



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Western Reserve PBS Event “Fashion & Fandom: A Downton Abbey Evening” Celebrates Premiere of Acclaimed Drama’s Third Season

*Free event to include preview screening and tour of Kent State University Museum*

NORTHEAST OHIO — Nov. 13, 2012 — Join Western Reserve PBS for a special evening celebrating the upcoming new season of **Downton Abbey**. “Fashion & Fandom: A Downton Abbey Evening” will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Kent State University Museum, 515 E. Main St., Kent. The free event will feature a one-hour sneak preview of season three of **Downton Abbey**, audience conversation led by Plain Dealer writer Joanna Connors, a tour of Kent State University Museum’s collection of Edwardian fashions and light refreshments.

“Area **Downton Abbey** fans are in for a special treat,” said Lisa Martinez, Western Reserve Public Media vice president of marketing and development. “Not only do they get to see the first hour of the program before it airs nationally, but they also can enjoy a free tour of Kent State’s renowned museum that includes beautiful examples of Edwardian fashion. We’re also pleased to welcome Cleveland Plain Dealer critic Joanna Connors, who will lead what promises to be a lively discussion about **Downton** characters and storylines.”

Winner of nine Primetime Emmy awards and a Golden Globe award for best miniseries, **Downton Abbey** is

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the most-watched PBS **Masterpiece** series on record. The British-American period drama tells the story of the noble Crawley family and the staff who serve them in their sumptuous Yorkshire estate. In season three, the Great War is over and the long-awaited engagement of Lady Mary and Matthew is on, but all is not tranquil at Downton Abbey as wrenching social changes, romantic intrigues and personal crises grip the majestic English country estate. The all-star cast, including Maggie Smith as the Dowager countess of Grantham, returns and welcomes guest star and Academy Award-winner Shirley MacLaine as Martha Levinson, the very American mother of Cora, Countess of Grantham (Elizabeth McGovern).

Seating for “Fashion and Fandom” is limited and reservations are required. Call Western Reserve PBS at 1-800-554-4549 for reservations or more information.

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (5.13 million people) of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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