



**BERLINALE**  
**CO-PRODUCTION**  
**MARKET**

**FEBRUARY 15-19, 2025**

**CO-PRO SERIES**

**BERLINALE CO-PRODUCTION MARKET**

**BERLINALE SERIES MARKET**

**2025**



**BERLINALE**  
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# CO-PRO SERIES

## BERLINALE CO-PRODUCTION MARKET

2025

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**BERLINALE**  
**CO-PRODUCTION**  
**MARKET**

**FEBRUARY 15-19, 2025**



**75** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin



Mitteldeutsche  
Medienförderung



Co-funded by the  
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Co-Pro Series is part of the *Berlinale Co-Production Market 2025*  
and the *Berlinale Series Market* and takes place in cooperation with:

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czech  
audiovisual  
fund

The logo for the Czech Audiovisual Fund features the text 'czech audiovisual fund' in a lowercase, sans-serif font, centered between two thick horizontal black bars.

*Berlinale Co-Production Market* is part of *Berlinale Pro\**, which unites the *European Film Market*, the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*, *Berlinale Talents* and the *World Cinema Fund*.

*Berlinale Pro\** is the festival's full-circle industry infrastructure that serves the global film industry as incubator, enhancer and supporter in all stages of film development, production, sales and distribution.

## Welcome to the 11th edition of Co-Pro Series.

Our Co-Pro Series Pitch and Networking event is an invitation to discover ten exciting new projects that creatively bridge the cinema and drama series businesses.

At the *Berlinale Co-Production Market*, we are delighted by how many great series have come from the projects we presented over the years: recent successes like the Swiss-German audience hit *DAVOS 1917*, the Norwegian-Dutch, award winning *DOME 16*, or the highly acclaimed Austrian-German *SNOW (SCHNEE)* as well as earlier successes like *BLACKPORT*, *ELDORADO KADEWE* and *TROM*, *CRY WOLF*, *FREUD*, *HIERRO*, *TABULA RASA*, *STATE OF HAPPINESS*, and last but not least, *BABYLON BERLIN*. Further Co-Pro Series projects are in the works, and we're curious to see them when they're all finished.

On the following pages, we are happy to present the Co-Pro Series selection 2025: ten compelling projects that range from contemporary, darkly comic drama to period pieces, dystopic and political thrillers. Some of them are based on acclaimed IP, and introduce us to extraordinary personalities and their worlds. They are brought to you by strong production companies from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Slovakia, Switzerland and the US.

Once again, our selection also features a project from Series Mania Forum 2024. In return, Series Mania will invite one of our new Co-Pro Series projects to pitch in Lille this March.

Every single project is unique and truly stands out, and we trust you will find one or more projects to join as a co-production, distribution or financing partner.

We will introduce our new projects at the Co-Pro Series Pitches on Tuesday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. at CinemaxX cinema at Potsdamer Platz. The pitches are followed by a networking get-together, hosted by the Czech Audio-visual Fund. The afternoon and following day are dedicated to the pre-scheduled one-on-one meetings with project representatives, which you can request after reading the brochure.

A big thank you goes to our *Berlinale Co-Production Market* partners Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM) and Creative Europe – MEDIA for their support.

Please also watch out for the overall programme of the "Berlinale Series Market", our joint initiative of the *European Film Market*, *Berlinale Co-Production Market* and *Berlinale Talents*, with interesting events scheduled from Sunday to Wednesday, February 16–19. Alongside the "Berlinale Series Market", there will be screenings of international drama series as part of the official festival programme.

We hope you are as excited by this year's selection as we are! And we look forward to seeing you at the pitches here in Berlin, and to connecting our projects with viable partners to set them on the path to being watched by fascinated audiences!

Tricia Tuttle  
Festival Director  
Berlin International Film Festival

Martina Bleis & Andrea Hoffmann  
Berlinale Co-Production Market

## RUTH'S GHOSTS

Set in 2030: Ghosts begin to haunt a Christian pro-life lawyer in New Orleans when she is confronted with arguing in court for her 13-year-old granddaughter's right to an abortion amidst a national ban.

→ [CLICK HERE FOR PROJECT WEBSITE](#)



Jennifer Fox  
A Luminous Mind Production/  
Creator/Writer/Director



Jana Lotze  
Oma Inge Film



Tara Grace  
Temair Pictures

### Project Information

Genre / Format \_\_\_\_\_ Legal thriller with supernatural elements / 6 x 60'  
Creator / Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Fox  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Fox  
Producers \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Fox, Tara Grace, Jana Lotze,  
Oren Moverman, Beverly Rogers  
Partners attached \_\_\_\_\_ Andromeda Film (Switzerland, LOI),  
Zas Film (Switzerland, LOI)  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot treatment, outlines for all episodes  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ April 2026  
Shooting Location / Language \_\_\_\_\_ Sound stage and practical locations (anywhere),  
practical locations (Louisiana, USA) / English  
Budget / Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000,000 € / 2,500,000 €  
Financing already in place (6.9 %) \_\_\_\_\_ 1,040,000 €

### Looking for

"We seek co-producers, platforms, broadcasters, and distributors worldwide to finance and produce this urgent project. We are particularly looking for partners from English-speaking regions (UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa), especially to facilitate casting, as well as the European continent (e.g. Austria, Luxembourg, Eastern Europe, Baltics, Scandinavia) for crew, post-production and financing. We are also looking for a sales agent and presales. We are open to discussing adding creatives to our writers' room. Though set in New Orleans, we plan to shoot outside the US (sound stages and practical locations), in English."

### Company Profiles

A LUMINOUS MIND PRODUCTION, formerly known as Zohe Film Productions, founded in 1981, has been producing impactful award-winning features, including *BEIRUT THE LAST HOME MOVIE* (1987), *ON THE ROPES* (1999), *LOVE & DIANE* (2002), *MY REINCARNATION* (2011), *SHE'S LOST CONTROL* (2014), *THE TALE* (2018) and *THE GIRL FROM KOLN* (2025); as well as cutting edge miniseries such as *AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY* (1999), *FLYING: CONFESSIONS OF A FREE WOMAN* (2008) and the upcoming *THE HOUSING THEORY OF EVERYTHING*.

OMA INGE FILM, founded in 2015, offers a home to regional and international filmmakers where they can develop and live their signature. For us, telling stories is a matter of the heart and means being allowed to make a difference in people's lives. Our filmography includes titles like Nora Fingscheidt's *SYSTEM CRASHER* (2019, winner of a Silver Bear and 8 German Film Awards) or Aino Suni's *HEARTBEAST* (2022, winner of 2 Finnish Film Awards).

TEMAIR PICTURES is a new film and TV company devoted to bringing bold, visionary stories to life, including the upcoming *GUARDIANS OF THE TREES*, inspired by Dr. Kinari Webb's acclaimed memoir, and *RES ED*, a drama series created by Alex Gregory.

#### A Luminous Mind Production

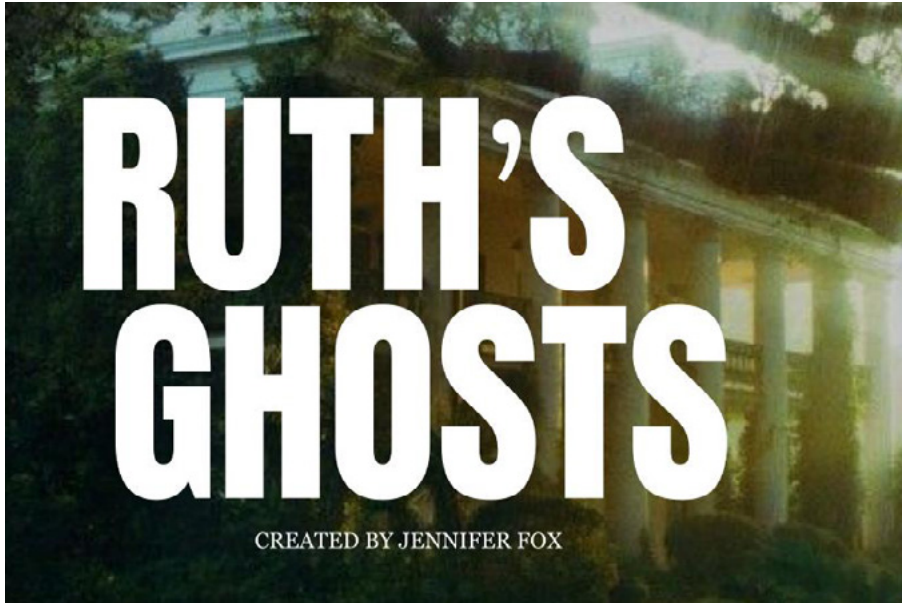
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### Creator's & Director's Profile

