



## Lights, Camera, Laughs! FUNNY WOMAN Starring Gemma Arterton Premieres January 7 on PBS

*New British drama series, based on Nick Hornby's best-selling novel, is sure to deliver laughs to PBS audiences*

**ARLINGTON, VA, December 4, 2023 – PBS** announced today that **FUNNY WOMAN**, a new must-see comedy/drama series starring Gemma Arterton (*The King's Man*), will premiere Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 10:00 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](#)) and stream on [PBS.org](#), the [PBS App](#), and the [PBS Masterpiece Prime Video Channel](#). The six-part series is written by Morwenna Banks (*Slow Horses*). Co-starring alongside Arterton are Rupert Everett (*My Best Friend's Wedding*), David Threlfall (*Shameless*), Tom Bateman (*Based on a True Story*), Clare-Hope Ashitey (*Top Boy*), Arsher Ali (*Avenue 5*), Alexa Davies (*White House Farm*), Emily Bevan (*Temple*), Leo Bill (*Becoming Elizabeth*), Matthew Beard (*Vienna Blood*), Olivia Williams (*The Crown*), Rosie Cavaliero (*Code 404*) and Alistair Petrie (*Sex Education*).

**FUNNY WOMAN** is based on Nick Hornby's best-selling novel, "Funny Girl," and follows Barbara Parker (played by Arterton), a small-town beauty queen who decides to swap her pageant life for comedy television in 1960s London. After landing a TV show audition, Barbara finds that being a woman in a largely male environment has its own challenges. As she 'finds her funny' voice, Barbara re-defines the prevailing attitude toward funny women while on a mission to reinvent herself.

"PBS is thrilled to bring **FUNNY WOMAN** to American audiences," says **Maria L. Bruno Ruiz, Vice President, Program Content Strategy and Scheduling PBS**. "Gemma Arterton gives a nuanced performance as Barbara Parker, finding her voice and owning her female



empowerment in London 1960's. Rupert Everett is a tour-de-force and is almost unrecognizable in his portrayal of Brian Debenham, her talent agent seeking his own ambition. This series will join the ranks of other critically acclaimed PBS favorites recognized for our commitment to bring the gold standard of content to our viewers.”

“**FUNNY WOMAN** is backed by a phenomenal ensemble,” says Germaine Sweet, Managing Director Content Acquisitions, PBS Distribution. “**FUNNY WOMAN** captures all the glitz and excitement of 1960s London. The esteemed creative talent and hilarious insight into challenging the comedy boys’ club will attract and delight audiences seeking the best of drama.”

Across six hilarious and touching episodes, **FUNNY WOMAN** charts Barbara Parker’s meteoric rise from small-town beauty queen to pioneering female comic. Viewers will follow Barbara’s journey as she tries to find fame and purpose in the city while facing dispiriting setbacks along the way to stardom. As the lone woman making her way in comedy, Barbara battles attitudes about gender while forging her own comedic voice and unique brand. In the end, Barbara redefines assumptions about female comics and achieves hard-won professional and personal growth. **FUNNY WOMAN** perfectly lands the laughs, love, and life lessons she discovers along the way.

**FUNNY WOMAN** is produced by Potboiler Television and Rebel Park Productions, in association with Sky Studios. Nick Hornby, Gemma Arterton, Morwenna Banks, Andrea Calderwood, Gail Egan, Jessica Parker and Jessica Malik serve as executive producers. The series is written by multi-award-winning writer Morwenna Banks and directed by BAFTA nominee Oliver Parker. **FUNNY WOMAN** is distributed by NBCUniversal Global Distribution on behalf of Sky Studios.

**“Episode 1” Premieres January 7, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

It’s 1964, and Blackpool beauty queen Barbara Parker sets off for London to embark on her haphazard dream of working in show business.

**“Episode 2” Premieres January 14, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

Barbara lands a lead role in a new TV sitcom, but just as she’s about to realize her dream, news from home threatens to derail her plans. Will she return to Blackpool or seize her moment in London?

**“Episode 3” Premieres January 21, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

Barbara’s life (aka Sophie Straw) changes overnight as the show is a huge hit. Intoxicated by success, she embarks on a romance with co-star Clive.

**“Episode 4” Premieres January 28, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

Barbara and Clive’s off-screen romance is the talk of the town, but she makes a discovery that threatens to bring down the whole show.



### **“Episode 5” Premieres February 4, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

Barbara is banished to Blackpool to await her fate and wonders if her career is over. A remorseful Clive decides to win her back. Will Barbara forgive him?

### **“Episode 6” Premieres February 11, 2024, 10 p.m. ET**

The team reunites to record the last show. It is a triumph, but there are a few surprises still in store for Barbara as the series reaches its finale.

### **About PBS Streaming**

**PBS** programming is available for streaming concurrently with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can view an extended library of content including series, documentaries, and specials via [PBS Passport](#). For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](#) website.

### **About PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel**

MASTERPIECE has been setting the standard for exceptional British drama in the US for 50 years and the PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel continues this legacy and has expanded to include award-winning TV series from around the world. The subscription rate for the PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel is \$5.99/month with an Amazon Prime or Prime Video subscription. Every purchase helps support public television for all.

Follow the PBS Masterpiece Prime Video Channel on [Facebook](#)

### **About PBS**

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program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](https://pbs.org/pressroom) or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](#).

### **About PBS DISTRIBUTION**

[PBS Distribution](#) is a leading distributor of public media content around the world, entertaining audiences across platforms and formats. The company, a joint venture of PBS and GBH Boston, provides premium content through multiple digital channels and video services. PBS Distribution operates six subscription streaming channels — PBS Masterpiece (US and CA),

PBS KIDS, PBS Living, PBS Documentaries and PBS America (U.K.) as well as numerous Free Ad-supported Streaming TV (FAST) Channels in the U.S and U.K. In addition, the company reaches viewers through Transactional Video-on-Demand (TVOD), Subscription Video-on-Demand (SVOD) licensing, Advertising-based Video on Demand (AVOD), DVD and Blu-ray, theatrical releasing, educational platforms, non-theatrical and inflight sales, and serves broadcasters and producers providing program sales and co-production financing.

PBS Distribution offers consumers and educators the highest quality factual, scripted, and children's programming including films from Ken Burns, hit series from MASTERPIECE and foreign language dramas from Walter Presents, entertaining and educational PBS KIDS series, and award-winning documentaries from NOVA, FRONTLINE, AMERICAN MASTERS, NATURE, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, and many independent producers. For over 10 years, the company has extended the reach of programming beyond broadcast while generating revenue for the public television system, stations, and producers.

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### **About NBCUNIVERSAL GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION**

**NBCUniversal Global Distribution is responsible for the licensing and distribution of NBCUniversal product to all forms of television and new media platforms in the U.S., Canada and in over 200 territories internationally. NBCUniversal's content portfolio includes a vast and diverse library of more than 4,500 feature films and 120,000 television episodes, including current and classic titles, non-scripted programming, kids, sports, news, long-form and short-form programming from Universal Pictures, Focus Features, Universal Television, UCP, NBCUniversal International Studios, Sky Studios, NBC Late Night properties, DreamWorks Animation, Telemundo, and more, as well as locally produced content from around the world. Global Distribution is a division of Comcast NBCUniversal.**

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