



# VIDEOAGE

# DAY 1

INTERNATIONAL

www.VideoAgeDaily.com

October 17, 2016

## For MIPCOM Exhibitors Bigger Is More, And Better

**M**IPCOM 2016 is the biggest one on record (with some 14,000 attendees expected), and to most distributors *VideoAge Daily* spoke to, that's great news.

"As MIPCOM grows, so does access to content and sales channels," said Craig McGillivray, vp of Distribution at Breakthrough Entertainment. Plus, "Reed Midem is doing an excellent job of managing the data of the registrants and exhibitors, so it is easy to filter through content and find contact information where necessary."

Added Gene George, evp of Worldwide Distribution at Starz: "Starz Worldwide Distribution accomplishes a lot at this market — it gives us an opportunity to see a significant number of buyers in a



short period of time. We naturally wish that we had more time with our partners there, but do not feel the market is too big."

Simply put: "MIPCOM is reflective of the global television market, which seems to be growing every year," said David Ellender, president, Global Distribution and Co-Productions at Sonar

(Continued on Page 20)

## Conferences Not to Miss: A Toll on Execs

**D**uring the four days of MIPCOM, many participants are invited to some 55 conferences for a total of 40 hours. These are in addition to breakfast and luncheon meetings and screenings.

The heaviest day is tomorrow, with 20 scheduled conferences, while today there are "only" 18. By Wednesday, they will be tapering off to 13, and on Thursday only a handful remain.

Naturally, for sellers who are patiently waiting in their stands, and buyers who are running late, attending conferences is difficult. However, the temptation is there,

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*My 2 Cents: Meritocracy versus Mediocrity*

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*INSIDE: Greek TV, Video Summit Everywhere Preview*

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*INSIDE: A look at Series Mania's Co-Production Forum*

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**VideoAge Daily on the go**



## Gearing Up For SportelMonaco Is Easy To Do

**O**ut of 80 companies exhibiting at SportelMonaco, held October 24-27 in Monte Carlo, at least 12 are also exhibiting at MIPCOM. These include Italy's RAI Com, France's Lagardere, Britain's Eurosport, and from the U.S., ESPN, NBC Sports and WWE.

Curiously and despite the closeness and affinity between the two markets, only one conference at MIPCOM out of the 55 scheduled has something to do with sports.

Most of the SportelMonaco exhibitors are from 10 European countries, while the Middle East is represented by three countries, and Australasia by six countries. But in terms of number of exhibitors, the U.S., with its 16 companies represents the largest contingent.

The fact that Sportel starts just four days after the end of MIPCOM doesn't seem to bother those exhibitors who have to schlep their stands — albeit much smaller ones — for the 55 km that separates Cannes from Monte Carlo.

(Continued on Page 20)

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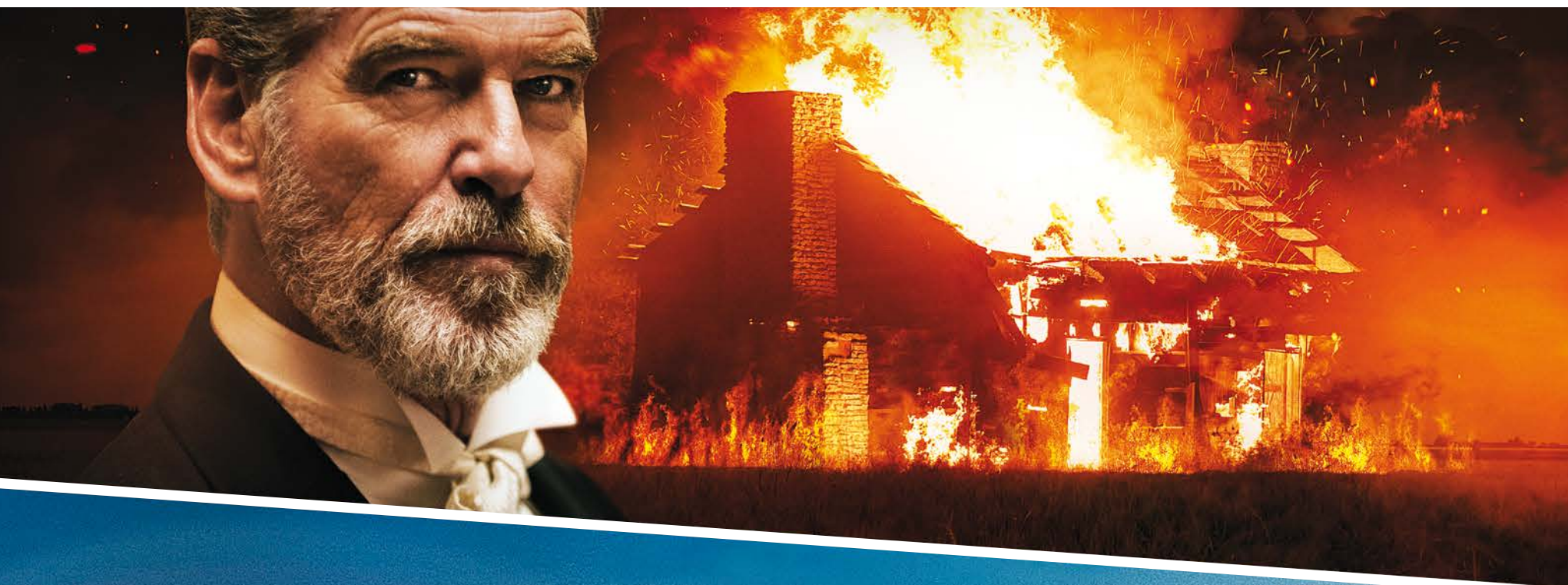
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## Greek TV Bids Bring Revenues and Burdens

Last month's auctions for four TV licenses netted the Greek government a total of 246 million euro. The bidding took 66 hours and the bidders were under a totally confined environment (they were literally living in the building without any possibility of contacting anyone).

The license bids ranged from 43.6 million euro to 75.9 million euro. Each license is for a period of 10 years and went to: Giannis Alafouzos's Dot Com (Skai-TV) for 43.6 million euro; the new entries include Yiannis Kalogritsas for 52.6 million euro, Alter Ego (owned by Vagelis Marinakis, who also owns Olympiakos football team) for 73.9 million euro; and Antenna TV SA for 75.9 million euro. Established TV network Mega was excluded from the auction because of its heavy debt. As per a government announcement, the rest of the losing bidders: channels Star, Alpha, Mega, Makedonia TV and Epsilon, should close down in 90 days.

