

‘Downton Abbey’ to end after upcoming 6th season

By **FRAZIER MOORE**
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — A grand manor will close its doors to millions of weekly guests after “Downton Abbey” concludes next year.

Producers of the popular British period drama on Thursday confirmed it will end after its sixth season, scheduled to air in the United States in early 2016. The series, which airs earlier in the U.K., will have its finale on Christmas Day, 2015.

“Our feeling is that it’s good to quit while you’re ahead,” executive producer Gareth Neame said during a conference call. “We feel the show is in incredibly strong shape, the scripts that we’re working on for the upcoming season are fantastic, and the show is so popular globally. But the danger with this sort of thing is to let it go on forever.”

He said the decision to wrap was made by him and Julian Fellowes (who created the series and has written every episode) in conjunction with the cast.

Asked about a rumored “Downton Abbey” feature film, Neame said, “It would be great fun to do,” but added there so far are no plans in place, nor are there plans for a series spinoff.

The acclaimed, beloved and awards-showered drama has tracked the fates of the aristocratic Crawley clan and their servants amid the social upheavals of pre-First World War Britain into the 1920s, as the characters of both upper and lower classes cope with their rapidly changing world.

Stars include Hugh Bonneville, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery, Elizabeth McGovern and Maggie Smith.

The series premiered on the U.K.’s ITV network in 2010, and on PBS’ “Mas-



AP Photo/Courtesy MASTERPIECE
This photo shows Dan Stevens, left, as Matthew Crawley, and Michelle Dockery as Lady Mary Crawley, in season 6 of the television series, “Downton Abbey.”

terpiece” anthology in early 2011, inspired in part by the 2001 Robert Altman film, “Gosford Park” (written by Fellowes), and presented as a variation on the British classic “Upstairs, Downstairs.”

“Let’s not forget,” said Neame, “when we set out to do this in the first place,

we thought we would have a good success in the U.K. and that very traditional outlets for British content globally would be there.”

But almost instantly “Downton Abbey” took on a life of its own.

“We did not know we would be in 250 territories

worldwide,” Neame said. “We didn’t know we would be one of the biggest shows on American television. We would have been perfectly happy for it to run for three seasons, then end it.”

In the U.K., it became the highest-rating drama of the past decade, with an average of 11 million viewers over its five seasons.

Season 5, which concluded in the U.S. earlier this month, drew an average audience of 12.9 million viewers.

“Masterpiece” executive producer Rebecca Eaton called the series “a gift, a gift from the television gods.”

She said it coincided with the 2009 rebranding of “Masterpiece,” which, among many changes, led to dropping “Theatre” from its title.

“And along came ‘Sherlock’ and ‘Downton’ in the same season, and transformed us in many ways: drawing a giant audience, a new audi-

ence; helping pull in an underwriter; solidify our position with stations and donors to the station,” Eaton said in a phone interview. “Then we created the Masterpiece Trust. So, a complete game-changer.”

“Downton” also benefited from the shift in how TV is consumed, including binge viewing and the growth of social media that turned watching telecasts into group experiences, she said.

While Neame acknowledged the temptation to carry on such a breakout success indefinitely, the series, he said, “has always been viewed by everyone involved as a bespoke, well-crafted piece of popular television.”

The decision to call it quits was reached through a process of many conversations. But having now made the decision official, Neame said, meant “a very emotional day for all of the people involved in the show.”

Television > Today’s highlights



Heidi Elnora and Kia Tyson in “Bride By Design”

Hart of Dixie

WPIX 5:00 p.m.
Zoe (Rachel Bilson) makes a life-altering decision in this season finale, and Wade (Wilson Bethel) does everything in his power to please her before their baby is born. Elsewhere, a guilty Lavon (Cress Williams) wants to make things right.

Grown Ups

11 KFFX KPTV 8:00 p.m.
After their high school basketball coach passes away, five friends meet at a lakeside cottage to reunite and reconnect in this buddy comedy film starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock, David Spade and Rob Schneider.