Jennifer Fox is an internationally acclaimed producer, director and writer. Her film *THE TALE* (2018) received two Emmy nominations, three Critics Choice nominations, one Golden Globe nomination, and more. Her other groundbreaking films include the award-winning *BEIRUT: THE LAST HOME MOVIE* (1987), *MY REINCARNATION* (2011), as well as the acclaimed miniseries *AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY* (1999) and *FLYING: CONFESSIONS OF A FREE WOMAN* (2008). Fox has written several screenplays for hire including *THE OTHER DOCTOR GILMER* and *THE CLIMB* for Netflix. Her films have been shown in retrospectives around the world.

### Synopsis

*RUTH'S GHOSTS* is a supernatural legal thriller set in 2030 New Orleans, where a national abortion ban ignites a family war between three generations of women. Ruth, a devout Evangelical lawyer, clashes with her rebellious daughter Naomi, a liberal jazz musician, over her 13-year-old granddaughter Liv's shocking, dangerous pregnancy. As Ruth sues for custody and Naomi fights for Liv's abortion, Liv is paralysed by the fear of damnation while the family unravels. Haunted by Madame Restell, a 19th-century abortionist, Ruth's iron convictions crack, forcing her to confront long buried truths. Torn by love, faith, and betrayal, Ruth faces a choice that will define them all. Secrets, spectres, and the fight for female bodily autonomy collide in this gripping multigenerational saga.

### Creator's Note

When I began developing *RUTH'S GHOSTS*, the ideas felt bold, even improbable. Yet, with the global rise of the political right, the story has become alarmingly prescient. My vision for *RUTH'S GHOSTS* was to craft a gripping family legal thriller that resonates with audiences worldwide, while at the same time seamlessly intertwining the historical drama of the anti-abortion movement. Through Ruth's journey – and her ability to confront literal ghosts of the past – we see how centuries of legal and political agendas have shaped this crisis. Inspired by the supernatural history of New Orleans and Louisiana, the visual style of *RUTH'S GHOSTS* will be marked by fluid, almost spectral camera movement that mirrors the presence and perspective of its titular ghost. The camera often passes seamlessly between characters, creating an interconnected web of perspectives that reinforces the thematic ties at the story's core. More audacious than a single film, *RUTH'S GHOSTS* isn't just a legal thriller or ghost story; it's a groundbreaking, high-stakes exploration of the rising threat to women's rights and human rights worldwide through one family's story.

## THE BEST OF FAMILIES

The establishment of the Cheminova chemical factory in the early 1950s allows Margrethe and Niels, a working-class family, to improve their lives. However, like many others, they ignore the growing environmental disaster that the factory causes.



Dorthe Riis Lauridsen  
Apple Tree Productions



Maja Jul Larsen  
Creator



Charlotte Sieling  
Director

### Project Information

Genre/Format \_\_\_\_\_ Drama / 6 x 58'  
Creator \_\_\_\_\_ Maja Jul Larsen  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ Charlotte Sieling  
Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Dorthe Riis Lauridsen  
Sales \_\_\_\_\_ ITV Studios  
Broadcaster \_\_\_\_\_ DR (Denmark)  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Scripts for episodes 1 & 2 (1st draft)  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ November 2025  
Shooting Locations/Language \_\_\_\_\_ Denmark (exteriors),  
studio (country tbd) / Danish

Budget/Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 7,608,696 € / 1,268,116 €  
Financing already in place (80%) \_\_\_\_\_ 6,142,391 €

### Looking for

"We hope to complete our financing by finding additional presales partners and co-producers. We are open to place part of the post-production abroad as well as shoot interior locations and the factory building abroad. For possible presales/co-production partners, we are especially interested in European partners, but we are open to others as well."

### Company Profile

APPLE TREE PRODUCTIONS is a multi-award-winning Danish production company that develops and produces high-quality TV series. Apple Tree is responsible for international successes like *BLACKWATER* (2023) for SVT Sweden (Best Series in International Panorama at Series Mania, Best European Fiction Mini Series at Prix Europa, Best TV-Series at Kristallen, and Best Nordic Series at THIS Series); *CHORUS GIRLS* (2023) for TV 2 Denmark (Golden Nymph Award for Best Actress at Monte-Carlo, Best TV Drama Series at SVEND Awards, Best Mini Series at THIS Series); *EQUINOX* (2020) and *BABY FEVER* (season 2, 2024) for Netflix; and *ONE OF THE BOYS* for Viaplay (nominated for Best Short Form Series at Series Mania and winner of an International Emmy Award in 2024).

### Creator's & Director's Profiles

Maja Jul Larsen graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2007, and has worked as a writer on prolific drama series including *THE LEGACY* (2014-2017), *FOLLOW THE MONEY* (2016) and *BORGEN* (2013-2022). Her debut series as a creator, *CRY WOLF* (2020, *Berlinale Co-Production Market* 2019), screened in competition at Series Mania, won a Golden Eye and five Danish Film Awards, including Best TV Series. An American remake by an A-list showrunner and actress is currently in development. In 2021, Jul Larsen won the Nordisk Film and TV Fond Prize for "outstanding writing".

Charlotte Sieling is one of Denmark's strongest TV directors, with series like *BETTER TIMES* (2004-2007) and *THE KILLING* (2007-2009) (both nominated for International Emmy Awards), and as a conceptual director on *THE BRIDGE* (2011, winner of Golden Nymph awards and Rose d'Or awards). Internationally, she has directed for American series such as *QUEEN OF THE SOUTH* (2016),

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(Lars Hermann, Executive Producer)

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*HOMELAND* (2014-2018) and *THE AMERICANS* (2014). Her latest critically acclaimed feature *WAY HOME* was one of the most watched movies in cinemas in Denmark in 2024 and is nominated for 11 Danish Film Awards.

### Synopsis

In the 1950s, the establishment of Cheminova chemical factory on the impoverished west coast of Denmark brings welfare and improved living standards to the entire region, including to the young couple Niels and Margrethe. Niels is soon promoted to foreman, bringing the dream of a brighter future for their three children within reach. However, like other locals, they overlook the fact that chemical waste and mercury are being dumped directly into the North Sea, and that safety standards at the factory are catastrophically poor, which, after years, affects Niels' health. Niels refuses to acknowledge his declining condition, and Margrethe finds comfort in her growing bond with Niels' younger brother, Erik. Torn between her feelings, Margrethe seeks out Karin, the wife of Cheminova's chief engineer, Jørn, for advice. Despite their differences in class, a strong friendship develops between the two women until Niels, at the age of 36, is diagnosed with dementia. Erik, in particular, fights to hold the factory's management accountable, but it is a losing battle. He is muzzled by Jørn, leaving Niels devastated and the friendship between Margrethe and Karin deteriorating.

### Creator's Note

*THE BEST OF FAMILIES* bridges the story of how prosperity came to a poor region at the cost of catastrophic environmental pollution with vibrant and intimate family portraits. It is a universal story of greed and oppression without pointing fingers. It shows how we have all been bought and are guilty in creating the biggest threat to our existence: Climate change.

The story spans over ten years, following the characters through forbidden love, marriage, parenting, friendship, illness and longing for progress, love, and belonging. This unspoken yearning reflects something we all feel, and it will be an undercurrent in our portrayal of the characters and the mood of the series.

What drives my writing is a deep exploration of characters and their close relations. I'm drawn to stories of people clinging to false narratives to live their lives. Because changing such deep narratives is one of the hardest things to do.



