



Press Release

March 15, 2018



KIT HARINGTON AND LIV TYLER STAR IN GUNPOWDER PREMIERING ON BBC FIRST MAY 1



"Game of Thrones minus dragons and plus history" – The Guardian

Trailer available [here](#)
Media Kit available [here](#)

Kit Harington (*Game of Thrones*) and **Liv Tyler** (*Lord of The Rings*) lead the cast of this powerful three-part series which also marks Kit Harington's first foray into producing. While many people are familiar with the story of Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot, the show throws the spotlight on the real mastermind behind the plans to blow up the Houses of Parliament, Kit's real-life ancestor, Robert Catesby. *Gunpowder* premieres on BBC First on Tuesday, May 1 at 8.30pm.

Gunpowder explores the events that took place in England, 1603. Elizabeth I is dead and King James of Scotland has taken the throne. With the country at war with Catholic Spain, English Catholics are persecuted and priests caught saying Mass are punished with death. Several attempts have already been made on the new King's life. All so far have failed. But deep in the heart of the Warwickshire countryside a new plot is brewing. A plot that will become legend, and leave a mark on the country that will still be felt over 400 years later.

Kit plays Robert Catesby, Liv Tyler plays Anne Vaux, Catesby's cousin and a devoted Catholic, **Peter Mullan** (*Top of the Lake*) plays Father Henry Garnet, Head of England's outlawed Jesuit order and **Mark Gatiss** (*Sherlock*) is Robert Cecil, right hand man of James I and head of a ruthless spy network dedicated to rooting out Catholics and priests, ultimately uncovering the plot.

Kit is a direct descendant of Robert Catesby. Catesby was his mother's maiden name and Kit carries the name himself - his full name is Christopher Catesby Harington. "It's been a family curiosity for as long as I can remember," said Kit. "Mum used to say 'Robert Catesby was the leader of the gunpowder plot' and not many people know that."

Kit was convinced the story should be dramatized and together with friend Daniel West they developed the idea with writer Ronan Bennett, with Kit acting as an Executive Producer.

When it was screened in the UK the series provoked some strong reactions to the gruesome depictions of the execution of catholic priests and those accused of harbouring them. While violent, the methods are grounded in historical fact and reflect what took place during the time of the gunpowder plot. "It was important for the story because right from the start we need to know why Catesby embarks upon this very, very violent act," said Kit Harington.

Tim Christlieb, BBC Worldwide ANZ Director of Branded Services, said: "*Gunpowder* is as uncompromising as Kit Harington is magnetic. It gives a historical account of events which still resonate today with the celebration of Bonfire Night in the UK. It has a fabulous cast and is as entertaining as it is fascinating."

A full media kit is available [here](#)

The first episode is available to screen on www.bbcworldwidepreviews.com

An embeddable trailer is available [here](#)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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