

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **FINE ROMANCE, A (SERIES I AND II)**
[TV-PG] [CC] [Stereo]

LENGTH: 13/25

NOLA CODE: AFNR

CATEGORY: Comedy

OFFERED: Spring 2007, page S32

EXPECTED RELEASE: August 1, 2007

CONTRACT TERMS: Six releases to be completed by July 30, 2009. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Granada Entertainment USA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **A FINE ROMANCE (SERIES I AND II)** is a classic and charming Britcom about the middle-class at middle-age. It is Dame Judi Dench's first television comedy series, and her co-star is the late actor Michael Williams, her real-life husband.

Nearing 40, Laura (Judi Dench) is a self-employed translator, with a well-meaning but interfering sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Phil (Susan Penhaligon and Richard Warwick). This time, the meddling couple thinks they have the perfect match for Laura: a shy, gentle landscape gardener named Mike (Michael Williams). When Mike and Laura meet at a party, Mike's sweet, inept, and endearing character sparks something in the bossy and stubborn Laura.

Both Laura and Mike have been down this road before and are convinced it won't actually work, yet they feel somehow drawn to one another – and would otherwise be

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quite lonely. Over the course of the first series of **A FINE ROMANCE**, we join Laura and Mike on their first tottering steps toward a relationship, and follow the unlikely couple along their journey to companionship, friendship, and finally, love.

Written by Bob Larbey, who also wrote *As Time Goes By*, **A FINE ROMANCE** exemplifies the gentle, character-driven British comedy much cherished by American Public Television audiences.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:

A press kit, including a fact sheet and press release will be posted to PBS Connect and to APTonline.org. Color and B&W photography is available via email and will also be posted to APTonline.org. All press kits will be posted to APTonline.org and

PBS Connect approximately three weeks from date of Contract Confirmation notice. If you need materials sooner or have questions, please contact Mike Nadeau at ext. 150.

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BROADCAST HISTORY:

APS 1986-1988; CPM 2000-2004

RELATED MERCHANDISE:

Individual viewer merchandise: DVDs are available.

Pledge: If you are interested in pledging this program and need assistance with premiums, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

VIEWER CONTACT:

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PRESS RELEASE

British Comedy Gem A FINE ROMANCE Stars World-Renowned Actress Dame Judi Dench

Award-winning actress Dame Judi Dench has graced the British stage and screen as one of the greatest actresses of the modern era, winning worldwide fame as the character M in the *James Bond* film series in 1995. She also plays a delightfully witty role in one of the pearls of British comedy as an ordinary middle-aged woman reluctantly falling in love.

The new American Public Television-distributed special **A FINE ROMANCE (SERIES I AND II)**, airing on public television stations nationwide beginning August 1, 2007, is a British comedy classic. Judi Dench is featured in her first television comedy series with the late actor Michael Williams, her co-star and real-life husband.

Laura (Judi Dench) is an independent and successful woman. She is a self-employed translator who has her health, her work, and her family – everything a middle-aged woman should have, except, according to her married sister, for a husband. Laura's single status is a fact that her sister Helen and brother-in-law Phil (Susan Penhaligon and Richard Warwick) will not let her forget. The officious couple insists they have the perfect man for Laura. Mike (Michael Williams), a

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landscape gardener, is bashful and slightly bungling, but endearing nonetheless. Reluctantly introduced to Mike at a party, the usually unyielding Laura surprises herself when she is taken with the gentle gardener.

Although Laura and Mike are no strangers to relationships gone sour, and although their outlook at another round in the game of romance is grim, each is compelled to the other – and neither prefers being alone. In the first series of **A FINE ROMANCE**, we join Laura and Mike as they are flung together in the first tottering steps of a relationship, and we follow the unlikely couple as they swerve and falter along their journey to falling in love.

Written by Bob Larbey, who also brought us Judi Dench in the comedy series *As Time Goes By*, **A FINE ROMANCE** is a delightful example of the British comedy much loved by American Public Television audiences.

A FINE ROMANCE, executive produced by Humphrey Barclay, was acquired from Granada Entertainment USA by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. Press should contact Mike Nadeau at 617-338-4455 ext. 150 or email

Mike_Nadeau@APTonline.org. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit
APTonline.org.
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