



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Sneak Preview of “Downton Abbey, Season 4” to be held Thursday, Dec. 12, at Stambaugh Auditorium

NORTHEAST OHIO — Oct. 22, 2013 — “Downton Abbey” fans in Northeast Ohio who are eagerly awaiting the show’s Season 4 premiere can enjoy a free one-hour exclusive sneak preview of the new season on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Ave., Youngstown. Western Reserve Public Media and Stambaugh Auditorium are co-sponsoring the event, which is free and open to the public. Tickets are available by calling the Stambaugh Auditorium box office at 330-259-0555 or by visiting www.stambaughauditorium.com. Complimentary parking is available in the adjacent parking lot.

Season 4 of the acclaimed **Masterpiece** program, which premieres on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), finds the aristocrats coping with last season’s shocking finale. Change is in the air as three generations of the Crawley family have conflicting interests in the estate. Paul Giamatti makes an appearance alongside the beloved returning ensemble, including Dame Maggie Smith, Elizabeth McGovern, Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Jim Carter, Joanne Froggatt, guest star Shirley MacLaine and a host of others.

“Stambaugh Auditorium is very excited about partnering with Western Reserve Public Media to give ‘Downton Abbey’ fans the opportunity to see this exclusive preview of the season’s premiere episode before it airs in January,” said Chris Lewis, director of marketing and public relations for Stambaugh Auditorium. “We truly believe Stambaugh Auditorium and its architecture offer the perfect setting to complement the majestic theme of the show and its characters, especially as the series enters the ‘Roaring Twenties,’ the period in which the auditorium was constructed and opened. It is definitely a privilege to work with such a well-respected media outlet, and we look forward to building a long-lasting relationship with Western Reserve Public Media to provide unique entertainment events like this one for loyal PBS viewers.”

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Toni Kayumi, chief development and communications officer at Western Reserve Public Media, added, “This is an opportunity for our ‘Downton Abbey’ fans who simply can’t wait until January 5th to experience the first hour of the premiere episode together. Season 4 opens six months after Matthew’s tragic death, as the Crawleys begin to come out of mourning. We’re told that Mary finds herself to be the most desirable widow in Yorkshire, Lord Grantham faces challenges managing the estate without his business-savvy son-in-law, and Edith tempts scandal with her new beau! We hope you’ll join Western Reserve PBS and Stambaugh Auditorium as we offer this free event to the community, as a pleasant respite to what can sometimes be a hectic holiday season.”

About Stambaugh Auditorium

Stambaugh Auditorium is a nonprofit public auditorium which opened in 1926 through the generous gift of Youngstown area businessman Henry H. Stambaugh. The centerpiece of the complex is the Concert Hall, which has a seating capacity of 2,553 and is renowned for its near perfect acoustics. The auditorium also features a 9,700-square-foot ballroom, a recital hall (The Anne Christman Memorial Hall), and a formal garden at the southern end of the building, all of which can be rented for public, business, or private functions. The venue welcomes national and international performers on a regular basis while also hosting local and regional entertainment events. Stambaugh Auditorium was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. For more information, call 330-747-5175 or visit stambaughauditorium.com.

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 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 the Ohio Department of Education, 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 or call 1-800-554-4549.