

US & FRENCH CONNECTION



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SERIES MANIA 2022 US & French Connection Project Line-Up Unveiled

As part of the US & FRENCH CONNECTION program, FRENCH IN MOTION, THE GOTHAM FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE (formerly IFP) and SERIES MANIA are thrilled to announce their selection for the 2022 edition of Series Mania.

US & FRENCH CONNECTION is a program created in 2016 by French In Motion and The Gotham Film & Media Institute (formerly IFP) to help creatives find partners on the other side of the Atlantic. It fosters the development of international co-productions by connecting filmmakers to leading decision makers at international markets in France and in the US. Alumni of the program include "The Man Who Sold His Skin", awarded at Venice and nominated for Best International Picture at the 2021 Academy Awards.

The program is supported by the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, UniFrance and Banque Transatlantique.

This year, the four narrative series selected through US & FRENCH CONNECTION, whose creators and producers will get the opportunity to meet with key industry players at Series Mania, are the following:

CINNAMON

Created by **Joëlle Bourjolly** (*Happy Face, Terminal Venus, Soother*)

Producers: **Jojolly Productions, Joëlle Bourjolly**.

Fearing political persecution by François "Papa Doc" Duvalier, the Malveaux family, a wealthy mixed-race clan, flee Haïti and resettle in Canada. But even after 12 years in Québec, they still don't feel like they belong. All that will change in the summer of 1976, when the Olympics put Montréal on the map, and landmark elections alter the course of the Malveaux's lives forever.

THE FORTUNE TELLER'S DAUGHTER

Created By: **Raye Levine Spielberg** and **Krista Donargo**

Producer: **Kim Veasey, Zoe**

A New York City based psychologist loses her grasp on reality after her husband's suicide, and returns to her hometown of New Orleans where she inherits an abandoned psychic shop. Drawn into the abyss of black magic and the occult, she finds herself complicit in an illegal, underground operation.

The Fortune Teller's Daughter is a gritty, sexy, psychological thriller with supernatural elements. Centered around a mother and daughter, this show explores the alternate realities the mind creates in order to cope, when life throws us a punch to the gut. A thrilling escape, grounded with social commentary. (think: The Craft, Baz Luhrmann's Romeo & Juliet, Breaking Bad).

THE GET

Created By **Steph Ouaknine** (Queering the Script, The Carmilla Movie, Carmilla Series)

Producers: **Melanie Windle** (The Carmilla Movie, Carmilla Series, Seraphim) , **Steph Ouaknine (PGA), CreativeDNA**

Selected for the Film Independent Episodic Lab 2021 and Gotham Week 2021

Shortlisted for the Sundance Episodic Lab and recipient of the Banff World Media Diversity of Voices Fellowship

THE GET is a one hour drama series set in the world of ultra-Orthodox Jewish divorces - and the women taking the law into their own hands. The series follows Malka "Levi" Mendel, an outspoken divorcee in the Chabad community of Los Angeles, who sets up a clandestine service to help other women like her obtain their divorce. Whether that be through a very tense conversation at Shabbat dinner, or vigilante violence with real world consequences, depends on the target ... and relies on everything going according to plan. If Netflix's Unorthodox asks "how do you leave?" The Get asks "*how can you stay?*"

RADIANT FLUX

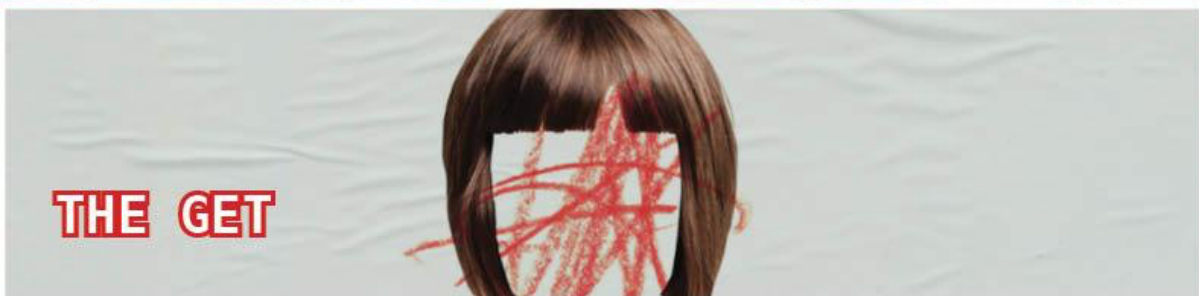
Writer/Creator: **Heather María Ács** (Stowe Story Labs' Episodic Lab Fellow '21, *Flourish, Flu\$h*)

