

CONTEST I SAVOIA — THE SERIES —

ENGLISH

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FILM COMMISSION
TORINO PIEMONTE

FIP

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I SAVOIA. THE SERIES

50.000 € to the best TV Series Concept

The Contest – launched in Fall 2017 by Film Commission Torino Piemonte, FIP Film Investimenti Piemonte and Regione Piemonte - was aimed at screenwriters from all over Europe to identify and award the best concept for a TV Series set in a historically significant period for the House of Savoy and Piedmont, with a focus on both history of the territory and circuit of Royal Residences.

There was a large response to the Call for Entries, which was promoted at European level and was received with a great deal of interest: 247 entrants, either as an individual or as part of a group, 150 concepts submitted – 10% from abroad, from which to select the 50.000 € best project.

In the months following the Call Closing Date, a judging panel and, subsequently, a scientific committee, proceeded to read and analyze the projects selecting a shortlist of candidates that would then go on to access a follow-up interview. This Book of Project presents the 10 most deserving projects. The best concept, which will be selected among such finalists, will be awarded the 50,000.00 euros amount next Fall and will be accompanied along the different production steps leading to its potential implementation into the “I Savoia” TV Series, thanks to the involvement of both Production companies and TV networks.

An initiative through which Film Commission Torino Piemonte and FIP Film Investimenti Piemonte aim to promote and trigger a production process driven by new, original and international ideas, which may be made into cross-cutting events, appealing to diverse audiences and genres.

“Through hosting this contest we aimed to highlight events and personalities characterizing the House of Savoy, with the primary objective of promoting our cultural heritage and through one of the most contemporary forms of audi-ovisual production, that is to say, the TV Series, being aware of their momentous role in promoting the territory.”

Antonella Parigi, Councillor for Culture and Tourism of Regione Piemonte.

“We would like to stress again the high specific gravity of a TV serial show, with regard to its impact on the territory it refers to: the production, promotion and tourism follow up of a hit show is almost incomparable. As film tourism has been showing us for quite a while, many are indeed the territories that have greatly benefited from the most popular Tv-titles.”

Paolo Damilano, President of Film Commission Torino Piemonte

“Being aware of experiencing a new “Golden Age” of television - in particular, given the very large investments on TV Series market – we set out to expand and exceed the boundaries commonly defining a Film Commission’s actions. We have thus taken on the role of activating a turnaround production process, which may go further than simply accommodate the “story”, in fact allowing us - through the Contest - to choose it and built it.”

Paolo Tenna, CEO of FIP Film Investimenti Piemonte

“This initiative - fostered with enthusiasm and energy by the promoting institutions - represents a rare and invaluable action supporting high-quality TV Series shows: an innovative project targeted at one of the most iconic “brands” in our region, the Savoy brand identity, and which allows me to go back to the places and events of my most significant works”

Piero Bodrato, screenwriter and Contest curator





L'AQUILA E LA CROCE

Massimiliano Griner, Davide Savelli

Synopsis

The Eagle and the Cross chronicles the unscrupulous court life of the Duchy of Savoy in the seventeenth century. A life dotted with clandestine loves, conspiracies, torture and exterminations. The dukedom has a precarious destiny, always on the verge of being invaded, destroyed, subtracted. This is why power is exercised in an immediate, unrestrained way, allowing almost any abuse and then taking refuge in repentance, faith, hope for redemption.

The central character of the story is Christine of France, Duchess of Savoy, first *Madama Reale*. We soon discover her political talent, the firmness and severity that quickly supplant her frivolous and libertine tendencies. Resolute and ruthless, Cristina will have no hesitation in unleashing a bloody persecution against the religious minority of *Valdesi* to secure the support of Louis XIV, King of France, or in marrying off her daughter to her cousin, an old, former cardinal, to appease the domestic conflicts. Our story mixes the misery of persecuted people with the splendor of the itinerant court of Savoy, a life full of feasts and parties and hunting activities in the numerous pleasure and hunting residences. However, an element finally balances everything. When smallpox spread, it didn't care for distinction of class. Fear of death assails everyone equally, as well as the desperate search for salvation. Faith emerges vehemently in our story, the need for redemption, shedding all earthly things, getting rid of all sins. When it is probably too late.

