



VIDEOAGE

DAY 1

INTERNATIONAL

www.VideoAgeDaily.com

October 5, 2015

Turkey Sets New Standards For Country of Honor Status

Since it was announced last October that Turkey was being awarded Country of Honor at MIPCOM 2015, 12 Turkish production, distribution and TV networks got together with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO) to organize the most lavish extravaganza Cannes has ever seen for a television event.

At a cost of 2.5 million euro (two million of which was contributed by government organizations), various Turkish companies split duties and events. These include three parties and six conferences (today's opening night event is sponsored by TRT; tomorrow's party will be sponsored by ITV Inter Medya, and Wednesday's party by Global Agency). The opening day luncheon



is sponsored by ATV. Exhibitors are also trotting out some 15 stars of Turkish series, which are the staple of the country's TV exports. In addition, ITV has sponsored MIPCOM's official t-shirts and Kanal D has sponsored the official market bags.

Over 50 Turkish entertainment companies, 20 of which are

(Continued on Page 14)

What to Expect For Your Money and Time

If MIPCOM seems crowded this year, that's because it is. At first count, there are an estimated 6,500 sellers and 4,500 buyers — with nearly 14,000 people expected in total. The final numbers will be given, as usual, by Laurine Garaude, Reed Midem's director of TV division on Thursday at noon.

One of the questions on attendees' minds: How to make time for the growing number of conferences at MIPCOM (there are a record number of conferences this year, in addition to official breakfasts, luncheons and screening events).

Among the screenings are Sony Pictures TV's *The Art of More* (held

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My 2 Cents: The choice between canned and frozen laughter

Page 22

INSIDE: French TV exports are growing, reports TVFI

Page 4

INSIDE: A+E Celebrates 20 Years in the Int'l TV Biz

Page 14

VideoAge
Daily on
the go



Personality Kudos to Fox's Dana & Gary

With MIPCOM in its 31st edition, its 12th annual Personality of the Year award (from 1989 to 2003 it was called "Man of The Year") is going to a duo for the first time. But, since they act as a team, one could say that the singular descriptor "personality" is still appropriate.

Gary Newman and Dana Walden were paired up at Fox in 1999 by Peter Chernin, then COO of News Corp, Fox's holding company. Newman, a lawyer, had joined Fox in 1990 at the age of 36. Walden, a publicist, was recruited for Fox by Lucy Salhany in 1993, when she was 28. Three years later, she was moved from publicity to production.

In 1999, Newman and Walden became co-presidents of Twentieth Century Fox Television, the production arm of Fox Television Group.

The Dana & Gary team — the former the creative mastermind,

(Continued on Page 16)



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VFM Likes to Close Film Financing Gaps

One of the highlights of the fourth edition of the Venice Film Market (VFM) — which ended last September 9 after an eight-day run in Venice Lido — was the second edition of the European Gap-Financing market. Held in a designated area on the first floor of the Excelsior Hotel, and running concurrently with the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Fest, the world's oldest film festival, VFM housed several exhibitors, including Eurimages, Argentina's INCAA, Mexico's IMCINE, Regent Street Cinema, Russia's Roskino (the market's main partner) and newcomers Turkish Films and Un Film Per La Pace. INCAA, for one, was in Venice to promote the seventh edition of Ventana Sur, a LATAM audiovisual content market to be held in Buenos Aires from November 30 to December 4.

The European Gap-Financing market is an initiative to help the completion of 15 selected film projects, this year with the support of the MEDIA program of the European Union. Submissions, which may now also include animation, must have 70 percent of financing already secured.

According to Lucas Rosant, who, along with Eva Morsch-Kihn and VFM director Pascal Diot, is in charge of the selection, the initiative — which had over 100 submissions — attracts equity funders and alternative international



financing operators who like to see producers and directors heavily invested in making the projects work. The selection is therefore geared less toward artsy films and more toward projects with a real audience and commercial appeal. Consequently, films selected at last year's Gap-Financing market did very well, and boasted premieres at the Berlin Film Fest, Cannes Film Fest and Venice Film Fest.

A Final Cut workshop was also held this year, with the goal of supporting the post-production of quality indie films from Africa, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine and Syria.

Panels at the VFM included a European Film Forum, a Russia Co-Pro Pitching session and a conference on South East Asian Opportunities for the Italian Audiovisual Industry.

Market officials confirmed that the number of participants was similar to that of last year's event — approximately 1,500 professionals from 57 countries.

Int'l TV Sales Grow in France

The 2014 export figures for the French TV audiovisual sector were released on September 10 in Biarritz, France, at the closing of the five-day Le Rendez-Vous (September 6-10), the trade show organized by TV France International, the umbrella marketing organization for 150 member companies.

Last year, international sales of French audiovisual content reached 153.8 million euro, a 12.1 percent growth from 2013. If pre-sales figures are included, the total increased to 210.3 million euro, which represents a historical record.

At the same time, investments in co-productions decreased by 18.9 percent, to 56.3 million euro.

The sales growth of French content was driven by Western Europe and North American TV outlets and was led by drama (+ 49.3 percent), documentary (+ 13.2 percent) and formats (+ 3.5 percent), while animation decreased by 3.9 percent and music went down by 3.2 percent.