## THE GUARD

After a fellow Swiss Guard makes an attempt on the life of the Pope, the Pontiff's new bodyguard investigates, coming up against powerful shadowy Vatican clerics desperate to suppress the truth.

→ [CLICK HERE FOR MOOD TEASER](#)

PASSWORD: SwissGuard



Rajko Jazbec  
Catpics



Stéphanie Mitchell  
Co-Creator/Writer



Christian Johannes Koch  
Co-Creator/Director

### Project Information

Genre / Format \_\_\_\_\_ Thriller / 8 x 45'  
Creators \_\_\_\_\_ Stéphanie Mitchell, Christian Johannes Koch  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Johannes Koch  
Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Rajko Jazbec  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot treatment, bible  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ 2026/2027  
Shooting Location / Language \_\_\_\_\_ Italy, Switzerland, tbd /  
tbd (organic language strategy)

Budget / Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 14,000,000 € / 1,750,000 €  
Financing already in place (1%) \_\_\_\_\_ 150,000 €

### Looking for

"We are seeking international broadcasting/platform partners and financiers, with a particular focus on Italy and Germany, however open to anyone interested. We're also keen to connect with international co-producers who could contribute shooting locations that could pass for the Vatican, cast and crew, post-production facilities, and/or financing/incentives. As a premium crime thriller series set in the Vatican and featuring the Pontifical Swiss Guard as an internationally recognized IP, this project has a strong potential for global appeal."

### Company Profile

Founded in 1984, CATPICS has a strong international network and specialises in the development and production of high-quality feature films, documentaries and series that are designed to be touching and entertaining. *JOURNEY OF HOPE* won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1991. Catpics also produced two of the most successful Swiss feature films, *LATE BLOOMERS (DIE HERBSTZEITLOSEN, 2006)* by Bettina Oberli and *MANI MATTER - WARUM SYT DIR SO TRUURIG?* (2002) by Friedrich Kappeler. With *THE BUBBLE* (2021) by Valerie Blankenbyl, *SPAGAT* (2020) by Christian Johannes Koch and *GOLIATH* (2017) by Dominik Locher, recent films have come to life with a new generation of creatives. In 2023, *TÜMPEL* by Lena von Döhren and Eva Rust premiered at the Berlinale; the co-production *THE UNIVERSAL THEORY* was shown in competition at Venice; and the long-term documentary *THE DRIVEN ONES* premiered at IDFA. The series *SCHOOL OF CHAMPIONS* aired on SRF, ORF and BR in early 2024.

### Creators' & Director's Profiles

Stéphanie Mitchell is the co-creator and head writer of the miniseries *BANKING DISTRICT* (2017-2019), a New York Times pick. Her upcoming shows include Netflix's *WINTER PALACE*, and Arte's *IN SALTED WATER* and *THE DEAL*. She also co-authored the feature films *BACK FOR MORE*, which won the Swiss Film Award for Best Fiction Film in 2003, and *THE FAM*, which premiered at the Berlinale in 2021 and won the Grand Prix for Best Film in the *Generation 14plus* competition.

#### Catpics

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Christian Johannes Koch made his feature film debut with the social drama *SPAGAT*, which premiered in the New Directors competition at San Sebastián and won the Zurich Film Award in 2021. He recently directed episodes 5-8 of the second season of the series *NEUMATT* and is currently preparing a Swiss crime thriller series set to be produced in 2025.

### Synopsis

The story follows Simon (38), an intrepid but damaged ex Swiss Guard as per family tradition, who returns to the Vatican on a personal quest: Having recently lost his only daughter in a drowning accident, Simon just learned that he has a secret child in Rome. Running from his grief, he re-enlists in the Guards as Vice-Commander, aka the Pope's personal bodyguard, ready to give his life for the Pontiff, and saves the Holy Father from an attack by a distressed young Swiss Guard. But when the attacker is found strangled in his cell, Simon's brother is accused of the murder. Simon needs to understand. His investigation leads him back to his first love Inès (39), a rebellious Sister. Inès has a hidden teenage daughter who could be Simon's. Determined to exonerate his brother and find the girl, Simon must unravel a conspiracy. His investigation leads him to uncover Inès' mysterious mission to bring to justice powerful clerics who groom nuns for abuse and exploitation. Will Simon be able to expose the dark truth and reconcile his family?

### Creators' Note

Our show tells a unique story centred on the world's smallest army, at the heart of a centuries-old bastion of power and against the backdrop of the #MeToo era. Our fictional story tackles a documented scandal threatening to further discredit the Catholic Church. Amongst the many controversies the Catholic Church has weathered, the many cases of sexual exploitation of nuns have remained confidential. For 30 years, the Vatican has known officially about the issue. In 2019, it seemed the Pope was going to take action. But nothing happened. Yet the church cannot escape the Zeitgeist: This story must be told. Only a few realise that the Catholic Church counts more ordained women than men, and that some of these Sisters are feminist rebels who take matters into their own hands. And don't worry, there will also be political backstabbing, forbidden love affairs, extravagant locations and everything the Vatican evokes. With *THE GUARD*, we set out to entertain a smart audience who loves complex characters, thrilling suspense and slick drama.

## RECIPES FOR A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

The life of a hedonistic young chef veers dramatically off-course after some routine recreational drug use sends her abruptly spiralling into psychosis.



Ailish McElmeel  
Deadpan Pictures



Sophie White  
Creator/Head Writer

### Project Information

Genre/Format \_\_\_\_\_ Darkly comic drama / 8 x 30'  
Creator \_\_\_\_\_ Sophie White (Head Writer)  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ tbd  
Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Ailish McElmeel  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Scripts for episodes 1 & 2, bible  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ February 2026  
Shooting Location/Language \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland / English

Budget/Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 4,800,000 € / 600,000 €  
Financing already in place (25%) \_\_\_\_\_ 1,210,000 €

### Looking for

"We are seeking co-producing partners, co-commissioning broadcaster/platforms and international distributors. The series deals with mental health through the prism of humour, making this universal and highly resonant subject matter accessible to international audiences. We envision shooting the majority of the series in Ireland, however we would like to explore co-production partnerships with regard to cast, crew and post-production opportunities abroad. We are also open to discuss attaching a director from a co-producing country."

### Company Profile

Established in 2014 by Ailish McElmeel and Paul Donovan, DEADPAN PICTURES is an award-winning boutique production company specialising in drama with a comic tone. We bring projects with unique voices and a distinct Irish flavour to international audiences. We are talent-friendly producers who craft content from development to production. Our latest series include the comedy-drama *VIDEO NASTY* for BBC (UK), Virgin Media (Ireland) and WDR (Germany) and *Boat Rocker* (international sales) airing in 2025, and the drama *NORTHERN LIGHTS* (2023) for TG4, Streamz and ZDFneo in association with Screen Ireland and Lionsgate TV. Previous productions include *CAN'T COPE WON'T COPE* (2016-2018) which sold to Netflix and BBC, and the critically acclaimed miniseries *DEAD STILL* (2020).

### Creator's Profile

Sophie White is a novelist, essayist, screenwriter and podcaster from Dublin. She is the author of seven books. Her first four books, *Recipes For A Nervous Breakdown* (Gill, 2016), *Filter This* (Hachette, 2019), *Unfiltered* (Hachette, 2020) and *The Snag List* (Hachette, 2022) were bestsellers and award nominees. Her fifth book, the bestselling memoir *Corpsing* (Tramp Press, 2021), was shortlisted for an Irish Book Award and the Michel Déon Prize for nonfiction. Her sixth book, *Where I End* (Tramp Press, 2022) was described as "brilliantly visceral" by the Guardian and won the Shirley Jackson Award. *RECIPES FOR A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN* will be Sophie's debut TV series.

