STV Productions Develops Rob Roy Drama With FremantleMedia

Thursday 1 May, 2014

STV Productions and FremantleMedia today announced plans to jointly develop a new action-adventure drama series centred on the iconic Scottish figure, Rob Roy.

Stylised and humorous, the series will rewrite Scottish history with the energy and feel of a comic book brought to life.

Set in a Scotland populated with mythical creatures and under the tyrannical rule of a cruel English King George, the story takes the historical truth of Robert Roy MacGregor's story and gives it a contemporary twist. The adventure series takes Rob Roy and his companions on a complex and dangerous quest to find the true king of Scotland and bring peace back to his native land.

STV Productions Head of Drama, Margaret Enefer, and FremantleMedia's Director of Global Drama, Sarah Doole, have jointly commissioned a script from writer Caleb Ranson (Young James Herriot, Child of Mine).

Alan Clements, director of content at STV Productions, said: "Rob Roy is one of the most iconic characters in Scottish history and this fantasy adventure series will bring a mythical and contemporary edge to the story. We are very excited to work with FremantleMedia to bring to life Caleb Ranson's compelling script."

Sarah Doole, Director of Global Drama at FremantleMedia added: "Caleb's treatment of this iconic Scottish story gives it an exciting new twist: combining action heroes and fantastical creatures with a wonderful steampunk overlay that will capture the imagination and attention of every member of the family. I can't wait to see the script come to life and look forward to pitching the show to international broadcasters."

The project will be co-funded by Creative Scotland's development fund. FremantleMedia will distribute the series internationally.

Ends

Notes to editors

STV Productions

STV Productions is one of the UK's leading content businesses, with ambitious plans for growth and expansion in the UK and overseas. The company has a record of success across a range of genres including drama, factual and entertainment, producing a wide range of programmes for a variety of networks, including Catchphrase and Fake Reaction for ITV and ITV2. Further commissions include ratings success Antiques Road Trip, including a celebrity version, for BBC One and Two, drama The Poison Tree for ITV1 and quiz show The Lie for STV and TV3. In 2013, STV Productions was awarded Best Single Documentary by BAFTA Scotland for Fire in the Night, a feature documentary for BBC Scotland to mark the 25th anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster. Upcoming productions include new entertainment show Let me Entertain You for ITV and quiz show The Link for BBC One. STV Productions also works in partnership with US production company, Kinetic Content, licensing original formats in their respective companies and developing new formats, such as the Perez Hilton Super Fan entertainment series for ITV2.

About FremantleMedia International

FremantleMedia International (FMI) is the global distribution division of FremantleMedia, one of the leading creators, producers and distributors of television entertainment brands in the world.

The division is responsible for global sales across Linear Television, Digital and Home Entertainment platforms of finished content, format sales in non-production territories as well as acquiring and developing new programmes for the international market. In addition to the world-class FremantleMedia production families around the globe, FMI works with the highest calibre creative talent, producers, channels, licensees and studios to create, finance and distribute the best content in the business.

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FMI's catalogue contains more than 20,000 hours of content; a diverse and exciting range of programming spanning drama, comedy, factual, lifestyle and entertainment. Managed by a powerful distribution network spanning nine international offices and supported by a best-in-class brand management team, FMI's content has sold to more than 150 countries around the world. For more information please visit www.fremantlemedia.com.

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