

ITV Studios inks major premium drama deal with France Télévisions

Published Thu 10 Oct 2024



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ITV Studios today announces that it has signed a new deal with France Télévisions, delivering a substantial package of premium scripted content to their channels, including the award-winning thriller series **The Gathering**.

From the producers of *Line of Duty* and *Vigil*, **The Gathering** (World Productions for Channel 4) was awarded Best Fiction Series, Best Actress and Best Actor at the Monte Carlo TV Festival in June. It cleverly wraps globally relevant themes about what it means to be a teenager – or a parent of teenagers – into a contemporary, twisting whodunnit. Also from World Productions' **Fifteen-Love**, starring Aidan Turner and Ella Lily Hyland has been acquired. The six-part series, created and written by Hania Elkington (*The Innocents*, *The Essex Serpent*) and directed by Eva Riley (*Perfect Ten*) and Toby MacDonald (*Ragdoll*), follows Justine's meteoric rise and tragic fall in the elite world of Grand Slam tennis.

Among the selection France Télévisions is the compelling and twisty character-driven thriller **Dead Hot** (Quay Street Productions for Prime Video UK), created

and written by Charlotte Coben (*The Stranger, Stay Close*) and executive produced by Nicola Shindler (*It's A Sin, Happy Valley*). The show delves into themes of class, love, and identity through the friendship of Elliot (Bilal Hasna) and Jess (Vivian Oparah), who are bonded by the trauma of losing Peter—Elliot's first love and Jess's twin brother.

The expansive deal also includes second-window rights to the crime thriller ***The Serpent*** (Mammoth Screen for BBC One and Netflix), which tells the remarkable story of how conman and murderer Charles Sobhraj was brought to justice. The eight-part series, starring Tahar Rahim, Jenna Coleman, Billy Howle, and Ellie Bamber, became BBC iPlayer's most popular show with 31 million streams across the series when it launched in 2021.

Manuel Alduy, Head of Cinema and International & Young Adult Fiction, France Télévisions said, "We're not only happy for this deal with our trustful partner ITV Studios, but also excited to provide to French audiences with this slate of innovative new series that cover modern issues with entertaining stories."

Gisela Asimus Minnbergh, EVP Sales EMEA, Global Partnerships at ITV Studios, said, "We're delighted to continue our long-standing relationship with France Télévisions, bringing an exciting lineup of new dramas to their viewers. ***The Gathering*** bowled over the judges at the Monte Carlo TV Festival this year and sure to repeat this with French audiences. Completed with even more tentpole titles like ***Fifteen-Love, The Serpent*** and ***Dead Hot*** this is a phenomenal, eclectic drama package."

The deal was brokered on behalf of ITV Studios by Cristina Brun, Vice President, Sales, EMEA.

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About ITV Studios

ITV Studios is a creator, producer and distributor of world-leading programmes that people can't get enough of. We connect millions of people every day and shape and reflect the world they live in, we are More Than TV. ITV Studios is home to some of the best creative minds, crafting over 6,700 hours of original programming across 60+ production labels. Our global footprint spans 12 countries including the UK, US, Australia, France, Germany, The Nordics, Italy and the Netherlands and our global distribution business sells our catalogue of 90,000+ hours to broadcasters and platforms around the world.

About Groupe France Télévisions

The French national public broadcasting group France Télévisions has the biggest viewership, and encompasses:

- One online platform (france.tv) featuring a full range of thematic digital content (news, youth, sports, culture, education, overseas territories);
- Four national channels (France 2, France 3, France 4 – with Okoo and Culturebox –, and France 5);
- 24-hour world news service across all media (France info);
- Two networks (24 regional branches of France 3 in mainland France) and nine global TV/radio/web services in the French overseas territories (La Première); and
- Five subsidiaries: France Télévisions Publicité, France Télévisions Studio, France Télévisions Distribution, France 2 Cinéma et France 3 Cinéma

France Télévisions plays a key role in the French audiovisual landscape, with four out of five people in France tuning in on a weekly basis, across all screens. Deeply committed to creativity, the publicly-owned group is also the leading funder of independent French productions.

For more information, check francetelevisions.fr

Press Contacts

laura.saunders@itv.com

Viewer enquiries

<https://www.itv.com/contact/how-to-get-in-touch>