#### Deadpan Pictures

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### Synopsis

Having a breakdown is not on the agenda for reckless, fun-loving chef Claire Healy who is blasting through her early 20s devouring experiences and substances with abandon, until taking a pill at a festival changes her life irrevocably. The night in question was meant to be in celebration of Claire and her boyfriend Oliver leaving their jobs and starting up their own foodie venture – a pop-up live dining experience attached to Claire’s successful cookery social media channels. Instead of launching her new business and striking out with Oliver, Claire is now detouring into a mental hospital. As Claire struggles with her newfound reality, she finds friendship with the other patients on the ward. With the pressures of the real world still bearing down on her, Claire is desperate to get better, but how does one stop being crazy? If it were that easy, everyone would be doing it! With business loan repayments and nervous investors, Claire tries to take back control by recording sponsored content on TikTok – but when her fans spot that she’s in a medical setting, they start to ask questions. Oliver, desperate to keep the business afloat, locks Claire out of her own channel and finds a placeholder star. Claire is flung into a paranoid tailspin. As Claire struggles to balance her recovery with keeping a grip on her business, she realises that her old life is gone for good, and she begins to find healing in cooking for her community rather than for the cameras.

### Creator’s Note

*RECIPES FOR A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN* is a story that demands to be told. It is a unique opportunity to answer a palpable collective desire to talk about mental health in a way that will be entertaining, heartfelt and deeply relatable to those watching. Issues of mental illness, self-harm, suicide, intimate abuse, sexual identity and grief are things no family has escaped. There is a palpable need to normalise these experiences and drag them into the light. The funny, irreverent tone is the most honest way to tell this story. I have spent time in psychiatric wards (both as a patient myself and visiting my dad) and I have sat at AA meetings and at a sick bed and, while these are arguably the most difficult times we can face as human beings, they are also the moments of absurd and unexpected hilarity and deep connection.



## THE EXPERTS

→ [CLICK HERE TO REQUEST  
PITCH DECK](#)



Frieder Schlaich  
Filmgalerie 451



Irene von Alberti  
Filmgalerie 451



Julian Pörksen  
Head Writer

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Egypt, early 1960s: In secret military facilities, German experts – scientists, engineers, and former Nazis – develop a rocket programme for President Nasser, pushing the world to the brink of war. In the midst of it all, the daughter of one of these technicians becomes entangled in a deadly web of espionage, betrayal and intrigue.

### Project Information

Genre / Format \_\_\_\_\_ Thriller / 8 x 45'  
Head Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Julian Pörksen,  
based on the novel *Die Experten* by Merle Kröger  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ tbd  
Producers \_\_\_\_\_ Frieder Schlaich, Irene von Alberti  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Treatments for all episodes  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ February 2026  
Shooting Locations / Languages \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt, Germany, Israel /  
German, English, Arabic, Hebrew

Budget / Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000,000 € / 1,875,000 €  
Financing already in place \_\_\_\_\_ none

### Looking for

"We are looking for co-producers and international broadcasters, platforms and sales agents. As most of the story is set in Egypt and a part in Israel, we're especially interested in meeting co-production partners from the MENA region and Mediterranean countries. We are however interested in meeting all interested parties who share our excitement about bringing this story to the screen. Co-producers could bring in studio facilities, shooting locations, cast and crew, as well as post-production and VFX."

### Company Profile

FILMGALERIE 451 have been producing and distributing award-winning films for over 30 years. Since their first cinema production *PAUL BOWLES: HALF MOON* (1995), Filmgalerie 451 founders Irene von Alberti and Frieder Schlaich have produced over 50 films in various genres that screened at major film festivals and in cinemas. Recent productions include two feature films by Robert Schwentke; *THE CAPTAIN (DER HAUPTMANN)*, 2017, winner of a European Film Award, and *SENECA* (2023, starring John Malkovich); as well as the documentary *SCHLINGENSIEF: A VOICE THAT SHOOK THE SILENCE (SCHLINGENSIEF - IN DAS SCHWEIGEN HINEINSCHREIEN)*, 2020 by Bettina Böhler, which were all nominated for German Film Awards.

### Head Writer's Profile

Julian Pörksen is a writer and director from Germany. He wrote essays, a collection of short stories and several plays. His first short film *SOMETIMES WE SIT AND THINK AND SOMETIMES WE JUST SIT* (2012) premiered at the Berlinale, as did his award-winning road movie *WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT* (2018). Pörksen then directed the dramedy series *AUS DEM TAGEBUCH EINES UBER-FAHRERS* (2020) and *TILO NEUMANN UND DAS UNIVERSUM* (2021). Recently, his co-written and co-directed thriller series *DEAR CHILD (LIEBES KIND)* became a global hit and the most successful German Netflix series of all time, and was awarded an International Emmy in 2024.



### Synopsis

Egypt, early 1960s. President Nasser dreams of moving his country to the forefront of Africa. He recruits German rocket scientists and aircraft manufacturers to build a thriving defence industry. These so-called "experts" work in secret facilities. Many served under Hitler, some evaded justice, all enjoy the immense luxury Egypt offers them.

Rita Hellberg is the daughter of one of these experts – and a rebellious young woman. Recently expelled from boarding school in Germany, her father brings the 17-year-old to Cairo and finds her a job as a secretary in a rocket factory. She plunges into this unfamiliar world, attending lavish parties, witnessing rocket tests, encountering agents, Nazis, arms dealers, and dubious journalists, and falling for Hani, a handsome engineer. Meanwhile, her brother Kai, still in Hamburg, wrestles with Germany's past – the role of their fathers, the silence, the guilt.

Soon, these worlds – Egypt's resurgence, Germany's past, and the vulnerable Israeli state – collide. When Nasser unveils his rockets to the world and threatens Israel with war, the situation spirals out of control. People disappear, bombs explode, and Rita Hellberg must decide where she stands.

### Head Writer's Note

When you first hear about it, it sounds like fiction. But the story of the German experts, Egyptian rockets and Israeli spies is true. It is an incredibly exciting, almost forgotten chapter in history. This is the story we want to tell in our series. *THE EXPERTS* is a global thriller in which three worlds collide: post-war Germany, bleak and gray; Egypt under President Nasser, vibrant and full of promise; and the young, fragile state of Israel. Hostilities rise to the surface and agents weave a web of intrigue. And in the middle of it all stand Rita and her family. A rebellious teenager searching for her place in the world, drawn into a geopolitical power struggle, in the merciless shadow war between nations.



# SHIT HAPPENS

Inspired by a true story, *SHIT HAPPENS* follows a young mother who becomes Vienna's most powerful hash dealer in the 1990s. As the male-dominated underworld closes in, she faces an impossible choice between her freedom and her daughter.

→ PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR  
PROJECT WEBSITE



Katharina Posch  
Nikolaus Geyrhalter Filmproduktion



Magda Woitzuck  
Creator/Head Writer

## Project Information

Genre / Format	Drama / 6 x 45'
Writers	Magda Woitzuck, Calle Fuhr
Directors	Arman T. Riahi, David Wagner
Producer	Katharina Posch
Partner attached	Vienna Film Fund
Development Stage	Pilot script (1st draft), outlines for all episodes
Shooting Start	Summer 2026
Shooting Location / Language	Vienna / German
Budget / Budget per Episode	7,200,000 € / 1,200,000 €
Financing already in place (1%)	75,000 €

## Looking for

"We are looking for co-producers, a sales agent, broadcasters and/or streaming partners. The series is largely set in Vienna, but at least one of six episodes is set in one of Austria's neighbouring countries (to be defined). We are eager to meet potential German and other European partners who could provide additional shooting locations, studio facilities, cast and crew, including HoDs and post-production."

## Company Profile

Vienna-based NIKOLAUS GEYRHALTER FILMPRODUKTION has over 25 years of experience producing more than 100 feature films and documentaries. Renowned for its arthouse co-productions, NGF's films have premiered at prestigious festivals worldwide, including Cannes (*MICHAEL* by Markus Schleiner, 2011), Venice (*PEACOCK* by Bernhard Wenger, 2024), Toronto (*MADMOISELLE PARADIS* by Barbara Albert, 2017), and Berlin (*THE ROBBER* by Benjamin Heisenberg, 2010). The company's productions have won numerous awards, such as the European Film Award for *MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE* by Marc Bauder (2014) and the Pardo Verde in Locarno for *MATTER OUT OF PLACE* by Nikolaus Geyrhalter (2022). In comedies and family entertainment, NGF recently achieved great audience success with *TALES OF FRANZ 1+2* by Johannes Schmid (2022/2023).

