

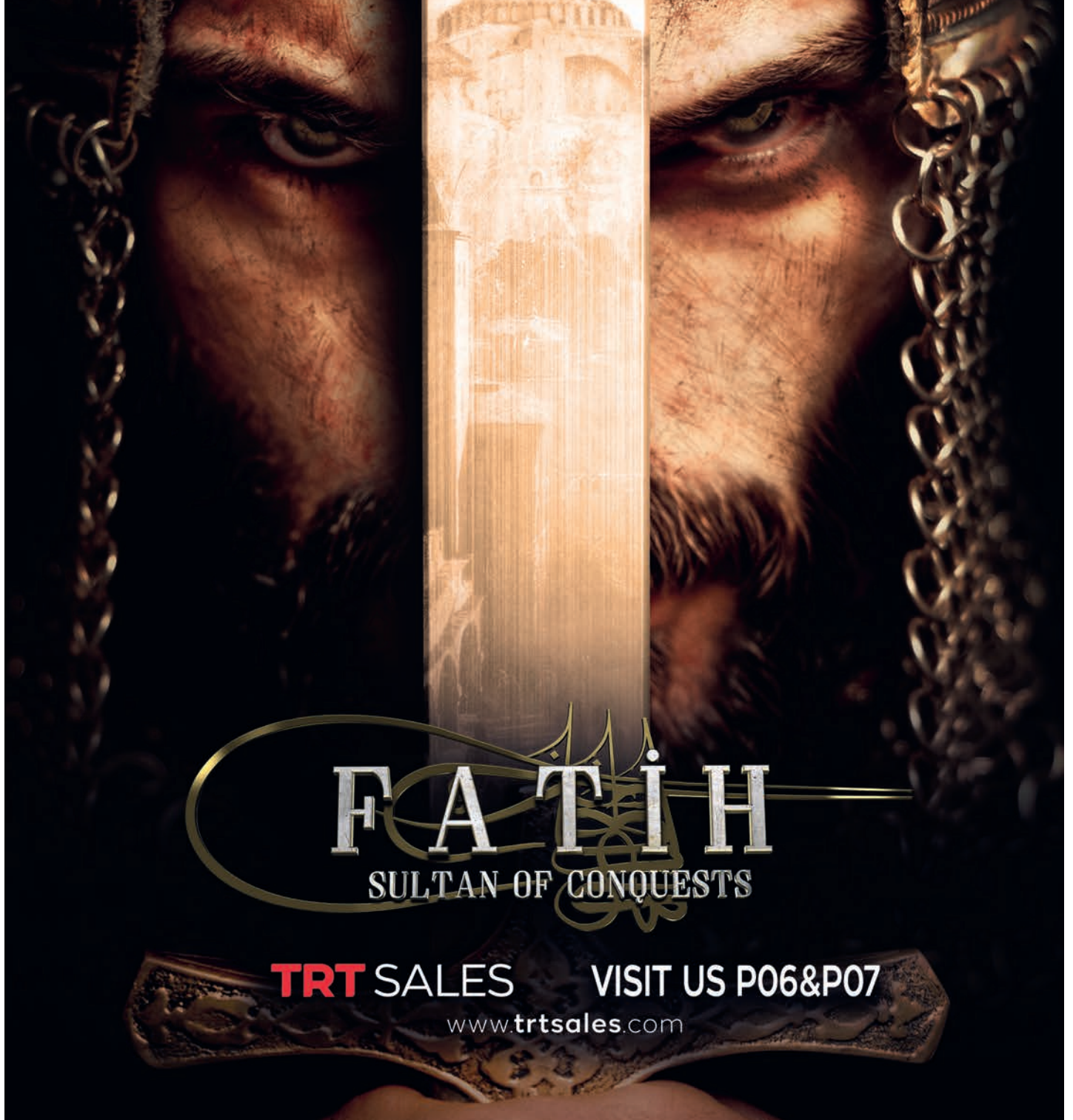
KEREM BÜRSİN ON
BLUE CAVE:
LOVE, MAGIC AND POWER OF STORYTELLING

6 OF US
INSIDE THE SEASON'S
BOLDEST DRAMA

ECCHO RIGHTS' STRATEGIC
VISION FOR MENA AND BEYOND
MELİS HAMAMCIOĞLU

EPISODE

DICM 2024



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HAZAL KAYA ÇAĞLAR ERTUĞRUL

BENEATH THE SURFACE

hidden truth
spoken lies



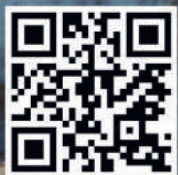
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6 OF US

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FROM THE CREATORS OF BITTER LANDS

VALLEY of HEARTS





Exploring the World of Content From Türkiye to the Globe

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Oben Budak



As the Dubai International Content Market grows each year, we at *EPISODE*, Türkiye's leading magazine for TV and cinema, are thrilled to be part of this market for the first time.

