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**Royal Family’s Rarely Visited Spaces Uncovered in New Documentary:**

**THE QUEEN’S GARDEN**

**– Specials Open Doors to Royal Life, From Medieval to Modern Times**

**Sunday, December 21 and Sunday, January 11–**

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| Buckingham Palace. Photo: Courtesy  of Will Benson ©Oxfordscientificfilms |

ARLINGTON, VA; December 2, 2014 (updated Dec. 22, 2014) – From bedchambers to flower beds, two new one-hour specials on PBS reveal the secluded spaces of British royal families. **TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER** premiered Sunday, December 21, 2014, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET (watch now on [video.pbs.org](http://video.pbs.org/video/2365377513/),) and **THE QUEEN’S GARDEN** premieres January 11, 2015, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings). The programs underscore the importance of both locations in the lives of the royal household, with insightful interviews and unprecedented public access to these most intimate spaces.

Following episode two of “Downton Abbey, Season 5” on MASTERPIECE, the documentary **THE QUEEN’S GARDEN** recounts a year in the Buckingham Palace Garden, exploring the history and natural history of this remarkable 39-acre oasis hidden in the heart of London (watch a clip [**here**](http://youtu.be/C3txy5vM8nA)). With permission from Her Majesty the Queen, the filmmakers explore this urban oasis with a five-century history — a “living museum” where almost every plant (and some of the animals) have royal stories to tell.

Viewers see the garden’s transformation across four seasons, with a chance to marvel at rare flowers bred specially for the queen, extraordinary wildlife captured with hidden cameras, a vast lake with an island in the middle where royal bees make honey that has been gifted to the pope, and a 15-foot marble urn that once belonged to Napoleon. The wildest corners of **THE QUEEN’S GARDEN** function as an important wildlife haven in London, as well as serve as a backdrop for the annual 8,000-attendee Royal Garden Party.

In **TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER**, host Dr. Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, snuggles up with Britain’s monarchs to uncover the fascinating secrets of the royal bedchamber (watch a clip [**here**](http://youtu.be/LayQ6Nq3oh4)). From Hampton Court to Hever Castle to the great English country manors, Worsley shows the opulence of Royal State bedrooms and explains how these private spaces were once very public hubs of English politics and policy. It was in these rooms that royal marriage ceremonies were held, royal births were observed by crowds eager to verify the baby’s sex. Even the process of creating royal babies took place in a semi-public context, Worsley says, because everyone had a stake in its outcome.

The eventual creation of private chambers evolved as a reaction to the overwhelmingly public nature of royal bedrooms, and affairs of state eventually were relegated to offices and the Houses of Parliament. But **TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER** gives viewers access to the regal pomp and detailed work of these inner chambers – detailing the lavish designs of royal state beds and “pulling back the covers” on the political intrigue that occurred behind closed doors.

**TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER** and **THE QUEEN’S GARDEN** will be available to stream through PBS stations’ video sites each morning after broadcast, including [video.pbs.org](http://video.pbs.org), PBS station-branded digital platforms, such as ROKU, Apple TV and Xbox, and on PBS iPad and iPhone apps.

**Credits:**

**THE QUEEN’S GARDEN**: Writer and director Martin Williams. Executive producers: Alice Keens-Soper and Jeremy Bradshaw. An Oxford Scientific Films Production in association with PBS for ITV.

**TALES FROM THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER**: Producer and director: Nick Gillam-Smith. Executive producer: Lionel Mill. Host: Dr. Lucy Worsley. A Tiger Aspect Productions, an Endemol company, for BBC.

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