

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 (Gesher 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 5 (five) 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. 10 (ten) screenwriters in total will participate at the residency.

The 10 (ten) selected participants will take part in 2 workshops, one virtual workshop from the 24th to the 27th of January, an intensive two-day follow-up from February 23rd to 24th, and an in-person workshop in March from the 18th to 24th during the Series Mania festival in Lille. Finally, all the participants will attend HAIFA international film festival in October 2022 virtually or in-person. The teams will have approximately two months (from January to mid-March) to co-write the full bible of a fiction series. During this period, the selected teams will be trained by experienced tutors with whom they will have a regular contact online (emails, skype....). They will have the opportunity to meet the tutors during the two workshops.

At the end of this process, the projects will be presented to potential international financial partners (producers, broadcasters, platforms...) during the Series Mania Forum (March 22 - 24, 2022)

3. Schedule

The timeframe of the residency will be structured as follows:

- **02/11/2021** Publishing of the call for applications and launching of a Facebook group dedicated to finding partners for writing. The group will be open for the whole duration of the

submission process. Its goal is to allow for a fast and effective dialogue in order to find partners¹.

- **02/11/2021 – 20/12/2021 (7 weeks):** Time period for projects submission.
- **20/12/2021 – 11/01/2022:** Selection process of participating projects
- **12/01/2022:** Official selection results are sent to the selected teams
- **24/01/2022 – 27/01/2022:** 1st virtual workshop
- **23/02/2022 – 24/02/2022:** intensive virtual follow-up
- **17/03/2022:** arrival of participants in Lille
- **18/03/2022 – 24/03/2022:** In-person workshop in Lille at the Creative Bazaar followed by the pitching event at Series Mania Forum
- **October 2022:** Final virtual/in-person roundtable at Haifa IFF

All the members of each selected team must be available and participate in the two workshops and the 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 10 (ten) selected participants:

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

6. Application rules

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

¹ Please see point 6.3 for more detailed information

Applications must be made by **a team composed by at least two co-writers** (one from Israel and one from France) with a common project.

To qualify for the selection, applications must be made online on the dedicated website page: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/SeriesMania2/CowritingResidencyIsraelFranceApplicationForm>. No submission by email, post, or any other means will be accepted.

Each candidate must provide the following elements **at once**, as it is **not** possible to save and return to your application:

- ✓ Complete online application form fully in English
- ✓ A pre-bible of the series that you want to work on during the cowriting residency
- ✓ A letter of intent
- ✓ Resume/short CV
- ✓ A copy of your passport or ID

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

Submission to the residency will be open for applications **on November 2nd**. **The application deadline is on December 20th** at midnight (CET).

6.1 Eligibility criteria

The applicants must meet the threshold conditions described below.

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 or creatives on their behalf. Applications made on behalf of a company (production, distribution, TV channels, etc.) will not be accepted.

Submission to the residency is a joint application teams can consist of:

- Experienced screenwriters², one from France and one from Israel

² 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.

- 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
- Two screenwriters from France, one emerging and one experienced, and two screenwriters from Israel, one emerging and one experienced.
- 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 8 episodes (maximum)
- Length: between 20 and 60 minutes per episode
- Genre: fiction series (animation or documentaries will not be accepted)

Only originals concepts for seasons 1 will be accepted. Adaptations from books will not be accepted. Remakes from foreign or domestic series, seasons 2 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 submission³
- Fill the online registration form:
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/SeriesMania2/CowritingResidencyIsraelFranceApplicationForm>
- Provide the following documents (up to 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).
 - 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

³ Please refer to section **6.1 Eligibility Criteria** of this document

- 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 only by teams. So individual applications are not accepted.

Nevertheless, screenwriters who want to apply for the residency but don't have a partner or a project, can try to find a partner through a dedicated Facebook group opened by the CNC, GMFF and Series Mania: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cowritingresidency>

The Facebook Group has been created in order to facilitate the connection between writers from Israel and France and it is administrated by the Israel Screenwriters Association.

The group will be open for submissions from **November 2nd**:

Candidates must meet the threshold conditions⁴ 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.

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]

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 **January 12th, 2022**.

⁴ Please refer to section **6.1 Eligibility Criteria** of this document

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

7.1 Selection committee

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

- One member of the Series Mania team
- One member of the GMFF
- One member 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 the 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 5 (five) 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. 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.

9. Disputes

The aim of the residency is to encourage collaboration between screenwriters from France and Israel. As such, writers within each team acknowledge that they are working together in partnership to develop the story they have been selected with. In case of a dispute between the screenwriters of a team, the screenwriters must either resolve their differences on their own or choose to all opt out.

10. Confidentiality and communication

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

The projects will be displayed online on the Series Mania Digital platform, including: a visual for the project, a logline, a synopsis, writer's statement, and bible. The writers will also have a personal page on the Series Mania Digital platform, including: their biography, CV and contact information. These elements can be used for communication purposes and be 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.