Athens-based JT Distribution commented is that the dust will settle only after the Greek courts decide on the outcome of the auction and, most likely, after the decision of the European court, which is in the near future.

Another issue to be taken under consideration is that the struggling



Greek television industry will have an added burden of 246 million euro with a predictably disastrous impact.

## Agencies, Brands at VES 2016

A line-up of brand and agency leaders is ready to share their insight at the Digital Place Based Advertising Association (DPAA) 2016 Video Everywhere Summit. The annual event will be held October 27 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City.

The Summit will bring together more than 700 delegates representing brands, agencies, digital place-based networks, ad tech, mobile/location companies, data firms and others from the full spectrum of multi-screen advertising for a full day of leadership talks, case studies, networking events and experiential exhibits.

The Video Everywhere Summit is the largest day-long event dedicated to multi-screen



engagement, video neutral planning, mobile/location data and the role of digital place-based plus digital out-of-home in today's fast evolving media ecosystem.

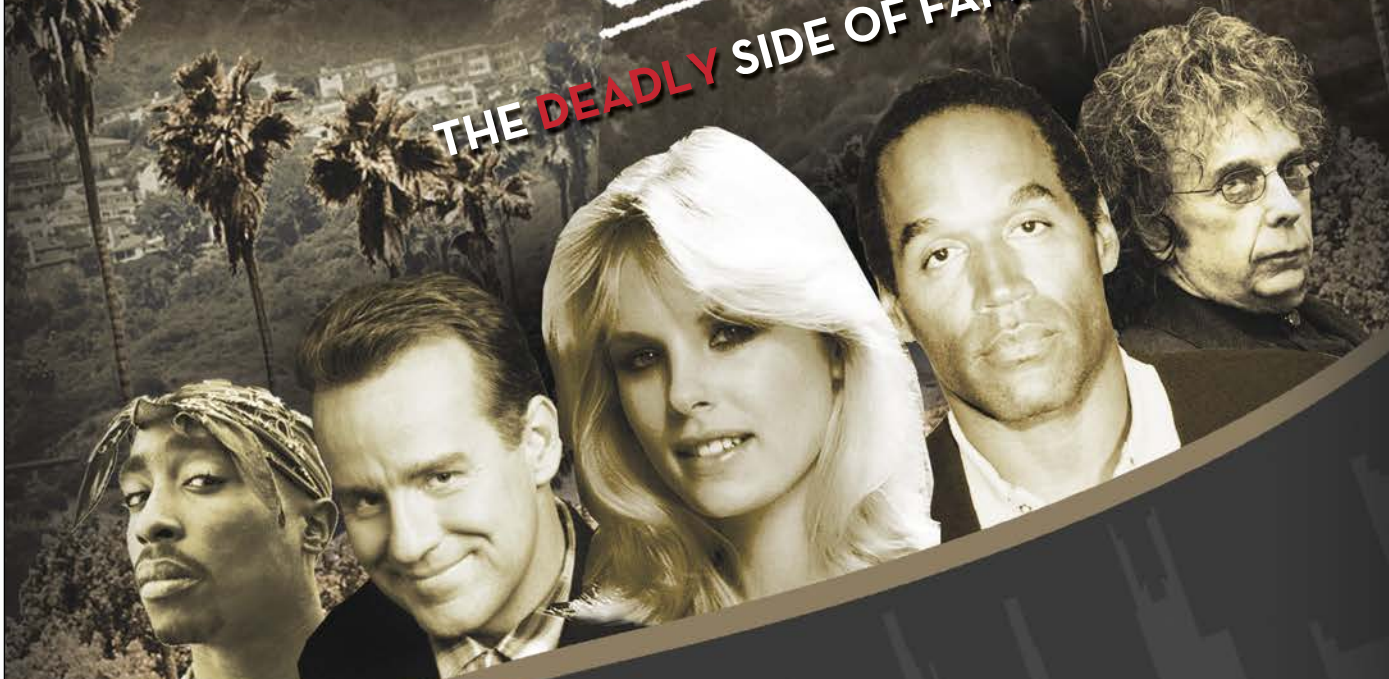
Barry Frey, DPAA president and CEO, will lead the event and conduct one-on-one interviews with select speakers.

Among the brand executives on this year's speaking roster are John Costello (keynote speaker) of Dunkin' Brands; Kimberly Gnatt of Coca-Cola Company; and Fernando Arriola of ConAgra Foods. Agency leaders include Irwin Gotlieb of GroupM; Doug Ray of Carat; Kasha Cacy of UM; Jason Kodish of DigitasLBI; and Alan Schulman of Deloitte Digital, among others.



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**Volume 1**

By Dom Serafini



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## Gaumont Solves The Art of Crime

**G**aumont Television arrives in Cannes from Paris with a roster chock-full of intense dramas. After being fired from the police force for insubordination, Antoine Verlay takes a job with the government to solve modern day crimes in French museums and landmarks in drama series **The Art of Crime**. With the help of Louvre art historian Florence Chassagne, Verlay also ends up unveiling great French historical mysteries.

A dark mystery comes to light in drama series **The Frozen Dead** (pictured). When a group of workers in the French Pyrenees discover a headless horse hanging from the edge of a cliff, a story of revenge bubbles to the surface.

Based on Brian McGreevy's gothic novel and directed by Eli Roth, drama series **Hemlock Grove** portrays a struggling community reeling after a mysterious death.

**Hannibal** delves into the early relationship between psychiatrist Dr. Hannibal Lecter and FBI criminal profiler Will Graham, who empathizes with serial killers (and unknowingly becomes involved with one).



Drama series **Narcos**, directed by Jose Padilha (*Elite Squad*, *Robocop*), explores the case against notorious narco-trafficker Pablo Escobar, including the Colombian government and DEA agents.