*17th Century.
War, famine and
pestilence. Intrigues,
heresies and
persecutions.
The Duchy of Savoy
is in the hands of
a courageous and
determined woman.*

Authors' Intention

We aimed to build a credible story, with limited chronological and biographical distortions, on a fascinating era characterized by lights and shadows. We alternate the splendor of the Savoy residences with the gloom of the dungeons where the heretics were tortured; the purple of the courtesans' garments with the vermilion of the blood; the glitter of the jewels with the brown of the armor.



Massimiliano Griner

Massimiliano Griner (Milan, 1970) is a television (Mediaset and Rai Fiction) and radio writer (Rai 3, Rai Cultura, Radio 3). He has published a dozen of essays and novels. He regularly collaborates with popular magazines such as "BBC History" and "Focus-History". He worked for three years as story editor and head writer of a famous Italian tv series (*Distretto di Polizia*). In 2017 he wrote the screenplay for the short film *La legge del numero uno*, directed by Alessandro D'Alatri, selected for the 2018 "Giornate degli Autori" (Venice Days) programme.



Davide Savelli

Davide Savelli (Forlì, 1968) is a TV writer and director (Rai 3, Rai Cultura, Rai Storia, La7, Sky, Fox, A & E, LaEffe, Repubblica tv), a freelance journalist and university lecturer guest (2006-2016, "Theory and technique of audiovisual production", University of Bologna). He wrote and directed several programmes, ranging from factual to entertainment. He's currently collaborating with Rai Cultura and Rai Storia, supervising prime time events and writing screenplays.

Production notes

Genre

Fiction/Factual Drama

Format

Scripted series. 8 x 52'

Audience Target

Prime time audience

Location Shooting

Savoy palaces and residences, and Valli Valdesi. (provisional)

Development stage

A rich iconographic collection of historical and archival materials is available, as well as various videos and pictures referring to the locations specified in our plot summary.



House of Savoy

Mirko Cetrangolo

Synopsis

House of Savoy is the portrait of the birth of a little kingdom, in a very tough time.

This is the story of Vittorio Amedeo II, first king of his dynasty. He was no hero, however, indeed he was an anti-hero, suspicious and cruel, he banishes dissidents and fights them, convinced that the ends always justify the means. Vittorio Amedeo was ready for anything in order to claim his independence... also in his private life. After all, what is most important for a king: make history or be loved?

Each episode of the first season focuses on a crucial moment of his life, until his coveted coronation, while the second season narrates the story of his decline seen from the point of view of his son Carlo Emanuele III, who actually suffered from the lack of affection shown to him by his father. Vittorio Amedeo II was a character larger than life, capable of bending history itself, but unable to do it with his own life.

A duke destined to become king faces his worst enemy... himself.

Authors' Intention

Vittorio Amedeo II didn't become a king by winning wars on the battlefield. He became king because he knew how to deal with other kings and emperors in the corridors of power, thanks to diplomacy, tricks and betrayals. We want to dig deep into his soul, to describe his gloomy relationship with power, a black hole that swallows up everything and consumes it all.



Mirko Cetrangolo

Graduated from Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, he has worked as a screenwriter (*Don Matteo*, *Non Uccidere*) and as a story editor in the drama department at Wildside (1993 – Sky Atlantic; *My Brilliant Friend* – Rai, HBO). His stories and scripts have been selected for the main Italian competitions (Premio Solinas, Premio Bixio, RIFF, FictionLab). He's currently developing a TV series for Netflix and he's in the writers room of the second season of *My Brilliant Friend*.

Production notes

Genre
political/period drama

Format
8x50', with a different protagonist for each season

Audience Target
Audience that love character-driven TV series with an international approach.

Location Shooting
In the corridors of power, between Castello di Rivoli, Palazzo Reale and Palazzo Madama

Development stage
Pitch, treatment of the pilot and brief outlines of each episode.



The Days of the Fox

Francesco Baucia, Ruben Marciano, Nicola Peirano

Synopsis

The last bastion against Louis XIV of France is falling. A dynasty must protect its domain, or it will be swept away. The man who started this bloody conflict wants to play the same game as the great powers of Europe: Victor Amadeus II, known as “the Fox”, the Duke who would be King.

Just as History is made up of individual lives, Victor Amadeus’ journey is intertwined with the epic story of the common people, so often forgotten in the books, struggling to survive in the streets of Turin.

