

## BBC TWO DRAMA 'WOLF HALL' FILMED AT PENSHURST PLACE



Penshurst Place and Gardens played host to stars of screen and stage last week as filming began for the much anticipated adaption of *'Wolf Hall'* for BBC Two. BAFTA award winning, Ashford born actor, Mark Rylance was seen at the historic venue, along with actors Claire Foy, Jonathan Pryce and Mark Gatiss.

The flagship drama that charts the meteoric rise of Cromwell in the Tudor court, from his lowly start as a blacksmith's son to Henry VIII's closest advisor, is being directed by Bafta-winning director Peter Kosminsky and is due for transmission in 2015 on BBC2.

In the adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning novels, Damian Lewis is cast as Henry VIII opposite Mark Rylance as Thomas Cromwell. Claire Foy plays the calculating and ambitious

Anne Boleyn in the six-part serial written by Oscar-nominated Peter Straughan.

Ben Thomas, General Manager of Penshurst Place says, 'We were thrilled that the state rooms at Penshurst Place were chosen as locations for this wonderful story since the property was once owned by Henry VIII who used it as a hunting lodge and base from which to court Anne Boleyn. Records show that the medieval Baron's Hall has barely changed in 600 years. It hosted many Tudor feasts when Henry VIII would no doubt have enjoyed the fruits of the 2,500-acre Penshurst estate'.

Built in 1341 and described as 'the most perfect example of a defended manor house', Penshurst Place regularly attracts film scouts looking for a historical architecture and authentic interiors. The medieval Baron's Hall at Penshurst Place featured in *Merlin*, *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Anne of The Thousand Days* while the Long Gallery provided the floor creaks to sound recordists from the *HARRY POTTER* film series.



Filming of *Wolf Hall* took place at Penshurst Place in Kent from 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May in the Queen Elizabeth Room, Long Gallery and Baron's Hall.

- Ends -

For further press feature information please contact Jacqui Green at JGMPR [Jacqui@jgmpr.com](mailto:Jacqui@jgmpr.com) – for urgent requests her mobile is 07885 270349. For further general press information and jpeg photographs email: [abbie@penshurstplace.com](mailto:abbie@penshurstplace.com) or contact Abbie Voice, Marketing Executive at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307.



Notes to editors:

## MORE ABOUT WOLF HALL

Wolf Hall is a co-production of Company Pictures (Elizabeth I, Shameless, The Devil's Whore, The Shadow Line) and Playground (*The White Queen, Dancing on the Edge, Dracula*) - the US company helmed by Colin Callender - for BBC TWO and MASTERPIECE (broadcaster and co-producers of *Downton Abbey, Sherlock*) in association with BBC Worldwide Prescience and Altus Productions.

Colin Callender will executive produce for Playground, John Yorke for Company Pictures Polly Hill, BBC Head of Independent Drama, for BBC TWO, Rebecca Eaton for MASTERPIECE, Martin Rakusen for BBC Worldwide and Tim Smith for Pescience and Altus Productions,.

## BACKGROUND TO PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

Set in the beautiful Weald of Kent, Penshurst Place and the Estate have stood on the banks of the river Medway since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the awe-inspiring medieval Baron's Hall was built as a country retreat for the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John de Pulteney. Used as a location for many a large film and small screen productions, Penshurst Place has a unique place in history – with literary connections from Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson to Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The property was owned by many Dukes and Nobles with Royal blood in their veins, until King Henry VIII forfeited it from the previous owner, the Duke of Buckingham in 1521. It was then used by Henry and his friends as a hunting lodge. In 1552 the property was gifted by Edward VI to a member of the noble courtier family, the Sidneys, in whose family's hands it has been ever since – and is currently owned by Philip Sidney, 2nd Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

The historic gardens are as old as the house, with records dating back to 1346. These enchanting formal gardens were laid out in Elizabethan times and have remained remarkably true to their early design. Over a mile of yew hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of self-contained 'rooms'. Each garden offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom, which ensures a continuous display from Spring to Autumn. The Herbaceous Borders have recently been redesigned into the stunning Jubilee Walk.

In the House, alongside the unique and stunning Baron's Hall, built in 1341, there are a series of staterooms containing an impressive collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, porcelain and armour. In addition, visitors will enjoy a reminder of bygone childhoods in the Toy Museum, a delight for all ages.

Our Garden Restaurant, managed by Leith's serves a delicious selection of hot and cold lunches; and is where you can enjoy the perfect afternoon tea. Our Porcupine Pantry cafe is an alternative to the Restaurant serving freshly baked hot and cold pastries. Both can also be booked for group lunches and light refreshments. Our wonderful Gift Shop, *free to visit all year*, has a wide selection of gifts.