

STUDIOCANAL ACCELERATES ITS DEVELOPMENT IN TV PRODUCTION

Investments in particularly promising companies in Spain and the UK

Cannes, April 4, 2016 – STUDIOCANAL is greatly accelerating its development in TV series production by announcing investments in several independent companies that are home to some of the most recognisable European talent in the industry.

These investments concern Spanish company **BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES**, a company based in Madrid of which STUDIOCANAL is acquiring 33%, **URBAN MYTH FILMS** in London (20%), and **SUNNYMARCH TV** also based in London (20%). Each deal includes distribution agreements.

STUDIOCANAL already has a strong presence in TV series production via its subsidiaries TANDEM in Germany, and RED Production Company in the UK, as well as its stakes in SAM (Denmark) and GUILTY PARTY (UK).

Founded in 2007 in Madrid, **BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES** is run by its two founders, Teresa Fernández-Valdés and Ramon Campos. BAMBÚ stands out as one of the most creative TV production companies in Spain, with a slate of more than 10 original, high-quality, and internationally ambitious series. Among them, *Refugiados*, co-produced with BBC Worldwide, is the first Spanish series shot in English, while successful *Grand Hotel* and *Velvet* series have been sold all over the world.

Based in London, **URBAN MYTH FILMS** was founded in 2013 by an experienced team of international producers and screenwriters. Johnny Capps and Julian Murphy were behind the launch of Shine Drama in 2002, and of several international hits series, including *Merlin* for BBC One. Howard Overman has created and written several hit shows, including *Misfits* on E4, which won a BAFTA in 2010.

SUNNYMARCH TV is a production company recently founded in London by Benedict Cumberbatch, currently one of the most popular and successful British actors both in film and on television, where he plays the title role in the global-hit *Sherlock* (BBC) series. STUDIOCANAL has a special relationship with Benedict Cumberbatch, who held leading roles in two of its most iconic films: *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, which won 2 BAFTA, including for Outstanding British film in 2012, and *The Imitation Game*, which won an Oscar in 2015.

Didier Lupfer, STUDIOCANAL's Chairman and CEO: "We are thrilled to be partnering with the very talented teams at BAMBÚ, URBAN MYTH, and SUNNYMARCH TV. All three companies form some of the most promising TV production companies in Europe and we are very excited at the prospect of working with them. As with our approach to film, we aim to develop series with strong European roots that also have international appeal. This is why we are especially pleased to be able to collaborate and develop projects with top personalities such as the producers, screenwriters, and actors linked to all

three companies. This is a significant step in STUDIOCANAL's development, one which demonstrates its ambitions in the production of high quality series."

Romain Bessi, COO, STUDIOCANAL, also responsible for TV operations: "It is very exciting to be on board with BAMBÚ, URBAN MYTH and SUNNYMARCH TV. These are very complementary companies that each brings their unique personalities. BAMBÚ gives us access to the particularly creative and dynamic Spanish market, where national series are very popular with the local public. URBAN MYTH and SUNNYMARCH TV are a great addition to our existing presence in the UK, with some major talent. Through these deals we are significantly broadening our footprint in TV production in Europe. The aim is to create a unique European family of production companies with top-shelf talent to further boost their international exposure thanks to the Group's strengths, including its distribution network and its strong assets in movies as well as music with Universal Music Group."

Ramón Campos, founder and producer of BAMBÚ: "STUDIOCANAL is a reference for all European filmmakers and creators. We are proud to join this commitment to a European TV brand that competes in the world."

Teresa Fernandez-Valdés, founder and producer of BAMBÚ: "The team of STUDIOCANAL has shown us that they believe in a television where creative freedom is paramount and we are confident that together we can accomplish big things in TV fiction."

Johnny Capps, Julian Murphy and Howard Overman, co-founders of URBAN MYTH: "Our ambition at URBAN MYTH FILMS has always been to create bold and ambitious shows for the international market and our new partnership with STUDIOCANAL opens up many exciting opportunities for us."

Adam Ackland, Executive Producer and Managing Director of SUNNYMARCH: "Here at SUNNYMARCH we share a simple ambition - an ambition to create exciting, original drama and documentaries. We aim to produce content that matters and we're passionate about doing just that. Today, I am delighted to announce this significant investment from STUDIOCANAL. I'm very much looking forward to working with the whole STUDIOCANAL team on television that inspires and moves audiences for many years to come."

Benedict Cumberbatch: "I am thrilled that STUDIOCANAL are supporting the future of SUNNYMARCH TV. This will bring a diversity of multi-platform programming with quality and creativity at its core. It is exciting for me, having filmed *The Imitation Game* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, to reunite once more with STUDIOCANAL."

This series of deals is part of STUDIOCANAL's strategy to strengthen its position as a European leader in the production of local and international television series, the same way it is already a European leader in the production of feature films. The announcement follows several recent developments in TV production.

In October 2015, STUDIOCANAL became an associate partner of **GUILTY PARTY**, an English production company run by the producer Spencer Millman, who won a BAFTA for *Harry Hill's TV Burp*, and the actors and writers Simon Bird (*The Inbetweeners*) and Jonny Sweet (*Chickens*). In March 2015, Harlan Coben, the author of numerous international bestsellers, has announced the launch of his own independent production company, **FINAL TWIST**, in partnership with STUDIOCANAL, via its subsidiary RED Production Company.

STUDIOCANAL took a majority stake in the German production company **TANDEM** (*Crossing Lines*, *Spotless*), run by Rola Bauer, in 2012, and in UK-based **RED Production Company** (*Happy Valley*, *The Five*), founded by Nicola Schindler, in 2013. Since 2014, STUDIOCANAL is also partnered with

SAM Productions, a Danish company founded by Søren Svestrup (*The Killing*), Adam Price (*Borgen*), and Meta Louise Foldager (*A Royal Affair*).

ABOUT STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL is Europe's leader in production, rights acquisition, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series. STUDIOCANAL operates directly in all three major European markets, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. STUDIOCANAL has fully-financed recent box office hits like *Paddington*, *Shaun the Sheep* and *Non Stop*. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include *The Commuter*, featuring Liam Neeson, and Nick Park's stop-motion movie *Early Man*, with Aardman Studios. STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning production companies, including Tandem Productions (*Crossing Lines*, *Spotless*) in Germany and the UK's RED Production Company (*Happy Valley*). Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, with more than 5,000 international titles. STUDIOCANAL's parent company, CANAL+ Group, is fully-owned by Vivendi, a global media and content production and distribution group.

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