

# PRESS RELEASE

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## BBC FIRST ACQUIRES LITERARY EPIC WOLF HALL STARRING DAMIAN LEWIS, CLAIRE FOY AND MARK RYLANCE



The highly-anticipated, 6-part TV adaption of Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning novels *Wolf Hall* and its sequel *Bring Up The Bodies* will be premiering in Australia on BBC First in the first half of 2015.

The lavish series stars Emmy-nominated **Damian Lewis** as Henry VIII, Olivier and Tony Award-winner **Mark Rylance** as Thomas Cromwell and **Claire Foy** as the calculating and ambitious Anne Boleyn.

Directed by BAFTA-winning **Peter Kosminsky** and adapted by Oscar-nominated **Peter Straughan**, the flagship drama presents an intimate portrait of Thomas Cromwell, the brilliant consigliere to King Henry VIII, as he manoeuvres the corridors of power at the Tudor court. The story follows the complex machinations and back room dealings of this pragmatic and accomplished power broker – from humble beginnings and an enigmatic past – who must serve king and country while navigating deadly political intrigue, the King's tempestuous relationship with Anne Boleyn and the religious upheavals of the Protestant reformation.

Mark Rylance says: "I love it when an author, such as Hilary Mantel, does her research and discovers an original understanding of a very familiar piece of history. Even during our rehearsals her detailed imagination of the world of Thomas Cromwell is alive in Peter Straughan's ingenious and faithful adaptation."

*Wolf Hall* premiered in the UK last night and has been described by The Telegraph as "masterful" bringing "a fascinating, dangerous world into our living rooms. Pay attention this is tv worth watching."

The drama also stars **Jonathan Pryce** (*Cranford*), **Joanne Whalley** (*The Borgias*), **Mark Gatiss** (*Sherlock*), **Jessica Raine** (*Call The Midwife*), **Mathieu Amalric** (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), **Thomas Brodie-Sangster** (*Game Of Thrones*) and **Saskia Reeves** (*Turks & Caicos*).

Tim Christlieb, Acting Director of Channels for BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand, says "*Wolf Hall* is an enormously ambitious project that has resulted in genuine event television and we're

thrilled to continue to premiere blockbuster British drama in Australia on BBC First. Widely acknowledged as a literary masterpiece, it's been crafted for TV with modern audiences in mind and is a hugely compelling and rewarding experience for viewers."

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Wolf Hall

- *Wolf Hall* is A Company Pictures/Playground Entertainment production for BBC Two/Masterpiece in association with BBC Worldwide, Altus Media and Prescience.
- 2012 saw Hilary Mantel become the first British author to win the Man Booker twice. Her gripping, brutal and compelling novels are international bestsellers and she has been credited with re-illuminating the Tudors and bringing the 16th century to life as never before. She is currently writing the last in her Thomas Cromwell trilogy, *The Mirror And The Light*.
- *Wolf Hall* will see acclaimed director **Peter Kosminsky** reunited with **Mark Rylance**, who he last directed in his BAFTA-winning drama *The Government Inspector*. As a writer/director, Peter Kosminsky's work has spanned Hollywood films such as *White Oleander* to distinctive and ground-breaking television films such as *Warriors*, *No Child Of Mine* and *Britz*. Peter was awarded the BAFTA Alan Clarke Award for Outstanding Creative contribution to Television in 1999 and the RTS Fellowship in 2006.

### BBC First

- BBC First is available on Foxtel and will be available on Fetch TV from the 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- [Twitter](#): @BBCFirstAus

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### About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand

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The logo for Foxtel, featuring the word "FOXTEL" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a gradient of orange and red, giving it a fiery appearance.