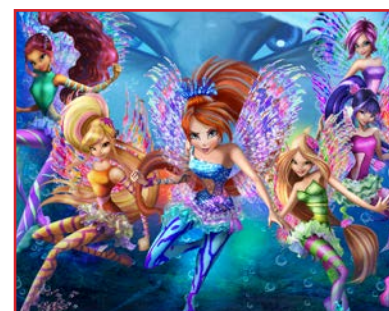
**Stand R8.Cr**

[www.gaumonttelevision.com](http://www.gaumonttelevision.com)

## Fairies and Fashion at Rainbow

Italy-based animation studio Rainbow's line-up is topped by titles of world-famous franchise *The Winx*. Rainbow Group also includes three animation studios in Canada and subsidiaries in Russia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Winx rescue the fairy animals of the Magic Universe in 26 new episodes of **Winx Club**



7, and try to help the Earth's endangered species (pictured).

**Regal Academy** uses 2D toonshade animation to bring fairy tales to life. At school, Rose Cinderella and her peers deal with school and family life.

A trendy Italian girl, Bianca, and an American fashion student form a tight bond in live-action comedy/drama series **Maggie & Bianca Fashion Friends**.

In 2D HD animation action series **World of Winx**, the Winx are talent scouts looking for fresh faces and trying to avoid the Talent Thief.

Humans are destroying the ocean and threaten to disrupt the balance of the sea in 3D animated feature film **Winx Club The Mystery of the Abyss**. The Winx must defeat the Trix to restore balance.

**Poppixie** is a 2D animated series that highlights the daily life of magical creatures in Pixieville, who live in a magical world.

In 2D animated series **Huntik** Season 1 and 2, a group of heroes travel the world in search of powerful amulets to stop an evil organization.

**Stand R7.H2**

[www.rbw.it](http://www.rbw.it)

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## Series Mania's Co-Production Forum

The Series Mania Festival is preparing for its annual Co-Production Forum. Launched in 2013, the Co-Production Forum is the industry arm of the Festival. The 2017 edition of the Forum will be held April 18-21 in Paris, during the Festival, which runs April 13-23. The Co-Production Forum will include pitching sessions, one-on-one meetings, a video library, work-in-progress sessions, and market screenings. This year will be the inaugural writers training session, where 18 projects in development will be presented to an audience of potential co-financiers. The submission deadline for projects is February 24.

There will also be a European Conference Day, featuring panel discussions and conferences focusing on issues regarding Europe's TV industry. There will also be close attention paid to how to finance the development of new series. The French CNC, a national cinema and TV institution, will co-organize the event. Also new this year is a training program for scriptwriters called SeriesLab, which is arranged through a partnership with Torino Film Lab.

The Co-Production Forum will also debut a networking evening, offering guests the chance to mingle at an exclusive Parisian location. Last year's



Co-Production Forum was supported by MEDIA, the CNC, Gaumont Television, Red Arrow International, Newen, Lagardère Studios, Makever, and Haut et Court.

*Pictured at left is Laurence Herszberg, general director of Forum des Images and founder and general director of Series Mania.*

## SPI Filmbox Secures Doc Content

Global TV operator SPI International has picked up 155 hours of HD documentary programming from French distributor Terranoa. SPI International/FILMBOX Channels Group operates over 30 TV networks in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Australia, and features HD content on various movie, documentary, lifestyle, sports and music channels. The Terranoa package includes documentary features and series covering travel and adventure, science and wildlife, lifestyle, in addition to history and arts.

The deal also includes worldwide rights to 39-hour-long episodes of *Mission Exploration*, a travel series that explores different cultures and ways of life across the globe.

Guests such as acclaimed French chef Fred Chasneau host the series. SPI's channels will also air such series as *Science On The Edge*, *Travel Notebooks*, *Nomad's Land*, *I Have Seen The Earth Change* and *Destination Wilderness*.

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## GMA Uncovers Cruel Lies

**G**MA Worldwide TV explores all kinds of drama, from abusive relationships to the falsely accused. **Bow of Justice** (pictured) tells the story of a young attorney who is wrongly accused of murdering his own father. He is forced to take matters into his own hands in order to seek justice for his family.

In **Cruel Lies**, a woman who is abused by her husband falls in love with her brother-in-law. The only problem is he's in another relationship.

Four royal sisters in the world of **Encantadia** possess powerful stones that protect the land from evil that threatens to disturb the peace.

A surrogate mother suffering from postpartum depression after losing her daughter takes off with a client's baby in **Ysabel**.

A young orphan girl makes friends with an elf in drama series **My Secret Love**. Despite their differences, they promise to protect each other from harm.

In **Once Again**, two souls are reincarnated. In their new bodies, they fight for love against difficult circumstances.

**Juan Happy Love Story** is a romantic comedy about a recently



married young couple making adjustments, both big and small.

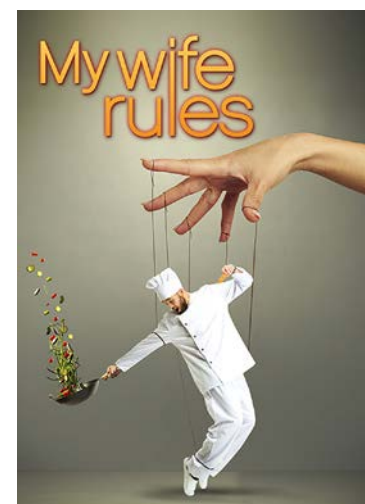
**Stand P-1-H63**

[www.gmaworldwide.tv](http://www.gmaworldwide.tv)

## Wives Rule at Global Agency

**I**stanbul-based The Global Agency puts couples' communication skills to the test, starting with cooking contest **My Wife Rules** (pictured), which sees wives giving instructions to their husbands through an earpiece. The dishes are sampled for the chef and judge.

Eight women in search of a husband have the chance to meet him in dating show **Love Café**. Possible suitors watch the women, who then invite their



favorites for a one-on-one date.

**Know It or Face It!** is a quiz challenge game show for couples who answer questions for the top prize of \$100,000. If one of them messes up, the other goes through a physical challenge: eating chilies or getting a wacky haircut!

In dating show **My Soul Mate**, people apply to be a host or a guest. The dates are then matched in ten categories, and the guests must guess about the hosts.