## Writers' & Directors' Profiles

Magda Woitzuck is a writer of scripts, radio and theatre plays, as well as prose. Her recent works include the play *CASSANDRA AND THE WOMEN OF TROY* and the podcast *Shit Happens: Memories of a Hash Dealer* (SWR).

Calle Fuhr is a playwright, theatre director, and podcaster. In his latest play at the Volkstheater Vienna, he portrays René Benko. His podcast *No Comment* is inspired by the research for his play *DIE REDAKTION*.

Arman T. Riahi's debut film *DIE MIGRANTIGEN* (2017) was a box office success in Austria, while his 2020 feature *FUCHS IM BAU* received over 20 awards. He is currently working on his next feature film, *RIOT/GIRL*.

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David Wagner's debut film *EISMAYER* premiered in the Venice Critics' Week in 2022, winning the IWonderfull Award. In 2024, his crime thriller *SCHNEE VON GESTERN* aired on ORF.

### Synopsis

Vienna, 1999: Alex, in her twenties, lives a modest life with her 4-year-old daughter, Nadine, and her partner Stefan, recently released from prison. Alex longs for more from life, but the world seems to be conspiring against her. Alex seizes an unexpected opportunity, even though becoming a major hash dealer was never part of her plan. She assembles a crew and opens an illegal bar, selling kilos of hash over the counter. Financial struggles fade, but new challenges quickly emerge. When Stefan discovers her secret, their relationship unravels. Alone, Alex juggles life as a single mother and a successful drug dealer; she has finally become the heroine of her own story. Yet the underworld is ruthless and male-dominated. Kurt, the boss of an international cartel, appears to take Alex under his wing, but when the police bust the operation, he abducts Alex at gunpoint. Fleeing across the border into Slovakia, Alex faces an impossible choice: her freedom or her daughter.

### Writers' Note

*SHIT HAPPENS* takes us back to the last years before the millennium, when Vienna became a focal point on the transit routes between East and West: an era when the promise of "anything goes" fuels individualism and narcissism in normal life as well as in the underworld.

Our central character finds a way to navigate the male-dominated drug-dealing scene, empowering herself as both a woman and mother, before failing in an intensely personal way. All the same, she is no lone wolf, preferring to establish gangs of like-minded individuals rather than go it alone. This is her defining strength: brains over brawn, co-operation rather than confrontation.

As Alex plunges into the hash business, she takes the viewer on a trip through the Viennese underworld – in a very intentional juxtaposition to the established perception of Vienna, drenched as it is in chocolate-box tourism and images of Empress Sisi.

## MIAMI WILDLIFE

The unbelievable true story of an animal lover, his dream of owning a zoo – and the \$79 million drug empire he built to get there.



Gustavo Gontijo  
O2 Filmes/Executive  
Development Producer



Carissa Buffel  
Traveling Picture  
Show Company



Luisa Iskin  
Traveling Picture  
Show Company

### Project Information

Genre/Format \_\_\_\_\_ Crime drama/10 x 30'  
Creator \_\_\_\_\_ Adam Penn  
Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Fernando Meirelles, Quico Meirelles  
Producers \_\_\_\_\_ Fernando Meirelles, Quico Meirelles, Carissa Buffel, Luisa Iskin  
Partner attached \_\_\_\_\_ Anonymous Content (USA)  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot script (1st draft)  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ November 2025  
Shooting Location/Languages \_\_\_\_\_ USA/English, Spanish  
  
Budget/Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 30,000,000 €/3,000,000 €  
Financing already in place \_\_\_\_\_ none

### Looking for

"We're already cooperating with partners from the United States and are in talks with Diego Luna as the lead actor. We are looking for financiers, streamers and international distribution as well as production and post-production partners who could bring in key crew (such as editing, DoP). We're open in terms of countries and are eager to explore new possibilities to bring this ambitious story to the screen."

### Company Profiles

Founded in 1991 by Fernando Meirelles, Paulo Morelli, and Andrea Barata Ribeiro, O2 FILMES carries out independent projects as well as projects in partnership with major international studios, broadcasters and streaming platforms. Today, O2 is considered one of the most creative and globally active Brazilian production companies. They have made more than 20 feature films, including the Oscar-nominated *CITY OF GOD* (2002) and *BLINDNESS* (2008), both directed by Fernando Meirelles. More recently, O2 has released *MARIGHELLA* by Wagner Moura, which was Brazil's 2021 most-watched national film in cinemas. O2 has also produced highly successful and critically acclaimed TV series such as *BROTHERHOOD* (2006-2008) for Netflix, *NEW BANDITS* (2023) for Amazon, and *CITY OF GOD - THE FIGHT RAGES ON* (2024) for HBO and MAX.

TRAVELING PICTURE SHOW COMPANY is an innovative development and production company with a successful record of consistently creating and delivering exceptional visual content over a multitude of platforms. We are cutting-edge thinkers and creative personalities from across the entertainment industry spectrum. At every stage of production and all the minutiae in between, we excel by keeping our energy focused and our minds open and nimble.

### Creator's & Directors' Profiles

Adam Penn is a renowned editor and writer, recognised for his work on shows like *MR. ROBOT* (2015) and *AMERICAN CRIME STORY: THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON* (2016). He began his career as an assistant editor on *NIP/TUCK* (2003), where he formed a strong partnership with creator Ryan Murphy, leading to award-winning projects such as *THE NORMAL HEART* (2014), which earned Penn an American Cinema Editors Eddie Award and an Emmy nomination.

#### O2 Filmes

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Fernando Meirelles is the Academy Award-nominated director of *CITY OF GOD* (2002), one of the most widely acclaimed and enduringly popular films of all time. He has also directed the acclaimed titles *THE CONSTANT GARDENER* (2005), *BLINDNESS* (2008), *THE TWO POPES* (2019), and *360* (2011). He most recently directed the Apple TV+ series *SUGAR* (2024), as well as an episode of the HBO series *THE SYMPATHIZER* (2024).

Quico Meirelles began his career working on films such as *THE CONSTANT GARDENER*, *BLINDNESS* and *360*. For TV, Quico created and was the showrunner of *THE WISE ONES* (2015), a series nominated for an International Emmy, as well as the HBO series *JOINT VENTURE* (2019).

### Synopsis

In 1960s Cuba, young Mario's life is upended when his father, Guillermo, flees to Miami to escape Fidel Castro's regime. Mario follows him, and starts to make a living by marijuana trafficking. By his 20s, Mario rises as a weed kingpin, smuggling drugs while using his earnings to build a private zoo – his sanctuary from chaos. Guillermo, now a CIA informant, continues to force his son to help him with covert missions, which complicates his life. In 1980, Mario's empire collapses after he stands up to his father and refuses to use his tiger to dispose of a murdered informant. Arrested and forced to abandon his animals, Mario is left estranged and broken. But this is just the beginning.

Welcome to the wild world of Mario Tabraue: a neon-soaked Miami underworld with gangsters, lovers, feds, and a Rolex-wearing chimp. This show follows Mario's journey from lonely Cuban kid to eccentric kingpin. Unlike typical gangster tales, Mario's story is about escaping childhood baggage and building his menagerie, making it a fresh take on the anti-hero archetype.

### Creator's Note

I've always loved animals. At five, my mom got me a cat named Cheerio to help me make friends. Cheerio became my anchor, sparking a lifelong devotion to animals. When I heard of Mario Tabraue, a man who built a drug empire to afford exotic creatures like jungle cats, monkeys, a giraffe, and even a two-headed snake, I felt instantly connected. His story is relatable and extreme: every kid dreams of a pet, but few build a drug empire to get one. Tonally, this project blends the humour and drama of *THE SOPRANOS* with the violence of *SCARFACE*, the energy of *BOOGIE NIGHTS*, and the layered characters of *BREAKING BAD*. Mario's journey mirrors Tony Soprano's, mixing absurdity and suspense – like gangsters hilariously failing to hide a corpse, spiraling into nail-biting fear as their empire teeters on collapse.