For our special DICM 2024 issue, our cover story highlights *Fatih: Sultan of Conquest*, the TRT series that brings to life the journey of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, a leader who changed the course of world history.

In our exclusive interview, lead actors Serkan Çayoğlu and Selim Bayraktar delve into their characters' inner worlds, discuss the challenges and significance of portraying historical figures, and share the emotions they hope to evoke in viewers.

Additionally, we sat down with Mustafa İlbeyli, Director of Advertising & Sales at TRT Sales, to discuss *Fatih: Sultan of Conquest* and gain his perspective on TRT Sales' upcoming participation in DICM 2024.

One of the highlights of this issue is our interview with Can Okan, founder and CEO of Inter Medya, who shares insights into their latest title, *Valley of Hearts*, their expectations for DICM 2024, and more.

In another exclusive interview, we spoke with Melis Hamamcioğlu, Director of Digital Media Acquisition & Content Sales at Echo Rights, to discuss the international journeys of their new English drama, *Safe Harbor*, and the latest Turkish hit, *The Cost of Lies*.

This issue also includes an in-depth look at OGM Pictures' new series, *6 of Us*. Produced by Onur Güvenatam and directed by Cem Karıcı, the series follows six siblings who, after losing their parents in a tragic accident, struggle to stay together and hold onto life despite overwhelming hardships. We conducted interviews with the cast of *6 of Us* to learn more about this season's boldest drama.

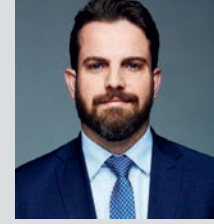
Last but not least, internationally acclaimed actor Kerem Bürsin joins us to share his thoughts on his recent film, *Blue Cave*, which he stars in and co-wrote with Osman Kaya. Bürsin reflects on themes of love, mysticism, and the unique perspectives he gained through this creative journey.

At *EPISODE*, we look for hope and inspiration in every story we tell, and we look forward to taking you along on each new page.

Until then, enjoy the new issue.

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TURKISH STARS AND PRODUCERS HONORED AT THE AMERICAN TURKISH SOCIETY GALA 2024

The American Turkish Society Gala took place this year on October 28 in New York. With Turkish series capturing audiences worldwide, this year's gala recognized key figures shaping this continued success.

Acclaimed actors Halit Ergenç, Serenay Sarıkaya, and Hande Erçel were honored for their outstanding contributions to Turkish television, celebrating their role in bringing Turkish storytelling to a global audience. Esteemed producers Kerem Çatay (Ay Yapım), Timur Savcı (TIMS&B Productions), and Onur Güvenatam (OGM Pictures) were also recognized for their visionary roles in shaping the industry.



CAN YAMAN WINS BEST INTERNATIONAL ACTOR AT SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SERIES FESTIVAL

Can Yaman, one of Türkiye's most popular actors, recently received the Best International Actor award at the South International Series Festival. Known for his immense popularity in Italy, Yaman has now captured a large fanbase in Spain as well.

At the festival, Yaman attended a press conference where he answered questions from the media and shared insights about his work and upcoming projects. Later, during the award ceremony, he was honored with the prestigious award, recognizing his influence and success beyond Türkiye.

Yaman's fans are eagerly awaiting his upcoming series, *Sandokan* and *El Turco*, which have already generated significant excitement.



