

MASTERPIECE AND CHANNEL 5 ANNOUNCE THIRD AND FOURTH SEASONS OF "ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL" Season 2 Premieres on Sunday, January 9 on PBS

Boston, MA; JANUARY 8, 2022: MASTERPIECE on PBS, Channel 5 and All3Media International have announced that the hit series *All Creatures Great and Small* has been renewed for a third and fourth season. Based on best-selling author James Herriot's cherished and iconic collection of stories, the critically acclaimed fan-favorite from BAFTA and Golden Globe-winning production company Playground (*Howards End*, *Wolf Hall*) will launch its highly anticipated second season on MASTERPIECE starting January 9. Season 2 will continue to follow the heartwarming and humorous adventures of Herriot, a young vet from Glasgow working in the stunningly beautiful Yorkshire Dales.

Ten million viewers tuned in to the first season of *All Creatures Great and Small*, one of PBS's biggest hits of 2021. Critics were equally enthralled by the show, which was hailed as one of the best series of the year by numerous publications, including *Vogue* ("just what the doctor ordered"), *IndieWire* ("enchanting") and *Vulture* ("absolutely perfect.").

As season three returns, the show re-joins the beloved Skeldale House family in the Spring of 1939 as the prospect of another World War looms large over the Dales. Change is afoot for all the Darrowby residents, especially James and Helen, who are embarking on the next chapter of their lives as the wider world around them heads toward a period of great uncertainty.

All Creatures Great and Small will return to shoot on location in Yorkshire in the Spring of 2022 with the acclaimed ensemble cast that includes Nicholas Ralph as young vet James Herriot, Samuel West as his mercurial mentor Siegfried Farnon, Anna Madeley as the matriarch of Skeldale House, Mrs. Hall, Callum Woodhouse as Siegfried's slowly maturing brother Tristan, and Rachel Shenton as local farmer Helen Alderson, whose wedding engagement to Hugh Hulton came to an abrupt end in season 1. A characterful ensemble of farmers, animals and townsfolk living in the Yorkshire Dales in the 1930s will also return, including Patricia Hodge as the wonderfully eccentric Mrs. Pumphrey and her adored, pampered Pekingese Tricki Woo (portrayed by the lovable Derek).

Both seasons three and four will air in seven parts.

Also returning for season three is lead writer and Executive Producer Ben Vanstone (*The Last Kingdom*). Joining Vanstone for the third installment is returning writer Chloë Mi Lin Ewart, who will write episodes two and four. Karim Khan has joined the writing team for episode five, and Jamie Crichton will write the script for episode six. Brian Percival (*Downton Abbey*) remains lead director and Executive Producer, and Richard Burrell (*Alex Rider*, *Silent Witness*) returns as Producer.

Seasons three and four were again commissioned by Deputy Director of Programmes, ViacomCBS Networks UK, Seb Cardwell; returning Executive Producers are Colin Callender and Melissa Gallant for Playground, Louise Pedersen and David Swetman for All3Media International and Rebecca Eaton and Susanne Simpson for MASTERPIECE. MASTERPIECE on PBS is presented by GBH Boston.

"Everyone at Playground wants to thank MASTERPIECE on PBS, Channel 5, All3Media International and Screen Yorkshire for their support for the series. But most of all we want to thank the audience who have so fully embraced the new series. It is their vocal and loyal support that has resulted in this ongoing commitment to the series and we couldn't be more delighted. It is a joy to produce the show but an even bigger joy to know that there is an audience all over the world hungry to revisit the world of Darrowby in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and to spend more time with the wonderful inhabitants of Skeldale House," says Sir Colin Callender CBE, Executive Producer and CEO of Playground.

"This is great news for the MASTERPIECE audience, who embraced this charming series and made it one of our most-watched shows. We look forward to what Ben Vanstone and Playground have planned for this wonderful ensemble of characters in seasons 3 and 4," adds MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Susanne Simpson.

On the double season order, Sebastian Cardwell, Channel 5 said: "It is clear that our viewers adore James Herriot's adventures in Darrowby and so do we at Channel 5. I am looking forward to us all being reunited with the Skeldale House family when series three arrives on our screens this year."

Executive Producer Louise Pedersen, CEO of All3Media International, commented: "*All Creatures Great and Small* has proven to be a perfect tonic for audiences around the world seeking a top quality production with a warm and positive view of the world. We are pleased to be able to offer these further series to build the brand globally."

James Alfred Wight OBE FRCVS was a veterinary surgeon who graduated from Glasgow Veterinary College at the age of 23. He headed to a veterinary practice in Thirsk, Yorkshire, in 1940 where he fell in love with the Dales and the woman he would marry, Joan Danbury. Wight later wrote stories based on his own adventures as a young country vet, under the pen name James Herriot, quickly becoming one of Britain's best-loved authors.

On the announcement of a third and fourth seasons, Jim Wight and Rosie Page, Wight's children say "For many years the books of James Herriot have provided a source of comfort to tens of thousands of people worldwide at difficult times in their lives. With this recent adaptation of his books, a new generation has been introduced to the joys of the Herriot stories. We are delighted that there are to be at least two more series of *All Creatures Great and Small*, and we are especially pleased that the same excellent actors and producers are to be involved."

All Creatures Great and Small is a timeless classic that continues to be much loved by generations of readers. Never out of print, the books have become a global cultural phenomenon with devoted fans around the world. With a sharp focus on community and its importance in our lives, Herriot's world and spirit is a very much needed antidote to the challenges of our modern times, transporting viewers to a gentle past, populated with wonderfully observed characters. The series reminds us all that belonging to a community makes us part of something much greater than ourselves.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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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*.