## LUCY. MAUD.

→ [CLICK HERE TO REQUEST  
VISION DECK AND FURTHER  
PROJECT MATERIALS](#)



Edwina Follows  
Story Girls Productions



Megan Follows  
Story Girls Productions/  
Director



Susan Coyne  
Writer

**Story Girls Productions**  
21 Jackman Avenue  
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Canada

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*LUCY. MAUD.* explores the extraordinary life of *Anne of Green Gables* author Lucy Maud Montgomery: her passionate affairs, turbulent marriage, the pressures of fame and her ongoing struggle with mental illness, and the solace she found in her writing.

### Project Information

Genre/Format \_\_\_\_\_ Drama/8 x 60'  
Writers \_\_\_\_\_ Susan Coyne, Rosa Laborde  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ Megan Follows, co-directors tbd  
Producers \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Young Leckie, Edwina Follows, Megan Follows  
Partner attached \_\_\_\_\_ Canada Media Fund  
Broadcaster \_\_\_\_\_ Canadian Broadcaster/Streamer  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Scripts for episodes 1 & 2, outlines for all episodes  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ July 2025  
Shooting Locations/Language \_\_\_\_\_ Canada, studio/English

Budget/Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 25,977,060 €/3,247,133 €  
Financing already in place (56.8 %) \_\_\_\_\_ 14,758,24 €

### Looking for

"We are looking for presales to platforms, broadcasters, distributors and financiers. We are eager to meet Scotland-, Wales- and Europe-based producers with proven production incentives. The majority of the series will be shot in Canada, but we are also open to shooting in studios abroad, ideally in English-speaking countries. Key creative roles including Director, DoP, Cast, and HoD and post-production are available."

### Company Profile

Formed in 2022 out of a shared passion to create superb drama and documentary content for the international market, STORY GIRLS PRODUCTIONS brings together the talents of actor/director Megan Follows, veteran producer Mary Young Leckie, and broadcast executive and producer Edwina Follows. Among our most celebrated productions are the award-winning feature films *MAUDIE*, starring Ethan Hawke and Sally Hawkins (2018 Canadian Screen Awards Best Picture and audience darling at Berlinale and Toronto), produced by Mary Young Leckie; *STEALING THE SKY* (Best Director and Narrative Feature 2024 at Montreal Independent Film Festival), produced and directed by Megan Follows; and the Netflix series *FRONTIER* starring Jason Momoa, developed and executive produced by Edwina Follows. Strategic, creative and boasting a strong background in international co-production, Story Girls Productions is enthusiastically committed to telling the best of Canadian stories to the world.

### Writers' & Director's Profiles

Susan Coyne was writer/producer on Amazon Prime's hit shows *MOZART IN THE JUNGLE* (2016-2018) and *DAISY JONES & THE SIX* (Emmy, Golden Globe nomination in 2024). Susan also wrote the feature films *THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS* (2017) starring Dan Stevens, and the upcoming *FLAVIA DE LUCE* starring Martin Freeman and Jonathan Pryce.

Rosa Laborde created the Crave Original series *NESTING* (2024), and wrote on HBO Canada's International Emmy-nominated series *SENSITIVE SKIN* (2016). She is a critically acclaimed playwright and three-time Dora Award nominee (Canada's Tony).



Megan Follows is a Directors' Guild of Canada and Canadian Screen Award-winning director of premium series like *HEARTLAND* (2018-2019; CBC), *OCTOBER FACTION* (2020; Netflix), and *REIGN* (2016-2017; CBS, Warner Bros). Her feature film *STEALING THE SKY* recently won Best Director and Best Narrative Feature at the 2024 Montreal Independent Film Festival.

### Synopsis

Our eight-part series delves into the passionate affairs, literary stardom, and vivid imagination of the enigmatic creator of *Anne of Green Gables*, Lucy Maud Montgomery. We meet Maud at the peak of her career as a world-famous author. Privately however, her life has been a series of epic challenges from the death of her mother and her upbringing by emotionally repressed grandparents, to a lifelong struggle with mental health, a bitter court battle with her unscrupulous publisher, and a longing for romance that leads to a tortured marriage to the clinically depressed Ewan Macdonald. Maud has survived by keeping two selves far apart: the respectable wife and mother, and her wild and imaginative inner child. Now she wonders what the cost of splitting herself has been. Threatened with being erased by the male-dominated literary establishment that wants to relegate her to the children's table, she turns to the journals she has kept since childhood. And so begins a journey into her past where Maud is forced to challenge her very understanding of herself and the choice she has made to be a writer.

### Writer's Note

My aim is to create an emotionally compelling drama based on the surprising story of Canada's most famous author. While our series is very much set in a particular time and place, it will feel startlingly modern. Lucy Maud Montgomery was a passionate soul whose life was marked by a turbulent marriage, secret affairs, devastating losses and a fatal addiction to prescription drugs. However, as a woman, she had to hide behind the façade of a respectable wife and mother who just happened to be a world-famous author. Like Maud, we are living in a time where we need the courage to face this reality and the daring to imagine a better one. A world where young girls can grow up without having to hide their true, weird, passionate selves. Visually the show will take its cue from Maud's own work, with its love of the natural world and the fertile imaginations of children, edging into magic realism.



## SK8 OR DIE: THE LEE RALPH STORY

Barefooted skateboarder Lee Ralph emerges from a wild childhood to go pro – only to crash as fast as he arrived, and disappear into obscurity. At rock bottom, he turns inward to face the demons from his past that he was vehemently skating away from.



Tom Hern  
Tavake/Creator /Director

### Project Information

Genre/Format \_\_\_\_\_ Drama/6 x 44'  
Creators \_\_\_\_\_ Tom Hern, Halaifonua Finau  
Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Travon Free, Martin Desmond Roe, Tom Hern  
Producers \_\_\_\_\_ Julian Arahanga, Tom Hern, Halaifonua Finau  
Broadcaster \_\_\_\_\_ Sky Originals (New Zealand)  
Development Stage \_\_\_\_\_ Scripts for episodes 1 & 2, outlines for all episodes  
Shooting Start \_\_\_\_\_ October 2025  
Shooting Locations/Language \_\_\_\_\_ Auckland, other international locations  
(e.g. Vancouver, Melbourne, Bangkok, Paris)/English

Budget/Budget per Episode \_\_\_\_\_ 9,110,84€/1,518,474€  
Financing already in place (35%) \_\_\_\_\_ 3,087,710€

### Looking for

"We are eager to find co-producers and a distributor with whom our main character's international story resonates. We have some cast attached, as well as skating icons Tony Hawk and Steve-O championing the project. Besides gap financing, co-production partners could bring in crew and further cast, writers/directors, HoDs, or post-production. Canada and Australia are a natural fit, but we are open to elevating the European elements of the story and team up with partners from France or Germany, for example."

### Company Profile

TAVAKE is an award-winning, New Zealand-based production company that creates premium content for the global market. They produced the award-winning limited series *THE PANTHERS*, which premiered at Toronto in 2021, broke streaming records in its home territory, and enjoyed successful international distribution. Most recently, Tavake produced the comedy/drama *MADAM* (2024), in collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery and Fifth Season. The series stars Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee Rachel Griffiths (*SIX FEET UNDER*) and Martin Henderson (*VIRGIN RIVER*), and has garnered critical acclaim, winning the Golden Nymph at the 2024 Monte Carlo TV Awards, Best Comedy at the 2024 Berlin TV Series Festival, and achieving the distinction of quickly becoming Warner Bros. Discovery's most-viewed drama of all time. International rollouts are planned in the coming months.

### Creators' & Directors' Profiles

Tom Hern co-created and co-directed *THE PANTHERS* (2021), earning critical acclaim, a slew of awards and breaking streaming records in its home territory. Halaifonua Finau, a proud Polynesian storyteller, co-created *THE PANTHERS* alongside Hern. Their work spans multiple genres, with Hern recognized for boundary-pushing feature films like *THE DARK HORSE* (2014) and *SHADOW IN THE CLOUD* (2020), and Finau for his Tongan family-comedy *RED, WHITE & BRASS* (2023). Together, they have a slate of upcoming series and films with global partners.