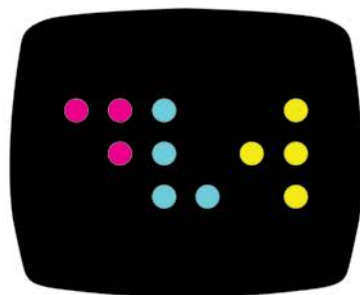
**Cook for the Chefs** is a weekly cooking show that searches for the best home cooks. The famous chefs surprise the amateurs, who have 90 minutes to prepare a three-course meal.

In daily quiz format **Quizmaster**, contestants compete for a cash prize, and to remain on the show. The winner takes all, and becomes Quizmaster for the next day's show.

**Miss Perfect** is a dating show where women go on several dates with the same bachelor, and with the help of a close friend or family member, he chooses his favorite.

**Stand R8.C2**

[www.theglobalagency.tv](http://www.theglobalagency.tv)



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## Explore Nature with **Blue Ant**

**B**lue Ant International is in Cannes with a roster that includes factual and wildlife series for all nature-lovers. **Collision Course** is an entertainment series that looks into iconic car crashes. The HD show examines the key factors that caused life-altering injuries and fatalities.

Natural, religious and astro-physical doomsday prophecies — and their timeline to destruction — are explored in HD science series **How the World Ends** (pictured).

In HD history and reality series **Weapon Hunter**, rock music promoter and expert swordman Paul Shull travels across North America in search of secret military relics to give a close look at the most iconic weapons of the past 150 years.

**Guardians of the Wild** chronicles the daily challenges faced by conservationists who work in the Zambian wilderness. Each day, new discoveries are made about the lives of the animals featured in this HD series.

**Africa's Wild Horizons** showcases Africa's diverse



ecosystems, breeding grounds, migration patterns and watering holes in HD.

**Stand R8.D7**

[www.blueantinternational.com](http://www.blueantinternational.com)

## eOne Nabs **Conviction**

**F**rom hard-hitting legal dramas to conspiracy thrillers, Entertainment One brings the drama to MIPCOM, starting with six-part drama series **Cardinal** (pictured below), which delves into the case of a 13-year-old girl found dead in an abandoned mine. As the investigation grows, detective John Cardinal's dark past disrupts the case.



Hayley Atwell plays Hayes Morrison, the daughter of a former president who is blackmailed into taking a position as the head of New York's Conviction Integrity Unit in legal drama series **Conviction**. The unit works on cases where there's suspicion that the wrong person may have been convicted.

A group of travelers embarks on a three-month trip to Asia in eight-part comedy/drama series **Foreign Bodies**, undergoing intense personal journeys along the way.

Thriller series **Ransom**, created by Frank Spotnitz (*The X-Files*), follows Eric Beaumont, the world's best negotiator. The series is based on the experiences of legendary negotiator Laurent Combalbert, who diffused high-stakes hostage situations blending insight with experience.

Kiefer Sutherland stars in conspiracy thriller and family drama **Designated Survivor**. The primetime series follows a lower-level U.S. Cabinet member who is suddenly appointed president after a catastrophic attack kills the entire presidential line of succession.

**Stand C15.A5**

[www.international.eonetv.com](http://www.international.eonetv.com)

# VIDEOAGE'S

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BOOTH P3.C1

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### CBS SI Climbs New Twin Peaks

CBS Studios International is bringing back several classic series. In the reimagining of **MacGyver** (pictured), a resourceful 20-something with a knack for solving problems is recruited to prevent disasters by a clandestine organization.

**Bull** is a drama series inspired by Dr. Phil McGraw. Michael Weatherly plays Dr. Jason Bull, who combines psychology, intuition and data in a trial-consulting firm.

The new version of **Twin Peaks**, directed entirely by David Lynch, picks up 25 years after the death of homecoming queen Laura Palmer shocks the residents of a quiet Washington town.

In comedy series **No Tomorrow**, Evie Callahan, a quality-control assessor, has an appreciation for order. She falls for Xavier Holliday, a free spirit who believes the world's end is soon.

Set in the near future when corporations have total control, **Incorporated** follows a young executive who hides his identity to infiltrate the corporate world and save the woman he loves.

**Star Trek: Discovery** brings the iconic series to TV 50 years after its premiere. The reimagining features new characters and storylines while maintaining the show's core ethos.

Katherine Heigl stars as Sadie Ellis, an attorney who falls for a client in drama series **Doubt**. She represents a pediatric surgeon accused of murdering his girlfriend 24 years ago

Stand R7.E2

[www.cbssi.com](http://www.cbssi.com)



### NBCUni Demands Justice

NBCUniversal International Distribution explores the world of crime, from massive government conspiracies to crooked cops. **A Few Good Men Live** is the live event of Aaron Sorkin's original Broadway play about military lawyers who discover a deep conspiracy while defending their clients accused of murder.

In post-apocalyptic drama series **Aftermath**, the Copeland family encounters storms, meteors and natural disasters as they travel across the country for survival.

Based on Christos Tsiolkas's novel, in drama series **Barracuda** a working-class teenager has his sights on becoming an Olympic swimmer. He dreams of escaping poverty but is bullied by wealthier classmates.

A policeman is dragged into a cross-country death race in drama series **Blood Drive**. The cop struggles to follow the law, despite falling in love with a dangerous criminal.

The first season of anthology series **Channel Zero: Candle Cove** is based on Kris Straub's story about a man who ruminates over a child's TV show that he suspects played a role in deadly events in his childhood.

**Chicago Justice** (pictured), a drama executive produced by Dick Clark, follows a team of prosecutors and investigators who pursue justice while navigating complicated city politics.

**The Council** is a drama series that takes place in the Arctic. When a young environmentalist is murdered, the RCMP uncovers an international conspiracy to control the world's resources.

Stand P4.C4/P4.C14

[www.nbcuniversal.com](http://www.nbcuniversal.com)



### Have a Nightcap with Lionsgate

Lionsgate Entertainment has a diverse roster of drama series at MIPCOM, starting with **Nashville** (pictured), a soapy series that takes place in the cutthroat country music world. The series depicts the sacrifice and disappointment on the road to stardom.

Best friends Tommy Moran and Dion Patras open a high-end restaurant in their downtrodden Bronx neighborhood in drama series **Feed the Beast**.

