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CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Sir Anthony Strallan.......................................................... Robert Bathurst
Lady Rosamund Painswick.................................................. Samantha Bond
The Earl of Grantham, Robert.......................................... Hugh Bonneville
Lady Edith Crawley....................................................... Laura Carmichael
Mr Carson........................................................................... Jim Carter
John Bates................................................................. Brendan Coyle
Lady Mary Crawley........................................................ Michelle Dockery
Sarah O’Brien.............................................................. Siobhan Finneran
Anna Bates................................................................. Joanne Froggatt
Sir Richard Carlisle........................................................ Iain Glen
Lord Hepworth.............................................................. Nigel Havers
Thomas Barrow............................................................. Rob James-Collier
Mrs Hughes........................................................................ Phyllis Logan
The Countess of Grantham, Cora..................................... Elizabeth McGovern
Daisy Mason...................................................................... Sophie McShera
Mrs Patmore....................................................................... Lesley Nicol
Marigold Shore.............................................................. Sharon Small
Violet, Dowager Countess of Grantham.............................. Maggie Smith
Matthew Crawley........................................................... Dan Stevens
Isobel Crawley................................................................. Penelope Wilton
CREW

Directed by......................................................................................... Brian Percival
Written and created by........................................................................ Julian Fellowes
Executive Producers.............................................................. Gareth Neame, Julian Fellowes & Rebecca Eaton
Producer......................................................................................... Liz Trubridge
Line Producer..................................................................................... Charles Hubbard
Director of Photography......................................................... Nigel Willoughby
Production Designer......................................................................... Donal Woods
Editor................................................................................................. John Wilson
Music................................................................................................. John Lunn
Costume Designer................................................................................ Susannah Buxton
Make-Up and Hair Designer....................................................... Anne ‘Nosh’ Oldham
Casting Director................................................................................... Jill Trevellick
Sound Recordist.................................................................................. Chris Ashworth
Historical Advisor........................................................................... Alastair Bruce
Samantha Bond plays Lady Rosamund Painswick, the widowed sister of Lord Grantham and daughter of the Dowager Countess. Samantha explains that although people may consider her as a schemer, she has a very different view, “I don’t think she is scheming, I think she has a very practical plan which is part of her make up.” She goes on to explain that things are looking up for Rosamund. “She is full of hope, the possibility of ceasing to live a solitary life and of finding companionship and affection puts her in a far jollier mood.”

The Servants Ball is a yearly tradition held in the New Year as a reward from the family to the staff for their hard work throughout the year. So all of the cast had to go for dancing lessons to prepare themselves for the scenes. But unlike the majority of the cast Samantha was already a dab hand at the waltz hence didn’t need lessons and had the pleasure of dancing with one of the hall boys Tom, “Tom didn’t look at me the whole time we were dancing and he looked terrified. So much so that I couldn’t tell if he was acting terrified or actually was. Either way he was very nervous but got better even if I had to do the leading.”

On Christmas and cooking for the family Samantha explains how it works in her house, “I’m not a great cook but I just love to entertain. I’m a very capable cook and can feed vast quantities of people but entertaining is where my true talents lie.”

Hugh Bonneville who plays Lord Grantham, the head of the Downton Abbey household had a few knocks of confidence during the war years, but as the new decade dawns there are plenty of changes a foot.

Hugh says that the household is preoccupied over the Christmas period with Bates’s trial, “He is aware that Christmas can’t quite be the same and obviously matters get a bit more complicated as things go on and it’s really Anna’s resilience that sees them all through this traumatic affair.”

Hugh got to dance with Phyllis Logan at the Servant’s Ball and recounts with much hilarity the dance lessons, “Myself and Phyllis took it like a duck to water, and in fact we had an off screen dancing competition and it was clear from the outset we would win Strictly Come Downton.” But did he tread on any toes? “Well I think toes are overrated and indeed Phyllis is now out of intensive care and is looking forward to a fully fit 2012.” But the couple he did enjoy watching were Rob James-Collier and Maggie Smith. “They were a sight to behold, it was a joy - poetry in motion.”
LAURA CARMICHAEL (Lady Edith Crawley)

Laura Carmichael plays Lady Edith, the much put upon middle daughter of Robert and Cora. Laura explains that Edith hasn’t had the best of times during the war. “She’s had a rough war in the sense that another couple of men have come and gone and she has revisited her feelings for Patrick. Even though I think she knows it wasn’t actually him it’s still really painful that the family didn’t take it seriously.”