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Martin Desmond Roe (UK) and Travon Free (USA) are an award-winning writing and directing duo, recognized for their Oscar-winning short film *TWO DISTANT STRANGERS* (2020) and their 2022 Sports Emmy-winning short *WHAT AGNES SAW*. Travon has extensive writing and directing credits, including *THE DAILY SHOW* (2012-2016), *FULL FRONTAL WITH SAMANTHA BEE* (2016), and *WINNING TIME* (2022). Martin is known for his directing work on Netflix's *WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS* (2020) and *HEIST* (2021), as well as his acclaimed Nike documentary *BREAKING2* (2017). Together, they recently premiered their feature documentary *BS HIGH* (2023) at Tribeca and are attached to direct *RAZORBLADE TEARS* for Paramount Studios.

### Synopsis

Told through four seasons of his life, Lee Ralph's story blends triumph and turmoil. Spring reveals a chaotic childhood in New Zealand: a father who was a charismatic outlaw and a mother who anchored Lee with her belief in her son's talent, sparking his love for skateboarding. Summer follows Lee's meteoric rise in the US skateboarding scene, where his raw talent captivates crowds – until he's deported, shattering his dreams. Autumn explores Lee's return to New Zealand, where fading hopes and a fall into addiction are softened by the arrival of Tania, his one true love. Winter finds Lee in his 50s, scraping by in a campground, estranged and haunted by the ghosts of his past. With his sister Kim's support, Lee confronts family trauma and begins to carve a modest but redemptive future. Through fractured memories and raw honesty, Lee's story is one of resilience, proving that even in life's harshest season, there's room to rebuild.

### Creators' Note

Our tone is raw and deep – but also fun, energetic and mad. For example, when it's exploring the abuse that Lee and his sisters endured, it's harrowing and heartbreaking. But even in the midst of these heavy moments, a laugh is never far away. This is true to the real Lee, and his sister Kim. Lee swings between being hilariously self-deprecating and boldly self-congratulatory. His infectious, rapturous laugh pulls everyone in. Kim, too, is an inspiring and highly entertaining survivor. She doesn't take shit from anyone – especially Lee.

At other times, the show has unrelenting, wild, rebellious energy. Double-kick, skate punk music, big airs and wipeouts. Our tone captures all of this: the dark shadows, the warmth of bright lights and the irreverent belly laughs. The powerful skating energy – and the mad and the surreal.

## OUR PEOPLE

In 2018, the brutal murder of a young journalist and his fiancée days before their wedding uncovers a web of corruption and moral decay, exposing the dark underbelly of Slovak society.

→ [CLICK HERE FOR TEASER](#)



Jakub Viktorín  
Nutprodukcia



Miro Šifra  
Writer



Tereza Polachová  
Czech Television

### Project Information

Genre / Format	True Crime/6 x 52'
Writer	Miro Šifra
Director	Tereza Nvotová
Producers	Jakub Viktorín (Nutprodukcia), Tomáš Hrubý (Nutprodukce)
Partner attached	Network Movie (Germany)
Broadcaster	Czech Television, ZDF (Germany)
Development Stage	Scripts for episodes 1 & 2, outlines for all episodes
Shooting Start	Autumn 2025
Shooting Location/Language	Slovakia/Slovak
Budget/Budget per Episode	3,721,431 €/620,239 €
Financing already in place (77%)	2,871,431 €

### Looking for

"So far, we have set up a co-production between Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany. We are seeking further broadcasting, distribution and financing partners outside of these and the German-speaking territories, to bring this important and compelling story to the screen."

### Company Profiles

The collaboration between NUTPRODUKCIA and NUTPRODUKCE stands out for their commitment to high-quality, internationally recognised projects. Slovak Nutprodukcia recently celebrated successes with titles such as *VICTIM* (2022) by Michal Blaško, which screened at Venice, Toronto, and Busan; the EFA-nominated *LOVE DAD* (2021); the animated film *TONY, SHELLY, AND THE MAGIC LIGHT* (2023), winner at Annecy; and the co-production *SOLITUDE* (2023), which premiered at Toronto. Regarding TV production, Czech Nutprodukce excels with acclaimed works like Agnieszka Holland's *BURNING BUSH* (2013) for HBO Europe, the atmospheric drama *WASTELAND* (2016), and the gripping thriller series *SUSPICION* (2022).

### Writer's & Director's Profiles

Miro Šifra studied screenwriting at Prague's FAMU and has since worked on several successful projects. With the critically acclaimed miniseries *REDL* (2018) and *RATS* (2020 Czech Lion, Best Television Series), Miro established himself as one of the most talented writers of his generation. He also co-wrote the script for the feature films *THE RED CAPTAIN* (2016), *WE HAVE NEVER BEEN MODERN* (2023) and *MIKI* (2024).

Tereza Nvotová's latest feature *NIGHTSIREN* (2022) won the Golden Leopard at Locarno and traveled to more than 40 festivals worldwide. She first caught the attention of audiences with her award-winning debut feature *FILTHY* (Rotterdam 2017). Tereza has also made several successful documentaries, including *THE LUST FOR POWER* (*MEČIAR*, 2017) which was the highest grossing documentary in Slovak cinemas in 2017.

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PROJECT IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
SERIES MANIA



### Synopsis

One February evening in 2018, Martina Kušnírová (28) heads to the train station to pick up her fiancé, Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak (28). One hour later, Ján answers the door to a bullet through the chest. Moments later, Martina is shot in the head. The couple is due to be married in less than three months. From the beginning, it is clear that this is a professional contract killing, motivated by Ján Kuciak's work as a journalist reporting on corruption in the halls of power.

With the streets full of protesters demanding justice – the largest crowds since the fall of Communism – an investigative team is assembled, headed by a complete novice. It is easy to see that the police leadership is afraid of what they might uncover. In Slovakia, it's an open secret that the country is actually run by a system known as *Our People*. They have long believed they can get away with murder, but perhaps not this time.

### Writer's Note

When I met the parents of Ján and Martina – a young couple murdered in Slovakia in 2018 – they had one singular purpose: to ensure their children's story would never be forgotten. Their concern is justified. Their murders sparked Slovakia's largest protests since the communist era as citizens demanded a thorough investigation. Now, seven years later, the same government has returned to power, the mastermind behind the murders was never convicted, and the police officers who exposed the underlying corruption face criminal charges. Though the truth may be painful, these stories must be told – to preserve history, to honour those who bravely pursued justice, and to ensure that those who tried to silence Ján and Martina will never succeed.

# PREVIOUSLY ON CO-PRO SERIES

Catch-Up on projects  
from the previous  
Co-Pro Series editions  
(2015–2024):

## 2015

### BABYLON BERLIN

X Filme Creative Pool, Germany

co-producers: ARD Degeto Film,  
SWR, WDR, HR, Radio Bremen, Beta  
Film, in cooperation with RBB

sold to over 140 territories  
worldwide

fifth season in production

### HIERRO

Portocabo, Spain

co-producer: Atlantique, France  
broadcasters: Movistar/ARTE

aired on Movistar+ (Spain) and  
ARTE (France/Germany) in 2019  
released on all continents (over 100  
territories)

Iris Award for Best Screenplay,  
several national awards  
second season aired in 2021

### TABULA RASA

Caviar, Belgium

sales: ZDFE

aired 2017/18 in Belgium,  
Germany and UK  
available on Netflix

### VALKYRIEN

Tordenfilm, Norway/  
Fridthjof Film, Denmark/  
NRK, Norway

sales: About Premium Content

3 Norwegian TV Awards,  
several international nominations  
sold to territories worldwide

## 2016

### A FORTUNATE MAN (LYKKE-PER)

Nordisk Film Production/  
TV2, Denmark/Satel Film,  
Austria

sales: TrustNordisk  
aired in Denmark end 2018

### DNA

Nordisk Film Production,  
Denmark/French Kiss  
Pictures, France

sales: Newen  
broadcasters: TV2, Denmark/  
ARTE, France  
sold to SVT, NRK, RUV, YLE  
aired 2019 on TV2 (Denmark)