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ITV Inter Medya Offers Answers

TV Inter Medya brings gripping drama, celebrity cooking shows and game show formats to Cannes. In **Endless Love**, working-class Kemal struggles to make ends meet. His life is difficult, and he doesn't believe in miracles until he meets wealthy and glamorous Nihan and his world turns upside down. The couple fights to stay together, despite their different backgrounds (pictured).

Answer If You Can! tests game show contestants' physical and mental capabilities, pushing them to the limit. They answer tough questions while being timed on extreme challenges.

Culinary professionals train stars in **Celebrities in the Kitchen**. As the singers, dancers and actors learn new techniques, they compete for the title of best dish in front of a tough jury.

Mafia diamonds are behind the mysterious murder of Omer's fiancée and Elif's father in **Black Money Love (Kara Para Ask)**. Omer and Elif work together to solve the case, but their secrets keep them apart.

In Between (Fatih Harbiye) tells the story of Neriman, an ambitious and traditional young woman who is



supposed to marry her childhood friend Sinasi. After Sinasi's sister endures a traumatic event, Neriman begins to question his integrity. When Neriman meets her wealthy cousins Pelin and Dugyu, surprises are in store for everyone.

Black Rose (Karagul) is a story of rebirth and redemption. When Murat is killed, his wife Ebru faces the family's wrath and is left to care for her children without money or support.

20 Minutes (20 Dakika) is a thriller that revolves around Ali, who tries to save his wife, Melek, from being framed for murder. He has never broken the law — until he decides he must break Melek out of prison.

Stand R9.A14

www.itv-intermedya.com

Emergency Love from Calinos

Romance reigns supreme at Calinos Entertainment. Aspiring screenwriter Aysegul falls in love with Can, a handsome actor who is in love with someone else in **Relationship Status: It's Complicated** (pictured).



Tension runs high and emotions run deep in **Emergency Love**, a series about the highly charged love between a junior doctor and her superior.

The Girl Named Feriha is a drama that tells the tale of a college student born into a poor family who attends a private university. She lies about her background and falls for a wealthy boy: How long can she hide the truth?

An unconventional couple fights for their relationship in **Only You**. Former boxer Ali and Hazel, who is blind, must overcome ghosts of their past before starting a new life.

A Love Story depicts a romance between Ceylan and her boyfriend Korkut, who emerges from his depression to find happiness and love.

Stand P-1.J69

www.calinosentertainment.com

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PREVIEW AT
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NBCUni Brings Back Heroes

NBCUniversal International Television Distribution offers gripping dramas involving crooked cops, high-powered surgeons and troubled hackers. The supernatural world of *Heroes* returns in event miniseries **Heroes Reborn**. The series presents a new cast of characters who are ordinary people with extraordinary abilities.

New York detective and single mother Harlee Santos strives to provide opportunities for her daughter in drama series, **Shades of Blue**. Along the way, she falls in with a group of dirty cops.

Danish raiders are coming to attack England in drama series **The Last Kingdom**, set in the year 866.

Elliot suffers from an antisocial disorder that prevents him from connecting with others. The only way the young programmer can reach out is through hacking people in drama series **Mr. Robot**.

A successful Atlanta attorney, played by David Lyons, becomes re-acquainted with long-lost childhood friends under difficult circumstances in drama series **Game of Silence**.

A brave team of doctors works together in Chicago's most volatile hospital in Dick Wolf's drama **Chicago Med**.



Based on the real life of Dr. Kathy Magliato, drama series **Heartbreaker** tells the story of Dr. Alex Panttiere, one of the few female heart transplant surgeons in a male-dominated field.

Stand P4.C4

www.nbcuniversal.com

Viacom Shakes The Game

Viacom International Media Networks debuts animated preschool series **Shimmer & Shine** (pictured), following the magical adventures of twin genies as they unintentionally create chaos when granting wishes for their human friend, Leah.

Friendships develop in unlikely places in animated comedy series **Harvey Beaks**. Harvey, a gentle bird, never



breaks the rules, but his two friends, Fee and Foo, never follow them. The trio fights a gang of squirrels and a grumpy raccoon in the middle of a magical forest.

Three best friends in middle school create a list of challenges, **100 Things to Do Before High School**, and overcome cliquy classmates, bullies and clueless teachers.

Kel Mitchell of *Kenan and Kel* returns to Nickelodeon as a rapper in live action sitcom **Game Shakers**. When a group of 7th graders create an app using his song without permission, they become business partners.

South African comedian Trevor Noah replaces Jon Stewart as host of the late night satirical series **The Daily Show with Trevor Noah**. Guests will include political pundits, Hollywood hotshots and journalists.

Rob Lowe plays an undercover detective in animated crime show parody **Moonbeam City**.

Described as a cross between *The Kardashians* and *Downton Abbey*, historical satire series **Another Period** showcases the Bellacourts. The series focuses on the Rhode Island family's obsession with fame and partying at the turn of the 20th century.

