

MASTERPIECE

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MASTERPIECE™ *Classic*

WINTER/SPRING 2009

Millions of fans were glued to the 2008 premiere season of MASTERPIECE CLASSIC on PBS, reveling in *The Complete Jane Austen*, a gorgeous new version of E.M. Forster's *A Room with A View*, and Elizabeth Gaskell's sublime *Cranford*, starring Judi Dench.

How do you follow a season like that? With another hit parade of beloved British authors, including Charles Dickens, Emily Brontë, and Thomas Hardy. In winter 2009, MASTERPIECE CLASSIC returns with a feast of new adaptations, including three new Dickens works, fondly referred to as MASTERPIECE's "The Incomplete Charles Dickens."

JANUARY 4 AND 11

Tess of the D'Urbervilles (4-hour mini-series)

Violated by one man, forsaken by another, Tess Durbeyfield is the magnificent and spirited heroine of Thomas Hardy's heartbreaking novel. The cast includes Gemma Arterton (*James Bond: Quantum of Solace*) as Tess, Hans Matheson (*Dr. Zhivago*) as her seducer Alec, and Eddie Redmayne (*Elizabeth: The Golden Age*) as Angel, the man she loves.

JANUARY 18 AND 25

Wuthering Heights (2.5-hour mini-series)

A thrilling new adaptation of Emily Brontë's haunting classic, which chronicles the passionate spiritual bond between Heathcliff, an abandoned Gypsy boy adopted by the Earnshaw family of Wuthering Heights, and the family's daughter, Cathy. Published in 1847, the novel was condemned by one critic as "abominably pagan" for the dark passion throbbing in the heart of its irredeemable hero-villain. Tom Hardy (*The Virgin Queen*) is Heathcliff, newcomer Charlotte Riley is Cathy, and Burn Gorman (*Bleak House*) is Cathy's brother Hindley.

"THE INCOMPLETE CHARLES DICKENS"

FEBRUARY 15 AND 22

Oliver Twist (3-hour mini-series)

This bold and gripping adaptation breathes new life into this much loved Dickens story about the young orphan Oliver who is sent to the workhouse where children are raised on a diet of hard work and thin gruel. But we all know the story doesn't end there. Timothy Spall (*A Room with a View*), Tom Hardy (*The Virgin Queen*), and Sophie Okonedo (*Hotel Rwanda*) star.



-more-

MARCH 15 AND 22

David Copperfield- encore (3-hour mini-series)

MASTERPIECE's acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens's beloved novel based on his own difficult journey from boy to man boasts an all-star cast headed by Daniel Radcliffe (*Harry Potter*) in his first television appearance. Also appearing: Bob Hoskins (*Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Mona Lisa*) as the ever-optimistic Mr. Micawber, Academy Award-winner Maggie Smith (*A Room With a View, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*) as David's upstanding Aunt Betsey, and Ian McKellen (*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy) as the sadistic schoolmaster.

MARCH 29 TO APRIL 26

Little Dorrit (8-hour mini-series)

Following in the triumphant footsteps of *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit* tells the story of the Dorrit family and the rich array of characters they encounter on their way from rags to riches and back again. Adapted by screenwriter extraordinaire Andrew Davies (*Bleak House, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility*), the lavish new miniseries stars Matthew Macfadyen (*MI 5, Pride and Prejudice*), Tom Courtenay (*Billy Liar*), Alun Armstrong (*Bleak House*), and a host of masters of Dickensian disguise.

MAY 3

The Old Curiosity Shop (90-minute single)

This classic Dickens novel is brought to life with an all-star cast that includes legendary actor Sir Derek Jacobi (*I, Claudius*), Toby Jones (*Infamous*), Zoe Wanamaker (*Gormenghast*), and Gina McKee (*The Forsyte Saga*). *The Old Curiosity Shop* follows the virtuous Little Nell Trent (newcomer Sophie Vavassuer) and her shop-owner grandfather (Jacobi) as they encounter tragic misfortunes that lead to the loss of their beloved curiosity shop.

MASTERPIECE has been presented on PBS by WGBH since 1971. Rebecca Eaton is executive producer. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers provide funding for MASTERPIECE.

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pbs.org/masterpiece

Online press materials available at **pressroom.wgbh.org** and **pbs.org/pressroom**

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