

## DRAMA SERIES CO-WRITING RESIDENCY ISRAEL – FRANCE

### RULES & REGULATIONS

#### 1. Introduction

The *Drama Series Co-Writing Residency* between Israel and France is a program initiated by the CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image animée), France and the GMFF (Geshher Multicultural Film Fund), Israel, in cooperation with the Israeli Scriptwriters Guild, The Israeli Producers Association and the French Embassy in Israel.

The residency has been created to initiate a fruitful collaboration between screenwriters from both countries and to encourage the development of high-quality fiction series for an international audience.

Series Mania is one of the main partners of the project as it is internationally recognized as a major festival for high-quality series and it organizes a professional forum aiming to stimulate international coproduction. Series Mania has been designated as the organizer of the residency in France.

#### 2. General description of the process

Up to 6 (six) projects will be selected to take part in the residency. Each project will be carried by a team composed by at least two screenwriters, one from Israel and one from France. A maximum of 12 (twelve) screenwriters in total will join the residency.

The 12 (twelve) selected participants will take part in 2 (two) workshops, one in France and one in Israel. The teams will have approximately 6 (six) months (from December 2020 to May 2021) to co-write the full bible of a fiction series. During all this period, the selected teams will be trained by experienced tutors with whom they will have regular online exchanges (emails, skype...). They will have the opportunity to meet the tutors during the two workshops.

Throughout this process, the participants will meet with potential international financial partners (producers, broadcasters, platforms...) during two events:

- At Series Mania Forum (March 23-25, 2021 in Lille, France), at the end of the first workshop.
- At a final pitching event that will take place in Israel during summer 2021, at the end of the second workshop.

As the COVID-19 pandemic may affect this schedule and the nature of the workshops<sup>1</sup>, the initiators and organizers of the residency commit themselves to inform the selected participants of any evolution of the process described in these Rules & Regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to section **8. Public health context** of this document

### 3. Schedule

The timeframe of the residency will be structured as follows:

- **03/09/2020:** Publishing of the call for applications.
- **03/09/2020 – 05/10/2020** (1 month): Time period for projects submission. Drama series projects can be submitted by already formed French-Israeli teams and by individual writers from Israel or France. Activation of the official residency's Facebook group to facilitate the connection between writers from Israel and France.
- **06/10/2020 – 30/10/2020:** Selection process of participating projects. A maximum of 3 (three) projects with a French main writer and 3 (three) projects with a main Israeli writer will be selected.
- **02/11/2020:** Official selection results are sent to the selected writers. **Selected individual writers have until November 30, 2019 to find a writing partner**, otherwise they will not be allowed to join the residency. The Facebook group will be published among the film industry in Israel and France to allow for a fast and effective dialogue in order to find partners.
- **30/11/2020:** Final deadline to form writing teams.
- **01/12/2020 – 19/03/2021:** Online sessions with tutors to work on the projects + online course on the European TV industry to prepare for the first workshop.
- **20/03/2021 – 25/03/2021:** Workshop in Lille followed by professional meetings with European TV executives at Series Mania Forum.
- **29/03/2021 – 31/05/2021:** Online sessions with tutors to finalize the projects and prepare for the second workshop.
- **31/05/2021:** Deadline to send a final project presentation and bible.
- **Summer 2021:** Workshop in Israel followed by pitching event (*place and time TBD*).

All the members of each selected team must be available and participate in the two workshops and at Series Mania Forum. Any absence without a proper justification can cause the exclusion of the project and the refunding of the expenses already incurred (travels, accommodation etc.)

### 4. Language

The common working language of the residency is English: this means that all written and spoken materials, at all steps of the process, must be in English.

The final series can be multilingual, in Hebrew, French, Arabic, English or any other European language.



## 5. Participation fees

The *Drama Series Co-Writing Residency* between Israel and France is **totally free of charge** for the participants.

The CNC, GMFF and Series Mania will cover the following expenses for all the 12 (twelve) selected participants:

- Travel costs (economy class) to participate at both the workshops in France and in Israel
- Accommodation costs in France and in Israel
- Registration to attend Series Mania Forum to all the participants (value: 380€ each)

Moreover, a daily *per diem* of 60€ will be given to all the selected participants to cover their local expenses (food, taxis...) during the workshops.

## 6. Application's rules

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the rules below and within the specified dates.

Applications must be made by **a team composed by two co-writers** (one from Israel and one from France) with a common project, **or by an individual writer from either France or Israel**.

To qualify for the selection, applications must be made online on the dedicated website page: [www.seriesmania.com/en/industry/drama-series-israel-france](http://www.seriesmania.com/en/industry/drama-series-israel-france). No submission by email, post, or any other means will be accepted.

All applications are totally **free of charge**.

Submission to the residency will be open for applications **on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

**Application deadline** is on Monday, **October 5, 2020** at midnight (CET).

### 6.1 Eligibility criteria

The applicants must meet the threshold conditions described below.

In order to be eligible, candidates must prove to have a French or Israeli nationality.

Persons with a direct or indirect connection to or interest in the GMFF and/or CNC, including members of the Board of Directors, lecturers, and members of the professional committee, will not be able to submit proposals. In addition, representatives of the Israeli Scriptwriters Guild, representatives of the Israeli Producers' Association, and Series Mania Festival employees who work directly or indirectly in the project will not be able to submit proposals to the project.

Applications can be made only by teams composed by screenwriters, directors, creatives on their behalf, or by individual writers. Applications made on behalf of a company (production, distribution, TV channels, etc.) will not be accepted.

Joint application teams can consist of:

- Two experienced screenwriters<sup>2</sup>, one from France and one from Israel
- Two screenwriters from Israel, one emerging and one experienced, and one experienced screenwriter from France
- Two screenwriters from France, one emerging and one experienced, and an experienced screenwriter from Israel
- An experienced screenwriter and one emerging, one from France and one from Israel.

