

# Drama Fit for a Queen: PBS Sets 'Marie Antoinette' Season 2 **Premiere Date**

The captivating historical drama returns on March 23, 2025.



Caption: MARIE ANTOINETTE SEASON 2 First Look Credit: © Rémy Grandroques / Capa Drama / Banijay Studios France / Beside Productions / CANAL+

#### **SERIES PROMO**

LOS ANGELES, CA / ARLINGTON, VA, February 4, 2025 – PBS announces the return to Versailles with MARIE ANTOINETTE, Season 2 premiering on Sunday, March 23, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings). The period drama continues to chronicle the life of one of history's most influential and controversial figures. Emilia Schüle ("Berlin Dance School") returns as the title character, Marie Antoinette, and Louis Cunningham ("Bridgerton") reprises his role as Louis XVI. The series, a CANAL+ Creation Originale in association with CAPA Drama (Newen Studios), Banijay Studios France, and Beside Productions, invites audiences to peek behind the curtain of the personal and political life of the last Queen of France.

MARIE ANTOINETTE Season 2 sees Antoinette and Louis facing unprecedented challenges at the height of their power. As financial crises loom across the nation and political rivalries intensify, the royal couple must navigate an increasingly hostile court and a changing France. From Versailles to the Palais Royal, the seeds of a revolution began to take root, threatening the very foundations of France's long-standing monarchy.



The ensemble cast includes Freya Mavor, Jack Archer ("Call the Midwife"), Jasmine Blackborow ("Shadow and Bone"), Oscar Lesage ("Dangerous Liaisons"), Crystal Shepherd-Cross ("Chronicles of the Sun"), Roxane Duran ("Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris"), Caroline Piette ("Beats Per Minute") and others.

"We are so excited that PBS's audience will get to see the anticipated second season of **MARIE ANTOINETTE**," says Maria Bruno Ruiz, Vice President, Program Content Strategy and Scheduling at PBS. "The tension in **Season 2** builds with each episode as we experience the beginning of the end for King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. The French debt is increasing with more loans, the Affair of the Diamond Necklace is scandalous, and the inner circle of Versailles is closing in on king and queen. **Season 2** features incredible talent and storytelling along with spectacular breathtaking costumes and set designs that take viewers right inside the walls of the Palace of Versailles."

MARIE ANTOINETTE Season 2 will be available to stream on all station-branded PBS platforms including <a href="PBS.org">PBS.org</a>, and the <a href="PBS App">PBS App</a>, available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast, and VIZIO, as well as <a href="PBS Passport">PBS Passport</a> and with <a href="PBS Masterpiece on Prime">PBS Masterpiece on Prime</a> Video.

Viewers can catch up on Season 1 of **MARIE ANTOINETTE** on <u>PBS.org</u>, the <u>PBS App</u>, and with <u>PBS Masterpiece on Prime Video</u>. For more information, visit <u>pbs.org/pressroom</u>.

Episode One "The Worst Winter" - Sunday, March 23, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET Marie Antoinette and Louis embrace modern rule, but enemies lurk everywhere, even in Versailles.

Episode Two "A Poison Pen" - Sunday, March 30, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET Marie Antoinette's affair with Fersen reignites--could it be part of a carefully orchestrated plot?

Episode Three "Treacherous Legacy - Sunday, April 6, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET The people of Paris openly protest against Marie Antoinette as she protects her unborn child.

Episode Four "The Pursuit of Happiness - Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Marie Antoinette overhauls her image, and the King and Queen find happiness when they experience a taste of "ordinary" life.

Episode Five "Enemies Assemble" - Sunday, April 20, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET When Marie Antoinette is implicated in the diamond necklace theft, she is determined to prove her innocence and punish those responsible.



Episode Six "Hated, Humbled, Mortified"- Sunday, April 27, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ETAs the public trial begins, events quickly spiral out of Marie Antoinette and Louis's control.

**Episode Seven "Madame Deficit" - Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET**Marie Antoinette deals with personal grief. Political turmoil, a struggling economy, and personal attacks push Louis toward a nervous breakdown.