Stand R7.N7

www.b2b.viacom.com

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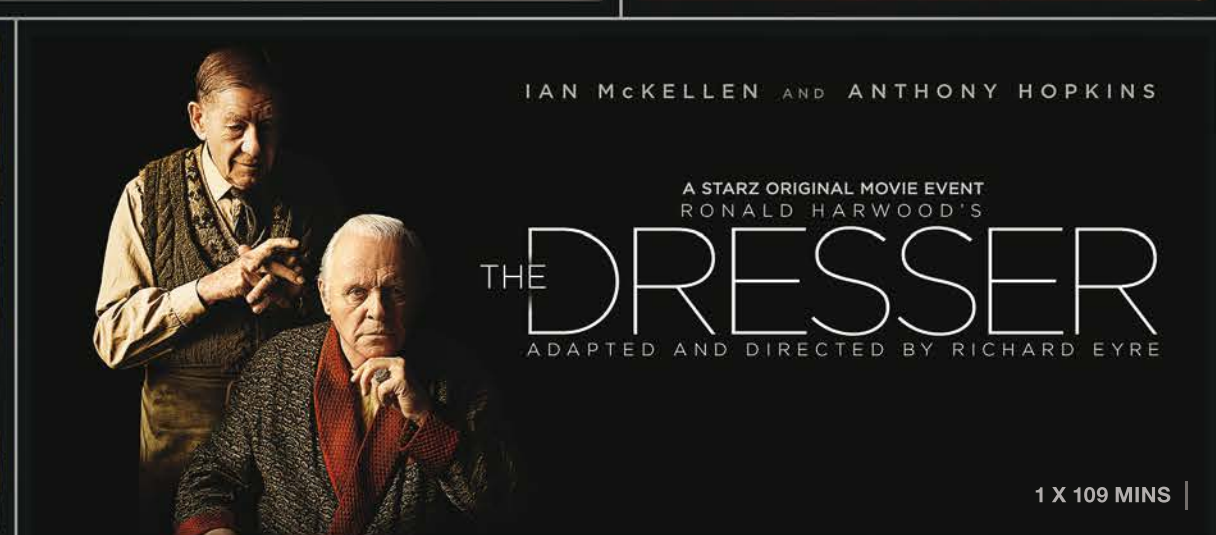
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Zodiak Offers the Gift of Life

Zodiak Rights travels from a tropical paradise to the Emerald Isles. But first, an elite squad of former Special Forces soldiers put 30 fit civilians to the test in **SAS: Who Dares Wins**. The series provides a close look at what it takes to join the SAS.

Amateur cooks face off in **Humble Pie**, a game show where four cooks compete and critique each other's dishes for a cash prize. Contestants can eliminate themselves and cash out, or stay in the game and risk leaving with nothing.

Five-part drama serial **Rebellion** (pictured) portrays Ireland's struggle for independence during the outbreak of World War I and the Easter Rising of 1916. The serial focuses on personal stories of the era, featuring the men, women and children of Belfast, Dublin and London.

Directed by Birger Larsen and written by Robert Jones, **Murder** investigates a complex case. Talking heads and crime scene images force the viewer to become a member of the jury in this scripted



drama series, which throws an unsettling light on new murder cases.

12 young contestants go head-to-head for a cash prize in entertainment format **Bikini Island**. The camp must eliminate members with an anonymous vote, in an atmosphere rife with jealousy, backstabbing, flirting and dancing.

Gift of Life follows the emotionally wrought wait for an organ transplant. Patients wait for a new heart, lung or kidney and then endure a long recovery at Newcastle's Institute of Transplantation in this human-interest series.

Stand R8.D3

www.zodiakrights.com

Eaton Films is Alive and Cooking

Eaton Films dishes up factual programming and kids series.

Three teenage girls train for equestrian competitions at the Pine Hollow Stables in live action series **The Saddle Club**, based on Bonnie Bryant's books of the same name. The teens navigate friendship and rival riders while learning the importance of teamwork.



Renowned outdoorsman and professional fishing guide Rob Paxevanos hosts **Fishing Australia**, which explores the diverse species of fish, environmental changes and fishing techniques in Australia.

Celebrity chef James Reeson hosts **Alive and Cooking**, creating delectable dishes both in the kitchen and outdoors. Reeson creates recipes for novice and expert cooks alike, in an energetic and straightforward style.

Eaton also distributes the Crawford's catalog.

Eaton Films' Louise Rimoldi and Carol Sinclair can be reached at +44 7803153670.

www.eatonfilms.co.uk



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Breakthrough Has Style

Breakthrough Entertainment brings a range of series for the whole family. Based on Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic children's novel of the same name, **Anne of Green Gables** (pictured) follows the story of an imaginative young girl who charms those around her with her unquenchable spirit.

Set in the Northwest, **HD series Blood & Water** revolves around the investigation of Charles Xie, the son of a billionaire developer from China. In order to solve this murder, the lead detective, Jo, is forced to reveal a family secret.

Science Max takes an ordinary at-home science experiment and super-sizes it, performing the experiment using ingredients, locations and equipment that viewers can't find at home.

Bruno Walton rallies his fellow students to raise money for a pool in the movie **Bruno and Boots: Go Jump in the Pool**, in order to keep his friend Boots O'Neal from transferring to a school with better athletic facilities.

