

# MASTERPIECE

## MASTERPIECE AND MAVEN SCREEN MEDIA ANNOUNCE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEVISION SERIES BASED ON THE LIFE OF CLEMENTINE CHURCHILL

July 28; Boston, MA-- A five-part drama based on the public and private life of Clementine Churchill, wife of British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, is being developed for television by MASTERPIECE/PBS and Maven Screen Media, alongside Origin Pictures and Sayoko Teitelbaum. Award-winning writer Margaret Nagle (*Warm Springs, Boardwalk Empire, The Good Lie*) will write the original script with the working title *Mrs. Churchill* and executive produce alongside Celine Rattray, Trudie Styler, David Thompson, Sayoko Teitelbaum and Susanne Simpson.

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Susanne Simpson made the announcement during the virtual Television Critics Association press tour.

This is the untold story of a fiercely Independent and very modern heroine who risked everything to save her country and the world from fascism--and her husband from himself. Clementine's story has slipped through the cracks of history. The magnitude of her many achievements are only recently being recognized.

"Winston has said that the Second World War would have been impossible without Clementine, and yet she has not been given the credit she deserves. We are thrilled to be working with MASTERPIECE and developing a series about this complicated, extraordinary woman," said Nagle and Maven co-founder Celine Rattray. Maven is producing with Sayoko Teitelbaum and David Thompson of Origin Pictures.

"Our MASTERPIECE viewers will be enthralled by this historical drama about a fiercely independent woman who influenced the course of world history," said Simpson. "Margaret Nagle is the perfect writer to tell Clementine's true story, and we're proud to be partnering with Maven on this compelling series." MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by GBH Boston.

Each episode of the limited series will follow Clementine through pivotal moments of her life. Raised by an unstable mother in relative poverty caring for her siblings, Clementine became a suffragette working two jobs. Known as the "Broke Beauty," she refused to marry for money or to a man she didn't love. The series will follow her courtship with Winston and struggle with motherhood, her broken relationship with her young niece, Diana Mitford, who was brainwashed by fascism, her pivotal relationship with American Harry Hopkins (FDR's conscience) who held the purse strings to (yet to be created) Land Lease, ensuring England could survive against the Germans until America joined the war, and a climactic trip to Russia where she goes toe to toe with Stalin. The show will be a window into one of history's most remarkable and complicated women.

**[pbs.org/masterpiece](https://pbs.org/masterpiece)**

### **Press Contacts**

Ellen Dockser: [ellen\\_dockser@wgbh.org](mailto:ellen_dockser@wgbh.org)

Laura Garvey: [laura\\_garvey@wgbh.org](mailto:laura_garvey@wgbh.org)

### **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 MAVEN**

Maven Screen Media, co-founded by partners Celine Rattray (Oscar®-nominated filmmaker, producer of Golden Globe® winner *The Kids Are Alright*) and Trudie Styler (BAFTA-nominated producer for films including *Still Alice*, *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Moon*) is a transatlantic development, production and financing company that focuses on innovative storytelling with premiere talent, primarily showcasing female and diverse talent both in front of and behind the camera. Together, they work to produce high quality independent films while taking advantage of cultural resources in New York and London and working with top tier filmmakers. Maven produced the 2019 Academy Award®-winning short, *Skin*, launching the career of Guy Nattiv. The company recently produced *A Mouthful of Air* starring Oscar® nominee, Amanda Seyfried and Malgorzata Szumowska's *Infinite Storm* starring Naomi Watts. Maven is in post of Maggie Betts' *The Burial*, starring Jamie Foxx. Maven and Camille Griffin are developing *Conception* with Searchlight.

### **About DAVID THOMPSON/ORIGIN PICTURES**

Producer David Thompson has received multiple awards including three BAFTAs, three Golden Globes® and two Emmys®. He ran the Feature Film and Single Drama output of the BBC for a decade before launching Origin Pictures in 2008. As Head of BBC Films and single drama, Thompson produced and exec-produced over 150 films and TV dramas, many of which have garnered Academy Awards®, and numerous other international prizes. These include *Billy Elliot*, *Iris*, *My Summer of Love*, *Dirty Pretty Things*, *Notes on a Scandal*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Fish Tank*, *Eastern Promises*, *In the Loop*, *Bright Star* and *An Education*. Films for television include the BAFTA award-winning *Conspiracy*, *The Gathering Storm* and Stephen Poliakoff's *The Lost Prince*. At Origin Pictures, he has produced films including: *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*-starring Idris Elba; *The Awakening* starring Rebecca Hall; *First Grader* starring Naomie Harris; *What We Did on Our Holiday*, starring Rosamund Pike and Billy Connolly ; *X+Y* from director Morgan Matthews starring Asa Butterfield, Sally Hawkins and Rafe Spall; *Woman in Gold* starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds; an adaptation of Julian Barnes's Booker prize winning novel *The Sense of an Ending* starring Jim Broadbent; *Hope Gap*, starring Annette Bening, Bill Nighy and Josh O'Connor, written and directed by William Nicholson (*Gladiator*). Television productions have included Dominic Savage's *Freefall*; BAFTA-nominated *The Crimson Petal and the White*; *Death Comes to Pemberley*; *Cider with Rosie*; *Jamaica Inn* and *The Woman in White*, all for BBC. Most recently he exec-produced miniseries *Catherine The Great*, directed by Phillip Martin (*The Crown*), starring Helen Mirren and Jason Clarke for Sky and HBO.