Cristela

42 KVEW KATU 8:00 p.m.
One of television’s newest funny ladies brings viewers some Friday-night laughs with this new episode. Later, an encore episode chronicles Cristela’s (Cristela Alonzo) desperate efforts to motivate Maddie (Justine Lupe).

12 Monkeys

SVFY 9:00 p.m.
In a last ditch effort to stop the Army of the 12 Monkeys, Cole (Aaron Stanford) splinters to Tokyo, 1987. Željko Ivanek guest stars in this new episode of the drama about a time-traveller who’s trying to prevent a deadly plague.

Bride By Design

TLC 9:00 p.m.
Cameras follow Alabama-based bridal designer Heidi Elnora as she sketches and sews to create the perfect dresses for her clients. The series debut shines the spotlight on bride-to-be Tia, who wants to stand out among her fellow baseball wives.

Bering Sea Gold: Under the Ice

DISC 10:00 p.m.
With the summer mining season heating up, everyone feels the pressure to snag some gold. Also, a near-fatal mishap reminds everyone that life on the Bering Sea can be harsh, and personnel problems plague the fleet.

Preachers’ Daughters

LIFE 10:00 p.m.
Another wild night leads to some altercations between the girls in this new episode. When the girls show up to the mission hung over the next morning, a fed-up Pastor Tilo calls their fathers to enlist their help.

Talk shows

8:00 a.m. WPIX The Jerry Springer Show Tiffany claims the best way to lose weight is through sex and has lost over 100 pounds.

9:00 a.m. 19 KEPR The Meredith Vieira Show **25 KNDU KGW** Today Show II Christian Slater co-hosts; Ludacris on ‘Furious 7.’

42 KVEW Live! With Kelly and Michael Kelly and Michael interview Chris Hemsworth and ‘Pretty Little Liars’ star Lucy Hale.

WPIX The Jerry Springer Show Ju Ju changed his player ways when he met Kaelyn on their college campus.

10:00 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Today Show III Relationship advice with Matthew Hussey.

42 KVEW KATU The View **HALL** Home and Family **WPIX** The Bill Cunningham Show **11:00 a.m. 11 KFFX** The Real **25 KNDU** Steve Harvey **KATU** Live! With Kelly and Michael Kelly and Michael interview Chris Hemsworth and ‘Pretty Little Liars’ star Lucy Hale.

WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show Noon **31 KTNW** Charlie Rose

42 KVEW KATU The Chew **HALL** Home and Family **WPIX** The Steve Wilkos Show A woman believes her boyfriend is cheating on her with his teenage sister.

1:00 p.m. 19 KEPR KOIN The Talk **59 OPB** Charlie Rose **WPIX** The Steve Wilkos Show

2:00 p.m. KOIN 42 KVEW The Doctors **KGW** The Dr. Oz Show **KATU** The Meredith Vieira Show

3:00 p.m. 619 KEPR KOIN Dr. Phil **25 KNDU** The Dr. Oz Show

KGW The Ellen DeGeneres Show **25 KNDU** KGW Today Show II

4:00 p.m. 25 KNDU The Ellen DeGeneres Show **42 KVEW** The Queen Latifah Show

6:45 p.m. HBO2 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver

8:30 p.m. 31 KTNW Charlie Rose: The Week

10:00 p.m. HBO Real Time With Bill Maher

11:00 p.m. 31 KTNW Charlie Rose

12:30 a.m. HBO2 Real Time With Bill Maher

11:35 p.m. 19 KEPR KOIN The Late Show With David Letterman

25 KNDU KGW The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

42 KVEW KATU Jimmy Kimmel Live

Midnight 31 KTNW Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One

FNC Red Eye With Greg Gutfeld

12:30 a.m. 31 KTNW Tavis Smiley

12:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Late Night With Seth Meyers

1:00 a.m. AMC The Talking Dead A discussion on ‘The Walking Dead’ episode, ‘Try.’