Seeing her younger sister get married and her older sister soon to be heading that way with Sir Richard, will Edith ever be lucky in love? “She hasn’t given up hope of seeing Sir Anthony Strallan again. She knows he survived the war but not to what extent he was involved. She wants to see him and the thought of seeing him does get her flustered so the feelings are still there.”

Laura, along with the other cast, had a fantastic time learning to dance but she did have a helping hand, “I actually cheated in the first waltz, I was un-partnered so I asked to be paired with the dance teacher’s assistant who’s done loads of film choreography hence we looked great!”

Laura loves Christmas and is a dab hand in the kitchen, “I just love a big Christmas lunch that lasts hours, I’m just crazy about it. The first time I cooked Christmas lunch it was for about 20 people. We did turkey and goose and it was sublime!” And what does Laura and her sisters like listening to while cooking this sublime dinner? “A bit of Mariah Carey’s ‘All I Want For Christmas’, you can’t beat it!”

JIM CARTER (Mr Carson)

Jim Carter plays the ever faithful butler Carson. Having had some difficulties staffing the house during WW1, he is forced to look to former footman Thomas, “Thomas has cleverly made himself indispensible and has schemed himself back into the house. Carson knows he will try and advance himself further so he must keep a close eye on the situation.”

Jim confesses he is not a natural dancer and at times struggled with the waltz. “I still find it difficult to talk and waltz as in my head I’m going one, two, three, one, two, three so when people wanted to engage me in a bright and lively conversation I was a bit dismayed.” Despite this Jim talks about his previous dancing experiences, namely in Guys and Dolls. “My tap dancing in Guys and Dolls 28 years ago is still the stuff of legends, people in the dance world still talk about that. Especially when the costumiers were told I needed a pair of size 12 tap shoes.”

Jim likes nothing better than getting together with friends at Christmas but can’t take much credit for the Christmas feast. “I’m a good eater, I can carve the turkey and eat it but Imelda is brilliant, all of the preparation and the timing is like clockwork. She’s just brilliant.” They also like to sing carols, they even print out the words! “It’s so we can sing the second verse of songs. I do love to hear people singing Silent Night, I’m not so fond on myself singing it but I do love that one.”
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BRENDAN COYLE (John Bates)

Brendan Coyle plays Bates, his Lordship’s valet. At the end of the second series, Bates was arrested for the murder of his wife, Vera. Dragged off, leaving a shattered Anna behind, “It is a harsh world for Anna and Bates’, explains Brendan, “The events around them have been catastrophic and conspire against them but the moments of reprieve they do have are caring and loving.”

Bates has some nasty surprises in store during the Christmas episode that has a ripple effect throughout the whole house. “The trial has an impact on everyone, not just Anna. Lord Grantham has always stuck by him, considers them friends almost. Isobel Crawley and Lady Mary are there to support both him and Anna who is always so strong for him.”

So Christmas isn’t a happy time for them? “There is such pressure on people for Christmas to be a happy time but maybe it serves as a reminder for many people it isn’t.”

MICHELLE DOCKERY (Lady Mary Crawley)

Michelle Dockery plays Lady Mary Crawley, the eldest daughter of Robert and Cora who is engaged to newspaper tycoon Sir Richard Carlisle. Michelle, who is currently filming Anna Karenina, explains how the relationship between herself and Matthew is changing, “After Lavinia’s death, Matthew feels that they were both somehow responsible and avoids Mary to begin with. But over time they become friends again and he begins to notice, how unhappy Mary is in her relationship with Carlisle.”

The tension between Carlisle and Mary builds throughout the Christmas episode, “Carlisle is becoming more and more pushy, they start to bicker a lot in public. There’s an ease she has with Matthew that she doesn’t have with Carlisle and he’s becoming increasingly threatened by their friendship.”

Michelle had a lot of fun during the dance scenes, even if she didn’t get to dance the one step, “I was sat with Maggie watching the others and between takes Maggie and I were shouting numbers, almost like in Strictly Come Dancing, giving them scores. We had a real laugh watching everyone.”
SIOBHAN FINNERAN (Sarah O’Brien)

Siobhan Finneran who plays O’Brien, Lady Cora’s feisty lady’s maid, showed us a softer side in series 2 with her caring for the shell shocked Lang and fatally ill Cora. She explains that the war has affected her and Thomas and in turn their relationship. “They’ve had very different experiences. O’Brien has been within the confines and restrictions of the house so what winds her up doesn’t affect Thomas in the same way. She’s not seen what he’s seen so they’re coming at things from different points of views, but they are soulmates in a weird way.”