People such as Lucia, a beautiful and ruthless woman who belongs to the Waldensian church and is seeking revenge against the man who slaughtered her family. Or Arturo, known as Passepartout because of his knowledge of the tunnels beneath the city, who has to become a thief in order to save his brother’s life.

What if the lives of these two commoners affect the destiny of the Duke? In the final seven days of the siege of Turin, everything is at stake, for the House of Savoy and for the whole of Europe.

1706. Turin besieged: Victor Amadeus has 7 days to save it, but the real enemy is inside the walls.

Authors’ Intention

To conquer, to preserve, to hand down: the great challenges of life last only a few days. The three seasons of *The Days of the Fox* portray three crucial weeks in the life of a sovereign and two commoners who will influence the sovereign’s life. Not simply the battles of History, but also the conflicts of every age in life.



Nicola Peirano

Nicola Peirano earned with a degree in writing for television from the Catholic University of Milan. He worked in Portugal for a transmedia production company, then began collaborating with Vela Film in Rome (*Ispettore Coliandro*, *La Porta Rossa*). He is the author of animated series episodes, aired in Italy and abroad, including the *Atchoo!* series, and is currently working on several projects for TV and cinema.



Francesco Baucia

Francesco Baucia studied Philosophy. After specializing in Screenwriting & Production for cinema and television at the Catholic University of Milan, he completed an internship at RaiFiction. He currently works as editor, translator and consultant for major Italian publishing houses. In 2013 he published his first novel, *L’ultima analisi*.



Ruben Marciano

Ruben Marciano graduated from Sapienza University in Rome with a degree in Psychology. He also holds a degree in Screenwriting from “Gian Maria Volonté” School of Film and has worked as AD and script reader (Fandango, Rodeo Drive). He is currently writing a master’s dissertation about historical memory.

Production notes

Genre

Period Drama / Thriller

Format

6 x 50’

Audience Target

ages 18 - 50

Location Shooting

City of Turin, Circuit of Royal Residences as Palazzo Reale, Palazzo Madama, Venaria Reale

Development stage

Concept, episode outlines, pilot treatment



Madama Reale

Laura Piani, Tara Mulholland

Synopsis

When Marie-Jeanne de Nemours, a futureless orphan in Paris, becomes Madama Reale, the Regent of Savoy, in 1675, her reign in the small Italian Duchy upends the status quo in Europe.

For a decade, she lives according to her own rules: defying Louis XIV as she strengthens Savoy’s international status, openly flaunting her younger lovers to the world, gleefully taking revenge on her late husband’s mistresses, and doing everything in her power to transform Turin into “a new Athens” of learning and culture. But this woman, who wanted to live like a man, was capable of everything except loving her one and only son.

This is the story of a mother and child fighting fiercely for power.

*I know I have the
body but of a weak
and feeble woman;
but I have the heart
and stomach of a
king.”*

Authors’ Intention

By telling the story of Madama Reale, we want to shine a light on resolutely contemporary issues. Marie-Jeanne believed that to rule she must act like a man. Today, amid ongoing shifts in women’s rights, this is a fascinating topic to explore. The story, inescapably Italian, is also European, entangled in the courts of Paris, Madrid, Vienna, and London: a compelling subject in an era of rising nationalism.



Laura Piani

Laura studied scriptwriting in Paris and in Rome. Her first script, *The Road of Washington Irving*, was finalist in the Prix Sopadin Junior du Meilleur Scenario and winner of the Fondation Beaumarchais prize. Recently, she created a 6x52’ series for FRANCE 2, *Philharmonia*, wrote an episode of *Spiral* for CANAL +, and *Ronde de Nuit* for FRANCE 3. She just co-wrote *Temps de Chien*, a comedy for ARTE and is currently working on a romantic comedy produced by The Bureau.



Tara Mulholland

Tara is a freelance writer, editor and translator, specializing in film. She previously worked for more than 10 years at the New York Times International in Paris and has written on the arts, feminism, travel and culture for publications including The New York Times, Condé Nast Traveler and The Huffington Post. She translates and edits for production companies including Lagardère Studios, Thelma Films, My Box Productions, Blue Spirit Productions, Atlantique Productions and Patafilm Productions. Born in London, she has lived in Paris since 2002.

