

MASTERPIECE joins with UKTV's Alibi and All3Media International to co-commission the return of hit series *Annika*

Stellar ratings and international sales prove the Black Camel Pictures produced show a hit

Praise for *Annika* Season One:

TV Times – 5*****

Radio Times – “Scandi-noir with a difference”

Sun TV Mag – “Veldig bra, as the Norwegians would say (very good)”

Culture (Sunday Times) – “Superb storytelling, well cast”

Hot TV (Daily Star) – “refreshingly different detective drama”

LONDON – August 8, 2022: UKTV's leading crime drama channel, Alibi, has co-commissioned a second season of the hit UKTV Original *Annika* (6x60') with US broadcaster MASTERPIECE and All3Media International.

The critically-acclaimed series is based on the hugely successful BBC Radio 4 drama, written by Nick Walker. The second series will see the return of Nicola Walker (*The Split, Unforgotten*) as DI Annika Strandhed, Jamie Sives (*Guilt, Frontier*) as DS Michael McAndrews, Katie Leung (*The Nest, Roadkill*) as DC Blair Ferguson and Ukweli Roach (*The Midwich Cuckoos, Blindspot*) as DS Tyrone Clarke. Silvie Furneaux (*Limbo*) also reclaims her role as Annika Strandhed's daughter, Morgan.

Nicola Walker said: “We are all looking forward to fighting crime on sea and land with the MHU for a second series and there are secrets closer to home for Annika that will have to be faced. It's going to be a bumpy ride!”

Annika follows the sharp, witty and enigmatic DI Annika Strandhed (Walker), as she leads the specialist Marine Homicide Unit (MHU) that is tasked with investigating the unexplained, brutal, and seemingly unfathomable murders that wash up in the waterways of Scotland. Through the series, Annika makes the audience her confidante by breaking the fourth wall and sharing her wry observations on the case and her life, as she manages her brilliant yet unconventional team, and her equally brilliant yet complex teenage daughter.

Annika's first series will have its broadcast premiere on MASTERPIECE in the USA on October 16th. MASTERPIECE executive producer Susanne Simpson says, “Nicola Walker absolutely owns the role of Annika, who comes across as smart, eccentric, and funny. She leads an extraordinary cast of characters who make this show unique.” MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

The UKTV Original series has been commissioned by senior drama commissioner Philippa Collie Cousins with head of scripted Pete Thornton. The series is ordered by Alibi channel director Emma Ayech. Richard Watsham is director of commissioning for UKTV, and Adrian Willis is genre general manager for drama and lifestyle. Arabella Page Croft and Nicole Fitzpatrick are executive producers for Black Camel Pictures, and Kieran Parker is the series producer.

Philippa Collie Cousins said: "I'm thrilled to get the team back together on a second series of this refreshing, character led crime drama. Nicola has such an authentic approach, she brings the character of Annika to life in a unique way and, by breaking the fourth wall with conviction and wit, she adds both real depth and laugh out loud moments. The first series stole the audience's hearts, and the second series will too!"

Emma Ayech added: "The response to this series has been incredible – Alibi viewers have really embraced the dry humour of Nick Walker's original series. We are thrilled to be bringing the wonderful Nicola Walker and the whole *Annika* team back for a second series. I can't wait for the Alibi audience to step back into *Annika*'s world once again."

Arabella Page Croft, Black Camel Pictures, said: "The new series will see Annika and her brilliant MHU uncover bodies in Edinburgh, Glasgow and as far as the Hebridean island of Jura, keeping in high literary company with the likes of Robert Louis Stevenson, George Orwell and Walter Scott to help solve the cases. Nick Walker is again at the helm, so this series promises more twisty crimes and grisly reveals while delving into our exciting serial hooks from the first series."

David Swetman, SVP content and commercial strategy at All3Media International commented: "We are delighted to be setting sail with our brilliant partners UKTV, Black Camel Pictures and MASTERPIECE for a second series of *Annika*. A compelling, unique detective drama, *Annika* is an exciting addition to our bestselling sleuth/detective slate, and we're thrilled the first series has already sold to such a number of renowned international partners - it's a testament to the hard work of the whole *Annika* team. I'm excited for audiences to see the new cases and adventures we have in store for series 2."

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. 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*.

About Alibi

Sky 109/826, Virgin 126/200, BT 312/382, TalkTalk 312, TV Player
On demand on Sky, Virgin, BT and TalkTalk, Stream on NOW

Alibi is the only TV channel dedicated to crime drama, investigating the best selection from the genre and premiering hit series from around the world such as *Harrow*, *Evil*, *Briarpatch* and *Tommy*.

Alibi stepped into UKTV Original crime drama series with guaranteed thrills, twists and turns including hit series *Traces*, starring Molly Windsor and Martin Compston and *We Hunt Together* starring Eve Myles and Babou Ceesay.

Now in its 15th series, *Murdoch Mysteries* has found a safe space on the channel while newcomers *Hudson and Rex* have become hugely popular additions. British crime dramas including *Death in Paradise*, *Father Brown* and *Silent Witness* give the viewers another chance to catch their favourite shows.

About UKTV

UKTV has been at the forefront of branded television for over 25 years, entertaining the nation with programmes they love. Its leading brands - Dave, Gold, W, Drama, Alibi, Eden and Yesterday - span comedy, entertainment, natural history, factual and drama, and are delivered to audiences through UKTV Play, Freeview, Sky, Virgin Media, BT, TalkTalk, YouView, Freesat and Amazon Fire. The broadcaster is a significant investor in British creativity and is committed to working with new and established writers, directors and programme-makers.

UKTV is part of BBC Studios, the UK's most-awarded production company, a world-class distributor with international branded services, and a commercial subsidiary of the world's leading public service broadcaster, the BBC.

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About Black Camel

Black Camel Pictures is an energetic BAFTA award-winning production company based in Glasgow. Founded by Arabella Page Croft and Kieran Parker, Black Camel is one of Scotland's most exciting scripted film and television production companies. Black Camel is passionate about developing strong, engaging, diverse stories that showcase the best of Scottish talent, from new to established voices.

The company produces *Annika* for UKTV & PBS MASTERPIECE, starring Nicola Walker. The series aired on Alibi in August 2021 to rave reviews and record viewership on the channel. Their BAFTA-winning children's animation series *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* (adapted from the best-selling novels by Liz Pichon, starring Catherine Tate and Mark Bonnar) premiered on Sky Kids in January 2021 and a second season was released in January 2022. They also produce the queer YA series *Float* for BBC iPlayer, which won Best Series in the short form competition at Series Mania 2022. Other credits include *Falling for Figaro* starring Danielle Macdonald and Joanna Lumley, the UK hit musical *Sunshine on Leith* starring Jane Horrocks and Peter Mullan, *Legacy* starring Idris Elba and action horror trilogy *Outpost* (I,II,III) starring Ray Stevenson.

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