



Press Release

## ***Agatha Christie's Mysteries***

### ***Get Their First Airing in Animation***

**TOKYO, March 5** – The mysteries of the Queen of Crime will appear in animated cartoon for the first time ever in the world.

NHK's timeslot entitled "NHK Animation Theater" (Sundays 7:30 – 8:00 p.m.) will present an animation series "*Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple*" in 39 parts starting in July. The series will include "The Mysterious Affair at Styles", "The A.B.C. Murders" and "4.50 from Paddington". "The Mysterious Affair at Styles" was Christie's first novel, and was also the first to feature her detective star Hercule Poirot, one of the most famous fictional creations of all time.

Agatha Christie's books have sold over 2 billion in 70 countries in 50 languages. The film and television adaptations based on her work have entertained a broad range of audience worldwide. NHK will now offer the series of this most popular novelist in an animation version, enjoyable for people of all ages, from children to adults.

Some additional characters are created exclusively for this series that do not appear in the original novels. Mabel West, a 16-year-old girl with great curiosity, is one of them. She will get involved in the mysteries with the little Belgian detective Hercule Poirot with "little grey cells", and the spry and compassionate lady Miss Jane Marple. Arthur Hastings, a trusted friend and an assistant of Hercule Poirot portrayed as a middle-aged man in Christie's novel, will be featured as a fine young man in his twenties.



Oriental Light & Magic Inc. (OLM), an animation production company well known for “Pocket Monster (Poke-mon)”, will be responsible for the production.

The series will go on air from July, on Sundays 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. on NHK’s main terrestrial channel, General TV.

### **HINOTORI (The Phoenix)**

In prior to the broadcasting of Agatha Christie’s mysteries, “*HINOTORI*” will be aired in the same timeslot from April as is already announced. It is an



animation series based on the long-loved work of Japan’s renowned cartoonist Osamu Tezuka, the creator of “Astro Boy”. Although written almost 40 years ago, “*HINOTORI*” questions the very problems that confront us today such as environmental issues, genetic recombination, clone technology, as well as a universal issue of life and love. This is NHK’s first major HD anime series, in co-production with Thirteen/WNET.

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