Anwar, Allen and Matthew showcase the world of interior design in lifestyle series **Designer Guys DG III**. The trio has diverse backgrounds



in architecture, engineering, and landscape design.

Suzanne Dimma brings a design magazine to life in **Style Dept**, which follows the design editor of *Wish Magazine* as she prepares homes for magazine spreads.

Stand P-1.Ao

www.breakthroughentertainment.com

Bloopers and Awards from Dick Clark

Dick Clark Productions is in Cannes with **World's Funniest**, a one-hour series hosted by Terry Crews of *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. The show features comedians judging user-generated videos, ultimately awarding the "Golden Terry."

OK! TV serves as counterpart to the entertainment news magazine of the same name. The 30-minute episodes deliver the latest news on pop culture, gossip and celebrity lifestyle.

Fail Army, the popular aggregator of blooper-style "fail" videos, returns with a third season. The 30-minute series appeals to the over 6.5 million subscribers of the Fail Army YouTube channel.



On the award show front, **The 42nd Annual American Music Awards**, broadcast live from the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles, features over 16 performances by the top acts in the music world.

The 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards honors both film and television achievements and is accompanied by a one-hour red carpet special.

The 2015 Billboard Music Awards will be given out in May, and will feature live performances by the biggest stars in pop music.

Broadcast on television for the first time this year, **The 5th Annual Streamy Awards** showcase outstanding digital programs. Last year's event garnered more than 7 million views on YouTube.

Stand P-1.B6

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(Continued from Cover)

Turkey Is MIPCOM's Country of Honor



PICTURED ABOVE IS TURKEY'S CONSUL GENERAL OF MARSEILLE, DENIZ ERDOGAN BANIM (L.), WITH REED MIDEM'S JEROME DELHAYE, SIGNING THE COUNTRY OF HONOR DOCUMENTS

exhibiting with stands, are in Cannes displaying Ottoman glory. The ITO Pavilion alone is hosting 33 companies. It is expected that 400 Turkish executives will ultimately attend this MIPCOM.

The total cost to the Turks is estimated to be over four million euro. In comparison, the major U.S. studios are investing \$10 million (8.8 million euro) at MIPCOM.

To ensure that their MIPCOM events get wide exposure, a four-day all-expenses-paid press tour was organized in Istanbul for a few LATAM trade publications last August.

After this Turkish extravaganza, other Country of Honor nations will be hard-pressed to come up with something as good and... as expensive.

A full report on the Turkish TV industry is featured in *VideoAge's* MIPCOM monthly edition.

Fun Facts & Figures

- Turkish viewers average 3.9 hours a day of television. By contrast, Americans watch about 5 hours per day.
- Primetime in Turkey is between 8 p.m. and midnight.
- Each broadcast season runs from June to June of the following year.

- Between December 2011 and September 2012, there was no official ratings service.
- There are 500 TV actors in Turkey. Of these, 83 are famous actresses and 135 are famous actors.
- The Turkish lira (worth U.S.\$0.34) lost 60 percent of its value since 2008.
- Turkey's national debt is now \$430 billion.

Pictured in the front cover photo and below, from left to right are: Handan Ozkubat (Echo Rights), Fatma Sapci (Ay Yapim), Amac Us (Kanal D), Izzet Pinto (Global Agency), Fahriye Senturk (Global Agency), Ahmet Ziyalar (ITV Inter Medya), Muge Hanilci (ATV), Ozlem Ozsumbul (Kanal D), Besir Tatli (Calinos), Ziyad Varol (ATV), Ersagun Selvi (TRT), Meltem Tumturk Akyol (TRT), Mahmut Ozden (ITO), Dursun Topcu (ITO), Aysun Yilmaz (ITO), Mine Gunes (ITO), Selnur Aysever (Dusyeri), Asli Erturk (ESR Film), Arzu Ozturkmen (Bogazici University), Selin Arat (Tims Production), Yesim Sezdirmez (Kanal 7).

Highlights of new programming available at MIPCOM from Turkish distribution companies are listed below and on page 6 of this Daily edition.

Travel In Time With TRT

TRT — Turkish Radio and Television Corporation makes history come alive in Ottoman detective drama *Filinta*. The series, which takes place in 19th century Istanbul, follows *Filinta*, a successful police officer and a high level judge, Khadi, as they work hard to maintain peace.

Atishoo is a spirited and curious child who is relatable to children. He embarks on extraordinary adventures in the HD 3D animated series for preschoolers.

Ege and Gaga find something new to explore every day in this 2D HD series for toddlers. Ege, a young boy, and his friend Gaga, a talking crow,

(Continued on Page 16)

What To Expect



CONTENT TV'S JONATHAN FORD

yesterday) and CBS's *Billions* and Fox's *The X Files* on Tuesday.

Also new this year: A conference program called "Into the Stream," which will explore the changing global video ecosystem, spanning all four days.

"Sellers rarely have the opportunity to attend the conferences/keynotes, since we have back-to-back meetings with buyers. It would be helpful for the conference schedule to be organized in a way that addresses this," said Marielle Zuccarelli, evp, International Distribution at Sonar Entertainment.

Turkey will take center stage this year, thanks to their Country of Honor status (see Turkey story to the left). And that's a good thing for distributors.

