

MOONFLOWER MURDERS WRAPS PRODUCTION & RELEASES FIRST IMAGES

Lesley Manville Returns in MASTERPIECE/Eleventh Hour Films Sequel to *Magpie Murders*

Boston, MA; December 14, 2023: MASTERPIECE PBS and Eleventh Hour Films have announced that filming has completed on *Moonflower Murders*, a new television drama based on the best-selling novel by Anthony Horowitz, CBE. The six-part series is written by Horowitz, directed by Rebecca Gatward (*Bad Sisters*), series produced by Suzanne McAuley (*Magpie Murders*) and executive produced by Jill Green, Eleventh Hour Films. *Moonflower Murders* is a sequel to the acclaimed *Magpie Murders* that aired on MASTERPIECE in 2022, for which Horowitz received an Edgar Award.

Returning in the lead roles they originated in *Magpie Murders* are Academy Award®-nominee Lesley Manville (*The Crown, Phantom Thread, Mum*) as book editor turned sleuth Susan Ryeland and Timothy McMullan (*Patrick Melrose, The Crown*) as famous literary detective Atticus Pünd.

In addition to Manville and McMullan, returning members of the *Magpie Murders* cast include Alexandros Logothetis as Andreas, Daniel Mays as Locke/Chubb, Claire Rushbrook as Kate, Conleth Hill as Alan Conway, Matthew Beard as James, and Sanjeev Kohli as Sajid Khan.

New cast members include Mark Gatiss (*Sherlock, Nolly*) as Parris/Berlin, Rosalie Craig (*Anatomy of A Scandal, The Queen's Gambit*) as Lisa/Melissa, Pippa Bennett-Warner (*A Bit of Light, Gangs of London*) as Madeline and Adrian Rawlins (*Slow Horses, Living*) as Lawrence/Lance.

Lesley Manville says: "I had an incredible time returning to the role of the smart and feisty Susan Ryeland. Anthony Horowitz has written another ingenious adaptation and I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

Horowitz says, "I've been watching the filming of *Moonflower Murders* with joy. We're back with the same cast, including Lesley Manville, Tim McMullan and Danny Mays – but this time we've got a whole new box of tricks to present as literary editor Susan Ryeland untangles another book within a book and another series of unfathomable murders. I can't wait to show it to our audience."

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Susanne Simpson says, "Our MASTERPIECE audience loved the cleverness and suspense of *Magpie Murders*. In *Moonflower Murders*, Anthony Horowitz delivers the same brilliant storytelling, and we're thrilled that the incredible Lesley Manville is back for this new series." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

"After a huge response from worldwide audiences to *Magpie Murders* we were so pleased to re-meet our great company of returning cast and crew to make the equally distinctive *Moonflower Murders*," adds Jill Green, Executive Producer for Eleventh Hour Films. "It's playful tone and compelling mysteries and timelines will have us all entertained."

Moonflower Murders is the second novel in Horowitz's Susan Ryeland series, and once again uses the story within a story format. Published in 2020, it was lauded as "a richly plotted, head-spinning novel" by the *New York Times* and picks up where *Magpie Murders* left off.

Susan has left publishing and is living in Crete with her long-time boyfriend, Andreas. But her idyll is disturbed by the shadow of a murder committed at a British country hotel eight years ago. Alan Conway visited the hotel and wrote a novel based on what happened there. Cecily Treherne, the young woman who helps run the hotel, read the book and believed the wrong man had been arrested. Now she has disappeared.

Can Susan uncover the secret hidden in the book and find Cecily before it is too late?

More than 5.5 million viewers watched *Magpie Murders* on MASTERPIECE, and the series has been streamed over 3.6 million times. The press were fans, too, with the *Los Angeles Times* writing, "It has everything you want in a British mystery," and *TV Guide* dubbing it "a superior brainteaser."

Filming on *Moonflower Murders* took place in Dublin and Crete.

Moonflower Murders will be available to stream in the US on PBS.org, the PBS App and the PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel. In the UK, the series will be broadcast on BBC One and BBC iPlayer.

Moonflower Murders is a co-Production of Eleventh Hour Films for MASTERPIECE and BBC in association with Salt Films. It is distributed worldwide by Sony Pictures Television and PBS Distribution in North America. None of the production partners were struck companies in the WGA or SAG strikes.

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 for over 50 years. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer. 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 *Wolf Hall*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*. For more information, please visit pbs.org/masterpiece and follow us on social media @masterpiecepbs.

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About Eleventh Hour Films

Established in 2010, Eleventh Hour Films is an independent scripted production company which focuses on producing drama of the highest quality, both in the UK and internationally. EHF produced Anthony Horowitz's best-selling novel *Maggie Murders* as a 6-part drama starring award winning actress Lesley Manville for PBS MASTERPIECE and BritBox UK. The series is now airing on BBC1 and iPlayer, and its sequel *Moonflower Murders* is now in post-production. The company has most recently produced twisted thriller *The Killing Kind*, starring Emma Appleton and Colin Morgan, now airing on Paramount+ UK and distributed worldwide by Sony. EHF is currently in post-production on an original reimagining of Ian Rankin's *Rebus* novels starring Richard Rankin. The company has also recently completed a third series of the globally successful spy series *Alex Rider* for Freevee/Amazon and Sony, a thrilling adaptation of the best-selling coming-of-age novels. Together with Boatrocker and Luti Media, EHF produced *Robyn Hood*, a Canadian set contemporary reimagining of the British legend which premiered on Corus Entertainment's Global network. The company's other productions include *Foyle's War*, *Safe House* and *Collision*.

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 42 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 15 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, and 56 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; 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](https://www.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](https://www.pbs.org/pressroom) or by following PBS Communications on Twitter.

About Sony Pictures Television

Sony Pictures Television (SPT) is one of the television industry's leading content providers, producing, distributing and carrying programming worldwide in every genre and for every platform. In addition to managing one of the industry's largest libraries of award-winning feature films, television shows and formats, SPT is home to a thriving global content business, operating a robust portfolio of wholly-owned and joint-venture production companies across the U.S., Europe, Latin America, and Asia Pacific, as well as linear and digital channels around the world. SPT is a Sony Pictures Entertainment company, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Group Corporation.

About GBH

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH's local television channels include GBH 2, GBH 44, GBH WORLD and GBH Kids. With a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston's Local NPR; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station. From Boston to the Berkshires, from Worcester to the Cape and Islands, GBH is dedicated to connecting the Commonwealth through news, programming, learning tools and events. GBH has been recognized with hundreds of the nation's premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at gbh.org.