

Press Release

# SERIESMAKERS

## SERIESMAKERS reveals three winners and announces second edition

**A-list filmmakers and showrunners Chris Brancato and Lisa Joy already confirmed for SERIESMAKERS' second edition**

**Lille/Munich, March 22, 2023.** Today, the creative initiative **SERIESMAKERS**, led by prestigious **Series Mania Forum** and supported by European content powerhouse **Beta Group**, announced the three winning projects. In addition to the winners, it was also announced that following the overwhelming success of the first edition, Beta Group and Series Mania have decided to open a second edition. Submissions are open as of today.

For further information on the initiative and registration, click here: <https://seriesmania.com/forum/en/seriesmakers-presentation/>

The two Beta Development Awards (€ 50,000 each) go to:

**YOURS, MARGOT** by director **Juho Kuosmanen** and producer **Jussi Rantamäki**  
(8x45', Finland)

*After discovering her father's letters to an unknown lover, Vilja unearths her family's traumatic past in 1980s East Berlin.*

Juho Kuosmanen's **COMPARTMENT NO 6** won the Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival official competition; **THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MÄKI** won Prix Un Certain Regard at Cannes Film Festival.

**THE INVISIBLE INK** by director **César Díaz** and producer **Fernando Epstein**  
(8x50', Belgium/Uruguay)

*A former Uruguayan revolutionary leads a peaceful life in Belgium until he*

*receives a visit from his old torturer, who threatens to kill his wife and daughter if he doesn't hand him a hidden loot. Now he must travel back to Uruguay, confront his past and face those who have considered him dead for 20 years.*

César Díaz' *OUR MOTHERS* won the Caméra d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, and New Directors Competition Award, Chicago International Film Festival.

The Kirch Foundation in collaboration with HFF (University of Television and Film Munich) award (€ 20,000) goes to:

**AMIGAS** by director **Beatriz Seigner** and writer **Maíra Bühler**

(6x52', Brazil)

*Five high school girl friends meet again at their 25th graduation anniversary. In their 40s now, life is far away from what they imagined. The encounter triggers a traumatic experience they lived together as teenagers and which they will need to face in order to free themselves in the present.*

Beatriz Seigner's *LOS SILENCIOS* participated at Quinzaine des Réalisateurs, Cannes Film Festival, and San Sebastián International Film Festival.

The recipients of this year's Beta Development Award will work closely with Beta's Content Division, led by CCO Koby Gal Raday, to develop the pilot script and a full package. The two teams will be invited to Series Mania's Forum 2024 to present their projects to the industry's most influential decision-makers, broadcasters, platforms, co-producers, and financiers.

Projects for the second edition can be submitted until **June 15, 2023**. Eligible are directors who have had at least one feature film screened in the official selection of an A-list film festival. The directors can submit as teams of either director-producer or director-writer. Ten teams with an idea for a scripted TV series will be selected to participate in this tailor-made training program. Once again, a jury will award two teams with a € 50,000 Beta Development Award each to develop a pilot script and a full package with additional support by Beta's Content Division. A third award of € 20,000, courtesy of the Kirch Foundation in collaboration with the HFF, will be given to a third project.

For this second edition, Chris Brancato (*NARCOS*, *GODFATHER OF HARLEM*, *PUSHING DAISIES*) and Lisa Joy (*WESTWORLD*, *THE PERIPHERAL*, *PUSHING DAISIES*) will join the prolific speakers and mentors who participated in the first

edition, such as Frank Doelger (GAME OF THRONES, THE SWARM), Stefan Arndt (THE WHITE RIBBON, RUN LOLA RUN, BABYLON BERLIN, GOODBYE LENIN) and Michael Polle (BABYLON BERLIN, HOUSE OF PROMISES, FURIA).

The creative initiative SERIESMAKERS is headed by Laurence Herszberg, General Director of Series Mania, and Koby Gal Raday, Chief Content Officer of Beta Group.

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**About Series Mania:**

Based in Lille since 2018, Series Mania - Lille / Hauts-de-France has become the biggest event dedicated uniquely to television series in Europe. Its festival offers exclusive world premieres of the greatest international series on the big screen, giving its audience - up to 70,000 spectators - 8 days of discoveries, parties, and masterclasses with some of the most renowned personalities in the series world. At the same time, Series Mania welcomes 3,300 professionals from over 64 countries at Series Mania Forum including the anticipated Lille Dialogues summit. Two key events for networking and business are now extended online with the creation in 2020 of Series Mania Digital. In 2021, Series Mania launched Series Mania Institute, a training program for students and industry professionals. The association is thus extending its action to support the creation of series in Europe.

<https://seriesmania.com/en/>

**About Beta Group:**

Owned by Jan Mojto since 2004, Beta Film produces, finances, and distributes high-end content for the global market. It draws on both long-standing and new relationships spanning public and private broadcasters, streaming platforms and special interest channels, production companies, theatrical and video distributors, and organizers of major film and TV festivals. The group partners with and holds stakes in European production companies for fiction and non-fiction as well as special interest channels. Founded in 1959 by Leo Kirch, Beta Film is based in Munich, Germany with offices in the US, Latin America, and throughout Europe.

<https://www.betafilm.com/portal>

**About Kirch Foundation:**

The non-profit Kirch Foundation was established in 1996 by Dr. Leo Kirch, media entrepreneur and owner of one of Germany's leading media groups, the Kirch Group. The Kirch Foundation supports projects in the fields of film, television, and visual arts, provides media art scholarships, and supports young filmmakers in their first career steps.

**About HFF:**

The prestigious University of Television and Film Munich (HFF) was founded in 1966. The wide range of degree programs is constantly expanding. Graduates include Wim Wenders and Roland Emmerich as well as Oscar winners Caroline Link, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, and Florian Gallenberger.