scripted brands.

Representing quality, excellence and experience in the business of linear and non-linear television and ancillary activity across all platforms, Banijay Rights' catalogue encompasses a host of top titles from Banijay's 120+ in-house labels, and a number of third-party producers, spanning drama, comedy, entertainment, factual, reality, family, formats and theatrical.

Delivering high-quality IP, which was born locally and travels globally, the distributor offers the best stories told the best way. Its landmark brands include *Survivor*, *Big Brother*, *MasterChef*, *Temptation Island*, *Grantchester*, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, *Deal or No Deal*, *Versailles*, *Biggest Loser*, *Home and Away*, *Money Drop*, *Mr Bean* and *Black Mirror*.

Built on independence, creative freedom, entrepreneurialism and commercial acumen, Banijay Rights operates under the direction of Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Payne.