

## **STUDIOCANAL invests in UK's RED Production Company, to develop and expand ambitions within TV production**

Paris/London – Thursday 5 December, 2013 - Leading European media company, CANAL+ Group today announced a new strategic move within the TV industry.

STUDIOCANAL has taken a majority stake in one of the UK's most successful independent producers, RED Production Company.

Since its creation in 1998 RED has produced some of the UK's most popular and critically acclaimed drama series: from the groundbreaking **Queer as Folk** for Channel 4, to the ratings-winning **Scott & Bailey** for ITV and most recently, the double BAFTA-winning **Last Tango in Halifax**, which returns to BBC One for a second series this month.

The Manchester-based indie has a proven track record of working with the industry's best writers to produce modern, innovative and entertaining programming. With this investment, STUDIOCANAL aims to build on RED's successes by developing new UK productions as well as facilitating new, ambitious international series.

RED Production Company's day to day operations and productions will continue to be led by Nicola Shindler alongside Managing Director Andrew Critchley.

Nicola Shindler, founder and executive producer at RED Production Company, said: "When I first set up RED in the late 1990s I wanted to work with the best writers in the industry to produce the very best drama content. This is still my priority and the day to day running of the company will be unchanged. The significant investment from STUDIOCANAL gives us at RED the opportunity to meet our growing ambitions without compromising the core values of the company. I am looking forward to working with STUDIOCANAL on producing ambitious, daring and engaging content – both in the UK and internationally – as well as accessing their extensive library of film content."

STUDIOCANAL, which also has a majority stake in German-based producer TANDEM, continues its development into international TV series, strengthening its position as a European leader in content. The company's ambition is to replicate the successful business model developed for feature films, for TV series.

Olivier Courson, Chairman and CEO of STUDIOCANAL said "Partnering with RED is a step forward in positioning STUDIOCANAL as a European leader in content production. Nicola Shindler's strong track record of developing acclaimed and popular British TV series is the perfect fit for our ambition to develop British and international content out of the UK. Thanks to RED and TANDEM, STUDIOCANAL will be able to provide broadcasters and platforms with high quality international TV programs"

### **ENDS**

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## **Notes to Editors:**

### **RED PRODUCTION COMPANY**

RED Production Company was set up by Nicola Shindler in 1998 to work with the best writers on modern, innovative and entertaining programming.

The Manchester-based indie has since produced some of the UK's most popular drama series working with esteemed writers including Russell T Davies, Bill Gallagher, Sally Wainwright, Danny Brocklehurst and Sean Conway.

2013 has been an enormously successful year for RED Production Company with new projects on screen including HEADING OUT (BBC2), PAT AND CABBAGE (ITV) and two one-off dramas for SKY as well as the return of the double BAFTA-winning LAST TANGO IN HALIFAX (BBC One) in November and a third series of ratings-winning police drama SCOTT & BAILEY (ITV). The indie also has an enviable production slate including the latest drama from BAFTA-award winning writer, Sally Wainwright: HAPPY VALLEY for BBC One, a fourth series of SCOTT & BAILEY, new three part drama with John Simm, PREY, for ITV and six-part drama series ORDINARY LIES for the BBC as well as a number of new, ambitious developments.

RED Production Company has also been recognised with a number of industry accolades in the past 12 months. Not only was Nicola Shindler recently awarded an RTS Fellowship but she was also named Female Indie of the Year at the WFTV Awards last December. RED was also named Best Independent Production Company at the prestigious Broadcast Awards earlier this year.

RED Production Company has also produced a series of short films for BBC Learning and two series of acclaimed Woman's Hour Radio 4 drama, CRAVEN, starring Maxine Peake.

The company recently ventured into feature films, working with Bill Gallagher on an adaptation of their 2004 hit CONVICTION called BLOOD, with Neal Street Productions which premiered at the London film festival in 2012.

### **STUDIOCANAL:**

STUDIOCANAL is a subsidiary of the CANAL+ Group. It is one of Europe's leading companies in the market for co-production, acquisition, distribution and sales of international feature films. STUDIOCANAL is the only studio operating simultaneously in the three main European territories - France, the United Kingdom and Germany - as well as in Australia and New Zealand. The company distributes a total of more than 50 films a year. Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important libraries in the world, with more than 5,000 international titles.

STUDIOCANAL's production ambitions have included the Coen's INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS, with Justin Timberlake, Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan and John Goodman, that was awarded the Jury's Grand Prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival; And soon to be released are Susanne Bier's SERENA, starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence; Hossein Amini's THE TWO FACES OF JANUARY with Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst and Oscar Isaac, produced by Working Title, and NON STOP directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, with Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore and Michelle Dockery.

New productions include : THE GUNMAN produced by Joel Silver, directed by Pierre Morel with Sean Penn, Javier Bardem and Idris Elba; MACBETH starring Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard, directed by Justin Kurtzel; PADDINGTON, produced by Harry Potter's producer David Heyman, based on the famous, and hugely popular, bear in the duffle coat loved by families worldwide, starring Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Bonneville; SHAUN THE SHEEP in partnership with Aardman Animations, bringing one of their most popular animated characters to the big screen.

STUDIOCANAL also has an exclusive deal with Belgian company nWave, a European leader in 3D production. They produced SAMMY's adventures, and are currently working on HOUSE OF MAGIC, their new animated 3D film.

Finally, in January 2012, STUDIOCANAL became a major shareholder in Tandem Communications, one of the leading European companies for international primetime event TV productions and worldwide distribution of quality television programs (CROSSING LINES, THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH, LABYRINTH, WORLD WITHOUT END... ).