TIMS&B'S DECEPTION SHINES AT PRODU AWARDS

The eighth PRODU Awards took place on October 30-31, 2024. With 138 categories, the event attracted a global audience and included live connections with celebrities from around the world. This year, Turkish productions and actors once again received notable recognition. *Deception* (Aldatmak), produced by TIMS&B Productions, broadcast by atv, and distributed internationally by Inter Medya, won two significant awards. The series claimed the title of Best Non-Spanish Language Telenovela, while Mustafa Uğurlu earned the award for Best Non-Spanish Speaking Actor for his role in the series as Tarık. The series' producers, Timur Savcı and Burak Sağyaşar, conveyed their heartfelt gratitude through a video message, while Mustafa Uğurlu took the opportunity to thank the Latin American audience for their support in a separate video. Adding to the Turkish industry's success, acclaimed actress Serenay Sarıkaya won the award for Best Actress in a Foreign Language for her performance as Devin in Ay Yapım's series *The Family* (Aile). Sarıkaya also sent a video message to thank the PRODU Awards for the recognition.

Fatih: Sultan of Conquest

A True Journey

By OBEN BUDAK

The TRT series *Fatih: Sultan of Conquest* tells the inspiring story of Fatih Sultan Mehmed, the visionary leader who reshaped history. Now in its second season, the series continues to captivate audiences and achieve high ratings. Following its presentation at MIPCOM, the series will be introduced internationally at DICM 2024.

For our DICM 2024 issue, we had the opportunity to speak with lead actors Serkan Çayođlu and Selim Bayraktar to delve deeper into the show.



Serkan Çayoğlu

When you first learned that you would be portraying Fatih Sultan Mehmed in your new project, what did you feel?

I felt excitement and, at the same time, a sense of apprehension. Our history is filled with legends, yes, but there are very few figures we regard as almost superhuman. Fatih is one of them. I've always wanted to take on a period role in my career, but I couldn't even imagine it would be Fatih Sultan Mehmed. On one hand, I couldn't wait for filming to start, but on the other, I felt as if even a year of preparation might not be enough. There's always a sense of pride in me when saying I'm playing Fatih Sultan Mehmed.

How has portraying a historical figure, especially a sultan, transformed you personally? We know you trained in skills like using a sword, archery, and horseback riding. You also delved into the psychological depths of Fatih Sultan Mehmed. How did these physical and mental preparations together add dimension to your character?

I discover something about myself with every character I play. But Fatih feels like an endless journey in this sense. His way of handling life and its challenging conditions is incredibly instructive. He's an example of someone who, in order to reach his ultimate goal, rather than acting out of blind ambition, turns the blows he receives to his advantage and knows how to control his emotions even in the most extreme situations.

Personally, this journey has been incredibly rewarding and motivating for me. The action scenes may be the showy part, but they also come with a high risk and intense adrenaline. When we consider that the heroes of that era grew up with horses and swords, it's essential not to underestimate the physical preparation, both for the visuals and for our own well-being.

In one of your interviews, you mentioned that you have been reflecting on the fears and desires of Fatih Sultan Mehmed. What was it like to portray the inner conflicts of such a pow-

erful leader? Which aspects did you focus on to help the audience feel his human side?

Even just imagining the emotions and the weight of responsibility that a great Sultan like him would have felt can be overwhelming for most of us. The lives of millions were directly under his impact. The intensity of his emotions feels like it must have been 100 times stronger than anything we experience. You realize even your imagination is being challenged. But, at the end of the day, whether he's a sultan or a world leader, he's still just a human. Our anatomy, our senses, our way of experiencing emotions, they're all the same. In the scenes, I try to highlight the aspects we can empathize with without losing the grandeur of the sultan. The most important thing is that the audience can feel a connection with the character.

It's clear that you're impressed by Fatih's passion for knowledge and intellectual depth. How did portraying this curious, intellectual character inspire you? How did these traits of Fatih influence your role and acting style?

To be honest, I'm more interested in how he prepared for what he did and how deeply he believed in it rather than in the achievements themselves. He had an incredible sense of curiosity and a hunger for knowledge.

Speaking seven languages to access accurate information from the source is just one example of this. This inevitably pushes me to seek out more knowledge myself.

The well-known aspects of Fatih are like the tip of the iceberg; his true journey really begins after the conquest of Istanbul. In fact, very few people in our country know the full extent of what Sultan Mehmed accomplished. Taking Constantinople was, of course, a huge accomplishment but building an empire that would change the course of world history requires an even broader vision.

When portraying characters like a sultan or a king, how does the feeling of immense power and authority affect your character and acting style? How does having such power –even just in a role– impact you?