Production notes

Genre
Historical drama

Format
6 x 52 min series, with strong potential for future series continuing the story of the House of Savoy

Audience Target
Teens to adults

Location Shooting
The story is Italian, entwined with the history of Piedmont. There would also be shots of Paris, the courts of Versailles, London and Lisbon

Development stage
Series bible, pilot treatment and series synopsis available



Savoy: the First King

Simone Metalli, Marcello Pedretti, Marcello Trazzi

Synopsis

In 1730, sixtyfour-year-old Victor Amadeus II, the first Savoy to be called a king, decides to abdicate. He has ruled successfully for fifty years, but now he believes his mind is failing him, and he doesn't want his condition to affect the kingdom he has dedicated his life to. His successor is Charles Emmanuel III, his second son, a weak and insecure young man, whom he had always harassed.

However, Victor Amadeus II quickly realizes that he cannot give up his power, so, affected by his deteriorating mental health, he starts a war against his own son to take his reign back. A war which will last two years, made neither of weapons nor soldiers, but secrets, subterfuges, allies longing for revenge, wives longing for power. A war led by a man who is but a shadow of his former self, who doesn't recognize reality any longer and is haunted by ghosts from his past.

The tragic decline of Victor Amadeus II, a story of madness, revenge and struggle for power

Authors' Intention

To tell a story about the awareness of mental disease, the troubled relationships with close family and a reluctance to relinquish power. To see these themes through the eyes of one of the most important sovereigns of the Savoy family, focusing on the last two years of his life, his darkest period.



Simone Metalli

Simone Metalli was born in Bologna in 1980. He is a tutor at Bottega Finzioni, a creative writing school founded by Carlo Lucarelli. In 2015 he was a finalist in the "Amarcort" short film competition (Cineteca of Rimini). He is the editorial director of *Brividi a cena*, a series in Edizioni del Loggione, a publishing house, and has published with Damster Edizioni. He is also a co-author of two episodes of *Muse Inquietanti*, a TV programme presented by Carlo Lucarelli on the Sky Arts Channel.



Marcello Pedretti

Marcello Pedretti was born in Bologna, in 1990. He is a tutor at Bottega Finzioni, a creative writing school founded by Carlo Lucarelli. In 2016, he won the Mattador International Prize for screenwriting, and directed the prize-winning short film *Ascolta i tuoi occhi*. He has published short stories for Giallo Mondadori, Playboy Italia, Edizioni del Loggione, Damster Edizioni and Fernandel. He is also the co-author of two episodes of *Muse Inquietanti*, a TV programme on the Sky Arts Channel.



Marcello Trazzi

Marcello Trazzi was born in Bentivoglio (BO) in 1983. He was a tutor at Bottega Finzioni, a creative writing school founded by Carlo Lucarelli, until 2017. He has published short stories for Edizioni del Loggione and Damster Edizioni. He is co-curator of a detective short story collection centred on Pellegrino Artusi, published by Edizioni del Loggione. He is also one of co-authors of two episodes of *Muse Inquietanti*, a TV programme presented by Carlo Lucarelli on the Sky Arts channel.

Production notes

Genre
Drama

Format
6 episodes of 50 minutes

Audience Target
25-54 years old

Location Shooting
Turin and Piedmont (Italy): Royal Palace, Castle of Rivoli, Castle of Moncalieri, Castle of Valentino, Royal Theatre, Basilica of Superga. Chambéry (France): Cathedral, country house

Development stage
Four page series concept, Six episode concepts, two pages each, four page pilot treatment



At the King's Table

Mario Cristiani, Cristiano Testa

Synopsis

Sometimes, fate brings special people together, and the events sparked off by their contact turn into something special.

This is what happened in the House of Savoy, between the Royal Palace and the family's Residences, when the lives of Charles Albert and Vittorio Emanuele II met those of Giovanni Vialardi and, though to a lesser extent, Teofilo Barla.

On one side, two future kings, who could not be more different from each other; on the other side, two cooks who were bound to leave their mark, though for different reasons.

While Vialardi was an enlightened, trailblazing chef, to such an extent he was regarded as one of the fathers of the Italian cuisine, Barla was a striking nine days' wonder (and, as such, quickly forgotten) with his astonishing eccentricities: perfectly confident with pots and pans, yet completely unable to cope with social interactions and the practicalities of life. A journey from the darkness of repression of the Italian Unification, lived in parallel – amidst love affairs and self-deceptions, hoaxes and successes – in the company of the Kings and their precious, dependable chef.

