



# SERIESLY BERLIN

## Press Release

### Seriesly Berlin Unveils First Premieres and Panel Highlights That Push Boundaries

Berlin, 12 August, 2025. The countdown is on for the second edition of **Seriesly Berlin**, the vibrant festival and industry event **for the future** of serial storytelling. From 15 to 18 September, Seriesly Berlin will bring together creators, industry professionals, and series enthusiasts from around the world for four days of screenings, talks, workshops, and networking — with all industry activities set against the iconic backdrop of Fotografiska Berlin. Early Bird rates are available until 15 August.

The festival kicks off on Monday, 15 September with the **Seriesly Berlin Premieres** showcasing a diverse and compelling lineup of international series premiering in Germany before their German TV or streaming debut. First announced highlights include the critically acclaimed and highly anticipated Belgian queer drama **“Oh, Otto!”**, the Colombian coming-of-age thriller **“Eve’s Rib”** about young people discovering their sexuality while hunted by a serial killer, the German series **“House of Bellevue”**, set in Berlin’s dazzling ballroom scene, the Kazakh series **“Kazakh Scary Tales”** about an investigator being confronted with a supernatural case, and the Canadian documentary series **“Sanajit (Inuit Makers)”**, immersing viewers in Inuit culture. These series exemplify the festival’s commitment to showcasing bold, innovative storytelling from around the globe, accessible to the general public.

“With this year’s program, we remain true to our mission of creating spaces for stories and themes that often have no place on other stages. We want to bring forward voices and topics that are usually left unspoken. Seriesly Berlin aims to show the unexpected, to spark conversations, and to push the boundaries of storytelling,” says Festival Director Dennis Ruh.

#### First Panel Highlights of the Seriesly Berlin Conference (17–18 Sept)

Many of this year’s conference panels have been created with program partners whose highly regarded expertise contributes to the program, among them the industry conference TV Drama Vision of the Göteborg Film Festival, the initiative Queer Media Society, fighting against discrimination of the LGBTQIA+ community, the Fantasy Film Festival as well as the Albi fund, the first-ever independent moving image fund for productions by or about Israelis and Palestinians, entirely committed to equality and democracy.

One of this year’s highlights is the panel **“Dressed To Impress: Fashion as a Narrative Force”**, featuring Laos-born, internationally renowned designer **Be Inthavong**, Creative Director at **Jim Thompson**. Under his leadership, the brand has expanded beyond silk into apparel, accessories, and home décor while honoring Thailand’s rich heritage. Inthavong’s collaboration with the art department of the latest season of *„The White Lotus“*—filmed in Thailand—saw his elegant kaftans and signature textiles become integral to the show’s visual language. The panel explores how designers and fashion brands use TV series as creative platforms, how product placement evolves into cultural currency, and how series makers can benefit from stylish, story-driven collaborations in an era where series set trends in fashion, interiors, and lifestyle culture.



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The panel **“Storytelling 2030: Who Pays, Who Plays? Power, platform, and the price of creativity in a changing world”** examines how the greenlight process now hinges not only on great storytelling but also strategic partnerships and navigating an evolving financing landscape. The panel features industry leaders including **Benjamin Mirnik-Voges** (VP Original Production, The Walt Disney Company Germany) and **Sabine de Mardt** (President Gaumont Germany). In **“Nordic-German Co-Producing”** in partnership with Göteborg Film Festival – TV Drama Vision, key creatives and decision-makers from both regions discuss opportunities and challenges in Nordic-German collaborations. **Miira Paasilinna** (COO of Anagram Group and Managing Director of Anagram Sweden), brings vast experience producing and selling international productions like Disney+’s first Nordic Original *“To Cook a Bear”* and *“Thin Blue Line”* season 3 (SVT).

Under the header **“Beyond the Usual Suspects: Reinventing Co-Productions”** the panel will tackle examples of co-productions between atypical territories, that signify a creative response to a demanding market, but also a response to a global audiences wish to see more cross cultural narrative. Additionally, the case study about the show **“Drops of God”**, presented by its co-producer and serial storytelling mentor **Klaus Zimmermann**, will spotlight the acclaimed trilingual (English, French, Japanese) co-production between Apple, Hulu, and TV France, winner of the 2024 International Emmy Award. **Rahul Patel** (Principal Analyst, Ampere Analysis) will provide big data support in mapping out the market reality and opportunities for copros in 2025.

In **“Stories for Tomorrow: How Collaborative Palestinian and Israeli Writing Transforms Television”**, in partnership with the Albi Fund, Palestinian and Jewish creators from the fund’s *Shared Society on the Small Screen* program show how collaborative storytelling can reshape how identities are portrayed and understood. Through drama, nuanced narratives, and deeply human stories, they explore how art can challenge assumptions, foster empathy, and inspire change. Actor-director **Yousef Sweid** (*The Goat*; *Between the River and the Sea*; *Unorthodox*; *The Spy*), *Non-Issue* co-creators **Nayef Hammoud & Gal Rosenbluth**, program director **Keren Michael**, and Albi founder **Libby Lenkinski** share how their partnerships imagine futures built on complexity, curiosity, and connection.

