

TNT Explores the Raucous World of Young William Shakespeare in the New Drama *Will*

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Two-Episode Series Premiere Airs on Monday, July 10, at 9 p.m. (ET/PT)

TNT is about to take viewers back in time to Elizabethan England to tell the wild, rowdy story of young William Shakespeare in the brand new drama series *Will*. Newcomer **Laurie Davidson** plays the title role in this period drama told in a bold, contemporary style and played to a modern soundtrack that exposes all of Shakespeare's recklessness, lustful temptations and tortured brilliance. Also starring are **Olivia DeJonge** (*The Visit*), **Ewen Bremner** (*Trainspotting*), **Colm Meaney** (*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*), **Mattias Inwood** (*The Shanara Chronicles*), **Jamie Campbell Bower** (*The Twilight Saga*), **William Houston** (*Sherlock Holmes*), **Lukas Rolfe** (*Grantchester*), **Max Bennett** (*The Hollow Crown*) and **Jasmin Savoy Brown** (*The Leftovers*). *Will* is slated to launch on **Monday, July 10, as a two-episode series premiere at 9 p.m. (ET/PT)** across TNT's U.S. platforms.

As *Will* opens, a young William Shakespeare (Davidson) has just arrived onto the punk-rock theatre scene in 16th century London. It is in this seductive, violent world that his raw talent faces rioting audiences, religious fanatics and raucous sideshows. Attracted to Will's naïve genius is Alice Burbage (DeJonge), the talented, beautiful and rebellious daughter of James Burbage (Meaney), the carpenter whose vision led him to build the first theatre in London since Roman times. Despite being the daughter of an impresario, Alice is forbidden by society from pursuing a career in the theatre. Her brother Richard Burbage (Inwood) is innately talented as well, but too much in love with himself and prone to overact. But a chance encounter at the theatre leads him to team up with Will in what would soon become the greatest actor-writer partnership the world has ever seen.

Rounding out *Will*'s cast of characters are playwright, poet and chief Shakespeare rival Christopher Marlowe (Bower) and wealthy and notorious law enforcer Richard Topcliffe (Bremner).

Will, which is produced by Turner's **Studio T**, comes to TNT from executive producers **Craig Pearce** (*Romeo + Juliet*), Golden Globe® nominee **Shekhar Kapur** (*Elizabeth*), **Alison Owen** (*Elizabeth*) and **Debra Hayward** (*Love Actually*). **Vince Gerardis** (*Jumper*), **Howard Braunstein** (*The Informant!*) and **Louise Rosager** also serve as executive producers on the series. The pilot for *Will* was written by Pearce and directed by Kapur.

About TNT

TNT, a division of **Turner**, is one of cable's Top 5 networks with young adults and home to cable's most popular slate of original series, including *Animal Kingdom*, *Good Behavior*, *The Last Ship*, *The Librarians*, *Major Crimes* and the upcoming *Will*, *Claws*, *The Alienist* and *The Race Card*, among others. TNT is also the cable home to popular shows like *Arrow*, *Grimm*, *Supernatural*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *Bones* and *Castle*; primetime specials, such as the *Screen Actors Guild Awards®*, the *iHeartRadio Music Awards* and the *AFI Life Achievement Award*; and championship sports coverage, including the NBA and the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

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