*****Embargoed until 3rd December 2016*****

GRANTCHESTER CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2016
1 x 90 mins

It's the week before Christmas 1954, and the forecast is for snow in the beautiful Cambridge village of Grantchester. For vicar Sidney Chambers (James Norton), this is the busiest time of the year and he is rushed off his feet with festive duties. Which is useful, as it means he doesn't have time to think about his beloved Amanda (Morven Christie), estranged from her husband and heavily pregnant, who has taken up residence nearby with her Aunt CeCe (Anna Chancellor). Sidney loves her – but whether she's married or divorced, there is no way he can be with her.

Meanwhile curate Leonard Finch (Al Weaver) is embarking on an ambitious production of the nativity with the local children, and Detective Inspector Geordie Keating (Robson Green) is grumpy at the festive spirit - all of which leaves Sidney happy to bury himself in his pastoral work.

Which is when a weeping bride reports the disappearance of her husband-to-be, and Sidney and Geordie find themselves drawn into picking through the murky motives of a winter wedding. When the would-be groom turns up dead with the wedding rings lodged in his mouth, Geordie is horrified - it has all the hallmarks of an unsolved murder from nine years before.

Geordie's prime suspect back then was local toyshop owner Albert Tannen (Julian Glover). While nothing was ever proved, creepy tales and gossip have turned his once-lively business - and personality - into a twisted shadow of its former self.

Geordie and Sidney must hunt for the killer, and hope to bring justice to two women mourning for their lost loves at Christmas time. But as the dangers grow, snow starts to fall... and waters break...

Festive Q&As with the Cast of Grantchester

60 SECONDS WITH JAMES NORTON (Sidney Chambers)

What can viewers expect from the Grantchester Christmas Special and what is Sidney's role?
Snow, carols, turkeys, some dodgy Christmas jumpers, more snow, a little heartbreak and a lot of Christmas cheer! Sidney's role is the same as ever: balancing his duties as a clergyman with the temptations and complications of life and love and the rest. All very conflicted as usual.

What was it like filming with a snow machine?
I loved it. It felt very odd to feel so festive when we filmed it in early October. The snow machine was definitely a hit. I want one for Christmas.

How will you be spending Christmas?
With my family in Yorkshire feeling full and festive.

What's your favourite Christmas memory?
I genuinely convinced myself I saw Father Christmas flying through the air one night. I was so overexcited. Don't ask me how old I was....

What's the best/worst Christmas present you have ever received?
Best: Brio train set when I was about 6. Worst: a washing up brush in my Christmas stocking last year...

What's the best /worst present you have ever given? Best: weekend in Rome. Worst: electric toothbrush

60 SECONDS WITH ROBSON GREEN (Geordie Keating)

What can viewers expect from the Grantchester Christmas Special and what is Sidney's role?
You can expect a story that celebrates what many people believe is the true meaning of Christmas. There are echoes of my favourite Christmas movie 'It's a Wonderful Life' in this Grantchester special for ITV. The unlikely, unique and endearing pairing of Sidney and Geordie reminds us of the importance of family and friends and how no one is really alone.

Sidney has a crisis of self and it seems Geordie is the only friend who can get to the root of what is tearing Sidney's heart and soul apart.

It has all the ingredients for a real Christmas event on our TV's ....Of course there is now - there is a baby born, a Nativity Play ....oh and did I mention there is a murder. It's a tale beautifully constructed by Daisy Coulam and affects the gallery of likable characters within Grantchester on so many levels. There is love, laughs, tears and most importantly hope.

What was it like filming with a snow machine?
Filming with snow machines in the centre of Cambridge and Grantchester is a lot more fun for the people watching than those actually working with it! But of course it provides a stunning backdrop and spectacle for this life affirming Christmas story. Sadly James and I couldn't have a snowball fight with paper snowballs!

How will you be spending Christmas?
With friends and family.

What's your favourite Christmas memory?
When I was 7 years old Father Christmas delivered down our chimney a bright orange Chopper bike that had three speed gears! However, there was a bit of an issue - I couldn't ride a bike. Eventually stabilisers were fitted and I hit the road like Newcastle's answer to Barry Sheen! I loved that Chopper bike and how Santa ever got it down our chimney remains a mystery to this day!

What's the best/worst Christmas present you have ever received?
Best: Chopper bike. Worst: was a set of left handed golf clubs Dad got me a few years back. I wasn't and had never been left-handed. Bit awkward on the first tee!

What's the best /worst present you have ever given?
A firework display for friends and family. Worst: a box of Cuban cigars for a friend who had quit smoking decades ago!

60 SECONDS WITH MORVEN CHRISTIE (Amanda Hopkins)

What can viewers expect from the Grantchester Christmas Special?
It's an emotional journey for everyone - love, hope, sadness, drama... and Dickens. The perfect Christmas story.

What was it like filming with a snow machine?
It was a bit smoky when they used the ash snow machine. It was a bit like bath time when they used the foam one!

How will you be spending Christmas?
Family, friends, food, fires, films and big Scottish walks.

What's your favourite Christmas memory?
Mince pies heating on top of the wood burner in a cottage on the Isle of Skye, and finding our own tree in the forest.

What's the best/worst Christmas present you have ever received?
Best: Anything given with love and thought. Worst: a selfie stick in a secret Santa at work. A SELFIE STICK. I mean... just no.

What's the best /worst present you have ever given?
Similar!

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