

**MASTERPIECE releases first-look images
for the return of hit drama
World on Fire
Premiere set for October 15 at 9/8c on PBS**

Boston, MA; May 31, 2023 - MASTERPIECE has released a gallery of first-look images from the second season of *World on Fire*, set to premiere Sunday, October 15 at 9/8c on PBS. Created by Peter Bowker, season two is written by Peter Bowker, Rachel Bennette and Matt Jones. The series is a Mammoth Screen production for BBC co-produced with MASTERPIECE.

The eleven brand new images feature returning cast members Lesley Manville (*The Crown, Magpie Murders*) as Robina, Jonah Hauer-King (*The Little Mermaid, Little Women*), as Harry, Blake Harrison (*The Inbetweeners, A Very English Scandal*) as Stan, Julia Brown (*Shetland, Anthony*) as Lois, Zofia Wichłacz (*Receptura, Spoor*) as Kasia, Parker Sawyers (*Monsoon, A Discovery of Witches*) as Albert, and Eugénie Derouand (*The Advent Calendar, Paris Police*) as Henriette, and offer a first glimpse of new cast members Mark Bonnar (*Guilt, Shetland*) as the mysterious Sir James Danemere, Gregg Sulkin (*Runaways, Pretty Smart*) as brave but reckless RAF pilot David, Ahad Raza Mir (*Resident Evil, Hum Tum*) as fearless and determined Rajib, who leads a specialist unit of the British Indian Army and Miriam Schiweck (*Der Staatsanwalt, Fellwechselzeit*) as the German teenager Marga, a dedicated member of the Band of German Maidens.

World on Fire season two's cast will again feature Cel Spellman (*Better, Cold Feet*) as Joe, Yrsa Daley-Ward (*Outer Range, The Collaboration*) as Connie, Eryk Biedunkiewicz as Jan, Ewan Mitchell (*House of the Dragon, Trigger Point*) as Tom, and Mateusz Więclawek (*Kurier, Monument*) as Grzegorz.

RAF pilots are sent to destroy German bombers prowling the skies above Manchester, with rescue operations underway on the streets below. The true reality of war has arrived in Britain.

Telling the story of World War Two through the eyes of ordinary people, following intrepid young heroes fighting for freedom, series two will take viewers from the war-torn streets of Britain deep into Nazi Germany, the resistance within occupied France, and the brutal sands of the North African desert - where troops struggle to adapt to a very different kind of combat.

The first season of *World on Fire* can be streamed on the PBS App, PBS.org and the PBS MASTERPIECE Prime Video Channel.

Commissioned by the BBC, *World on Fire* (6x60') is a Mammoth Screen production for BBC co-produced with MASTERPIECE. It is created and written by Peter Bowker, Rachel Bennette and Matt Jones, produced by Amanda Black and Angie Daniell, and directed by Drew Casson, Barney Cokeliss and Meenu Gaur. Executive producers are Peter Bowker, Sheena Bucktowonsing, Damien Timmer, Charlotte Webber and Helen Ziegler for Mammoth Screen in association with ITV Studios, Lucy Richer for the BBC, and Susanne Simpson and Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE. Mammoth Screen is an ITV Studios company. *World on Fire* season two was made with support from Northern Ireland Screen. The series will be distributed internationally by ITV Studios.

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*.

pbs.org/masterpiece

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