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GRANTCHESTER TO BID FAREWELL TO REVEREND WILL DAVENPORT

**Tom Brittney to leave the series and Rishi Nair set to join as the
charismatic Vicar Alphie Kottaram**

Boston, MA; July 12, 2023: As filming gets underway on the ninth season of the hit MASTERPIECE and ITV show, *Grantchester*, lead actor Tom Brittney has confirmed that this season will be his last.

Tom, who has played the much-loved character Reverend Will Davenport, since 2019 is stepping back from his role to focus on new projects. But as one door closes, another one opens and the village welcomes Rishi Nair (*Hollyoaks*, *Count Abdulla*) as the charismatic vicar, Alphie Kottaram.

Grantchester is a Co-Production of Kudos and MASTERPIECE for ITV. It airs on MASTERPIECE on PBS in the U.S. and on ITV1 and ITVX in the U.K.

Tom Brittney said, "I've had the most incredible time playing Will Davenport for the last five years. I got to solve crimes with my best friend, and work with the best cast and crew I could ever ask for. I'll miss it more than anything. But it's time for the baton to be passed, as it once was to me, and I'm so excited for Rishi to join the *Grantchester* family."

Rishi Nair added, "I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining *Grantchester*. The welcome and support I've received from everyone has been overwhelming. The success of the show and the reason we are here for a ninth season is a testament to all the people that have previously worked on it. I'm really excited to get started and cannot wait for the *Grantchester* fans to meet Alphie and to see all that's in store for him."

Robson Green said, "I feel so blessed to be embarking once again on this thrilling journey with the beloved series, *Grantchester*. The anticipation is palpable however, amid the exhilaration, a tinge of sadness lingers for all of

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us as we are bidding farewell to my close friend and remarkable actor Tom Brittney, whose portrayal of the charismatic Will Davenport will be sorely missed. Yet, we are all delighted in welcoming the incredibly talented Rishi Nair to the *Grantchester* family! With his exceptional skills and magnetic presence, I have no doubt that Rishi will be captivating the hearts of millions not only in the UK but also across the globe."

Emma Kingsman-Lloyd, Executive Producer for Kudos, commented, "It's the end of an era as we say an emotional farewell to Tom Brittney. He's been extraordinary in the past five series, and we'll miss him very much. But audiences can look forward to a new and fantastically entertaining chapter as we welcome Rishi Nair to the series. Alphy Kottaram is charismatic, witty and will give Geordie a run for his money. I think the audience will love our new addition."

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Susanne Simpson added, "It's so hard to say goodbye to Tom Brittney, who has become a beloved member of the *Grantchester* ensemble. Fortunately for MASTERPIECE and the show's devoted audience, Rishi Nair is terrific as Alphy Kottaram, a character who we know will quickly become a fan favorite."

It's 1961 and life is good for Will and Geordie. The families are always together, from Sunday lunches to planning summer holidays and with honorary grandparents Mrs. C and Jack, and adopted uncles Daniel and Leonard, it's one big happy family! But when Will is approached with a life changing offer, can he leave Grantchester, and Geordie behind?

As Geordie struggles with personal loss and ever-growing family conflict between Cathy and teenage daughter, Esme he has no one to turn to. But when he arrests an intruder breaking into the Vicarage, he may find his days of working with a Vicar are not over.

Reverend Alphy Kottaram has an instinctive distrust for authority and absolutely no desire to get involved in murder investigations. But Alphy and Geordie will discover they

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have a lot more in common than they first think, and Alphy will find that in Grantchester, murder is never far away.

From deadly circuses, abandoned babies, and hostile historians to vanishing valets and murderous satirists. Together, Geordie and Alphy witness first-hand how religion can be corrupted, but also how faith, love and friendship can offer hope – and renewal.

Robson Green returns alongside Charlotte Ritchie as Bonnie, Al Weaver as Leonard Finch, Tessa Peake-Jones as Mrs. C, Kacey Ainsworth as Cathy Keating, Oliver Dimsdale as Daniel Marlowe, Nick Brimble as Jack Chapman, Bradley Hall as DC Larry Peters and Melissa Johns as Miss Scott.

The season will be executive produced for Kudos (part of Banijay UK) by Emma Kingsman-Lloyd (*SAS Rogue Heroes*, *Deadwater Fell*), writer and series creator Daisy Coulam (*Deadwater Fell*, *Humans*), Robson Green and Tom Brittney. The Executive Producers for MASTERPIECE are Susanne Simpson and Rebecca Eaton at GBH Boston.

Adapted from the *Grantchester Mysteries* novels by James Runcie, the series was developed for television by Daisy Coulam. Writers this series include Daisy Coulam, Richard Cookson, Nessah Muthy and Ayeesha Menon. The series is directed by Katherine Churcher, Rob Evans and Al Weaver (who will direct two episodes). The producer is Jyoti Fernandes.

Grantchester is commissioned by PBS MASTERPIECE and PBSd for U.S. audiences and is one of ITV's most popular returning series. MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

Banijay Rights will be responsible for international distribution.

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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.