"We have found a much increased appetite in Turkey for British, European and North American content as the television landscape grows and diversifies," said Jonathan Ford, evp, Sales and Distribution for Content Television (who will conduct their meetings from a stand on the beach).

"Turkey has a strong appetite for our TV movies," added Zuccarelli, "The market is consistently delivering strong results for us."

International business in general is booming, according to Ford. "As more new platforms and broadcasters arrive, there is increased pressure among channels to secure the best quality content to attract strong ratings. This competition is driving demand, and generating a positive upswing in international business."

Despite the increased opportunities, Breakthrough's Jodi Mackie thinks one major aspect of MIPCOM could be improved: "A more realistic reflection of costs to exhibitors and less price gouging by Reed Midem," she said.

But according to Ellen Lovejoy, who handles global formats for A+E Networks and will spend much of her time meeting with broadcasters and producers from the EMEA region, MIPCOM provides an incomparable opportunity to create buzz around her company's brand. "The challenge," she said, "is being able to have

(Continued on Page 16)

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(Continued from Page 14)

What To Expect



meaningful conversations in a short period of time,” she said. Ideally, she’d like meetings to be longer. But since they are often confined to about 25-30 minutes, it’s imperative to have the pitch and the marketing materials ready to go to “cut through the noise,” she said.

A+E Has Reasons To Celebrate

Yesterday A+E celebrated its 20th year in the international TV business with a party here in Cannes. Last year, executive vice president International Sean Cohan celebrated 10 years with the group. Two years ago, he celebrated A+E Networks’ 30th anniversary (see photo below). Since then, A+E has significantly expanded its channel portfolio and reach. Now there’s a History Channel in over 190 countries and 39 languages.

When Sean Cohan joined the company, there were 19 channel feeds. Now they’ve got 75, not including the U.S.

Many territories now have between two and six A+E-branded networks, which include HISTORY, A&E, LIFETIME, H2, FYI and Crime+Investigation.

There are seven channels in Canada, for example, and four in Poland.

Originally, A+E networks were partnerships, but they’re increasingly becoming wholly owned subsidiaries. When A+E Networks launched its international channel distribution business, the company would enter a new market in partnership with local platforms, channel operators or media companies either through joint ventures



Personality Kudos

the latter, the business lead — worked so well together that 15 years later, in 2014, Chase Carey, president of Twentieth Century Fox, named them co-chairmen and co-CEOs of Fox Television Group, which included the FOX Network, thus unifying the studio and the network.

Wednesday afternoon, the pair will first deliver the keynote speech at the Palais’ Grand Auditorium and later, in the evening, be honored as MIPCOM Personalities of the Year at a gala dinner and presentation at the Carlton Hotel.

In addition to the pair’s past and present successes in television, invited guests will likely learn more about Newman’s organic winery in Santa Barbara County and his achievements as a college basketball player. Walden will most likely be reminded of her love of horses and her competitive horseback riding.



or licensing partnerships. The company has begun transitioning some of these partnerships to wholly-owned subsidiaries, including A+E Networks Asia and A+E Networks Italy.

When it comes to content sales, the same is true. A+E launched A+E Studios in June 2013, and A+E Studios International, the banner under which they distribute scripted content, in October 2014, turning their attention to producing their own scripted content in addition to the reality content for which they’ve been known in the past.

“We’ve really evolved as content distributors,” said Cohan. They’ve tripled their staff and more than quadrupled their sales since he started over a decade ago.

The focus now: Driving format sales. So far, shows like *Pawn Stars* and *Dance Moms* have produced successful local adaptations.

Among the biggest challenges in the current environment for a company like A+E Networks is competition. “The number of channel offerings has multiplied significantly over the years,” said Cohan. As such, there’s more competition for channel “real estate.”

The trick to standing out, he said, is in branding, and having each channel stand as its

Turkey at MIPCOM

record their outdoor adventures in a notebook.

In 1071, the empires were fighting in Anatolia. The Turks, Crusaders and Mongolians all wanted the profitable land. In the midst of this battle, a leader searches for a homeland for his people in historical drama **Resurrection Ertugrul**.

Medieval Turkish poet **Yunus Emre** is faced with the conflict of leaving behind his position and status to undertake a spiritual journey.

Stand P-1.N51

www.trt.net.tr



Pictured above is a frame from TRT’s *Ege and Gaga*. Programming offerings from Turkey’s ITV Inter Medya and Calinos Entertainment are featured on page 6 of this Daily.

own unique entity. “We don’t share a whole lot of content between channels,” he said. “In a world where there’s so much content out there, strong brands are like signposts. They help you navigate.”

“I think local pay-TV platforms see the value of us bringing new content-laden brands to the market,” he said. The most recent network the company rolled out was FYI, a lifestyle brand that launched in 2014.

When Cohan started at A+E, the big technology buzz was launching channels in HD. “Now it’s all about the moves to on-demand viewing, time-shifting, and mobile viewing; and there are a lot of things that are uncertain.”

But Cohan is convinced that quality content insulates companies a bit. “You need to make sure you own the content. That’s always been central to our strategy,” he said. “The more platforms proliferate, the more important it is.”