### THE VANISHING (DAS VERSCHWINDEN)

23/5 Filmproduktion, Germany/  
Mia Film, Czech Republic/  
BR/ARD Degeto/NDR/  
SWR, Germany

sales: Beta Film  
aired 2017  
sold to various territories  
multiple awards

## 2017

### FREUD

Bavaria Fiction, Germany/  
Satel Film, Austria/  
Netflix/ORF, Austria

sales: ZDF Enterprises

world premiere:  
Berlinale Series 2020  
aired 2020 on ORF (Austria)  
and Netflix (worldwide)

### HAUSEN

Lago Film, Germany

sales: NBCUniversal  
broadcaster: Sky Germany  
aired in Germany in October 2020

### STATE OF HAPPINESS

Maipo Film, Norway

sales: DR Sales  
co-producer: Lunanime, Belgium  
broadcasters: DR, SVT, YLE,  
RUV, RTE

aired October–December 2018  
on NRK (Norway)  
sold to territories worldwide  
awarded at Canneseries 2018  
third season aired in Norway  
October 2024

### WARRIOR

Miso Film, Denmark

sales: FremantleMedia  
broadcaster: TV2 Denmark

premiered at Series Mania 2018  
aired in Denmark end 2018



# PREVIOUSLY ON CO-PRO SERIES

Catch-Up on projects  
from the previous  
Co-Pro Series editions  
(2015–2024):

## 2018

### BLACKPORT (VERBÚÐ)

**Vesturport, Iceland**

sales: About Premium Content,  
Lumière (Benelux)

co-producers:

Turbine Studios, UK

broadcasters: RUV, Iceland/  
ARTE, France

sold to territories worldwide

aired December 2021 on  
RUV (Iceland)

released internationally 2022  
awarded at Series Mania and  
Serializados Fest in 2021, Nordisk  
Film & TV Fond Prize 2022

### FURIA

**Monster Scripted, Norway/  
X Filme Creative Pool, Germany**

sales: Keshet International

broadcasters: Nordic Entertainment  
Group/ZDF, Germany

aired September/November 2021  
on Viaplay (Norway) and  
ZDF (Germany)

### SOUTH (SUL)

**Arquipélago Filmes, Portugal**

sales: Latido Films

broadcaster: RTP (Portugal)

aired in Portugal in

September 2019

several national awards

sold to Iceland, North Macedonia

## 2019

### CRY WOLF

**DR Drama, Denmark**

international premiere:

Series Mania 2020

sold to various territories

broadcasters: YLE, NRK, SVT, RUV

aired in Denmark in 2020 and  
subsequently abroad

awards: Nordisk Film & TV fond Prize  
2021, The Golden Eye Award at  
Zurich Film Festival 2020, Danish  
Film Award for Best Series 2021

### DAVOS 1917

**Contrast Film,  
Switzerland/Letterbox  
Filmproduktion, Germany**

co-producer: Amalia Film, Germany

sales: Global Screen

broadcasters:

SRF (Switzerland),

SRG SSR (Switzerland),

ARD Degeto (Germany)

aired December 2023

### REINDEER MAFIA

**Kaiho Republic,  
Finland**

sales: Dynamic Television

co-producer: Rein Film, Norway

broadcaster: C More (Finland;

Sweden, Norway, Denmark)

aired January/February 2023

### TROM

**REinvent Studios, Denmark/  
Kyk Pictures, Faroe Islands**

sales: REinvent International Sales

broadcasters: Viaplay, ZDF/ARTE, DR

partners: Nordisk Film and TV Fond,  
Faroese Film Fund, Creative Europe  
MEDIA

aired in 2022

two Golden Nymph Awards at  
Monte Carlo 2022



## PREVIOUSLY ON CO-PRO SERIES

Catch-Up on projects  
from the previous  
Co-Pro Series editions  
(2015–2024):

### 2020

#### **DOME 16**

Tordenfilm, Norway/  
Big Blue, The Netherlands

sales: Global Screen  
broadcasters: NRK (Norway),  
NPO/Zapp (The Netherlands),  
SVT (Sweden), DR (Denmark),  
YLE (Finland), RUV (Iceland)

aired on NRK November 2022,  
YLE April 2023, NPO/Zapp August  
2023, DR January 2024

Rose d'Or Award Best Children  
and Youth 2023, 3 Golden Screen  
Awards 2023

#### **SNOW (SCHNEE)**

Primary Pictures, Austria

co-producer: X-Filme Production,  
Germany  
in collaboration with: Beta Film,  
Germany/Mestiere Cinema, Italy

sales: Beta Film  
broadcasters: ORF/BR/NDR  
(Germany), ARTE (Germany/France)

aired November 2023

### 2021

#### **KADEWE - OUR TIME IS NOW (ELDORADO KADEWE)**

Constantin Television/  
UFA Fiction/Moovie/  
ARD Degeto/RBB, Germany

sales: Fremantle  
aired December 2021 on  
Das Erste/ARD (Germany)  
German TV Awards 2022 for Best  
Music and Best Scenography, Blue  
Panther TV & Streaming Award 2022  
for Best Director

sold to territories worldwide

#### **THE GONE**

Kingfisher Films, New Zealand/  
Keeper Pictures, Ireland

co-producer: Southern Light Films,  
New Zealand  
sales: Seven.One Studios  
International  
broadcasters: RTE (Ireland), TVNZ  
(New Zealand)  
sold to UK, Australia  
(more territories tba)

aired in 2023  
second season aired in Ireland  
October 2024, airing February 2025  
in New Zealand

### 2022

#### **THIS IS NOT A MURDER MYSTERY**

Panenka, Belgium

co-producer: Deadpan Pictures,  
Ireland  
sales: Studiocanal  
broadcasters: VRT/RTL/Proximus  
(Belgium), ZDF (Germany), NPO  
(Netherlands), SVT (Sweden), DR  
(Denmark), YLE (Finland), RÚV  
(Iceland), NRK (Norway)  
airing winter 2025

### 2023

#### **THE ISLAND (AN T-EILEAN)** Black Camel Pictures, UK

sales: All3Media International  
broadcasters: BBC Alba (Scotland)/  
BBC Four (UK)  
airing on BBC Alba and BBC iPlayer  
in January 2025

### 2024

#### **THE PALM LINE (LA LINEA DELLA PALMA)** Hugofilm Features, Switzerland

sales: True Colours  
broadcasters: RSI/SRG SSR  
(Switzerland), ARTE (France/  
Germany)  
to be shot and aired in 2025

# SERIES MANIA FORUM

FROM CREATION  
TO INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRIBUTION



**RETURNS**

**TO LILLE (FRANCE)**

**MARCH 25 > 27, 2025**

**NEW  
INITIATIVE**

**BUYERS  
UPFRONT**

**MARCH 24, 2025**

AHEAD OF THE EVENT, GET AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK  
AT HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SERIES

## Berlinale Co-Production Market 2025 February 15–19, 2025

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are so happy to welcome you all here in Berlin. If you have any questions or if we can assist you with anything, please don't hesitate to let us know. We are here for you.

Your Berlinale Co-Production Market Team 2025:

Martina Bleis, Andrea Hoffmann, Kathi Bildhauer, Lisa von Swieykowski, Julieta Zarankin, Maria Mogren, Katharina Stumm, Jennifer Bichler, Karla Kutzner, Clara Puhlmann, Ioana Moldovan, Elena Zurbuch, Emilia Schäfer, Walter Crasshole, Nastassja Boreyko, John Thorp, Jack Pocaluyko



From left to right:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Upper Row</b>    | Emilia Schäfer, Jennifer Bichler, Karla Kutzner, Elena Zurbuch, Katharina Stumm, Ioana Moldovan |
| <b>Second Row</b>   | Walter Crasshole, Andrea Hoffmann, Julieta Zarankin, Clara Puhlmann, Kathi Bildhauer            |
| <b>Bottom Row</b>   | Martina Bleis, Lisa von Swieykowski, Maria Mogren   |
| <b>Not in photo</b> | Nastassja Boreyko, John Thorp, Jack Pocaluyko   |



## Contact

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## Published by

Berlin International Film Festival  
a division of Kulturveranstaltungen  
des Bundes in Berlin GmbH  
Potsdamer Platz 11  
10785 Berlin  
Germany

## Festival Director

Tricia Tuttle

## Cover Design

Claudia Schramke

## Graphic Design

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