



Red Planet Pictures builds extensive outdoor Regency set at The Bottle Yard Studios for brand new ITV Jane Austen adaption

Sanditon commences filming at The Bottle Yard Studios and across Bristol & the wider region

BRISTOL, 15 February 2019: Construction of a major outdoor film set is underway at Bristol's Bottle Yard for the latest high-end TV drama to shoot at the Studios; the upcoming adaptation of the final incomplete novel from Jane Austen, *Sanditon*. [ITV has today announced that Rose Williams, Theo James, Anne Reid and Kris Marshall will star in the lavish drama, which has begun filming.](#)

A 10 week build process is underway following approval of a planning application submitted to Bristol City Council by Red Planet Pictures, the independent production company behind hits *Death in Paradise* and *Dickensian*, which is now bringing *Sanditon* to a wide television audience for the very first time. Adapted by acclaimed screenwriter Andrew Davies (*War & Peace*, *Mr Selfridge*, *Les Misérables*, *Pride and Prejudice*), Austen's original 11-chapter fragment will be brought to life in a 8x60 minute series. It is filming at The Bottle Yard and on location in Bristol with assistance from Bristol Film Office. Bath Film Office are also supporting filming at a location in North East Somerset.

Set builders are creating an 1820's outdoor Regency street of a 'quiet seaside town' within the Studio's Back Lot. External elevations are being constructed from open frame scaffolding and wood, against which the authentic period street façade is being built, measuring 67 metres long by 21 metres wide, with heights of up to 10 metres in some places, according to set designs. Sets are also being built inside the Studios, in 22,000 sq. ft. of build space in Tank House 4.

Alex Protherough, Head of Production, Red Planet Pictures said: "When looking for a suitable production base for filming *Sanditon*, we were immediately drawn to Bristol and the South West. There is a wealth of locations in this area, perfect for period drama, and particularly the Georgian period where our story is set. The country houses, Bath and its elegant Regency architecture, even the Somerset coastline all offer a wide range of locations perfect for *Sanditon*. The Bottle Yard Studios are perfectly located to access these locations, and they have more to offer. *Sanditon* was always going to require an element of set building, as is often the case with continuing drama productions of this size. The construction and studio spaces at the Bottle Yard have made Bristol the obvious place to base film and television production in the area."

Fiona Francombe, Site Director of The Bottle Yard Studios, says; "*Sanditon* is a lavish, high profile production at The Bottle Yard which will also put Bristol locations on screen, thanks to the help of the city's Film Office. It's wonderful to see the external sets going up in addition to those inside the Studios; our spacious Back Lot allows for this type of build to take place where needed. Builds like this are so beneficial to the local area, they present excellent new opportunities for trainees in South Bristol as well as employment for a high percentage of local crew."

Natalie Moore, Bristol Film Office says; "*Sanditon* is an ideal production for Bristol to host. With our own studio base and excellent Regency locations to offer, producers can also benefit from locations support from our neighbours at Bath Film Office nearby. The versatility of the West of England and its network of film friendly support makes this a prime region to base this type of drama, which brings valuable and production spend and employment into the local economy."

Written only months before Austen's death in 1817, *Sanditon* tells the story of the joyously impulsive, spirited and unconventional Charlotte Heywood and her spiky relationship with the humorous, charming (and slightly wild!) Sidney Parker. When a chance accident transports her from her rural hometown of Willingden to the would-be coastal resort of the eponymous title, it exposes Charlotte to the intrigues and dalliances of a seaside town on the make, and the characters whose fortunes depend on its commercial success. The twists and turns of the plot, which takes viewers from the West Indies to the rotting alleys of London, exposes the hidden agendas of each character and sees Charlotte discover herself... and ultimately find love.