The softer side of O’Brien comes out again in the Christmas episode, although she has never got on with Bates she is as shocked as everyone with his arrest and the trial. Little does she know that she will play an integral part in it, much against her will, “I get called to the witness box and have to give evidence which is very difficult for her as she realizes that anything she says implicates him even more.” Siobhan goes on to explain how she feels about the situation, “Even though she’s hard nosed, she doesn’t believe he killed his wife.”

Siobhan also stars in the hit ITV show Benidorm and is looking forward to Christmas, “I like to be at home surrounded by family, very, very traditional. Nothing out of the ordinary, just at home and eating as much as humanly possible.”

JOANNE FROGGATT (Anna Bates)

Joanne Froggatt plays head housemaid Anna and had many ups and downs during series two, which ended with the powerful image of Anna falling apart after Bates has been arrested for the suspected murder of his wife. Joanne explains that Christmas will not be a happy time for Anna. “As always with Anna and Bates it’s quite a rollercoaster and for Anna it is quite a dramatic time and there’s a lot of heartache for her. And of course there is a strain on the whole household and some definite drama to be had.”

Joanne goes on to say that due to the sadness of the storyline she didn’t even get to dance. “I would have loved to but Anna doesn’t think it’s appropriate so I watched from the sidelines, some of them were so graceful, especially Siobhan, Samantha and of course Jim and Penelope. They really stood out.”

Everyone loves Christmas and everything that comes with it and Joanne is no exception, “I just love Christmas, I’ve always got Christmas music on in the background, I love having exactly what you want to eat and drink, nodding off on the sofa then waking up and eating more food. I just love it!”
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IAIN GLEN (Sir Richard Carlisle)

Iain Glen plays Sir Richard Carlisle, the newspaper tycoon and Lady Mary Crawley’s fiancé. Having purchased Haxby Park, procured then lost butler Carson then asked head housemaid Anna to spy on Lady Mary, Iain explains how the relationship between them has become fraught. “Mary has become more of a challenge to him and he is particularly wary since the sad loss of Lavinia so he is trying as hard as he can to secure their future together, to bring on a commitment to an actual day.”

Iain explains Sir Richard’s complex relationship with the world he finds himself in, “He always did feel like an outsider, it’s a world he wants to be a part of but it’s a world he doesn’t really respect. He wants to be part of the upper echelons of society but because he’s very much a self made man and earned his wealth he has a slight disregard for those who have had it on a silver plate.”

Can Sir Richard continue to fight for Lady Mary’s affections? “I think he now feels quite a strong love for Mary but doesn’t feel like it is necessarily reciprocated. She confessed her dark secret to him and he took it on quite gracefully at first but now it’s becoming more and more like something he can threaten her with, which is not conducive to love.”

NIGEL HAVERS (Lord Hepworth)

Nigel Havers plays Lord Hepworth, an old family friend of Lady Rosamund and the Dowager Countess who joins the Crawley family for Christmas. But what is he here for? “Lady Rosamund and Lord Hepworth have an affection for one another, she is widowed and would like some company again. But the Dowager, is too smart for that. I think she sees through him quite quickly as to the real reason behind his persistence in spending time with the family.”

Nigel, who is will be starring in Peter Pan at the Hawth theatre in Crawley over Christmas, explains how lovely it was to join the cast and to be back doing a costume drama. “When I started in the business as an actor I did these sorts of things all the time, in the 70’s, 80’s and early 90’s so it was nice to come back. The whole thing was just fantastic.”
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**ROB JAMES-COLLIER (Thomas Barrow)**

Rob James-Collier plays Thomas, who has carefully plotted his way back into the house is now a footman again after being a stretcher bearer in the medical corps on the front line in the First World War. But Rob explains that Thomas hasn’t changed that much.

“He’s still conniving and ambitious and wants to get to the top of the house and be a valet or a butler,” he says. “Circumstances play into his hands and Bate’s arrest for the suspected murder of his wife means his Lordship has no valet and Thomas sees’ an opportunity there.”

But will Lord Grantham trust Thomas again after everything that happened before the war. “Thomas was nearly sacked so he has to come up with a way to work himself back in to his good books which he does by hiding something his Lordship loves and then helps get it back to him. But as always his evil plan backfires.”