Asked what he expects to happen in the next few years, Cohan said: “Content will continue to be polished and well-made, but it’ll also come from all different places, so it’ll be democratized in some ways. I also don’t think you’re going to have 700 channels to choose from. I think there’ll be a shakeout a little bit.”



CONGRATULATIONS

GARY AND DANA ON BEING HONORED WITH THE MIPCOM 2015 PERSONALITIES OF THE YEAR AWARD



fox21.





Fantasy, Fixes and Full House at Sonar

Sonar Entertainment's titles run the genre gamut. Fantasy series **The Shannara Chronicles** (pictured) takes place in the world's post-apocalyptic future. A group of heroes begins a quest based on the characters in Terry Brooks' novels of the same name.

In drama series **South of Hell** an exorcist's power comes from her own inner demon, which feeds off the evil her host expels from others.

Investigator Ellie Molaro and secret tipster Carter join forces to reveal the fixers behind disasters and "accidents" in action-adventure movie **The Fixer**.

A killer storm hits Shelter Island on Halloween night in thriller film **The Hollow**, making a legendary curse a horrifying reality.

A famous singer reunites with his childhood sweetheart before his wedding in the romantic comedy **Sealed with a Kiss**, and he must make an agonizing choice.

The Unauthorized Full House Story is a film that offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the cast of the 1987-1995 sitcom, as the actors balance their on-screen personas with their personal lives.

A young Amish woman is trapped between the modern world and her traditional culture in the film **The Reckoning**.

Stand R7.N11

www.sonarent.com



Lionsgate Keeps It Casual

Lionsgate Entertainment brings a slate of diverse series to Cannes. **Casual**, executive produced by Jason Reitman, is a half-hour comedy that follows a dysfunctional family. A newly divorced sister and her bachelor brother navigate the dating world while living under the same roof. (pictured)

Monica Ten-Kate is an average college girl: she worries about school, friends and relationships. And talks to ghosts. In reality series **Monica the Medium**, she connects with an array of people to help them feel at peace with lost loved ones.

The Royals is an hour-long drama series that focuses on a hedonistic British Royal family. The series deals with themes of loyalty and fate, and of course, the public scrutiny of the gilded family.

Set in Los Alamos, New Mexico in 1943, the drama series **Manhattan** revolves around the building of the atomic bomb. Scientists try to find a balance between the world of secrecy and their family lives.

Chasing Life is a drama series that follows an aspiring journalist, April, who discovers that she is terminally ill. April learns the fleeting nature of existence as her life completely re-arranges: from her career, family, love life and belief system

www.lionsgate.com



Starz Has a New Girlfriend

Starz showcases a roster of dramatic adventures, sugar baby intrigue and horror at MIPCOM. **The Girlfriend Experience** (pictured) follows Christine Reade, a law student and intern who encounters the world of women who provide emotional and sexual relationships at a high price. Caught between two worlds, Christine becomes entangled in betrayal and intrigue.

Perennial stock boy and monster hunter Ash, played by Bruce Campbell, faces his demons in **Ash vs Evil Dead**. A plague threatens to destroy mankind, and Ash must rise to the challenge.

A troubled ballet dancer, Claire, joins an elite New York ballet company in drama series **Flesh and Bone**. The dark series explores the glamour and mystique of the ballet world, but also its dysfunction.

The Dresser, a film based on Ronald Harwood's play of the same name, tells the story of a troupe of touring actors staging a production of King Lear during World War II. The show must go on, despite bombs overhead and wailing sirens.

Dramatic adventure series **Black Sails**, now in its third season, is a prequel to Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*. Set 20 years before the events of the novel, the series follows the feared Captain Flint's crew as they struggle for power and survival.

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson stars in and produces **Power**, now in its second season. The action/drama series about an elite club owner with a foot in the criminal underworld. He struggles to become legitimate, but wonders if he can ever get out.

Survivor's Remorse, a comedy series from executive producers LeBron James and Tom Werner that's now in its second season, follows Cam Calloway, a young basketball player thrust into the limelight. Cam and his family struggle to navigate his rise to fame, and encounter the ups and downs of stardom, love and loyalty.

Stand R9.A32

www.starzglobal.com



GRB Heads to Brazil

GRB Entertainment arrives in Cannes with a host of crime shows, clip shows and docu-series. Crime series **FBI Takedowns** depicts high-stakes manhunts as elite FBI teams search for the world's most wanted criminals (pictured).

People who believe they were saved by angels tell their stories in docu-series **Angels Among Us**. From car crashes to tornadoes to 9/11, survivors share their tales of triumph.

Docu-series **This is Hot 97** offers a behind-the-scenes look at the seminal New York hip-hop and R&B radio station. Kanye West, Rick Ross and Wale make cameo appearances.

Comedian and rapper Lil Duval highlights the internet's most outrageous and dangerous videos in clip show **Ain't That America**.



Sports documentary **All Eyes on Brazil** highlights the 2014 FIFA World Cup in a nation devoted to football. The film focuses on how the event (and the stunning Brazilian upset) affected cities around Brazil.

Docu-series **My Big Redneck Family** promises country craziness as America's favorite redneck family deals with newfound fame and parenting challenges.