Tommy wants to give his son opportunities, and Dion's life is on the line: he has a secret debt to the Mob.

Nick Nolte plays President Richard **Graves**, a former U.S. president who realizes the wrongs of his administration 25 years after leaving the White House. He tries to correct his mistakes on topics such as gay rights, foreign policy and public funding. Meanwhile, his wife, Margaret Graves (Sela Ward), pursues her own political career.

**Nightcap** takes a satirical look at the late-night TV world on the set of a fictitious show where viewers get an unfiltered look at what happens backstage called Nightcap with Jimmy. Ali Wentworth plays Staci, the overworked—and sometimes frazzled—producer.

Abigail Breslin stars as Baby and Debra Messing as Marjorie Houseman in the reimagining of **Dirty Dancing**. The three-hour musical event expands on the classic story at the Catskills resort.

Stand C15.A8

[www.lionsgate.com](http://www.lionsgate.com)



### Turn Up the Volume with Viacom

Viacom International Media Networks is in Cannes with a lot of new series for the whole family, starting with **The Loud House** (pictured), an animated show that follows an 11-year-old boy living with 10 sisters. The huge family brings lots of laughs—and chaos.

In live-action series **School of Rock** (based on the 2003 film of the same name), a group of overachieving prep school students let loose when a new substitute teacher bends the rules.

In **Rusty Rivets**, a kid hero always saves the day by using his resourcefulness and endless imagination to repurpose parts. Inspired by DIY culture, this series is aimed at preschoolers.

Rob Lowe is the 15th celebrity on the chopping block in the **Comedy Central Roast of Rob Lowe**. The special will feature actor and comedian David Spade as the "Roast Master."

**The Goddamn Comedy Jam**, filmed for an hour-long special episode for Comedy Central, features comedians such as Pete Davidson, Adam Devine, Jim Jeffries, Natasha Leggero and Jay Pharoah.

Tanning addicts and sexy moms are highlighted in **Britain's Most Outrageous...**, an 11-part documentary series with episodes titled *My Mum's Hotter Than Me*, *Gold-Digger and Proud* and *Tantastic: 50 Shades of Orange*.

**The Dude Perfect Show** follows digital stars Tyler Toney, Cody Jones, Garrett Hilbert and twins Coby and Cory Cotton as they embark on sports stunts and wild interactions with athletes and celebs.

Stand R7.N7

[www.b2b.viacom.com](http://www.b2b.viacom.com)

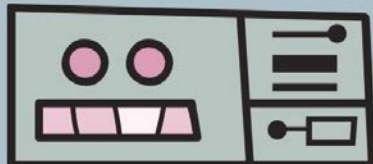




# 3 AMIGO NAUTS



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### Starz Finds a Summer Prince

Twisted thrillers, nightlife dramas and period pieces: Starz's roster runs the gamut in Cannes. In **Ash vs Evil Dead — Season 2** Ash and his team of demon fighters encounter diabolical creatures while trying to save the town of Elk Grove, Michigan, and the world.

Strangers from around the globe are forced to play a deadly game while billionaires bet on their fate in thriller **Insomnia** (pictured). Twenty contestants must kill or be killed on the streets of Moscow; the winner gets the chance at a new life.



Romantic comedy

**My Summer Prince** follows a PR assistant, Mandy, assigned to help do damage control for handsome and immature Prince Colin of Edgemere. When her boss becomes sick, Mandy impersonates her.

Told from the women's point of view, drama series **The White Princess** portrays a personal and political battle for the throne under the reign of Elizabeth of York and King Henry VII.

In action series **Destruction: LA**, a family tries to reunite in the city of Los Angeles in the midst of a series of volcanic eruptions.

**Black Sails — Season 4** returns with the pirates off the high seas and at war in the Caribbean. Bloody conflict takes place on the shore of New Providence Island.

**Power — Season 3** depicts the intersection between the seductive New York nightlife and violent international drug cartels. In season three, James St. Patrick struggles to break with his dark past.

Stand R9.A32

www.starzglobal.com

### Demons, Fixers and Oil at Sonar

Sonar Entertainment comes to MIPCOM with a library of over 1,000 titles comprised of award-winning programming from RHI Entertainment, Hallmark Entertainment and Hal Roach Studios, among others. The company's roster of new titles includes drama series **Taboo**, executive produced by Ridley Scott. In the series — set in London in 1814 — James Keziah Delaney returns from Africa to inherit his father's shipping empire and start a new life.

Based on Philipp Meyer's novel, **The Son** (pictured) tells the story of multiple generations of a Texas oil empire. Pierce Brosnan stars in the drama series, which chronicles the rise and fall of the family business.



**The Shannara Chronicles** is a fantasy series set in a post-apocalyptic future. Based on Terry Brooks' bestselling novels, a group of heroes begin a quest.

Partially scripted comedy series **Drive Share** satirizes the "shared economy." New drivers and passengers drive around town with humorous results.

**South of Hell** is a supernatural thriller series documenting the power of exorcist Maria Abascal. She has her own demon, Abigail, who thrives on the exorcised spirits.

A dangerous storm descends on Shelter Island on Halloween night in horror movie **The Hollow**, making an ancient curse a frightening reality.

In adventure movie **The Fixer**, investigator Ellie Molaro exposes the "fixers" behind disasters and so-called accidents with secret tipster and partner Carter. Stand R7.N11

www.sonarent.com

### A+E Travels Back in Time

A+E Networks brings psychological dramas and murder mysteries to the French Riviera. Inspired by SEAL Team Six, the unit known for assassinating Osama bin Laden, **Six** (pictured) explores the life and death decisions of the elite Special Forces unit.

**Knightfall** chronicles the story of The Knights of Templar, who founded the modern banking system and served as an inspiration for Arthurian legends. The series depicts their persecution and death at the stake.

Set in 1920s London, **The Witness for the Prosecution** is a miniseries that delves into a murder case in a posh townhouse. Kim Cattrall plays the glamorous victim, while her lover and housekeeper undergo a trial for the crime.



**Girl in the Box** is a miniseries based on a true story. In 1977, a young married couple, Cameron and Janice Hooker, kidnapped 22-year-old Colleen Stan, and kept her incarcerated in their bedroom.

Parenting styles and new marriages are put to the test in format **The New Wife**, which explores different types of parenting in blended families.