**“What The Heck Is A Queer Show?! Queerness in Mainstream TV”**, in partnership with Queer Media Society, tackles ongoing challenges in queer representation on television. With: **Stijn Van Kerkhoven**, creator and director of *“Oh, Otto!”*. In partnership with Fantasy Filmfest, the panel **„Building Fear That Stays With You: How Horror Works in Episodes“** features Turkish director, producer and writer **Can Evrenol** (*“Baskın”*, *“Housewife”*, *“Çıplak”*) and German director/writer **Till Kleinert** (*“Der Samurai”*, *“Hausen”*), discussing how long-term dread, tension-building, and mythologies unfold uniquely in serialized storytelling, enabling deeper character arcs and emotional horror.

This year’s workshop series ranges from producer-focused sessions – such as **“Germany 2026: Film & Series Funding – Turning New Rules into Opportunities”**, offering hands-on insights into the latest developments in German funding from experts at the **German Producers Alliance (Produktionsallianz)** and **PROG Producers of Germany** – to writer-centric topics like **“Development Hell”** by acclaimed screenwriter and creative producer **Elena Lyubarskaya** (*“Pauline”*, upcoming *“The City of Blood”*), which tackles a common dilemma for many scriptwriters: why projects get stuck in endless rewrites and, crucially, how to break free.



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## Seriesly Berlin Premieres (15-18 Sept)

### **Eve's Rib (La Costilla de Eva) (Colombia)**

Set in a Colombian city haunted by a serial killer targeting homosexuals, this gripping drama follows a group of young people exploring their sexuality amid fear and prejudice. With complex characters like Gustavo, a closeted teenager, and Sara, a transgender counselor challenging societal norms, "Eve's Rib" delivers a powerful, urgent story about courage and acceptance.

Broadcaster: Colombian Television

Production: Cóncavo Films

Director: James Camargo De Alba

Writer: James Camargo De Alba

### **House of Bellevue (Germany)**

This music-driven drama follows 19-year-old Emiel as he escapes a small town to immerse himself in Berlin's dazzling ballroom scene. Amidst themes of identity, chosen family, and queer love, Emiel must confront the rules of the community that embraces him — to conform or break free. "House of Bellevue" is a vibrant portrait of resilience and belonging.

Broadcaster: ZDFneo

Production: Don't Panic Films GmbH

Director: Kai S. Pieck, Toby Chlosta, Gabriel B. Arrahnio

Writers: Toby Chlosta, Laura Tamoj

Cast: Ricco-Jarret Boateng, Nora Henes, Abed Haddad, Kawian Paigal, Ilonka Petruschka, Florence Kasumba, Lie Ning, Binta Yaffa, Komi M. Togbonou, Robin Cadet.

### **Kazakh Scary Tales (Kazakhstan)**

Investigator Birzhan desperate for a promotion is taking on cold cases from remote villages — cases shrouded in mystery, with no evidence and no logical explanations. Birzhan doesn't believe in the supernatural. But in one village, infants are disappearing, and the elders whisper of an ancient curse — Albasty, a sinister spirit. The locals blame wolves, but Birzhan suspects something far more chilling.

Broadcaster: Freedom Media OTT

Production: Freedom Media

Director: Adilkhan Yerzhanov

Writer: Adilkhan Yerzhanov

### **Oh, Otto! (Belgium)**

This hyped Belgian series is a fresh, gritty portrayal of queer life in Brussels. Otto, a charming and somewhat clumsy 26-year-old, navigates heartbreak and identity after a five-year relationship ends. Set against the vibrant queer community, "Oh, Otto!" explores self-discovery, friendship, and belonging with warmth and humor.

Broadcaster: Streamz

Production: Eyeworks Film & TV Drama

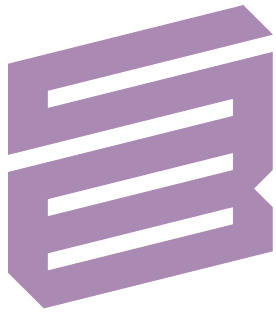
Director: Stijn van Kerkhoven

Writers: Ditte Jacobs, Emiel Van Wouwe.

Cast: Jonathan Michiels, Jennifer Heylen

### **Sanajit (Inuit Makers) (Canada)**

A 13-episode documentary series that invites audiences into the daily lives and creative worlds of Inuit "Makers" in Nunavut. Using a slow TV approach, "Sanajit" honors Inuit traditions,



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craftsmanship, and the intergenerational process of learning by doing, offering a rare, immersive look at a culture shaped by nature and community.

Broadcaster: Uvagut TV

Production: Isuma TV

Directors: Susan Avingaq, Gabriela Gamez, Carol Kunnuk

Writers: Carol Kunnuk, Gabriela Gamez

Accreditation applications for industry professionals, talents, students, and press are now open at [www.serieslyberlin.com](http://www.serieslyberlin.com). Early Bird rates are available until August 15, 2025.



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More program details will be published soon.

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