Producer: **Vanessa Haroutunian** (WIF Emerging Producer's Program Fellow '21, *Little Men, Be Here Nowish*)

Executive Producer: **Silas Howard** (*Pose, Transparent, This is Us*)

In this sexy, subversive half-hour dramedy, a group of lovable queer misfits must fight for their right to party when the eccentric landlord threatens to close their underground club. The club is the gritty, glittery home for this chosen family, where they host drag shows and band nights. Hopeful and hilarious, our earnest ensemble must rally to save their space amidst the

everyday escapades of navigating polyamory, tackling addiction, securing hormones, and simply paying the rent.



ABOUT US & FRENCH CONNECTION

US & French Connection is a year-round program created by French In Motion and The Gotham Film & Media Institute (formerly IFP). The program is designed for producers looking for co-production and distribution partners on the other side of the Atlantic. In 2021, *THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS SKIN*, a program alum feature film project, earned a nomination at the 93rd Academy Awards (Best international Picture category) and *LITTLE PALESTINE, DIARY OF SIEGE*, an alum documentary project, got selected at Cannes' ACID program. US & French Connection program is run by Esther Bensadon and Marine Notté (French In Motion) and Gabriele Capolino (The Gotham).

ABOUT FRENCH IN MOTION

Created in 2016, FRENCH IN MOTION is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in New York City, with chapters in Los Angeles and Washington DC. Its mission is to foster exchanges and collaborations between the US industry and French and European professionals. We bring together a growing community of nearly 400 film and TV talent and professionals from both sides of the Atlantic. Led by an executive board of seasoned industry executives and producers, French In Motion champions award-winning international co-productions in film and TV, including an Oscar nominated feature.

<https://www.frenchinmotion.org/>

ABOUT THE GOTHAM FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE (formerly IFP)

Founded in 1979 as the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), The Gotham Film & Media Institute is the largest and long-running not-for-profit of its kind. The Gotham continues to champion the future of storytelling by connecting artists across various media disciplines with essential resources at all stages of their career and projects' development. The Gotham fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent creative community, represents a growing network of storytellers around the world, and plays a key role in developing 350 fiction and nonfiction works each year. During its more than 40-year history, The Gotham has supported over 10,000 projects and offered resources to more than 30,000 filmmakers, including Barry Jenkins, Dee Rees, Laura Poitras, Richard Linklater and Ava Duverney.

<https://thegotham.org/>

ABOUT SERIES MANIA FORUM

Based in Lille since 2018, Series Mania Forum is an annual three-day conference for series professionals, filled with opportunities for industry professionals to pitch ideas, gain exclusive access to new content and take part in discussions about future audiovisual trends at the Lille Dialogues Summit. This vibrant event also offers producers, distributors, directors, and screenwriters to exchange ideas and creative concepts through the Forum's networking events and meetings.

The Co-Pro Pitching Sessions are Series Mania Forum's founding premise and offer 15 producers the chance to pitch a series in development to potential financial partners, with 50,000€ at stake. As a creative incubator, Series Mania Forum remains dedicated to supporting series from conception to distribution, with particular support to the best up-and-coming writers through its three writing workshops: Writers Campus, Israel-France Drama Series Co-writing Residency, and the DEENTAL Series workshop.

<https://seriesmania.com/en/>