With the upcoming Servants Ball, Rob and the rest of the cast had to learn to dance, which isn’t something he took to naturally. “Due to the fact I was having a Thomas’ hair cut that day I missed the first thirty minutes of rehearsal and found I couldn’t keep up. I have two left feet,’ he laughs, ‘cannot waltz or indeed dance for toffee and then I had to take the legend that is Dame Maggie Smith for a spin on the floor! - I was so nervous and managed to stand on the Dame’s toe but we had a laugh and she was so great with me. I think she humored me and my two left feet.”

**PHYLLIS LOGAN (Mrs Hughes)**

Phyllis Logan plays Mrs Hughes, the housekeeper at Downton Abbey who managed to keep a whole household going throughout the war despite the reduction of vast members of her staff. Despite letting Ethel go after catching her with Major Bryant, she continued to help her, feeding her from the house provisions and trying to set up meetings with the Bryant’s to no avail.

When it came to the dance rehearsal Phyllis got to dance with Hugh Bonneville and had plenty of praise on how professional they looked but it wasn’t all smooth sailing, “We had to learn the waltz which I thought would be quite simple, one, two, three, one two three, but we were knackered at the end of it! Lots of kicking shins and bruised toes.”

Getting into the Christmas spirit, Phyllis is keen on forming a choir, “I’ve got this notion that I want to form the Downton Choir. Michelle sings, Elizabeth has a band, Lesley has been in musicals, Siobhan has a great voice, as does Sophie and I can sing a bit so what’s to stop us! The Downton Choir, little charity gigs around the country, flog the CD’s.” As for her favourite Christmas song, “You cannae whack Slade, we have my brothers and his family over and have a right old jamboree.”
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ELIZABETH McGOVERN (The Countess of Grantham, Cora)

Elizabeth McGovern who received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Movie for her role as the Countess of Grantham in Downton Abbey, ended the second series having just survived the Spanish Flu.

Elizabeth reveals that, “revelations are at the heart of the Christmas episode for Cora and she is finally able to put something to rest that has been bothering her for a while, though more than that I will not say.”

Elizabeth loves music and when she’s not acting, is part of a band called Sadie and the Hotheads who have a new album due out at Christmas time. Elizabeth particularly enjoyed the dancing that they had to learn. “I got to dance with Jim Carter, he was just fantastic, a real gentleman and I also danced with a hall boy who looked petrified but it was a lot of fun.”

SOPHIE McSHERA (Daisy Mason)

Sophie McShera who plays Daisy, the scullery maid in Downton Abbey had a tough time in the second series. Having been talked into a marriage she wasn’t sure of and made a widow hours later, she still feels guilty that she strung William along. Coming into the Christmas episode Sophie explains how a new character is causing even more tension between her and Mrs Patmore.

“Marigold Shore, played by Sharon Small inspires Daisy to try and get more out of her job, gives her a bit of ambition and tries to make her fight for promotion,’ explains Sophie.

When it came to the Servants Ball, Sophie tells us she just had so much fun learning the dance with everyone. “They were hilarious; we were proper limbering up and wanted to wear leg warmers and everything, we were all being very silly.”

But when the day came Sophie explains how she didn’t even get a partner! “I was promised a little dance with Matthew Crawley, (I was so made up),’ she laughs. “We rehearsed and then I didn’t even get to do any dancing! I watched it longingly, learnt all the steps, I was so excited, then nothing. Devastated I was.”

Sophie is currently appearing in the West End show Jerusalem at the Apollo theatre and won’t get much of a Christmas this year. “We have a show on Christmas Eve so I’ve got to somehow get myself up north for the day, have a big family Christmas and come back straight away. I’m usually up there for quite a while so it’s very different for me this year.”

“Christmas at our house is all about my big family, eating ridiculous amounts of food, and the best bit of all is the buffet tea with all the leftovers, amazing.”
LESLEY NICOL (Mrs Patmore)

Lesley Nicol plays Downton’s cook Mrs Patmore, tells us about the dancing lessons the cast had to have for the Servants Ball, “Well Dan Stevens kicked me in the leg, not on purpose I might say, but it put me out with an ice pack for a good ten minutes!”

Lesley got to dance the one-step with Dan and explained how she thought Mrs Patmore would have thought about that. “I imagined it would be like dancing with Prince Charming for her. He would have been the most handsome piece of eye candy you could possibly dance with so I did rather enjoy it.”

Lesley reveals that things with Daisy still aren’t that easy in the Christmas episode, “Her relationship with Daisy has become really, really difficult and she knows there are changes coming but she’s not quite sure what is going on. She’s quite upset because she can see that Daisy isn’t happy and she just wants to get to the bottom of it.”