In the House of Savoy, Downton Abbey meets MasterChef

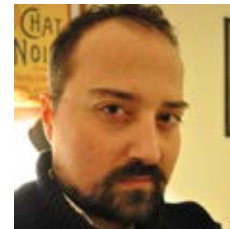
Authors' Intention

As in *Downton Abbey*, "A tavola coi Re" closely interweaves upstairs with downstairs, in a public and private story interspersed with the events that left their mark on the Italian Risorgimento, next to which flows only what minor chronicles can tell. Glimpses of real life, that reveal the true nature and the unexpected colours of the characters' feelings.



Mario Cristiani

Author of TV series (such as *La Squadra*, *Medicina Generale*, *Chiamatemi Gio*, *La strada di casa*), for the screen he wrote together with Donatella Diamanti *Viola di mare* and the project *15 milioni*, winner of the Mibact-Ancine open call. For the stage he wrote *I sogni non vanno fatti morire mai*, played by Luca Zingaretti, and *Controvento*. He taught scriptwriting technique at Pisa University and at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, both in Milan and in Palermo. *In silenzio* is his first novel.



Cristiano Testa

Cristiano Testa graduated from Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia and is currently working as a story editor and screenwriter. Among his latest works, the period drama *Il paradiso delle signore*, broadcast on Rai 1, and the comedy *Matrimoni e altre follie*, for Canale 5. He published for Antonio Tombolini Editore an essay about the television series *Dexter*, entitled *Dexter and Sant'Anselmo. The archivist and the philosopher*. He lives and works in Rome.

Production notes

Genre

historical period drama

Format

8x50'

Audience Target

Prime time audience

Location Shooting

Piedmont and circuit of Royal Residences. In particular: Palazzo Reale, Racconigi, Stupinigi, Venaria, Rivoli, Gressio e Pollenzo.

Development stage

TV series concept and 8 episodes' synopses



Marquis of the Wolf

Alessandro Regaldo, Andrea Scaglione, Piero Soria

Synopsis

Freely adapted from Piero Soria’s novel “La Primula di Cavour”, the story of Aimone, king Carlo Alberto’s illegitimate son and Vittorio Emanuele II’s half brother, unfolds itself in a political yet deeply personal intrigue, where every piece of the chessboard will fight for victory and the “wind of History” will blow towards the first steps of Italy’s Unification.

Aimone was born with a disturbing impairment: lacking auricles, his hearing is exceptionally developed but he’s incapable of detecting sound direction. They call him Marquis of the Wolf, because of his wolflike motions. Aimone, back in Turin after years of apprenticeship, finds himself surrounded by pawns and players of a machination that was just moving its first steps.

Marquis of the Wolf is a modern political thriller with noir elements, which enjoys a wealth of unique settings. It’s a clash of titans directly from the XIX century and a personal struggle towards affirmation.

Marquis of the Wolf is a historical drama set in a gloomy, melancholic Turin, a city torn apart by political machinations.

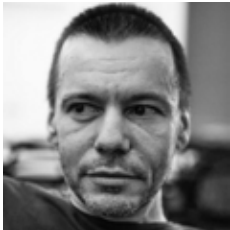
Authors’ Intention

The project’s first narrative reference comes directly from the “going back home” topos. The mystery and in-depth analysis of the events up until Aimone’s return and the dark secrets of his past will be at the core of his character’s journey and the main storyline of Marquis of the Wolf’s first Season.



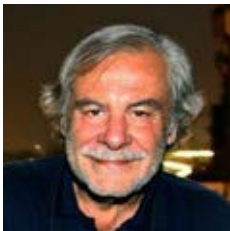
Alessandro Regaldo

Alessandro Regaldo (1989) is an Italian screenwriter and producer, member of the Los Angeles Filmmakers Alliance, The Writers Guild Italia (WGI) and founder of the production company Grey Ladder Productions SRL. As a screewriter, he worked on the feature *Oktober* by Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio (2012), the short films *Like a Butterfly* (2015) and *Dharma Bums* (2018) and the feature *L’Altra Madre* (2019). Since 2017, he has been working as a story editor and a script supervisor for Paco Cinematografica (*The Best Offer*, *The Correspondence*).



