

**SERIES MANIA FORUM ANNOUNCES  
15 PROJECTS FOR ITS 2023 CO-PRO PITCHING SESSIONS  
AND INTERNATIONAL JURY OF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

**Winner of the Co-Pro Pitching Sessions to be awarded a grand prize of €50,000**



**PARIS & LILLE, FRANCE** – February 17, 2023 – Laurence Herszberg, Founder and General Director of Series Mania (March 17-24), today announced the 15 projects of 16 selected as part of the Co-Pro Pitching Sessions (March 21), the founding premise and most anticipated event of the Series Mania Forum (March 21-23). The 16<sup>th</sup> project, to be announced February 21, will also be presented out of competition in partnership with the Berlinale Co-Production Market.

Having received 450 projects from 66 different countries, the goal of the Forum's Co-Pro Pitching Sessions is to help these high-end European and International drama projects find potential financial partners. An international jury of industry professionals will determine the best project among the 15 projects and prize the Best Project Award €50,000 to help develop the winning series.

“We could not be prouder of the fact that this year we received a record number of submissions with increasing interest from African countries including Kenya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria” commented Herszberg. “Genres that dominated the selection process this year included thrillers and detective stories followed closely by histor-

ical dramas with a strong appeal to the 90s. We also received many women themed stories based on real life events. We greatly look forward to unveiling the winner of the Best Project Award with €50,000 on March 21 in Lille.”

The 2023 international jury of industry professionals includes:

- **Jury President: Caroline Hollick** (United Kingdom), Head of Drama, Channel 4
- **Michele Zatta** (Italy), Commissioning Editor, RAI
- **Françoise Guyonnet** (France), Executive Managing Director TV Series, Studio-Canal
- **Jarmo Lampela** (Finland), Head of Drama, YLE - Finnish Broadcasting Company
- **Lindsey Martin** (United Kingdom), VP, Development & Co-Productions, CBS Studios International

**The following list of selected projects (in alphabetical order) will be pitched by their producers to a panel of potential financiers and are eligible for the Best Project Award of €50,000:**

**ASMA** - 8 x 52' - France

Genre : Biopic

Produced by Patricia Boutinard Rouelle for Nilaya Productions

Written by Antoine Vitkine

**COOPER** - 8 x 45' - Australia, South Africa

Genre : Crime drama

Produced by Kylie du Fresne for Goalpost Pictures and Nimrod Geva for Quizzical Pictures

Written by James McNamara, Amy Jephtha and Malla Nunn, based on Malla Nunn Books

**DUST AND COAL** - 8 x 52' - Israël, France

Genre : Psychological thriller

Produced by Ronen Ben Tal for Bental Productions Ltd and Morgane Le Moine for First Love

Written by Ronen Ben Tal, Ron Ninio, Ofer Seker and Eleanor Sela

**EXECUTIONERS** - 6 x 60' - Spain

Genre : Coming of age, Thriller

Produced by Alberto Rull for Vertice 360

Written by Pedro Garcia Rios and Rodrigo Martin

**FORT APACHE** - 8 x 50' - Italy

Genre: Action, Crime

Produced by Fabrizio Donvito, Marco Cohen, Benedetto Habib, Daniel Campos Pavoncelli for Indiana Production Company

Executive Producer: Kim Gualino

Written by Ivano Fachin, Giovanni Galassi and Tommaso Matano

**HIJACKING PARADISE** - 6 x 52' - Belgium

Genre : Geopolitical hostage thriller

Produced by Dimitri Verbeeck for Caviar

Created by Stijn Deconinck

Written by Stijn Deconinck & Nathalie Teirlinck

**YOP** - 8 x 45' - Sweden

Genre: Drama

Produced by Moa Westeson, Cindy Hanson and Anni Faurbye Fernandez for Nevis Productions

Written by David Jassy

**LETTERS TO LEONARD** - 5 x 50' - Greece

Genre : Drama, LGBTQIA+

Produced by George Linardakis for Stefi Productions

Written by Fotis Dousos and John Samaras on an idea of Pierros Andrakakos

**MONITOR** - 6 x 60' - Germany

Genre : High-Tech Thriller

Produced by Fabian Massah & Marc Malze for Endorphine Production

Created by Nikolai Müllerschön

**OUR FATHER** - 8 x 55' - Ireland, Canada

Genre : Comedy

Produced by Aaron Farrell for ShinAwil and Dominic Scheiber for Reel One Entertainment

Written by John Cairns and Michael McCartney

**THE BRONTE GIRLS** - 6 x 60' - United Kingdom

Genre : Historical, Coming of age

Developed by Parsonage Productions Ltd. with ZDF Studios

Written by Caroline Kelly Franklin

**THE SALVATORE MUNDI CASE** - 6 x 52' - France

Genre : Thriller

Produced by Florent Gellie for Incognita and Nathanaël La Combe for Wonder Films

Written by Angela Soupe and Antoine Vitkine

**THE UNQUIET DEAD** - 6 x 60' – Canada

Genre : Serialized Crime drama

Produced by Shaftesbury

Written by Abdul Malik, based on the book series created by Ausma Zehanat Khan

**UNSPOKEN** - 6 x 30' - Ukraine, Poland

Genre: War thriller

Produced by Anna Rozalska, Dmytro Sukhanov and Natalia Liber for Match&Spark (Poland),

Toy Cinema (Ukraine) and 2Brave Productions (Ukraine).

Written by Zhanna Ozirna and Filip Syczyński

**VANISHED** - 6 x 45' - Germany, Iceland

Genre : Crime, Historical

Written by Mikael Torfason

Produced by Britta Hansen and Franziska Lindner for RED PONY PICTURES and

Ragnheidur Erlingsdottir for Zik Zak Filmworks

Exec. Producers: Sven Sund (RPP), Thor S. Sigurjónsson (ZZ) and Wolfgang Feindt (ZDF)

## **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/>

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