And what would Lesley like for Christmas? “Just to have terrific health, because without that you’ve got nothing.”

SHARON SMALL (Marigold Shore)

Sharon Small plays a new character called Marigold Shore, Lady Rosamund’s new lady’s maid.

“Shore is not one to go unnoticed’, says Sharon. “She is new to the servants’ hall and they’re a little bit suspicious of her.

“Shore is a bit of a meddler and sticks her nose in where it’s not wanted. She mostly stirs things up between Daisy and Mrs Patmore.”

But Sharon thinks she is just a little misunderstood, “The other servants think she is giving Daisy bad counsel but for Shore it’s about giving Daisy a voice and the confidence to ask for something she deserves for the first time.”

Joining an established show that has been so successful world wide and running for two years could be daunting for most actors but Sharon has taken it in her stride. “I’ve been so lucky that with my character I’ve got to have the experience of being both upstairs and downstairs. The sets are lovely, the kitchen is just beautiful and everyone has been really gorgeous and welcoming, you know there’s a real family here and I really do feel part of it.”

With many of her scenes being with Lord Hepworth, which Sharon says has been a dream, “He’s got so many stories, is hilarious and does a brilliant Tommy Cooper impression. Plus he’s so handsome, just really lovely to work with.”

Being from Scotland, Sharon explains what a dream Christmas for her would be like, “I’d be in Scotland, with lots of snow in a really big house to fit everyone in, all of my family from Scotland and all of my partner Dave’s family from England with Rosemary Clooney singing ‘Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas’, it’s always the first one I put on.”
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DAN STEVENS *(Matthew Crawley)*

Dan Stevens plays Matthew Crawley, heir to the Downton Abbey estate who lost his fiancée Lavinia Swire to Spanish flu at the end of the second series but is trying to move on with his life, “He’s been dealing with the death of Lavinia but he seems slightly less haunted than when we last saw him and I think he’s trying to get on with life, to see it as a new chapter.”

With Sir Richard Carlisle still looming large over Lady Mary, Dan explains what Matthew hopes for her, “The spectre of Carlisle in Mary’s life continues to bother Matthew. I think even if they don’t end up together he feels she should do what’s right and not marry Carlisle.”

And how will Dan be spending his Christmas? “I will be with my family somewhere in England, ideally with cozy pub lunches by the fire and ale and goose which we had for the first time last year and it was a revelation!”

PENEOLE WILTON *(Isobel Crawley)*

Penelope Wilton plays Isobel Crawley who had a difficult time during series two. Seeing her only son go off to war, come home badly wounded, in addition to the continued tensions between her and Lady Cora meant Isobel had a fairly traumatic war. However is it going to be a good Christmas for her?

“It’s a wonderful Christmas because Isobel’s son Matthew, is of course back to full health. Isobel is certainly less uptight, it wasn’t easy being amenable when your son’s life was at stake.” She is also trying to help Matthew get on with his life. “It’s so easy for us looking in,” she explains. “Matthew and Mary are so wrapped up in other things that they feel they can’t change their own situation and we just try and make them see.”

Like everyone in the house Bates’s trial affects them all. Penelope explains that Isobel tries her best to help. “I’m a great supporter of Bates and I ask to go to the trial to be supportive to him and Anna when the verdict comes in.”

And of course the dancing, Penelope unfortunately couldn’t make the rehearsals but was a quick learner. “I had the absolute great joy of dancing the one step with Carson, so now I have danced with Jim Carter. He did extremely well, he’s got natural rhythm.”
AN INTERVIEW WITH ALASTAIR BRUCE

Alastair Bruce is Downton Abbey’s historical advisor, and whom the actors refer to as ‘the Oracle’. Alastair begins by explaining that the highlight of most people’s Christmas Day is the Christmas dinner.

“It is an important Christmas celebration and the joy of the feast would take place and the family would be the head of the event. It was an occasion when more food than ever would be available and the kitchens would have worked extremely hard to deliver that. At the same time that other part of the community below stairs also celebrated, so at lunch the family fended for themselves serving themselves, according to tradition”

The link between the staff and the family was important during this period he adds. “With celebrations like the giving of presents and the servants ball, it was very special to be brought in to meet and share with the family. It was a tradition at Christmas that those in a position of greatness shared with those that were less fortunate.”

Christmas in 1919 had an extra special feel. “As it was the end of the war there was a tremendous amount of celebration,’ he explains. “They have been through so much and look forward to the joy of a new beginning.”