Andrea Scaglione

Andrea Scaglione (1968) is an Italian director and executive producer, and CEO of the production company Dimago SRL (Turin). As a producer, director and art director, his portfolio includes collaborations with national and international broadcast networks and agencies. He deals, among other things, with the search for a technical-creative language that can support and accompany the Sky serialization of *#BuffaRacconta*, *#MrCondò* and *#SignoriDelCalcio*. He worked with Piero Soria in writing and directing the shorts miniseries *Torino Mon Amour* for Rai Sat Fiction.



Piero Soria

Piero Soria (1944) is an Italian novelist, journalist and screenwriter. Some of his most appreciated work include *Colpo di Coda* (1989), object of a feature adaptation starring Giancarlo Giannini and Stefania Sandrelli. In 2001, Soria’s short stories’ anthology *Torino Mon Amour* is released by La Stampa. The book has been adapted into a 6 short films miniseries for Rai Sat Fiction, directed by Andrea Scaglione.

Production notes

Genre

Historical drama / thriller / noir

Format

6 episodi, 50 minutes each

Audience Target

20-50 years old

Location Shooting

Torino and Piedmont, Italy. INT/EXT ratio 70:30

Development stage

Series Bible, Season 1 treatment, Season 1 episodes synopsis



Theatrum Sabaudiae

Corrado Trione

Synopsis

In 1682 the Theatrum Sabaudiae is released, a collection of engravings that exalts the magnificence of the State of Savoy, exaggerating its beauty and hiding its flaws.

We are in Turin, in the years when the duchess Giovanna Battista is governing in the place of her still underage son after the mysterious death of her husband.

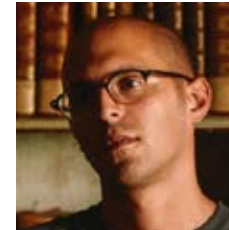
In a Piedmont glittering on the surface but oppressed by difficulties and internal conflicts, caught between faithful subjects and traitors, lovers and rivals, French spies and Spanish emissaries, the Duchess is willing to defend her power using all means at her disposal against the aims of other countries and her son's ambitions. Nine years of history (1675-1684) told in a series of six episodes, each focusing on one of the court's characters and on a particular take on the facts. There is no single truth; there are no guilty or innocent parties: only pretenses and masks in a historical setting.

A series full of intrigue, double meanings and twists, based on brilliant dialogues of a theatrical nature, with a touch of black comedy.

Different truths at play on the stage of history. At the court of a woman who loved power more than she loved herself

Authors' Intention

This is not the history we find written in books. It is not museum style history but a stage through which to access exciting past events. We have all experienced love, ambition, fear and lies but history offers us extraordinary examples. To bring the characters' soul and motives back to life, to repopulate their places of living with fascinating and vivid emotions: this is the intention of the author.



Corrado Trione

Corrado Trione, born in Turin in 1984, is a writer and playwright. He has written videoclips, commercials and documentaries, he has collaborated on the screenplay of the film *La verità vi spiego sull'amore* and his short films have won various prizes and selections at international festivals. His work for the theatre has been performed throughout Italy. He has directed two theatres and a festival. He also deals with research and development in the field of historical archives and museums and teaches writing and cultural marketing

Production notes

Genre

Historical, Thriller, Black Humor, Crime Drama

Format

6 episodes of 50/55 min
(with the possibility of a second series)

Audience Target

Women and Men, 25-50 years old

Location Shooting

Turin (historic buildings, historic districts)
Piedmont: areas of Canavese, Monferrato, Langhe
(historic buildings, historical centers)
Int/Ext Ratio: 70:30

Development stage

Story episodes 1-6 (first season);
Main characters' Bible;
Pilot treatment; Pilot Script (in progress).



The Queen of Cyprus

Massimo De Angelis

Synopsis

A blend of real and fictional events, with existing and made up characters, THE QUEEN OF CYPRUS transforms Christine of France’s contradictory character into a tragic and extreme female personality who has fought, among faults, transgressions, impulses and passions, for her independence and that of the State she ruled. In a spectacular and cruel Royal Court, Christine will be torn between her desire for purity and a violent thirst of power and sensuality.

His name is Genesio, he is a Waldensian boy who has escaped his family’s slaughter. An important man helps him and welcomes him in his home: the Savoias’ Royal Gardener, who will introduce him to grace and to the “toxic” power of flowers. Genesio will enter the Royal Gardens as a humble assistant, and there he will meet Christine: a secret and forbidden relationship begins between these two wounded souls. However, when Genesio discovers his family’s assassins among the court, he will begin to plan his revenge. Christine will have to make difficult choices, including the only true sentiment in her lifetime...

