



TUESDAY, MARCH 3 2015

Press Release to all Canadian medias

Incendo announces, in the presence of the Quebec Premier, Mr Philippe Couillard, the coproduction with Capa Drama and Zodiak Media, of *Versailles*.

With an international cast including George Blagden, Alexander Vlahos, Dominique Blanc, Tygh Runyan, Amira Casar... Jalil Lespert will direct the first two episodes of the series and Daniel Roby will direct the last three.

Incendo, announces together with Capa Drama and Zodiak Media, the coproduction of *VERSAILLES*, the 10 x 52' episode series developed as a CANAL+ Original Creation. Principal photography commenced on August 18, 2014 and has just ended in Versailles, near Paris. *VERSAILLES* is supported by an international cast, including George Blagden (*Vikings*) who plays LOUIS XIV and Alexander Vlahos (*Merlin* and *Privates*) in the role of MONSIEUR, as well as two French actresses Dominique Blanc as ANNE OF AUSTRIA, and Amira Casar as BEATRICE, a courtesan. The actors Tygh Runyan, Stuart Bowman, Noémie Schmidt, Anna Brewster, Lizzie Brocheré, Evan Williams and Sarah Winter are also part of the cast.

Jalil Lespert (*Yves Saint-Laurent*, *Headwinds*) will direct the first two episodes of the series. The production designer is Katia Wyszkop (François Ozon's *Potiche –Trophy Wife*, Benoît Jacquot's *Farewell, My Queen*, and Maurice Pialat's *Van Gogh*). The last three episodes will be directed by Quebec Daniel Roby (*Louis Cyr*, *Funkytown*).

This ambitious period drama is created by Simon Mirren (*Without a Trace*, *Criminal Minds*) and David Wolstencroft (*Spooks*, *The Escape Artist*). Simon Mirren and David Wolstencroft will act as showrunners, write five episodes of the series, and executive produce the series alongside Anne Thomopoulos (*Rome*, *The Borgias* and *Camelot*).

VERSAILLES 1667

The year is 1667. Louis is 28 years old and the sole commander of his kingdom following his mother's death.

Louis is burdened by insecurity brought on by ambitious government ministers and memories of his childhood trauma, a bitter coup attempt known as “the Fronde”.

To attain absolute power, he creates a trap at Versailles. Using the palace and its entertainments as bait, Louis ensnares and disempowers the nobles who threaten him. Amongst his targets is his younger brother, Monsieur: an openly gay warrior for whom Louis' hatred is matched only by his love.

The first season sees Louis evolve from a young King into an absolute Monarch, a 17th century rockstar with the mind of Machiavelli. A calculating predator, Louis is determined to drag France out of the dark ages, and transform her into a supreme global power.

INCENDO

Incendo is a Canadian company that specializes in the production, and Canadian and International distribution of high quality television programming for the worldwide marketplace. Since its inception in 2001, the company has produced compelling movies, television series as well as documentaries that have been sold throughout the world. Through its joint venture with Twentieth Century Fox International Television (Fox/Incendo), Incendo is the leading television distribution company in Canada and also handles theatrical distribution in Québec for Paramount. In 2015, Incendo will produce five new made-for-television movies, as well as the Versailles series, in coproduction with CAPA Drama and Zodiak Fiction.

Capa Drama

CAPA DRAMA, the TV fiction division of the Capa Group, was created in 1993 with the aim to innovative and modernise French TV drama with ground-breaking films and serie. In twenty years it has asserted its own tone, style and identity on French TV by exploring all genres and styles of storytelling, as demonstrated by its series of political films such as *SAC*, *Des Hommes Dans L'Ombre* or *L'école du Pouvoir* and with police series like *Police District* and *Braquo* (International Emmy Award for best series 2012) *Versailles* is Capa Drama's first international co-production series.

Versailles is Capa's and Incendo's first venture into historical drama, maintaining the same quality and ambition as with all their other productions.

Zodiak

Zodiak Media is the leading independent in entertainment, factual, drama and kids, with 45 companies operating in 17 countries and \$800m in annual revenues. Creating, producing, and selling content across all key genres and broadcast platforms, Zodiak Media owns major properties such as

Millennium, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Wife Swap, The Secret Millionaire, The Inbetweeners, Totally Spies, Fort Boyard and Being Human.

Zodiak Rights, the international rights business of Zodiak Media, boasts a growing catalogue of around 15,000 hours of content. Zodiak Rights represents both Zodiak Media programming and formats, and a substantial catalogue of third-party independent content. Zodiak Rights specialises in worldwide television and home entertainment distribution and all aspects of licensing, with highly experienced sales teams in London and Paris, offering a tailored service for producers with the benefit of scale.

Headquartered in Paris and with other key offices in London, Los Angeles, Milan, Stockholm and Moscow, Zodiak Media, majority-owned by giant Italian conglomerate De Agostini, operates across the world as a leading independent studio combining creative flair with financial strength.

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