Sanditon is a Red Planet Pictures production commissioned for ITV by Polly Hill and MASTERPIECE by Rebecca Eaton. Created by Jane Austen, it is written and executive produced by Andrew Davies with Belinda Campbell as Executive Producer for Red Planet Pictures and Rebecca Eaton as Executive Producer for MASTERPIECE. Series producer is Georgina Lowe, and casting director is Jill Trevellick. BBC Studios is distributing the series internationally.

– ENDS –

For further information about The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office, contact Tara Milne on 07532 134020 or email taracmilne@gmail.com.

[Click here](#) to read the full *Sanditon* casting announcement. For further information contact janice.troup@itv.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Bottle Yard Studios

The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative. The site, which operated for more than 50 years as a former winery and bottling plant, is now an established base for film and television production in the West of England, attracting major UK and overseas productions of all sizes.

The Bottle Yard Studios has eight stages available at competitive rates, just 15 minutes from Bristol city centre. It also offers a giant green screen studio, extensive back lot, workshop areas, production offices, costume and make-up rooms, dressing-rooms, storage, private roadways and parking. On-site tenants deliver a host of services including creative, digital, technical and audio/visual expertise, grips, transport, structural, fire and safety assistance.

Productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: *Hellboy* (Lionsgate), *The Spanish Princess* (STARZ), *Fortitude* (Sky Atlantic), *Poldark* (BBC One), *The Crystal Maze* (Channel 4), *Tipping Point & Tipping Point Lucky Stars* (ITV), *Eric, Ernie & Me* (BBC Four), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC Two), *Three Girls* (BBC One), *The White Princess* (STARZ), *Broadchurch* (ITV), *Trollied* (Sky1), *Crazyhead* (E4/Netflix), *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride* (BBC One), *The Living and the Dead* (BBC One), *Andy's Safari Adventures* (CBeebies), *Galavant* (Disney/ABC Studios), *Wolf Hall* (BBC Two), *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* (ITV). www.thebottleyard.com

Bristol Film Office

A division of Bristol City Council, Bristol Film Office 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 recce and logistical support. In 2017-18, Bristol Film Office recorded a strong total of £15.2 million inward investment from productions working in Bristol and registered more than 1,140 location filming days in the city, a 10% increase on the previous year.

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

Bath Film Office

Bath Film Office helps productions film in the WORLD HERITAGE city of Bath, famed for its unique Georgian and Roman architecture. We also cover North East Somerset, an area of picturesque countryside, quaint villages and old mining towns. As a local government service, we have extensive contacts and a close working relationship with Council officials, residents associations, businesses and private estate owners. We have particular expertise in enabling filming to happen in locations usually blocked to film makers because of their historical significance. www.bathfilmoffice.co.uk

About Red Planet Pictures:

Red Planet Pictures has produced some of the UK's most popular drama content of recent years, including eight series of the BBC One ratings hit *Death in Paradise*, with the latest series premiering in January 2019 to over 6million viewers.

The dynamic indie has also produced the ambitious and critically acclaimed 20-part drama *Dickensian*, a studio drama that brought together iconic characters from Charles Dickens' most



famous works, for the BBC. Red Planet Pictures productions also include big budget adventure drama series *Hooten & The Lady* for Sky One, the critically acclaimed WWI drama *The Passing Bells* and the retelling of Noah's Ark, *The Ark*, both for BBC One. *Babs*, a 90min' drama written by Tony Jordan was produced by BBC Studios in association with Red Planet Pictures. The 8x60 drama adaptation of Jane Austen's unfinished final novel, *Sanditon*, developed by Emmy and BAFTA-Award winning writer Andrew Davies goes into production in March 2019 and is slated for release on ITV in 2020.

Red Planet Pictures was founded by award-winning writer Tony Jordan in 2005, and in 2007 the company launched the Red Planet Prize, a writing competition designed to find and establish Britain's next generation of showrunners and writing talent. The creative initiative has uncovered and developed a number of aspiring writers including previous finalist Robert Thorogood, who created the BBC One smash-hit series *Death in Paradise*.

