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Downton Abbey Comes to an End, but Fans Can See the Full Final Episode Early During Series Wrap Party

WEDU PBS and Tampa Theatre Host Downton Abbey Series Wrap Party



Tampa, FL — Sunday nights may never be the same for fans of the wildly popular PBS Masterpiece series ***Downton Abbey***. The series finale will air Sunday, March 6th beginning at 9:00 p.m. on **WEDU PBS**.

Where will fate, passion, ambition and duty lead television's most beloved characters? Making their bittersweet farewell are members of the 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.

Downton Abbey opened Season 1 with a crisis sparked by the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 followed by the demise of a string of heirs, the horrors of World War I, the Spanish flu, false convictions and romantic betrayals, not to mention the compromising death of a Turkish diplomat in the throes of passion.

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Season 6, which premiered on January 3rd, opened in 1925 with a series of crises reflecting the momentous changes that was transforming society. Women's rights has given Lady Mary and Lady Edith new positions of responsibility: Mary runs the estate, and Edith manages the magazine she inherited from Michael Gregson. Meanwhile, Tom Branson has left for Boston, and newlyweds Lady Rose and Atticus Aldridge are trying their luck in Jazz Age New York. Anna Bates faces a murder charge, though many still suspect her husband. And for the rest of the servants, big doubts hang over their jobs. Will great houses and the fortunes that support them soon be gone?

Eager fans can join **WEDU** and **Tampa Theatre** to see the final episode early and send the series off in grand style on **March 6th at 6:00 p.m.** WEDU will host the series wrap party with tea samplings, photo opportunities, costume contests and *Downton Abbey* themed giveaways. Tickets, which guarantee a seat at the finale screening, are available online at www.wedu.org/downtonabbey. Tickets are \$25 and support quality programming such as *Downton Abbey*, *Sherlock*, *Mercy Street* and *Call the Midwife* on WEDU PBS. (Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with a variety of *Downton Abbey* themed activities and the screening begins at 7:00 p.m.) The screening will include the full final episode.

"WEDU has hosted a collection of *Downton Abbey* season premiere screenings over the life of the series. It is an exciting event to have so many fans together to experience the great moments of this show. There's nothing else like it. There is always cheering, laughter, and even a few tears. Many viewers even come out in period costumes to really set the mood," stated **Allison Hedrick**, WEDU's Vice President of Communications.

Explaining the difficult decision to cue the final curtain, *Downton Abbey* producer Gareth Neame says, "We wanted to close the doors of *Downton Abbey* when it felt right and natural for the storylines to come together, and when the show was still being enjoyed so much by its fans. We can promise a finale full of all the usual drama and intrigue, but with the added excitement of discovering how and where they all end up."

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station 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 award-winning 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 2016). 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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