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WEDU PBS and Polk Theatre to Host a Free Preview Screening of New Masterpiece Series, *Victoria*

– Starring Jenna Coleman, *Victoria*, is a seven-part series about the most powerful woman the world has ever known –



Tampa, FL — Jenna Coleman (Doctor Who) stars as the young Queen Victoria at the outset of her epic reign, which set the stage for an entire era that would be named in her honor. Scripted by bestselling novelist Daisy Goodwin (The Fortune Hunter), *Victoria* airs in seven magnificent parts, fit for a queen, on MASTERPIECE, January 15, 2017 on **WEDU PBS**.

WEDU PBS, in partnership with **Polk Theatre** in Lakeland, will host a **FREE** advanced screening of the first hour of the series on **Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** (doors open at 6:30 p.m.).

Following *Victoria* from her accession to the throne at age 18, through her education in politics, courtship and marriage, *Victoria* paints a portrait of a monarch who was raised to be the pawn of her powerful elders but who wasted no time in showing the empire who was in charge.

The stellar cast includes Rufus Sewell (The Man in the High Castle) as Lord Melbourne, the British prime minister who was *Victoria*'s father figure and intimate friend; Tom Hughes (Dancing on the Edge) as the handsome, brilliant and awkward Prince Albert, who stole *Victoria*'s heart after a rocky start; and Alex Jennings (Churchill's Secret) as Leopold I, King of Belgium, *Victoria* and Albert's matchmaking uncle who had dreams of a dynasty for his obscure royal line—which he amazingly achieved.

Tickets for the free preview screening at Polk Theatre are available online at www.wedu.org/victoria.

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 (Source: Survey Sampling International (SSI), 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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