About Playground

Playground is a New York and London-based television, film and theatre production company founded in 2012 by award-winning producer Sir Colin Callender. It is committed to producing smart, entertaining drama for the screen and the stage bringing together the finest US and UK talent from the worlds of theatre, film, and television. Playground has produced over 90 hours of primetime television drama garnering 16 Emmy® nominations, 26 BAFTA nominations, and 12 Golden Globe nominations, including winning a BAFTA and a Golden Globe for Best Miniseries. Recent productions include *Wolf Hall*, the BAFTA, Golden Globe and Peabody Award winning miniseries starring Mark Rylance, Damian Lewis and Claire Foy for the BBC and MASTERPIECE, *The Dresser*, the RTS winning television adaptation of Ronald Harwood's acclaimed play starring Ian McKellen and Anthony Hopkins and directed by Richard Eyre for the BBC and Starz, *The White Princess*, a limited series for Starz drawn from the bestselling book by Philippa Gregory, *Howards End*, Academy Award®-winner Kenneth Lonergan's adaptation of E.M. Forster's classic novel starring Hayley Atwell, Matthew Macfadyen and Tracey Ullman directed by Hettie Macdonald for the BBC and Starz, *Little Women*, adapted by Heidi Thomas and starring Emily Watson, Michael Gambon and Angela Lansbury for the BBC and MASTERPIECE, *King Lear* starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson and directed by Richard Eyre for the BBC and Amazon, *Chimerica*, adapted by Lucy Kirkwood from her Olivier Award-winning play and starring Alessandro Nivola, Cherry Jones and Sophie Okonedo for Channel 4, *The Spanish Princess*, a continuation of *The White Princess* and *The White Queen* starring Charlotte Hope, Laura Carmichael and Harriet Walter for Starz and *All Creatures Great and Small* based on the iconic bestselling novels by James Herriot for Channel 5. Upcoming series include *Dangerous Liaisons* for Starz and *The Undeclared War* for Channel 4 and Peacock. Playground's theatre productions on Broadway include: Nora Ephron's Tony®-nominated *Lucky Guy* directed by George C. Wolfe starring Tom Hanks in his Broadway debut, Harvey Fierstein's Tony®-nominated *Casa Valentina* directed by Joe Mantello, the Tony Award®-winning revival of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Jez Butterworth's *The River* directed by Ian Rickson and starring Hugh Jackman, and Kenneth Branagh and Rob Ashford's critically acclaimed groundbreaking production of *Macbeth* at The Park Avenue Armory in New York, and the Tony Award®-winning Best Musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. Recent theatre productions in the West End include: John Tiffany's *The Glass Menagerie*, Casey Nicholaw's *Dreamgirls*, and Ian Rickson's *Rosmersholm*. Playground, in partnership with Sonia Friedman Productions, is currently producing *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End where it won a record-breaking 9 Olivier Awards, on Broadway where it won 6 Tony Awards® including Best Play, and in Melbourne, San Francisco and Hamburg where it has recently opened to further critical acclaim.

About Channel 5

Channel 5 is a public service broadcaster and the UK's third largest commercial TV station. Launched in March 1997, Channel 5 has been owned by ViacomCBS Networks International since September 2014. Channel 5, 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select and My5 TV reach 3 in 4 of the UK viewing public each month with a diverse schedule including issue-led documentaries, popular factual, accessible history, stunning natural history, inclusive entertainment and reality, top level sport, high quality scripted programming and critically acclaimed children's, news and current affairs programming. Through its agenda-driving commissions, Channel 5 has led on societal issues from inequality to inner city gang life, homelessness to mental health, aiming to tell the story of modern Britain by reflecting the lives of people across the nation. My5 is an on-demand service allowing viewers to watch content online for free from Channel 5, 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select and 5Spike, as well as selected third-party channels. In 2018, Channel 5 won its first BAFTA for *Cruising with Jane McDonald* and was named 'Channel of the Year' at the Edinburgh TV Festival. In 2019, Channel 5 won best documentary award for *The Abused* at the RTS Awards, Edinburgh TV Awards and the Association of International Broadcasters Awards. In 2020, Channel 5 was crowned Channel of the Year at the Broadcast Digital Awards and Channel of the Year at the RTS awards.

About Viacom International Media Networks

Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN), a unit of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIA, VIAB), is comprised of many of the world's most popular multimedia entertainment brands, including MTV, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, BET, Paramount Channel, VH1, VIVA and COLORS. Viacom brands are seen globally in more than 600 million households in 170 territories and 37 languages via more than 200 locally programmed and operated TV channels and more than 550 digital media and mobile TV properties. For more information about Viacom and its businesses, visit www.viacom.com. Keep up with Viacom news by following Viacom's blog at blog.viacom.com and Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/Viacom

About All3Media International

All3Media International distributes popular, award-winning TV programmes to over 1,000 broadcasters and media platforms around the world. The company has been celebrated for producing, marketing and distributing quality, ground-breaking and pioneering shows to a global audience – consistently topping the Broadcast and Televisual annual Indies Surveys and we have been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in recognition of our growth – twice. Our catalogue contains over 15,000 hours of content across all genres. As well as Britain's top-selling drama series *Midsomer Murders*, our quality scripted content includes *Fleabag*, *The Missing*, *Skins*, *Mystery Road*, *National Treasure*, *Liar* and *Van Der Valk*. Non-scripted and format highlights include *Gogglebox*, *Undercover Boss*, *Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back*, *Flirty Dancing*, *The Dog House* and *Race Across the World*. As part of the UK's leading multi-label studio we partner with industry-leading UK and international producers – including our own studios – in developing, financing and delivering content and formats.