While filming many scenes, my fellow actors and I still talk about this matter and try to understand it. When we think about that level of power, there's a bit of a mischievous smile on everyone's face. Even though it's just a role, I truly feel that power in those moments. You hold a superhuman, infinite power in your hands. But the real skill is in handling that kind of power. It's about smoothing out the sharp edges that emotions bring you to and disciplining that sense of infinity within yourself, that's what makes you successful. And of course, you can imagine those moments are quite fun (laughs).

Fatih Sultan Mehmed is one of the most magnificent Sultans in Ottoman history and holds a prominent place in world history as well. What are your thoughts on this role reaching an international audiences and sparking their curiosity about this historical figure?

It's incredibly exciting for me to introduce a part of our cultural and historical heritage to audiences around the world. We're telling the story of a truly magnificent era, and I feel proud to show Fatih Sultan Mehmed's worldview and open-minded vision. He had a vision beyond his time. He built an empire where different religions and cultures could co-exist. Progress was made in every field, from science to art and literature. Most importantly, he respected everyone's way of life. This reflects his openness and visionary nature. I believe there will also be curiosity on the international stage.



The well-known aspects of Fatih are like the tip of the iceberg; his true journey really begins after the conquest of Istanbul. In fact, very few people in our country know the full extent of what Sultan Mehmed accomplished. Taking Constantinople was, of course, a huge accomplishment but building an empire that would change the course of world history requires an even broader vision.



Selim Bayraktar

When portraying one of the Ottoman Empire's most influential figures, like Çandarlı, how did you approach the character's historical authenticity and inner conflict? What were the most challenging aspects of this role for you?

Portraying such a significant figure brings a great responsibility, in terms of staying true to historical facts but also reflecting the depth of the character's inner world. When playing a character like this, the first critical step is to conduct historical research and to understand the social, political, and cultural structure of the era. Çandarlı Halil Pasha was a significant vizier who had a powerful influence in the early period of the Ottoman Empire's governance. His strength, his loyalty to the state, and at the same time, his desire to protect his own interests created internal conflicts that add depth to the character. One of the most challenging aspects of such roles is bringing a human dimension to a historical figure. Historical figures are often perceived as distant unreachable, so humanizing them, showing that they, too, had fears, weaknesses, and hopes, can be a major challenge for an actor.

In particular, balancing the strategic intellect, strong presence, and occasional internal struggles of a character like Çandarlı, who was deeply involved in political intrigue, is one of the difficulties of the role. Moreover, exploring the emotional depth of a historical character is a completely another challenge. Çandarlı's struggles when making decisions in state governance, his efforts to balance personal interests with those of the state, were some of the themes I reflected on while portraying him. Showing both strength and vulnerabili-

ty at the same time makes the character more realistic and relatable for the audience.

Your mastery of swordsmanship in the series has received acclaim from the audience. What kind of training process did you go through to develop this skill, and how did your physical preparation progress?

Skills like swordsmanship are especially important in period dramas. A serious preparation process is required to deliver realistic and impactful scenes for the audience. For me, the most important step was the intensive training with professional swordmasters and fight choreographers. These sessions helped me learn both the techniques of handling a sword and the choreography we'd use in scenes. Our trainers taught us historical combat techniques as well as safe, stage-friendly fighting methods. This allowed us to accurately reflect the character's combat skills from that era while creating visually compelling scenes on screen. The physical preparation wasn't limited to just sword training. I also followed a regular exercise program to build endurance, balance, speed, and reflexes.



You were previously known for portraying the historical character Sümbül Ağa, another figure from a different era. Did your past experience with such roles contribute to your portrayal of a powerful statesman like Çandarlı?

Yes, portraying Sümbül was truly important experience for me, and it greatly contributed to my role as a strong statesman like Çandarlı. Although both characters are set in the Ottoman period, Sümbül Ağa was primarily involved in palace intrigues, harem life, and the emotional aspects of that era. His sharp wit, strategic perspective, and diplomatic demeanor inspired me while portraying Çandarlı as well. The period knowledge I gained from playing Sümbül helped me understand the psychological and social dynamics of the environment surrounding the character. Being involved in aspects like Ottoman-era research, costumes, and set design gave me a solid foundation about the period.

Even though Sümbül Ağa is very different from a high-ranking statesman like Çandarlı, the experience provided me with insight in terms of the power dynamics and political games within the palace, which gave me an advantage. The period experience and understanding of palace intrigues I gained through Sümbül laid essential groundwork for portraying a much more powerful and complex character like Çandarlı. The differences between the two characters encouraged me to be more flexible and creative as an actor.

