

## **Original House Of Cards trilogy remastered by BBC Studios and Post Production Digital Media Services for Blu-ray release**

**1 March 2013:** BBC Studios and Post Production's Digital Media Services team has remastered the iconic BBC political drama trilogy, House of Cards, for a North American Blu-ray release by BBC Worldwide Americas. The remaster was commissioned to coincide with the exclusive airing of the new series starring Kevin Spacey on Netflix.

First aired on the BBC in late 1990, the House of Cards trilogy ran for 12 episodes over three series – House of Cards, To Play the King and The Final Cut. They charted the rise and ultimate demise of the ruthlessly ambitious and devious politician, Francis Urquhart (played by Ian Richardson).

Working to a five-week turnaround deadline, BBC Studios and Post Production's Digital Media Services team worked closely with BBC Worldwide Americas to identify the best quality 16mm A/B negative source material available. To achieve the optimum results in high definition, the team scanned the film into its SCANITY film scanner and conformed and graded the footage in Nucoda Film Master, as well as removing grain and dust. All three series were then manually cleaned-up using Diamant Dustbust and some scuffs and film tears that had appeared on some of the reels of footage from the third series were carefully corrected.

The title sequence featuring aerial footage of the Houses of Parliament had originally been shot on 35mm film. This material was sourced and treated as separate elements to ensure the best possible end result. All the captions and credits were remade in HD after the original style and typography was identified to ensure its authenticity.

The final process was to convert the frame rate to 23.98fps for the North American market, and the completed ProRes HD files were delivered to BBC Worldwide Americas via an Aspera high-speed file transfer.

Jonathan Wood, Colourist at BBC Studios and Post Production, who led the project, said: "We're proud to have remastered the original House of Cards trilogy for a new audience to enjoy. Using SCANITY and other technologies we were able to overcome challenges with some of the source material to ensure that the final remaster is of picture perfect quality."

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### **About BBC Studios and Post Production**

BBC Studios and Post Production is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC, providing world-class studios, post production and digital media services. It works with broadcasters and media companies, making content for BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five and Sky, from A League of Their Own and Deal or No Deal, to EastEnders and Strictly Come Dancing. It also preserves, re-masters and manages content through its digital archiving, restoration and distribution services with credits including Life on Earth and The Sweeney.

In January 2013, the company opened a standalone post-production facility on Charlotte Street in the heart of London's vibrant W1 post community. In March 2013, it will vacate BBC Television Centre until the site is redeveloped and reopened in 2015, and relocate its London studio business to Elstree. From here it will offer a mix of fully equipped high-definition television spaces. Its Digital Media Services business will also move to a new permanent facility at Odyssey Business Park, South Ruislip, from March 2013.