From beauty queen to attorney to NYC prosecutor and MSNBC legal analyst, Judge Faith Jenkins presides in her own courtroom in **Judge Jenkins**.

Stand R7.K17

www.grbtv.com

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Mediaset Demands Respect

Italy's Mediaset offers titles that span from futurist animated series to Papal journeys and Mafia wars. Miniseries **Call Me Francesco** (pictured) stars Rodrigo de la Serna, who portrays Jorge Bergoglio's (a.k.a. Pope Francis) journey from his years as a chemical technician to Pope and Bishop of Rome.

A **Sicilian Story** is a crime series that follows a special task force as they investigate complex cases, including the demanding hunt for a Mafia boss in Sicily.

An average family is thrust into a tragic legal web in **Not My Son**. A courageous mother, Andrea, defends her son against the accusation of murder. She will go to any length to protect his name and the family's reputation.

City Cops follows a legendary detective and his squad fighting crime. They uncover domestic violence, migrant exploitation, sexual slavery, child abuse and cyber bullying, but the real danger may lurk within their ranks.

Mafia series **Matter of Respect 4** examines what happens when old bosses leave behind a fractured system. The mafiosos encounter strong family bonds and vicious power struggles.

Adrian is an animated series that narrates the adventures of a young man stuck between good and evil in a futuristic setting.

Stand R7.F7

www.mediasetdistribution.com



Studio 100 Gets Wild

Germany's Studio 100 Media has tons of animation on tap. Ten-year-old Blinky Bill steps into the role of "Guardian of the Greenpatch" while his explorer father is on his own journey in CGI animated series **The Wild Adventures of Blinky Bill** (pictured). Blinky and his sidekick Jacko protect the home front together.

A mischievous elf transforms **Nihls Holgersson** into a mini human who has the ability to speak to animals. In this CGI animated series, Nils and his friend Martin run with a gander of geese.

Kim, Kylie and Kate are three kind-hearted teenage pop singers on an adventure-filled world tour in 2D-animated series **K3**.

Heidi is a CGI animated series about a cheerful eight-year-old who lives with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps and adjusts to mountain life with her friends Peter and Clara.

Lotus Blossom guides **Tashi** and Jack through a mystical world of giants, ghosts, witches, demons and dragons in this CGI animation series.

The popular students in live-action series **Ghost Rockers** bully a group of five other students. Their reputation changes when they discover a room haunted by the spirits of an old rock band.

Animated series **Vic the Viking** follows 10-year-old Vic, who happens to be the son of a Viking chief, Halvar. The tribe lives on the side of a Nordic fjord, and Halvar tries to teach his son the Viking way of life.

Stand R7.C1

www.studio100media.com



Murder and Style by Content

Content Television's offerings run the gamut of animated adventure, live-action thrills and documentary specials. **Slasher** (pictured) blends classic horror, contemporary murder-mystery and timeless crime fiction, as it tells the story of a young woman who finds herself at the center of a series of copycat murders based on the grisly killings of her parents.

Halo: The Fall of Reach is an animated adaptation of one of the most beloved stories from the popular video game. It relives the origin of the Halo universe and the legend of the Master Chief.

The dramatic miniseries **Clean Break** analyzes the universal theme of how money — or lack thereof — can taint people from within. Set in a small coastal community, the four episodes feature tales of love, greed, status and revenge.

The Ivy is a documentary following the extraordinary transformation of the renowned London restaurant. The hour-long special begins with the final weeks of The Ivy of old and ends with its famous clientele attending the re-opening and sizing up its facelift.

Feature-length documentary, **Respectable: The Mary Millington Story** is the shocking, untold story of 1970s rebellion and sexual liberation, painted against a backdrop of disco, politics and porn.

Kate: The Style Queen explores the role of the Duchess of Cambridge within the fashion industry. The documentary special explores how this royal fashion icon can make or break a brand overnight.

Murder Rap — Inside the Biggie and Tupac Murders is another feature-length documentary, this one telling the true story behind these sensational cases for the first time, including the riveting account of the task force that finally exposed the shocking truth behind the deaths of these two rap icons.

Stand C15.A6

www.contentmediacorp.com



Mondo TV's New Adventures

Italy's Mondo TV brings lots of animated adventures to MIPCOM. **Bug Rangers** revolves around a group of three bugs who live in a world where summer never ends and there are carnivals every night. The 3D CGI series is aimed at kids ages 4-9.

In a battle of good vs. evil, matter and antimatter collide at the center of the universe in 3D CGI series **Atomicrom**.

Suzy Zoo and her friends Jack Quacker, Penelope O'Quinn and Corky Turtle help the elder members of their community and have fun along the way in **Adventures in Duckport** (pictured). The HD series is targeted toward the 4-8 demographic.

Treasure Island, based on the work of R.L. Stevenson, puts a modern twist on the classic story. The 3D CGI animated



series follows the escapades of Jim Hawkins, a young boy aboard a voyage to an imaginary island.

Bavarian royalty **Princess Sisi** has an arranged marriage to Emperor Franz Joseph. The sweet-natured princess struggles with the rigidity of court life. This HD adaptation of the Princess' life offers a fresh take on the historical story.

