



Press release

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THE **SERIES MANIA** FESTIVAL (Season 7, 15-24 April 2016) The European Coproduction Forum invites a TV series project from the Berlinale to Paris

Laurence Herszberg, founder of the Series Mania Festival, has selected the Canadian project *The Illegal*, TV series in development which appeared at this year's **Drama Series Days** industry event at the **Berlin Film Festival's Coproduction Market** to enjoy a second round of promotion at the **European Coproduction Forum** which runs from 19-21 April as part of the Series Mania Festival in Paris.

For the second consecutive year, the **European Coproduction Forum** has partnered with the **Berlin Film Festival's Coproduction Market** to jointly support two projects for TV series. The events have a shared aim to facilitate European coproductions and cofinancing, and by each showcasing both projects, they hope to optimize potential sources of financing for them.

Laurence Herszberg chose the Canadian project *The Illegal*, adaptation of Lawrence Hill's novel, from **the seven potential projects** that were presented at the Drama Series Days.

"We selected this project for the originality of its story and its savvy mix of sports competition and political issues. The story, based on the best-selling novel by Lawrence Hill starts in Africa and continues in Europe. As Africa is a developing series market, this scenario opens multiple business opportunities. We also see major potential for a Canadian project seeking partners in Europe", Laurence Herszberg explains.

The series creator and the production company, Conquering Lion Pictures, are invited to Paris in April for the fourth edition of the European Coproduction Forum. They will be able to present their project to some 300 professionals including coproducers, distributors, international sales people and representatives of the major European TV channels.

The Illegal joins the Danish project *DNA*, that featured in the 2015 edition of the European Coproduction Forum and was promoted at this year's Drama Series Days in February. Created by **Torleif Hoppe**, the talented creator of *The Killing*, *DNA* is being driven by **Eyeworks Scandi Fiction**, the Swedish-Danish production company.

Another highpoint of the Drama Series Days in Berlin, was a round table on **Monday 15 February** when Laurence Herszberg moderated a **case study** of the *Cleverman* series, a USA-Australia-New Zealand coproduction. She was joined by Australian series creator **Ryan Griffen**, **Angela Littlejohn** from Pukeko Pictures, **Rosemary Blight** from Goalpost Pictures and **Amelie von Kienlin** from Red Arrow International.

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FORUM DES IMAGES PRESS OFFICE

Head of Press: **Diana-Odile Lestage**

Tel: +33 1 44 76 63 07 – diana-odile.lestage@forumdesimages.fr

About the European Coproduction Forum for TV Series

The European Coproduction Forum for TV Series is the industry arm of the Series Mania Festival. Over the space of three editions, it has become a key event in the international calendar for the TV series sector.

The European Coproduction Forum, which runs from **19-21 April 2016**, has this year widened out its selection to include **15 projects** for series in development, compared to 12 last year. These will be presented to some **300 potential co-financers including producers, distributors, and TV channel executives** who will be attending this fourth edition. The event will include daily Pitch and Work-in-Progress sessions, conferences, and individual meetings.

The European Coproduction Forum for TV Series counts some major partners including: **Gaumont, “presenting partner”;** **Red Arrow International, Newen Group, Lagardère Studios** and **Makever**. As well as the **Club des Producteurs Européens, the Ateliers du Cinéma Européen (ACE)** and **European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE)**.

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