“Prince Albert introduced this Bavarian tradition of putting up trees from his childhood and it caught on. A house like this would have been able and keen to get a tall and wonderful tree and it would be festooned with decorations, both the family and staff would have been involved in preparing it and it added in the build up to the great celebrations.”
AN INTERVIEW WITH SUSANNAH BUXTON

Susannah Buxton is Downton Abbey’s Emmy award-winning costume designer. Having designed the costumes on series one and the beginning of series two, she is back for to design for the Christmas episode. Susannah explains how the whole look and style is beginning to change moving away from the Edwardian era and into the twenties, “We’re seeing dresses and styles we haven’t seen before, the shapes must change without making any kind of leap so it must be a smooth transition. We’re seeing a lot of slightly drop waists, just hovering where the waist would be and the men go in for black tie for informal occasions but we only touch on this.”

In the Christmas episode Susannah had a lot of fun designing the costumes for a shooting party that takes place. “The beauty of designing for the shoot was that I had a marvelous opportunity to design in tweed and I could use a lot of different styles with colours that all blended perfectly. I could put the pieces of cloth of the lead actors together before they were made to make sure they all looked good together and I think it worked really well.”

Susannah works with all of the actors when designing and making the costumes, “It’s always a collaboration. It helps them work with the character and the progression of the story,’ she explains. “Michelle is a particular favourite and is a real pleasure to work with; she has a fantastic figure and has a real sense of what works for her.”

Moving away from the war and into Christmas celebrations did increase Susannah’s workload. “We covered five evening scenes so it’s a lot of work but so much fun. I hope it’s going to be look romantic, rich and sumptuous.”
CARNIVAL FILMS

Carnival is one of the UK’s leading production companies. In 2011, in addition to producing the second series of the critically acclaimed Downton Abbey and a two hour Christmas episode for ITV1, Carnival also collected six Primetime Emmy Awards and two Bafta Awards for the show that has been sold in over 200 territories around the world. The company also produced the multi Bafta award-winning adaptation of William Boyd’s Any Human Heart for Channel 4 and production has recently completed on the latest series of Whitechapel, the popular and original crime drama for ITV1. In 2011 Carnival has also been a producer on David Hare’s television film, Page Eight for the BBC and is currently in production with Neal Street on Sam Mendes’ cycle of four Shakespeare history plays, again for the BBC.

Originally founded over thirty years ago, the company has brought hundreds of hours of popular television and film to audiences worldwide, from series such as Poirot, Jeeves & Wooster, Hotel Babylon, As If and Rosemary & Thyme to powerful international mini-series such as Traffik, The Philanthropist and The Grid to classics such as Shadowlands and Porterhouse Blue.

Carnival is run by producer Gareth Neame who in 2008 sold the company to NBCUniversal as the cornerstone of its new international TV business. In 2007, Sally Woodward Gentle joined the company as Creative Director. NBCUniversal International Television Production is headed by Michael Edelstein, President. To complement Carnival’s success in drama, Edelstein has established an impressive range of television production labels covering all genres. Monkey Kingdom specialises in entertainment and produces the hit reality drama series, Made in Chelsea for E4 and Newlyweds for Bravo. Additionally, Chocolate Media is NBCUniversal International’s factual entertainment brand. More latterly, in 2011, NBCUniversal announced a majority investment in Australian-based Matchbox Pictures, producers of critically-acclaimed drama series, The Slap, an adaptation of Christos Tsiolkas’s best-selling novel, currently transmitting on BBC Four.

November 2011
THE NUMBER 1 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

THE WORLD OF DOWNTON ABBEY
Jessica Fellowes
Foreword by Julian Fellowes

‘My dear fellow. We all have chapters we would rather keep unpublished’ Lord Grantham

The first and now the second series of this acclaimed drama have captured the imagination of the nation. With 12 million viewers at its peak, it has become the benchmark for quality television and a commentary on all things British.

In the official bestselling book accompanying series one and two, The World of Downton Abbey goes through the doors of the great house and into the lives of the Crawley family and those who serve them. With the onset of the First World War we witness a house, its occupants and a society on the brink of dramatic change. Author Jessica Fellowes takes us beyond what we witness on screen – documenting not only the realities and secrets of Edwardian life both upstairs and down, but the story behind the camera and the lengths its creators have gone to in order to bring to life such a lavish large scale production.

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Jessica Fellowes is an author and freelance journalist. Formerly the Deputy Editor of Country Life, she also writes for The Telegraph, Psychologies and The Lady. She lives in London.

The World of Downton Abbey is published by Collins, priced £20.

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