HD comedy series **Cat Leopold** tells the story of a dapper cat and a pair of playful mice as they go on a treasure hunt and try to live in harmony.

Nano Invaders revolves around Hikaru, a boy in the precarious position of being trapped between two rival alien clans. In the fast-paced HD series, aliens attack cities and plan to take over the Earth.

Stand P-1.M2

www.mondo-tv.com

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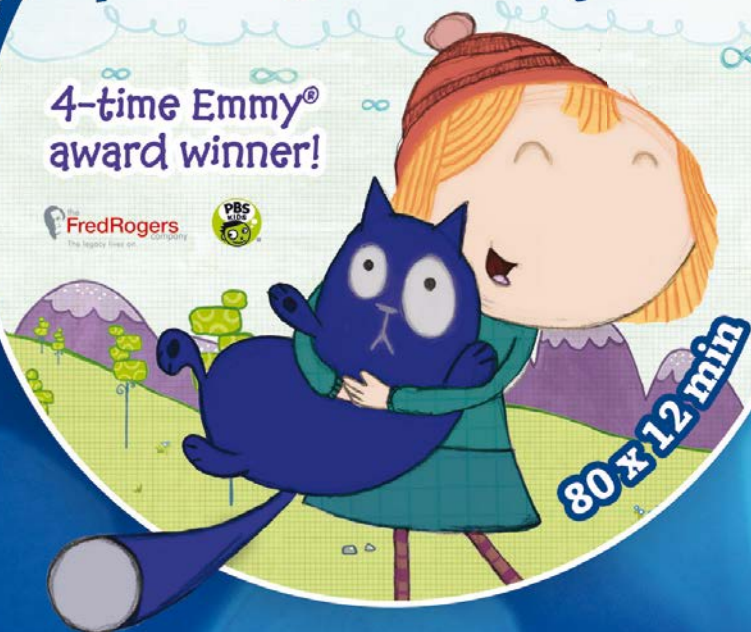


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My 2¢

If I had to choose between “canned” and “frozen” laughter in a sitcom, I’d go for the more natural sounding “frozen” variety, because it was recorded while the show was played to a studio audience



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I came to the realization that the success of a sitcom is inversely proportional to the burst of the laugh track, better known as “canned” laughter. While I realize that this observation came to me 70 years too late, it’s not my fault, since I wasn’t even born when this technique was developed.

This epiphany came when I left the TV in the living room on while having dinner in the kitchen. After an undetermined length of time, a sitcom-sounding show came on, with the voices of the actors providing some background buzz constantly interrupted by annoyingly loud laughter. At one point, I had to turn the TV set off to avoid *agita*, and noticed it was a show that I never would have watched anyway.

There might be some truth to the theory that if producers are unsure of a show, they tend to insert louder and longer laughs. The perception is that viewers are more likely to laugh at jokes that are followed by laughter, whether it is real or canned. For those of you who’d like to listen to some unadulterated canned laughter, Soundboard.com hosts eight types of laugh tracks — from hysterical to cheering, lasting from six to 45 seconds each.

Now, not all sitcoms with laugh tracks are unfunny. Take, for example, *Seinfeld*. But there are many sitcoms that are very funny without the artificial laughs like *30 Rock*, *Modern Family* and *Arrested Development*.

It seems that it has more to do with single-camera versus multi-camera set-ups, where the former requires a laugh track (or none at all), and the latter allows for a live studio audience. However, it is confusing, because the recent trend is to return to multi-camera productions, but keep the laugh tracks. HBO has pioneered successful single-camera comedies (e.g., *The Larry Sanders Show*) with neither laugh tracks nor live audiences.

It is also difficult to discern who invented the

canned laughs, with some books giving credit to Jack Dadswell, an American radio station manager who created a laughing record in 1945, with others crediting either American comedy writer Bill Morrow or Mexican-born Charles Douglass, who introduced the laugh track on CBS TV shows in 1950.

What is certain is that after leaving CBS, Douglass had a monopoly on American shows that required canned laughs (comedies, game shows and animation) up until 1970, when sitcoms began playing to studio audiences for live responses (e.g., *All In The Family*).

By the early 1960s, American producers had stopped recording sitcoms before an audience, relying instead on Douglass to simulate the audience laughter. Before then, Douglass was called in to “sweeten” or “de-sweeten” the live audience laughter (e.g., adjust the length and volume).

Live audiences returned in the ’80s, though shows were still sweetened. Nowadays, the practice is used mainly for talk shows. Sitcoms taped in front of a live audience include *The Big Bang Theory* and *2 Broke Girls*.

With multi-camera sitcoms like *The Big Bang Theory*, the same scene may be shot multiple times, and since the audience rarely laughs as much during the third or fourth take, the producers will sweeten it, with a preserved laugh from

the first take, since it is inevitably the biggest. After all, it takes three to four hours to shoot a 22-minute show. That’s a long time for one audience to laugh.

Similarly, it is understandable when a sketch from a show recorded before a studio audience has to be re-taped, without the studio audience, and the laugh track is subsequently added in post-production.

What is not understandable, however, is the overwhelming use of canned laughter in the hope of making a sitcom funnier.

Dom Serafini





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