1:30 a.m. 31 KTNW Charlie Rose: The Week

1:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Last Call With Carson Daly

2:05 a.m. 25 KNDU Today Show

2:40 a.m. HBO2 Real Time With Bill Maher

5:00 a.m. 25 KNDU Saturday Today

FRIDAY MORNING

STATION		6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 AgDay	Paid	The Office	Paid	Pets.TV	Paid	Paid	Paid	Friends	Paid	The Real	
FOX	KPTV	3 Good Day Oregon		Good Day Oregon				The 700 Club		Paid	Paid	E. Stanton	Eco Co.
CBS	19 KEPR	2 News	News	CBS This Morning				Meredith Vieira		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
CBS	KOIN	19 KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m.		CBS This Morning				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
NBC	25 KNDU	6 4:30 WakeUp North		Today Show Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Steve Harvey	
NBC	KGW	8 KGW News at Sunrise		Today Show Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Paid	Million..
ABC	42 KVEW	4 Northwest	Northwest	Good Morning America (N)				Kelly and Michael (N)		The View		Quincy, M.E.	
ABC	KATU	5 5:00 KATU News		Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View		Kelly and Michael (N)	
PBS	31 KTNW	Stretch	W.L.Yoga	Cat/ Hat	Thomas	D.Tiger	SuperWI	Peg + Cat	Peg + Cat	Sesame Street		DinoTrain	Sit and Fit
PBS	59 OPB	13 Stretch	Wild Kratts	C.George	C.George	D.Tiger	D.Tiger	Sesame Street		DinoTrain	DinoTrain	Peg + Cat	SuperWI

AFTERNOON

STATION		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 Pat. Court	Pat. Court	Divorce	Divorce	Judge Mathis		The People’s Court		Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	M&M	M&M
FOX	KPTV	3 Teen News	Y. Icons	Am Athlete	Missing	TMZ Live!		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	5 O’Clock News	
CBS	19 KEPR	2 NameGame	Bold & B.	The Talk		Let’s Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)			
CBS	KOIN	19 News	Bold & B.	The Talk		The Doctors		Dr. Phil		NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)			
NBC	25 KNDU	6 Hot Bench	Paid	Days of Our Lives		TMZ	Minute	The Dr. Oz Show		Ellen DeGeneres		News	NBC News
NBC	KGW	8 KGW New	Paid	Days of Our Lives		The Dr. Oz Show		Ellen DeGeneres		KGW News		KGW News	NBC News
ABC	42 KVEW	4 The Chew		General Hospital		The Doctors		The Rachael Ray Show		Queen Latifah		News	News
ABC	KATU	5 The Chew		General Hospital		Meredith Vieira		Steve Harvey		KATU News @ 4		KATU	News
PBS	31 KTNW	Charlie Rose		Painting	Quilt Arts	Garden	Ming	C.George	C.George	Arthur	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Business
PBS	59 OPB	13 Paint This	Chef	Charlie Rose		Thomas	Sesame St.	Cat/ Hat	Arthur	Speaks	WordGirl	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts

EVENING

STATION		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 Modern “Someone to Watch Over Lily”	Modern Family “Fears”	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men
FOX	KPTV	3 6 O’Clock News	Timbers in 30	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
CBS	19 KEPR	2 4:00 NCAA Basketball	NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament Sweet Sixteen (L)										
CBS	KOIN	19 4:00 NCAA Basketball	NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament Sweet Sixteen (L)										
NBC	25 KNDU	6 Local News	..Be a Millionaire?	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Grimm “Double Date” (N)							
NBC	KGW	8 KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	Grimm “Double Date” (N)							
ABC	42 KVEW	4 The Middle “The Optimist”	Local News at 6:30	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Cristela “Latino 101” (N)	Cristela “Great Expectations”						
ABC	KATU	5 KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Cristela (N)	Cristela						
PBS	31 KTNW		PBS NewsHour	BBC World News	McLaughlin Group	Washington Week (N)	Charlie Rose (N)						
PBS	59 OPB	13 Wild Photo (N)	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Washington Week (N)	PBS Previews						

