

Media Alert

20 September 2019

EPIC DRAMA WORLD ON FIRE TO PREMIERE ON OCTOBER 13



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Epic World War II drama *World on Fire* will premiere on BBC First on Sunday, October 13 at 8.30pm.

From multi-award winning Peter Bowker (*The A Word*), *World On Fire* is a heart-stopping, multi-stranded drama telling the story of World War Two through the lives of ordinary people from all sides of this global conflict.

It features a stellar ensemble cast including Academy Award winner **Helen Hunt** (*As Good As It Gets*), Emmy and BAFTA-winner **Sean Bean** (*Game of Thrones*), and Academy Award nominated and Olivier Award winner **Lesley Manville** (*Mum*), together with rising stars **Johan Hauer-King** (*Little Women*), **Julia Brown** (*The Last Kingdom*) and Polish Academy Award-winner **Zofia Wichlacz** (*Warsaw 44*). The first series draws viewers gradually into the creeping horror of the outbreak of the war during its first year. It traces the intertwining fates of relatable, vividly drawn characters from Britain, Poland, France, Germany and the United States as they grapple with the effect of the war on their everyday lives.

Delivering a never-before-seen perspective on the early days of war, this emotionally gripping drama explores the human stories hidden within one of the most pivotal and seismic moments in twentieth-century history.

Writer Peter Bowker says: "From Harry, a young English translator in Warsaw caught up in negotiations with the Nazis and trying to smuggle his Polish lover Kasia out of the country, to Lois, the girl who is waiting for him at home, a young Mancunian factory worker who will come to take all the opportunities the war can offer to live a different kind of life. From Nancy, a female US war correspondent who can't find peace unless her life is at risk, to the Ressler family in Berlin, worried for their soldier son and willing to do anything to protect their disabled daughter from the attentions of the ruling Nazi regime. These are the stories of the ordinary people who shaped our world. Stories of loyalty and brutality, courage and fear, hopes, stories of love and loss, hopes and dreams forged in extraordinary times."



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For more information, please contact: Sue Affleck: 02 9744 4501 | sue.affleck@bbc.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About BBC Studios

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Able to take an idea seamlessly from thought to screen, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services, and ancillaries from both its own productions and programmes and formats made by high-quality UK independents. Award-winning British programmes made by the business are internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms, including factual, drama, entertainment and comedy. BBC Studios has offices in 22 markets globally, including six production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes around 2,500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK's independent sector. Created in April 2018 by the merger of two existing commercial subsidiaries, BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, the company has revenue of around £1.4bn. In the year to March 2019, it returned £243m to the BBC Group, complementing the BBC's licence fee and enhancing programmes for UK audiences.

About BBC Studios in Australia & New Zealand

The BBC Studios business in Australia and New Zealand is primarily content sales and branded services, with a newly established production arm. It wholly owns seven channels: BBC First, BBC UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; BBC Living on Fetch TV; and BBC UKTV and BBC Earth on Sky TV in New Zealand. It distributes great British content from the BBC and other British producers to free-to-air, subscription channels and SVOD platforms and works with partners to bring BBC Studios DVDs, consumer products and live events to the local market. The new production arm in Sydney produces BBC formats for the local market and creates new IP.

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The logo for Foxtel, featuring the word 'foxtel' in a bold, red, lowercase, sans-serif font.

The logo for BBC Studios, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a bold, black, sans-serif font inside three black squares, with the word 'STUDIOS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font below it.

The logo for Fetch, featuring the word 'fetch' in a bold, blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.