

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Le Forum des images est une institution soutenue par la ville de Paris

# Series Mania Festival –5th Season

from april 22-30 2014 - free access

Created by the Forum des Images, the Series Mania Festival is celebrating its fifth season by spreading its programming over three additional days.

Heralded by the public and industry professionals alike, the event dedicated to the **latest in international TV series and their creators** offers an exciting line-up on the big screen, with free entry.

From the United States to South Korea, France, Australia, Belgium, Israel, Britain, Quebec and Denmark, more than 40 series, all of them exclusive premieres, will be presented this year. Screenings will include pilot episodes, marathon sessions, full seasons as well as a selection of international web-series, all giving audiences the opportunity to see what is making waves both here and elsewhere in the world. Themes that emerge in this fifth edition include religion, the denunciation of dematerialization, and the fear of contamination.

#### PREMIERE SCREENINGS

With a line-up of some **20 English-language productions**, **the American selection** shows a real diversity of genres: *noir* crime thriller with *True Detective*, a gay chronicle with *Looking*, or the immersion in the showbiz world with *Ray Donovan*. *The Red Road*, created by Aaron Guzikowski (*Prisoners*), for which the pilot was directed by James Gray, is also a highly anticipated title.

The British series in the line-up sketch a varied trajectory with the amorous adventures of *Dates*, the futurist vision of *Black Mirror*, or a plunge into the connected world in the form of a thriller, with *Babylon* created by Danny Boyle.

The growing ambition and diversity of French series are proven once again. Among the six productions selected by Series Mania, spectators can discover season 2 of *Ainsi soient-ils*, season 5 of *Mafiosa*, and also some brand new drama such as the historical series *Ceux de* 14.

In its wide panorama dedicated to series from around the world, the festival is this year presenting another crop of a **dozen titles**.

The knack of Nordic producers for drama is once again confirmed, particularly with the Swedish series **Real Humans** (season 2) and **Mammon**, from Norway. Asia is represented by the apocalyptic Korean series, **The End of the World**, about a viral epidemic.

Long recognized for its creativity, Israel provides a surprising take on religious orthodoxy with **Mekimi**, while Australia delivers the standout series **Devil's Playground**, which combines psychoanalysis, religion and politics.

Many other series with as many surprises will feature in the final line-up.

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#### THE FESTIVAL AWARDS

Alongside the Audience Award and the International Press Award, Series Mania has created two more awards this year: the Bloggers Award, in the "World Series" section, and the "Internauts Award", for the new section of international web series, screened in the theaters and also on the Series Mania website.

## **MEET THE PUBLIC**

A venue for multiples discoveries on the big screen, Series Mania is also a forum for exchanges and debates between writers, filmmakers, talent and producers from around the world.

As with previous editions, Series Mania is organizing some **exceptional encounters with renowned creators**: some rare moments when they will talk about their working methods and their artistic universe. **This still-confidential guest list will be unveiled soon**.

After the screenings, the audience will have the chance to talk to the teams from the French dramas, and also with those of the foreign series.

**Three conferences**, hosted by specialists, critics and journalists, will tackle subjects specific to a series or a genre. Not forgetting the traditional **round table hosted by Allo Ciné**, which opens the festival.

## **INDUSTRY EVENTS**

Series Mania has also become a key event for industry professionals. Around 100 participants are expected to attend the second **European TV Series Coproduction Forum**, initiated by Series Mania and **backed by the EU MEDIA program**. From 23 to 25 April, 10 project leaders will meet with producers and channel representatives to discuss potential cofinancing deals.

**Three round tables**, open to the public, will address topical issues facing the sector, including the challenges of writing of a second season. **Access to an expanded selection** of 60 series from around the world rounds out this section of the festival.

Informations : Forum des images +33 1 44 76 63 00 – www.series-mania.fr

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Series Mania Festival thanks the broadcasting organizations :

OCS: True Detective, Looking, JIMMY: Ray Donovan, Canal +: Mafiosa (saison 5),

ARTE: Ainsi soient-ils (saison 2), Real Humans (saison 2), France 3: Ceux de 14, France 4: Black

Mirror et Sundance Channel: The Red Road