	STATION	PEN	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
CABLE	A&E	52	Criminal Minds "Roadkill"		Criminal Minds "Amplification"		Crim. Minds "To Hell" Pt. 1 of 2 cont'd next		Criminal Minds "And Back" Pt. 2 of 2		Criminal Minds "Nameless, Faceless"		Criminal Minds "Haunted"		
	AMC	60	5:00 ♀ ★★ Above the Law Steven Seagal.		♀ Out for Justice A Brooklyn police officer seeks revenge against the man who killed his partner.				♀ ★★ Body of Lies (08, Act) Leonardo DiCaprio. A CIA agent has his girlfriend taken hostage while attempting to implicate terrorists.						
	ANPL	24	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Insane Pools DeepEnd		Pools "Growing Pains"		Insane Pools DeepEnd		
	CMT	43	5:00 ♀ ★★ The Princess Diaries		♀ ★★ Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde						Cops		Cops	Raising	Raising
	CNBC	72	American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		Paid		Paid
	CNN	68	The Wonder List		Finding Jesus		Death Row Stories		Death Row Stories		Death Row Stories		Death Row Stories		Death Row Stories
	DISC	51	Bering Sea Gold		Bering Sea Gold		Bering Sea Gold		Dredged Up (N)		Bering Sea Gold (N)		Dredged Up (N)		Dredged Up (N)
	DISN	26	Girl	Girl	KC Under	KC Under	Jessie (N)	Girl (N)	Liv Maddie	Dog Blog	StarWars	StarWars	Dog Blog	Jessie	Jessie
	ESPN	33	NCAA Studio (L)		NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament Women's Elite Eight (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter
	ESPN2	34	430 Basket, NCAA		NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)				College Gameday (L)		NBA		Top Ten		SportsNat. SportsNat.
	FAM	32	♀ ★★ Dirty Dancing '87, Dan) Patrick Swayze.						♀ ★★ Pitch Perfect '12, Com) Anna Kendrick.						The 700 Club
	FNC	66	The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity				On the Record
	FOOD	61	Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr.		Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr.		Dream Cruise (N)		Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr.		Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr.		Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr. Diners, Dr.		Diners, Dr.
	FX	65	♀ ★★ Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.		♀ ★★ Ice Age: Continental Drift '12, Ani) Ray Romano.
	GOLF	88	Golf Cent.	PGA Golf	Valero Texas Open Site: TPC San Antonio -- San Antonio, Texas				CHAMPS Golf Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic						Golf Cent.
	GSN	76	Newlywed	Newlywed	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Baggage	Baggage	Baggage	Baggage
	HALL	87	Waltons "The Burnout"		Waltons "The Burnout"		The Waltons		Middle		Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	62	Bargain	Bargain	Love It or List It, Too		Love It or List It, Too		Love It/ List It (N)		H.Hunt		House	H.Hunt	House
	HIST	50	Ancient Aliens "Alien Encounters"		Ancient Aliens "Forbidden Caves"		Ancient Aliens "Aliens in America"		Ancient Aliens "Secrets of the Mummies"		Ancient Aliens "Aliens Among Us"		Ancient Aliens "Aliens Among Us"		:05 Ancient Aliens "Alien Messages"
	LIFE	29	Bring It!		Bring It!		Bring It!		Bring It! Fan Chat (N)		Bring It! (N)		Preacher (N)		Kosher (N) Kosher (N)
	NICK	27	Thunder	Nicky	♀ The SpongeBob SquarePants...		Sponge		Full House		Full House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	:35 Friends
	ROOT	37	Mariners All Access	Beyond the Lights	Sounders All Access	All Access	Boxing Golden Boy Joseph Diaz Jr. vs. Delgado -- Los Angeles, Calif.		Geovanny WPT Poker		Borgata Open	WPT Poker	Borgata Open	Burton U.S. Open	Burton U.S. Open
	SPIKE	42	Cops "Bad Girls"	Jail	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Bellator MMA Fighters battle for \$100,000 and a shot at the title.				:15 Glory Special	:45 Cops
	SVFY	67	Movie	♀ ★★ The Punisher '04, Act) John Travolta, Thomas Jane.					12 Monk. "Shonin" (N)		Helix "Plan B" (N)				12 Monkeys "Shonin"