**UnREAL**, available as a format, is a satirical take on those who live to work in reality TV. The series is about the ambition, egos and manipulation behind the camera.

Stand P3.C1

www.sales.aenetworks.com

### Scripps is Cooking for Love

Scripps Networks Interactive is in Cannes with a vast portfolio of lifestyle media and is highlighting culinary series for every appetite. Home cooks put their skills to the test in **Cooks Vs. Cons** (pictured). A blind taste test proves whether the amateur or the pro has the best dish (for a serious cash prize!)

**Brothers Take New Orleans** is a new competition in the Louisiana city that pits the Scott Brothers against each other. They face off to see who can create the most valuable renovated home.



In **Expedition Unknown Hunt for the Yeti**, explorer Josh Gates sets off to find the iconic manape in the Himalayas. He meets fellow explorers and researchers looking for the so-called Abominable Snowman.

Young chefs compete against each other in **Chopped Junior**, whipping up creative meals from a mystery basket of ingredients under a limited time frame.

**Cooking for Love** is a lighthearted cooking competition that features Food Hero winner Sarah Benjamin and chef Nik Michael preparing affordable dishes for family events.

Host Zak Bagans fulfills his lifelong dream of opening a museum of haunted objects in downtown Las Vegas in **Deadly Possessions**. He reveals the macabre stories behind each object every episode.

Married duo Tarek and Christina El Moussa remodel and sell dilapidated properties in **Flip or Flop**. But the process isn't always as smooth as it seems, and the renovations bring plenty of bumps.

Stand P4.C20

www.scrippsnetworksinteractive.com



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### Zodiak Dares and Wins

Zodiak Rights brings the country together in **All Against 1** (pictured), a format in which a contestant and the viewers at home are asked the same questions. The contestant answers alone, and the average viewers' response through the app is the country's collective answer.

In drama series **The Accident**, a widower believes that his wife's death in a car crash was intentional. He works with the police to uncover the real truth, and their small town begins to unravel.

Chief instructor Ant and his team of former Special Forces soldiers head to the Ecuadorian jungle in **SAS: Who Dares Wins, Series 2**, where a group of ordinary men see if they have the mental and physical strength to pass the military entrance process.



**Obesity: The Post**

**Mortem** is a film that chronicles the autopsy of a clinically obese donor. The film follows the 5000-mile journey of the donor, from California to the autopsy table in London, where a team of pathologists reveals the potentially devastating consequences of obesity.

**Portrait Artist of the Year — Series 3**, presented by Frank Skinner and Joan Bakewell, is in search of Britain's most talented portrait artists. The contestants, who will portray everyone from celebrities, to local heroes and models, are up for a cash commission and the chance to see their work in the National Portrait Gallery.

Stand C20.A

[www.zodiakrights.com](http://www.zodiakrights.com)

### Coping with Content Media

Content Media Corporation has a diverse array of docs, non-fiction series and crime shows at MIPCOM. **Can't Cope, Won't Cope** (pictured) is a coming-of-age drama that follows two girls, Aisling and Danielle, who navigate adulthood while running away from reality that waits for them on the other side.

Set in rural France, **Bruno** Courreges is the Chef de Police. He cooks, builds his own home, gardens and catches criminals in his spare time. This crime drama is based on Martin Walker's novels.

Thandie Newton (*Crash*) stars as DCI Roz Huntley in Jed Mercurio's police drama **Line of Duty Season 4**.

**19-2 Season 4** is a drama series that chronicles the lives of two unwilling partners in Montreal's police department. The pair patrols the 19th precinct of the city in cruiser number 2.

In non-fiction series **Hip-Hop Evolution**, acclaimed MC and journalist Shad Kabango travels from New York's boroughs and L.A.'s ghettos to track the foundations of hip-hop music.

Documentary series **Primaries** uncovers this year's U.S. Presidential primary race. The series, from acclaimed filmmaker and director AJ Schnack (*Caucus, Midterms*), depicts the inside perspective of the tumultuous campaign.

**Untitled Elián**, executive produced by Alex Gibney, is a feature-length documentary about the five-year-old Cuban boy who was rescued off the coast of Florida and the custody battle that ensued between his U.S. and Cuban families.

Stand C15.A6



[www.contentmediacorp.com](http://www.contentmediacorp.com)

### Explore Life on Mars with FNGCD

Fox Networks Group Content Distribution's slate delves into themes of climate change and sustainability, starting with **Mars** (pictured), a science series from Ron Howard and Brian Grazer that explores the concept of making the red planet hospitable for human life.

Leonardo DiCaprio interviews presidents, the Pope and NASA scientists about the demise of endangered species, ecosystems and native communities in the film **Before the Flood**.

The lives of politicians are profiled in biography series **Facing**. Vladimir Putin, Saddam Hussein, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are highlighted from the perspectives of their rivals.



Donald Glover stars in **Atlanta**, a coming-of-age comedy about millennials in Atlanta's rap scene.

**Killing Reagan** is a scripted drama starring Tim Matheson and Cynthia Nixon that details the story of an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

A couple comes together under difficult circumstances in drama series **Wings of Love**. Despite complications, including a kidnapping and a long-lost mother, they remain dedicated to each other.

In science series **Years of Living Dangerously 2**, celebs including Sigourney Weaver, Gisele Bündchen and Jack Black travel the world to investigate solutions to climate change problems.

Stand C16.C

[www.fngcontentdistribution.com](http://www.fngcontentdistribution.com)

### Passion Enters The Dressing Room

Illusions are in at Passion Distribution, whose entertainment and competition series **The Next Great Magician** (pictured) highlights conjurers from around the world performing their best tricks for the top title.

Fixed-rig reality entertainment series **The Dressing Room** takes place in locker rooms in a range of different sporting clubs, showing the behind-the-scenes action in the world of athletes.

**Dynamo: Live at the O2** and **Dynamo: A-Z** are two new specials that feature the iconic magician as he performs illusion and stunning magic.

Documentary **The Hipster Handbook** explores the phenomenon of hipsters, and how the bearded brethren have driven the commodification of authenticity and mass-market consumerism.

**Saddam Goes to Hollywood** is a documentary that tells the story of *Clash of Loyalties*, a feature film bankrolled by Saddam Hussein.