The parable of power, love and solitude of a woman in a male-dominated world

Authors’ Intention

A Black/Romance narrative built around a doomed love. The modern personality of a woman struggling with herself and her world, as she is faced with increasingly challenging choices. The story of a woman’s resistance and fulfilment within a criminal and extraordinary world (the Royal Court), which could be compared to *Animal Kingdom*, *Elizabeth* and *Queen of the South*.



Massimo De Angelis

Massimo de Angelis lives and works in Rome. He has published several science fiction stories (with Elara Edizioni, formerly Perseo Edizioni). He has received awards for book writing, theatre writing, and screenwriting, and has won the Premio Solinas many times over. He has worked and is still collaborating with numerous Italian production companies (Indigo Film, LaSarraz Pictures, Partner Media Investment, AltreStorie, Own Air, among others). He has attended the 13th RAI –SCRIPT course.

Production notes

Genre
Historic (Crime Drama)

Format
6x50’

Audience Target
M/F - 22/35

Location Shooting
Royal Villas in Piedmont (Italy) / France

Development stage
First season Outline/First season Episode Outlines/
Second season intentions and general idea



The King’s Heir

Francesco Nicola Renda, Arrigo Maria Verderosa, Luca Pisani

Synopsis

At the age of eleven, Vittorio’s life takes a sudden turn: his father, Carlo Alberto, is crowned King. This was totally unexpected: Carlo Alberto was raised far from the pomp and pageantry of the court, far from the Savoy who counted. But the Savoy who counted die one by one, and the line of succession falls straight to Carlo Alberto. Vittorio becomes the King’s Heir. He disdains his new life from the start, favoring simple farm fares over royal dinners, a commoner girl over his Austrian spouse.

For eighteen years he sees his father slowly consumed by his royal duties and sacrifices, until he is dealt the final blow: in 1849 Piedmont loses the war against Austria and, with it, the dream of setting Italy free. Carlo Alberto finally finds a reason to abdicate. He leaves everything behind and flees to Portugal.

And so, the dawn of Vittorio’s Reign is scarred with the indelible mark of abandon. Nobody has prepared him for his role: to steer a guideless nation towards its destiny: Italy.

*A father and his son.
A worn out king and
an heir unprepared
to face his destiny.*

Authors’ Intention

In a moment in which our visual arts face the challenge of innovation, we believe that the story of the Crown - of our Crown, the House of Savoy - represents a decisive move towards leaving a mark in European storytelling. The idea is not to bring back days long gone, but to show how the sparks of those days still live within us.



Francesco Nicola Renda

Francesco Nicola Renda (Turin, 1991), graduated in television serial drama at “Scuola Holden”. He moved to Rome where he took his first steps as a junior editor for a production company, he is currently still cooperating with. He has worked as an assistant and co-author for directors such as Stefano Lodovichi, Pippo Mezzapesa, Lorenzo Sportiello, Lorenzo Vignolo. For a few years now he’s been writing his own stories, trying to inject innovation into the current European audio- visual scene.



Arrigo Maria Verderosa

Arrigo Maria Verderosa (Turin, 1992) pursued a career as a concept artist, graduating first from the International School of Comics, then from iMasterArt. He is currently working for the latter as a drawing teacher. He has always been passionate about storytelling, a passion he pursued by studying drama, with a special attention to TV series. In 2017 he collaborated with “Series Lab Europe” as a screenwriter.



Luca Pisani

Luca Pisani (Turin, 1991) has a degree in Economics of Cultural Heritage at Turin University and he’s currently finishing his masters in History. Through the years he has committed himself to the promotion of History, working as a lecturer for a cycle of conferences produced by the Circolo dei Lettori, an association with its own cultural centre in Turin. He is currently studying Theatre and Drama in Moncalieri.

Production notes

Genre

Historical drama

Format

8x50’, mini-series

Audience Target

General public, both italian and international

Location Shooting

Royal Palace, the Savoy Court; Stupinigi Residence, where Vittorio’s two authentic passions reside: hunting and Rosina, the love of his life. Carignano Palace, the Parliament’s turbulent headquarters. Porta Palazzo Market, the working-class arena.

Development stage

TV series concept, episodes’ synopses, pilot script in process