International audiences especially know you through *Magnificent Century* and *Rise of Empires*. You're a very experienced actor in period dramas. What are the most valuable skills or awareness you've gained from these types of productions?

These types of productions requires significant attention and preparation to stay true to historical accuracy and to bring the character to life within the conditions of that era. One of the most important things I've learned through this process is how deep research and understanding the historical period can shape one's acting.

First, it's crucial to blend external elements; such as costumes, language, expressions, and period-specific gestures, with the character's inner world. Since historical series require capturing the essence of the era, understanding how a character thought, felt, and acted within the social and cultural conditions of that time adds another layer to the performance. This isn't just about exploring the emotional depth of the character but also understanding how they interacted with their period.

Another challenge I encountered in historical series is the importance of body language and physical preparation. Back then, war techniques, postures that conveyed authority, and even everyday movements were quite different compared to today. So, developing physical skills like swordsmanship and horseback riding became essential for achieving realism in these productions.

There are a lot of Ottoman Turkish words in the series, and even pronouncing them must take considerable effort.

Of course, conveying the language and style of that period accurately requires its own dedicated work. Accurately pronouncing words in dialogues with Old Turkish or Ottoman Turkish words is a major responsibility in helping transport the audience back to that time.

One of the greatest insights I've gained from such productions is that historical events are not just facts; they're filled with complex emotions and relationships that touch people's lives. Every character, living within that period, struggles with their own fears, passions, and ambitions. For me, this offered a chance to approach each character from a more human and deep perspective. In short, being part of historical series has provided me with not only the discipline to bring history to life but also the depth to truly feel the spirit of that era and convey it to the audience.

Çandarlı's struggles when making decisions in state governance, his efforts to balance personal interests with those of the state, were some of the themes I reflected on while portraying him. Showing both strength and vulnerability at the same time makes the character more realistic and relatable for the audience.

MUSTAFA İLBEYLİ, DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & SALES OF TRT SALES

Mustafa İlbeyli on TRT's Vision and *Fatih's* Global Impact

By OBEN BUDAK

We sat down with Mustafa İlbeyli, Director of Advertising & Sales at TRT Sales to get his insights on their hit historical drama *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* and TRT Sales' upcoming participation in DICM 2024.

During our interview, İlbeyli highlighted the series' success at MIPCOM, where it received enthusiastic feedback from international buyers and professionals, and discussed TRT's strategic goals at DICM, including plans to expand into the MENA region and continue promoting Turkish dramas that resonate with diverse, international viewers.

***Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* is continuing into its second season, and it has seen an increase in ratings. The life of Fatih Sultan Mehmed has always been fascinating. What does this series mean for TRT?**

TRT's *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* is a landmark in Turkish television, showcasing the life of Fatih Sultan Mehmed II and underscoring TRT's commitment to producing culturally resonant, internationally appealing content. Amid fierce competition from global streaming platforms, *Fatih* captivates with its high ratings and meticulous historical detail, reflecting TRT's tradition of high-budget dramas like *Diriliş: Ertuğrul* (Resurrection Ertugrul). Beyond its entertainment value, the series serves as cultural diplomacy, bridging Türkiye's rich history with modern storytelling to strengthen the nation's global entertainment presence and bring Ottoman heritage to audiences worldwide.

At MIPCOM, you hosted a special event for *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* with actors Serkan Çayoğlu and Selim Bayraktar in attendance. What kind of feedback did you receive about the series?

The special *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* event at MIPCOM, featuring actors Serkan Çayoğlu, Selim Bayraktar, Luka Peros, and producer Eyüp Gökhan Özekin, received enthusiastic feedback from industry professionals and international buyers, who were captivated by its epic scale, visuals, and storytelling. Attendees praised the cast's performances, the grandeur of the production, and the authenticity of the historical portrayal. The event highlighted the series' global appeal, solidifying it as one of the most anticipated historical dramas of the year and generating

significant interest from buyers looking to bring it to international audiences.

Could you share some insights on *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests'* international journey?

Fatih: Sultan of Conquests has captivated global audiences, with licensing in regions including the Middle East and parts of Europe. Its compelling narrative, impressive visuals, and historical accuracy have earned it acclaim, solidifying its place in the international television market. The series' success has boosted the global popularity of Turkish dramas, showcasing Türkiye's rich history and culture to a wider audience and positioning *Fatih* as one of the most impactful Turkish historical dramas to date.