Stand P4.C18

[www.passiondistribution.com](http://www.passiondistribution.com)





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(Continued from Cover)

## Bigger Is Better



REED MIDEM ALSO ADDRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL TERRORIST ACTS FROM THE SEA

Entertainment.

“From a sales perspective the bigger the better. Bigger means more countries are represented and that it’s a healthy market,” commented Prentiss Fraser, svp at Fox Networks Group Content Distribution.

Blue Ant’s Solange Attwood, svp International added, “We acknowledge that our industry is expanding, resulting in more buyers for our diversified slate. As a result, we’re incredibly optimistic and hope to see MIPCOM continue to grow in scale.”

Melissa Pillow, vp of Sales for Europe, Telemundo Internacional, pointed out that the market isn’t too big, but she “noticed that buyers and sellers alike are shortening their trips to Cannes.”

While the distributors *VideoAge Daily* spoke to all said conferences would be tricky to squeeze into their busy schedules, some stood out: “Personally, I’m looking forward to the Virtual Reality conferences,” said Breakthrough’s McGillivray. “VR is an important part of the entertainment business in the near future... we want to be able to fully utilize everything virtual reality has to offer.”

Giannina Antola, head of Sales at TM International, said at markets she’s always torn between the responsibility to tend to business and “taking advantage of the myriad opportunities these conferences provide. I’m hoping not to miss at least the Keynote Media Mastermind speakers,” she said.

For Natalie Osborne, 9 Story’s chief strategy officer, “There is a Brexit session which I am interested in attending, but most of the panels I am interested in seeing are taking place as part of MipJunior, including Deirdre Brennan’s keynote and a session on the Chinese market, all very relevant to our business.”

Blue Ant’s Attwood said: “One event we are really excited about is the UHD panel on October 18th. Our Vanessa Case, evp, Content, Blue Ant Media and Andrew Jackson from Plimsoll Productions will be presenting one of our key offerings at MIPCOM this year, *Camp Zambia*.”

In terms of areas with potential growth, each company is unique. “We are still seeing growth territorially with emerging SVoD platforms and the multi-territory buyers. This would include the key territories of Europe, such as the U.K., Spain and Germany, as well as areas such as the Middle East North Africa (MENA) and South East Asia,” said George.

“No one territory is the same,” commented

Attwood, “In some regions we are seeing significant increases in sales across linear platforms. In other territories, we are seeing a proliferation of new OTT services.”

“We are seeing many territories emerging: U.S. Hispanic, LATAM, Africa, Pakistan, CEE, Indonesia etc. It’s been a lot of fun,” added Fox’s Fraser.

“While overall we feel that many new territories will continue to emerge, such as Africa, which is already breaking into the international landscape of entertainment, we are noticing that it is the emergence of new platforms and access to technology that is helping foster growth around the world,” said Breakthrough’s McGillivray.

Similarly, for Telemundo’s Pillow, Africa represents a growth region, together with Eastern Europe.

While TM International has “always been solidly positioned in Europe,” TM’s Antola added that she’s “thrilled to see there is increasing interest in our titles in Asia.”

According to 9 Story’s Osborne, “Over the past year we have made significant strides in Latin America and Asia. In Latin America we closed a landmark deal with Televisa’s SVoD service BLIM. SVoD and AVoD have been the predominant digital opportunity for us and we expect this trend to continue,” she said.

“Pay-TV and SVoD windows have a greater appetite for edgier, more serialized dramas, which are in vogue today,” added Stuart Baxter, president, eOne Television International. But those aren’t the only places he’s focused on. “There are a lot more new players in this space helping grow the market. However, both premium and basic cable markets continue to expand and provide more opportunities for us.”

Similarly, Peter Iacono, president, International Television and Digital Distribution at Lionsgate, said, “There is a continued trend for channel defining programming across all windows. Our sales teams have a strong grasp of the constantly shifting television landscape, working closely with new and emerging platforms.”

Concluded Pillow: “It’s no secret that digital sales are on the rise and our products are finding a new home on VoD platforms.”

## Conferences

especially for those with promising titles.

Looking at the chessboard conference schedule, *VideoAge* spotted a few that our reporters don’t want to miss.

Today, at 10:30 a.m., “The Rise of OTT Regional Giants,” is interesting because we’re familiar with international giants like Netflix, but unaware of powerful local and pan-regional ones. At 11:30 a.m., for sure most Sony Pictures executives will be lined up to listen the keynote speech of Kazuo Hirai, CEO of Sony Corp. Also expected are a good number of executives from the strategic divisions of competing studios, who hope to capture some intel from a lively speaker.

At 4:40 p.m., it’s actor Kiefer Sutherland (pictured at right), who will be warmly welcomed

## SportelMonaco



Sportel will start next Monday at the Grimaldi Forum with one conference on ancillary rights, and the TV Sports Awards. On Tuesday there will be two more conferences. Wednesday will be dedicated to legal matters with three sports law sessions (not open to the press).

With four networking breakfasts, three networking buffet luncheons, one networking happy hour, two award ceremonies and an awards after-party, the 3,000 expected participants will be busier than ever.

by ABC TV and eOne executives. The network is broadcasting his drama series *Designated Survivor*, and eOne is distributing the show internationally. Later on, at 5:15 p.m. Lionsgate Television’s chairman, Kevin Beggs, will be talking with YouTube’s global head of original content, Susanne Daniels.



On Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. there is a “New Way of Financing Non-Scripted Formats,” which is promising because money matters, always. The most intriguing session comes at 10:45 a.m., “Brexit: A Survival Guide.” Let’s hope it meets all expectations. Disappointed or fulfilled, participants will rush to listen to Ben Sherwood at 11:30 a.m. He’s the co-chair of Disney Media Networks and those who have read various news accounts of his extraordinary and multifaceted career will surely be intrigued. The question is: which language will he use, since he’s fluent in French, Chinese and Russian? How does he find the time to write books, learn foreign languages, run Internet companies and TV divisions? Apparently he doesn’t sleep.