Each team needs at least one experienced screenwriter on board. That means ***a screenwriter who doesn't qualify as an experienced screenwriter can only apply to the program with an experienced writer.***

The submitted projects must meet the following requirements:

- Category: **TV series only** (TV movies, feature films etc. will not be accepted)
- Number of episodes: up to 12 episodes (maximum)
- Length: between 20 and 60 minutes per episode
- Genre: fiction series (animation or documentaries will not be accepted)

Only originals concepts for first seasons will be accepted. Adaptations from books will not be accepted. Remakes from foreign or domestic series, second seasons or returning shows will not be accepted.

## 6.2 Conditions and Requirements for Applying for the Residency

Candidates who want to apply to participate at the residency must:

- Meet the threshold conditions for submission<sup>3</sup>
- Fill the online registration form: [www.seriesmania.com/en/industry/drama-series-israel-france](http://www.seriesmania.com/en/industry/drama-series-israel-france)
- Provide the following documents (overall 15 pages):
  - A pre-bible presenting the main features of the series: a seasonal layout and details about the characters, an expanded synopsis (up to 5 pages)

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<sup>2</sup> We consider as experienced screenwriter a screenwriter who has written at least one episode in a drama series (30/60/90 minutes) that has been produced and broadcast, and/or a full-length film produced and broadcast.

We also consider as experienced screenwriter a screenwriter who wrote a series that was produced and aired on the internet, and if the sum of the episodes exceeds 70 minutes.

**Documents proving the professional experience must be provided.**

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to section **6.1 Eligibility Criteria** of this document

- A declaration of intent by the partners regarding the project, their collaboration, and their participation in the residency
- A resume presenting the professional experience of the writers
- A proof of Israeli or French nationality (a copy of a national ID or passport)

### 6.3 Individual applications – Facebook group

As specified in point 6.1 applications can be made by teams or individual writers.

Individual writers from France or Israel can try to find a co-writer from the other country through the dedicated Facebook group opened by the CNC, GMFF and Series Mania: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767381846992199/>

The Facebook Group is created in order to facilitate the connection between writers from Israel and France and it is administrated by the organizers of the residency.

The group will be open **from the opening of applications (September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020) to the final deadline to form creative teams (November 30, 2020).**

**Individual writers selected at the end of the selection process (November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020), must imperatively find a co-writer from the other country by November 30, 2020 in order to take part in the residency.**

Individual candidates willing to join the Facebook group must meet the threshold conditions<sup>4</sup> and further they must:

- Submit an itemized listing of professional experience. Information about professional experience will be visible to members of the group.

The Facebook group administrator will approve the participants if they meet the threshold conditions.

Individual screenwriters who are interested in submitting their proposal for a series project in the group must post:

- A short video pitch in English (can be filmed on mobile phones) presenting the project (maximum length: 5 minutes, format: any format supported by Facebook)
- A link to their previous work
- A synopsis of their project (up to 5 (five) pages)

Screenwriters can apply with more than one project: in this case they must provide the above documents for each project [up to 5 (five) projects maximum for each participant]

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to section **6.1 Eligibility Criteria** of this document

Please note that a joint submission for the residency can be made directly by already composed teams, without participating in the Facebook group.

## 7. Selection process

The results of the official selection will be announced by e-mail to the candidates on **November 2nd, 2020.**

In case of selection, a detailed agreement will be signed between the creators of the selected series, and the Geshher Fund and CNC.

### 7.1 Selection committee

The applications will be examined by a selection committee composed by:

- At least 2 members of the Series Mania team
- At least 2 members of the GMFF
- At least 2 members of the CNC

### 7.2 Selection criteria

The selection committee will take in consideration the following criteria:

- The artistic value of the project
- The experience of the creative team
- The international potential of the project
- The originality of the concept compared to other series already available in the French or Israeli market
- The market appeal of the project according to industry needs
- The universal social value of the proposal

The selection committee will aim to have a diversity in the genres (crime, period drama, comedies etc.) among the 6 (six) selected projects.

A good gender balance between female and male writers in the teams will also be considered by the committee as a positive criterion, although it is not necessary for the application.

The selection committee reserves the right not to choose any of the proposals submitted or to cancel the project, if no suitable proposals are found according to these rules and regulations, or at its discretion.



## 8. Public health context

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, international travels between France and Israel may be disrupted in 2020 and further in 2021. In this rapidly evolving health context and depending on the decisions made by French and Israeli authorities in the timeframe of the residency, the organizers reserve themselves the right to suspend, cancel or change the activities offered to the participants.

The initiators and organizers commit themselves to inform the participants of any evolution of the schedule and/or the activities of the residency.

Likewise, participants facing personal or professional issues in the current health context are required to immediately contact the organizers and inform them of any impossibility to travel and/or participate in a workshop or an activity of the residency.

## 9. Intellectual Property

Applicants must own all the rights on the submitted project. It means that no option, agreement or contract with a production company, a broadcaster or a platform can be signed while doing the application and during the whole residency process.

In the event of a copyright dispute, the parties shall proceed to a discussion with an arbitrator to be agreed upon by all parties.

## 10. Confidentiality and communication

All the documents and information supplied within the submission are strictly confidential and will be not published for any reason.

Only a one-page presentation of the 6 (six) selected projects will be printed in a leaflet that will be distributed at Series Mania Forum to the potential partners such as producers, platforms, broadcasters. A list of the 6 (six) selected projects, which will include the title of the project, country of origin, can be used for communication purposes and published in the press.

The screenwriters will be required to publicize in the final captions of the series, if it is produced, the involvement of the partner organizations using the logo and the captions to be provided to them by the foundations and the partner organizations.