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WEDU PBS Announces Downton Abbey, Season 6 Premiere Advance Screenings Road Trip

Venues in Sarasota, Clearwater, Tampa, Wesley Chapel and Lakeland will host advance screenings for the finale season of the wildly popular PBS series.



Tampa Bay, FL - Downton Abbey returns January 3, 2016 on **WEDU PBS** for an epic sixth and final season. The climactic final chapter will bring exciting closure to a remarkable series. Where will fate, passion, ambition, and duty lead television's most beloved characters?

Making their bittersweet farewell are members of the beloved cast, including Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Elizabeth McGovern, Jim Carter, Joanne Froggatt, Penelope Wilton, Phyllis Logan, Laura Carmichael, Brendan Coyle, Lesley Nicol, Sophie McShera, Robert James-Collier, Allen Leech, Kevin Doyle, Samantha Bond, David Robb, Raquel Cassidy and Michael Fox

For fans that just can't wait until January, WEDU PBS announced a series of advanced premiere screening events. WEDU's Downton Abbey road trip will make stops in **Sarasota, Clearwater, Tampa, Wesley Chapel and Lakeland.**

"This is the fourth year that WEDU has hosted events ahead of the on-air premiere of Downton Abbey on Masterpiece. Many fans come out dressed in period attire and are in full character for the event. Everyone has a great time with all of other fans of the show. This year's events should be especially exciting because it is the final season of the program," stated **Allison Hedrick**, WEDU Vice President of Communications.

The kick-off event on December 4 at the Sarasota Opera will also host a VIP reception prior to the free screening. The reception will include a meet and greet with special guest **Alastair Bruce**, host of *Manners of Downton Abbey* and historian to the show. Guests will also enjoy a selection of themed foods and beer and wine. Tickets for the VIP reception are \$50 per person.

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The premiere screenings are free and open to the public. Details and tickets to the VIP reception and free screenings can be reserved online at: www.wedu.org/downtonabbey.

EVENT LISTING:

DECEMBER 4 6:00pm – 7:30pm	Sarasota Opera House, Sarasota VIP Premiere Reception Tickets: \$50.00 per person Includes photo opportunity with Alastair Bruce, lite themed foods, beer and wine, VIP reserved seating to the 7:30pm screening.
7:30pm – 9:00pm	Free Premiere Screening (Doors open at 7:00pm) Open to the public, tickets required
DECEMBER 8 7:30pm – 9:00pm	Capitol Theatre, Clearwater Free Premiere Screening (Doors open at 7:00pm) Open to the public, tickets required
DECEMBER 9 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Tampa Theatre, Tampa Free Premiere Screening (Doors open at 6:30pm) Open to the public, tickets required
DECEMBER 10 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Pasco-Hernando State College Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, Wesley Chapel Free Premiere Screening (Doors open at 6:30pm) Open to the public, tickets required
DECEMBER 11 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Polk Theatre, Lakeland Free Premiere Screening (Doors open at 6:30pm) Open to the public, tickets required

ABOUT WEDU PBS WEDU is West Central Florida’s leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of awardwinning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station website, www.wedu.org and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine Premiere, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU’s focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (ORC International’s DualFrame CARAVAN, January 2015). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit www.wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.

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