

NEWS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEW SKY DRAMA ‘A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES’ BEGINS FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FEATURING BRISTOL LOCATIONS

Watch the trailer here >> <https://youtu.be/i3OF4u8NOGw>

BRISTOL, 11 September 2018: Highly anticipated new drama **A Discovery of Witches** will begin airing on Sky One and Now TV on Friday, after being partly filmed in Bristol last year.

Starring Matthew Goode (*Downton Abbey*, *The Crown*) and Teresa Palmer (*Hacksaw Ridge*), the Sky original production is a modern-day love story adapted from Deborah Harkness’s bestselling *All Souls* trilogy, set in a world where witches, vampires and daemons secretly live and work alongside humans, hidden in plain sight.



*Teresa Palmer & Owen Teale outside The Harbour Hotel, Corn Street*

Set against the backdrop of Oxford academic life, much of the drama was filmed in Oxford, South Wales and Venice, but producers also made the most of Bristol’s historic quarter to recreate street scenes of the University city.

The Sky original production stars Teresa Palmer as academic and historian Diana Bishop, a witch denying her magical heritage. Until the discovery of an ancient manuscript in Oxford’s Bodleian Library throws her into the heart of a dangerous mystery – and into the path of enigmatic geneticist and vampire Matthew Clairmont, (Matthew Goode), who hides a dark family secret.

Bristol Film Office supported filming in October last year for a large-scale unit of more than 70 crew that shot at a number of locations including interiors at The Harbour Hotel on Corn Street and Highbury Vaults on St Michael’s Hill, with exterior cafe scenes also filmed outside The Rummer on All Saints Lane. In one stand out scene, lead character Diana Bishop (Teresa Palmer), is seen cycling through Bristol streets on Deanery Road near College Green and Bristol Cathedral, which double for Oxford.



*(left) Teresa Palmer is cycles along Deanery Road, Bristol; (right) the finished scene (image courtesy Sky One)*

**Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office** says: “This is an incredibly exciting new production and we were very pleased that we were able to assist its locations team in finding the historic streets of central

Bristol that were such a good fit for recreating the beautiful setting of Oxford. For high end dramas shooting in cities like Cardiff and Oxford, producers can be confident that the wealth of locations here in Bristol will be both convenient, located along the M4 corridor, as well as visually suitable to complement the rest of their shoot.”



(Left) Filming outside The Harbour Hotel



(Right) Low loader driving scenes on Deanery Road

Other cast includes Alex Kingston, Sarah Bishop, Owen Teale and Louise Brealey. Made by Bad Wolf Productions, *A Discovery of Witches* has been adapted for screen by writer Kate Brooke (*Mr Selfridge*), who is also an executive producer. The co-founders of Bad Wolf, Jane Tranter and Julie Gardner, and Lachlan MacKinnon are executive producers along with Deborah Harkness. Juan Carlos Medina (*Painless*) is the director.

***A Discovery of Witches* begins on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 9pm on Sky 1 and Now TV.**

**– ENDS –**

For more information about *A Discovery of Witches*, contact Holly Osmond Smith: [holly.osmondsmith@sky.uk](mailto:holly.osmondsmith@sky.uk).  
For more information about Bristol Film Office, contact Tara Milne on [taracmilne@gmail.com](mailto:taracmilne@gmail.com) / 07532 134020.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Bristol Film Office**

Bristol Film Office, a division of Bristol City Council, is a free service to all productions planning to film in the city. Dedicated to making film, television or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol, it is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries. It can assist at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to recces and logistical support. In 2016-17, Bristol Film Office recorded a strong total of £18.3 million inward investment from productions working in Bristol and registered more than 1,000 location filming days in the city.

Bristol Film Office is leading delivery of a programme of activity to celebrate the permanent UNESCO City of Film status Bristol was awarded in 2017. [www.filmbristol.co.uk](http://www.filmbristol.co.uk)