On Wednesday, at 9:15 a.m. “Data Driven Entertainment,” is a good conference with which to start the day. After Netflix, collecting consumer data is now the flavor *du jour* for TV outlets, so it should be interesting to learn about the data’s “nutrient” values. Then, at 12:15 p.m., when hunger pangs start to kick in, there is the startling “Shooting TV Content On an iPhone,” which sounds like a gimmick for tattooed YouTubers, but could be revealing. At 3:30 p.m. the professional in all of us will be the driving force toward the keynote speech by Shonda Rhimes, who’s also MIPCOM’s Personality of The Year.

Not to be missed are also the speeches by Participant Media’s David Linde, STX’s Sophie Watts and showrunner Adi Hasak.



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# My 2¢

*Meritocracy versus mediocrity: A factor that came to the surface over 160 years ago, and has now reached its pinnacle. It is a problem that affects every sector, especially the media and, in particular, the digital media.*



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**I**s meritocracy being replaced with mediocrity? That cry seems to be universal and in all sectors. The problem is not new, and indeed the English philosopher John Stuart Mill recognized it in 1859: “The general tendency of things throughout the world is to render mediocrity the ascendant power among mankind.”

But as Sean Simons wrote in *Collegiate Times* magazine in 2010, “The passion people used to have, and ought to have, is disappearing. This slump in creativity, in passion, in effort, affects more than just the art world, or an individual’s world. It ripples until it causes society to slump.”

Today, large companies use money to first lure top talent and then to make sure they deliver. For those people, losing multi-million-dollar salaries by slacking off is not a risk that they can afford to take.

However, this financial “lure” can cause executives to “play it safe,” and not make innovative decisions. Also, they can buy insurance by hiring top consultants who are in effect paid to take the blame for eventual decisional downfalls.

Mediocrity is not often seen at top and mid-management, but at lower levels. In these cases, big companies can cope by increasing the number of employees and departmentalizing various areas, which creates bureaucracy, but assure effectiveness if not efficiency.

In a normal, meritocracy-prone society, the reward of promotion should not reach a level where one is less good at the job. This is called the Peter Principle, from Laurence J. Peter, a Canadian professor of education, who in 1968 wrote: “In a hierarchically structured administration, people tend to be promoted up to their level of incompetence.”

The problem is that mediocrity is felt by mid-sized and small companies, and even by households

unable to find good plumbers, electricians or mason workers. Indeed, the typical local artisan who can repair furniture, rebuild a carburetor or sew a suit is disappearing. Today, if a TV set or a chair breaks, they have to be thrown out and replaced with new ones that are not as good as the old ones.

According to quality expert Jim L. Smiths, the loss of quality and the rise of mediocrity is, “Partially to blame, as cited by several economists, [by] something that’s been called the *Walmart Effect*: driving prices as low as possible and then squeezing out a few more cents every few months.”

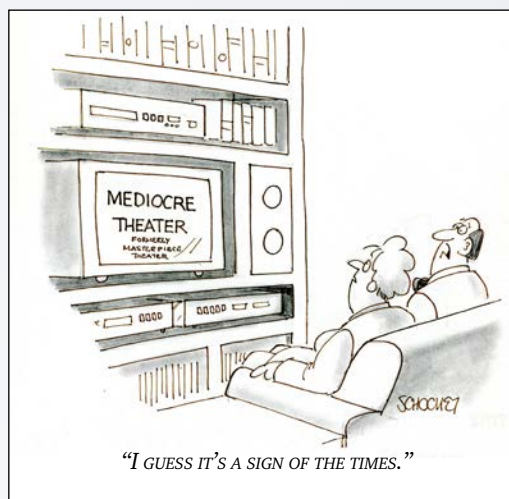
But, it is not confined to material goods, since the Internet — with bloggers, social media activists and easy-to-produce online publications — are driving mediocrity: Facts are not checked, news is superficial, speculation is rampant and vulgarity, intolerance and threats are the norm.

At times even the established print media is affected by mediocrity. More and more journalists are dependent upon information supplied by public relations firms. Increasingly, journalists are reluctant to pick up the phone and speak directly to the interested party or travel to conduct face-to-face interviews.

For these reasons, recent issues of *VideoAge* feature

photos of people being interviewed together with the journalists asking the questions. In its market dailies, *VideoAge* publishes only pictures of participants taken on the spot and not stock photos.

And in its online vehicles, news and information are subject to the same quality control as the printed versions. *VideoAge* has been criticized for the “tone” of certain articles, but never for misquotes or inaccuracies.



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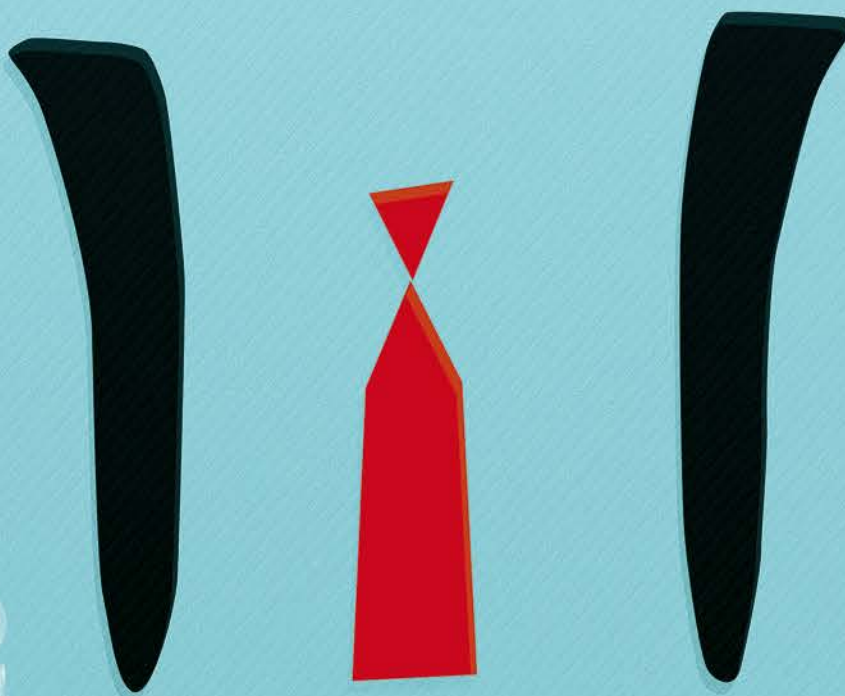
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