

PRESS REVIEW

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CANAL+, Capa Drama, Zodiak, Incendo offer treat of Versailles

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Hoping to tap into the thirst for high-end period drama, Capa Drama, Zodiak and Incendo have announced the production launch of Versailles, a 10 x 52' series developed with CANAL+ Original Creation.

Capa Drama, Canal+ and Zodiak entered a partnership four years ago with the intention of bringing the history of Versailles to life with what Capa Drama's Claude Chelli called a "modern, innovative and provocative twist." The series has been created by Simon Mirren (*Without a Trace*, *Criminal Minds*) and David Wolstencroft (*Spooks*, *The Escape Artist*) and Capa Drama, Zodiak France and Incendo will share executive production. Filming of the series is set to debut in August 2014 in France with an international cast with post-production, more precisely special effects, to take place in Canada.

Mirren and Wolstencroft will also act as show runners for the co-production and will write five episodes of the series. Commenting on the new series they and what they hope to achieve, they said: "Louis XIV didn't just reinvent what it meant to be a King. In building Versailles he created the world's first global brand. This is a contemporary story of power, betrayal, and family that just so happens to be set in the 17th century."

Added Fabrice de la Patellière, head of French Drama and Co-Productions, CANAL+: "We are delighted to launch, together with our partners, this ambitious series which is true to our Original Creation editorial strategy, in terms of international co-productions. Simon Mirren and David Wolstencroft's take on this landmark chapter in our history is a guarantee of originality and unique modernity for us all."

Zodiak Rights will handle international sales of the series, excluding Canada, and the company will be hoping to repeat the success it had with the international distribution of French drama series *The Returned*. Offerings his opinion on what the series could mean to the company, Zodiak France's Philippe Alessandri said: "it is very satisfying to produce and distribute this project; bold in all its dimensions, a fresh take on the period drama genre. Versailles marks Zodiak's premium international co-production ambitions. The positive feedback from the international market confirms this strategy."

Read more: [CANAL+, Capa Drama, Zodiak, Incendo offer treat of Versailles | News | Rapid TV News http://www.rapidtvnews.com/2014070634381/canal-capa-drama-zodiak-incendo-offer-treat-of-versailles.html#ixzz3FYvWfgUP](http://www.rapidtvnews.com/2014070634381/canal-capa-drama-zodiak-incendo-offer-treat-of-versailles.html#ixzz3FYvWfgUP)

Zodiak Starts Filming *Versailles*

Together with CANAL+, Capa Drama and Incendo, the company announced the filming debut of the new drama series developed for CANAL+ Original Programming; created by Simon Mirren and David Wolstencroft.

By [itvnews](#)

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CANAL+, Capa Drama, Zodiak and Incendo announced the filming debut of *Versailles*, the 10x52' drama series developed for CANAL+ Original Programming. The six months shooting schedule started on August 18th and is set in Versailles and the Paris region.

The series' international cast includes George Blagden (*Vikings*) starring as Louis XIV; Alexander Vlahos (*Merlin*, *Privates*) as Monsieur; French actresses Dominique Blanc (*Une vie de Chat*, *Queen Margot*) as Anne of Austria and Amira Casar (*Saint-Laurent*, *The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes*) as Beatrice, a courtesan.

The cast also includes actors Tygh Runyan, Stuart Bowman, Noémie Schmidt, Evan Williams, Anna Brewster, Sarah Winter, Anatole Taubman, Lizzie Brocheré, Elisa Lasowski, Maddison Jaizani, Peter Hudson, and Gilly Gilchrist.

Jalil Lespert (*Yves Saint-Laurent*, *Headwinds*) is the director of the first two episodes of the series. The production design is handled by Katia Wyszokop (production designer François Ozon's *Potiche* – *Trophy Wife*, Benoît Jacquot's *Farewell, My Queen* and Maurice Pialat's *Van Gogh*).

This ambitious period drama is created by Simon Mirren (*Without a Trace*, *Criminal Minds*) and David Wolstencroft (*MI-5*, *The Escape Artist*).

Versailles is a CANAL+, Capa Drama, Zodiak and Incendo co-production. Zodiak Rights holds the worldwide distribution rights of the series, excluding Canada, where sales are handled by Incendo Media.

Versailles is a dramatic journey into a unique time and place in history where the cults of celebrity and style were born, created by an absolute monarch with a compulsion to control the world.