# Episode Eight "The End of the Beginning" Sunday, May 11, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Amid the revolution's advance, Marie Antoinette struggles to support Louis's rule. When he succumbs to depression, she steps up to rule in his place.

MARIE ANTOINETTE was created by Deborah Davis ("The Favourite") and directed by Edward Bazalgette (episodes 1-4) and Raf Reyntjens (episodes 5-8). The series is a CANAL+ Creation Originale produced by CAPA Drama, Banijay Studios France, Beside Productions, MARIE ANTOINETTE, Season 2 is executive produced by Claude Chelli, Stéphanie Chartreux, Margaux Balsan, and Louise Ironside. Banijay Rights handles international distribution for Marie Antoinette and secured the agreement with PBS Distribution for the series.

### About Banijay Studios France (A Banijay Entertainment Company)

Banijay Studios France relies on a team of renowned producers who develop and produce content for French and international audiences. The company has built up a reputation over the years thanks to major brands such as Versailles (three seasons for Canal+), Mouche (Canal+), Germinal (France TV), Skam (12 seasons for France.tv slash) and many others, and is continuing its productions with Marie-Antoinette and Les disparus de la Forêt-Noire, a police drama (TF1).

### About CAPA Drama (A Newen Company)

CAPA Drama was created in the early 1990s as an extension of the famous press agency with the aim of creating and producing ground-breaking films and TV series.

In over 25 years, CAPA Drama has asserted its tone and identity by exploring all genres and styles of storytelling as demonstrated by its series of political films such as *S.A.C Des Hommes dans l'Ombre* (Canal+) or *L'Ecole du Pouvoir* (Canal+), as well as its successful police drama series such as *Braquo* (4 seasons for Canal+ – winner of the International Emmy Award for best series in 2012).

Over the last few years, CAPA Drama has expanded and continued to explore various genres with all French networks and platforms. Recent productions include the true-crime drama series *Un Homme Ordinaire* (4 x 52' for M6 – inspired by the unsolved mystery of Xavier Dupont De Ligonnès), the critically acclaimed spy miniseries *Thanksgiving* (3 x 52' for Arte), and the futuristic drama series *Osmosis* (8 x 52' for Netflix). In addition to local productions, CAPA Drama has developed an expertise in international co-productions, as reflected by Its successful period drama series *Versailles* (3 seasons for Canal+).



## **About Banijay Rights**

Leading global distributor, Banijay Rights, represents a world-class, multi-genre portfolio of 205,000 hours of standout programming. Handling the distribution for content powerhouse, Banijay Entertainment, the division specialises in the exploitation of premium scripted and nonscripted brands to broadcasters worldwide.

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 130+ 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, Peaky Blinders, Roque Heroes, Marie Antoinette, Grantchester, Deal or No Deal, Home and Away, 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.

# **About PBS MASTERPIECE on Prime Video**

MASTERPIECE has been setting the standard for exceptional British drama in the U.S. for 50 years. PBS MASTERPIECE on Prime Video continues this legacy and has expanded to include award-winning TV series from around the world. Streamers can subscribe to PBS MASTERPIECE on Prime Video for \$5.99 a month, in addition to an Amazon Prime or Prime Video subscription. Follow PBS Masterpiece on Prime Video on Facebook.

#### **About PBS Passport**

PBS Passport is a member benefit from participating PBS stations that gives eligible donors and supporters extended access to an on-demand library of quality public television programming online or within the PBS Video app. For more information about PBS Passport, visit the PBS Passport FAQ website.

# **About PBS**

PBS, with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS LearningMedia for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, PBS KIDS helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on pbskids.org and the PBS KIDS Video app, games on the PBS KIDS Games app, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at PBS.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, Facebook, Instagram, or through our apps for mobile and connected devices. Specific



program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following PBS Communications on X.

# **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 seven subscription streaming channels — PBS Masterpiece (US and CA), PBS KIDS, PBS Living, PBS Documentaries (US and CA) 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 15 years, the company has extended the reach of programming beyond broadcast while generating revenue for the public media system, stations, and producers.

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#### **Media Contacts:**

Ryan Bender, MPRM Communications rbender@mprm.com

Becky Scullin, PBS brscullin@pbs.org