



Press release

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The Forum des images is supported by the City of Paris

The Series Mania Festival, Season 7 15-24 April 2016

An unprecedented hit with both the public and the industry!

A FESTIVAL FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

For its 7th edition, the **Series Mania** festival was bigger than ever, offering an exceptional edition with some prestigious highlights over the course of the event.

The festival enjoyed **record attendance, up 74%** on last year, proof of the growing popularity of the series format amongst the general public.

Numerous world premiers allowed the festival's **38,500 visitors** to discover the highly anticipated ***Jour Polaire*** (CANAL+), ***Nobel*** (NRK), ***The Kettering Incident*** (Foxtel, Showcase Channel), and ***Beau Séjour*** (ARTE), as well as a range of other major French series including ***Cannabis*** and ***Au-delà des murs*** (ARTE), and ***Irresponsable*** (OCS).

This year's Series Mania festival spread outside the walls of the Forum des images, taking up two theaters in the neighboring UGC Ciné Cité Les Halles multiplex. This increased the Paris-based festival's capacity and enabled it to screen around 100 additional screenings.

The opening night gala for Series Mania at the Grand Rex cinema saw an audience of 2,500 come together to applaud the actor **Bobby Cannavale**, who was in attendance to present the pilot of the HBO series ***Vinyl*** (broadcast in France on OCS), directed by Martin Scorsese and shown for the first time on the big screen in this legendary shrine to cinema.

Throughout the festival, **43 series and 16 webseries** from **17 countries**, including Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Sweden, the UK, and the USA were shown on the big screen, in the presence of their creators and cast. More than **70 special guests** were also invited to the event, coming from all around the world.

The Series Mania festival had the honor of welcoming the legendary showrunner **David Chase**, **who presided over the jury for the competition of world and international premieres**, which was launched this year. David Chase is the creator of the cult series ***The Sopranos***, and is considered to be the godfather of the series format. He headed up a **prestigious jury** of four other renowned personalities, **Yaël Abecassis**, **Amira Casar**, **Tony Grisoni**, and **Fanny Herrero**. During the festival, **David Chase** discussed his career **during a special Q&A with the general public**.

This edition also marked the return of **Clyde Phillips**, creator of ***Dexter***, who presented a world exclusive of ***Feed the Beast***, which will be broadcast on the US channel AMC at the end of May.

Another highlight of the event was the presence of Oscar-winning actor **Cuba Gooding Jr.** who came to meet the people of Paris for the first time, after the screening of ***The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story***. The series was created by Ryan Murphy, and will soon be shown in France by the M6 Group.

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PRESS OFFICE

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Bestselling crime writer **Harlan Coben** was also in attendance, speaking to a packed theater after presenting a premiere screening of his series *Harlan Coben's The Five*, in competition at the festival and soon to screen on CANAL+.

Other special international guests included **Frank Spotnitz**, **Matthew Penn**, and **Leonardo Padura** along with local talent **Yousef Sweid**, **Leïla Bekhti**, and **Mathilde Seigner**, all of whom inspired a series of fascinating discussions about the amazing creativity of the series format wherever they are produced.

Many debates, conferences, and professional round tables, all open to the general public, contributed to the analysis of current trends for the series format.

The Series Mania website also saw visitor numbers grow this year by more than 70%, with hits coming from Europe, Asia, and the US.

Check out the video highlights of the festival at
www.series-mania.fr/en/

A FESTIVAL FOR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

More than **1,350 press and industry professionals** also attended the festival, taking advantage of the Forum des images video library of **64 series especially selected for them**, and enjoying **more than 3,780 screenings!**

At the heart of Series Mania was the **fourth edition of the European TV Series Coproduction Forum**, which ran from **19-21 April** and was greatly appreciated by the many French and international industry players who attended this year.

Sixteen projects for series looking for financing were selected and presented to a panel of **426 key decision-makers** from Europe's biggest production companies and broadcasters. The projects were shortlisted from 193 potentials from **33 countries**.

With more than **465 individual meetings** organized during this fourth edition, up 51% over 2015, the Series Mania Coproduction Forum is forging a reputation as the new think-tank for the European TV industry for all industry professionals seeking future funding partners.

In collaboration with the CNC, the second **European TV Series Conference Day** was the highpoint of the Coproduction Forum, complete with industry round-table debates, presentations to TV channels, and work-in-progress sessions on the series *Tabula Rasa* from Belgium (VRT).

The Coproduction Forum is supported by the **CNC, Europe Créative – MEDIA, Gaumont Télévision, Red Arrow international, Newen, Lagardère Studios, Makever** and **Haut et Court**.

For more information, contact the Forum des images
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 63 00 – www.series-mania.fr/en/

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