Following MIPCOM, we're now at DICM, where you'll also be holding an event for *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests*. Could you tell us more about this event?

At DICM, we're thrilled to host an exclusive screening and Q&A session with *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests* stars Serkan Çayoğlu, Selim Bayraktar, and producer Eyüp Gökhan Özekin. Attendees will enjoy exclusive clips, behind-the-scenes footage, and insights into the series' historical accuracy and global appeal. This event offers a unique opportunity to connect with industry professionals and potential partners, as we aim to expand the series' reach and discuss future collaborations in the MENA region and beyond.

What are TRT Sales' main goals for DICM this year? What kind of interest are you expecting for *Fatih:*

***Sultan of Conquests* and your other series?**

At DICM, TRT Sales aims to expand its reach across the MENA region by building partnerships with broadcasters and streaming platforms, focusing on high-demand Turkish series with strong historical and cultural narratives. As you know, TRT has been successful in the region with many of its historical content such as *Diriliş Ertuğrul*, *Alparslan* series, and *Salahadin*. Keeping with this record, *Fatih: Sultan of Conquests*, with its rich historical depth and universal themes, is expected to attract considerable interest, serving as TRT's flagship production. Additionally, TRT Sales will showcase a variety of modern dramas to cater to diverse audiences, from traditional viewers to digital streamers. These efforts aim to strengthen the Turkish series' presence in the region and support TRT's vision of cultural connection and market growth across MENA.



MELİS HAMAMCIOĞLU, **DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA ACQUISITION
& CONTENT SALES OF ECCHO RIGHTS**

**“We already know that in MENA we
have a very good track record with
premium Turkish dramas”**

By YAĞMUR ÇÖL

In our DICM 2024 issue, Echo Rights' Director of Digital Media Acquisition & Content Sales, Melis Hamamcıoğlu, shares insights on the international journey of their new English drama *Safe Harbor* and the Turkish hit *The Cost of Lies*, both generating significant interest at MIPCOM.

Hamamcıoğlu highlights the themes of love, family, and loyalty that resonate deeply with MENA audiences, driving the success of Turkish series like *Golden Boy* and *I Am Mother*. She also shares her expectations for DICM, noting the growing demand for Turkish dramas in the MENA region, and discusses Echo Rights' plans to expand further into Western Europe, where interest in Turkish content continues to rise.

At MIPCOM, Echo Rights launched its new English drama series, *Safe Harbor*. How was the interest in your new series?

We had a fantastic launch for the title, and it created a wonderful buzz at the market. We were joined by three of the leading actors, *Game of Thrones* star Alfie Allen, Colm Meaney, who is a legend from productions like *Star Trek* and *Con Air*, and upcoming Dutch actor Martijn Lakemeier, who is gaining great international recognition from his role in *Maxima*, which has been doing very well worldwide. We had a screening at the market, as well as having hosted some exclusive one-to-one screenings with buyers before MIP, and the reception so far has been great with people excited by the thrilling opening episode, and hungry to see more!



Love and sacrifice, family and loyalty, revenge and redemption, class conflict and social issues, identity and transformation, definitely speak to audiences in MENA.

***The Cost of Lies* has become one of the most captivating series of the new season, widely loved and followed in Türkiye. One of the Turkish series you introduced at MIPCOM was *The Cost of Lies*. Could you share with us how this series started its global journey?**

It is always a bit of a nervous time when launching a series during the market, knowing that the ratings will be published and our clients will know immediately whether or not it is likely to be a success! So we were delighted that *The Cost of Lies* premiere went so well, scoring great ratings, and backing up our belief that we have a very special series on our hands.

In your opinion, what aspects of *The Cost of Lies* do you think will resonate most with viewers worldwide?

Immediately the international buyers have been intrigued by this unconventional family story, that feels very modern but also consists of the key elements that we count on for a successful Turkish drama series: love and sacrifice, family and loyalty, revenge and redemption, class conflict and social issues, identity and transformation.

At MIPCOM, CJ ENM, O3 Medya, and DASS Yapım signed an agreement for a Turkish adaptation of *Queens of Tears*. And Echo Rights is handling its international distribution. Could you provide details about this agreement and the storyline of the series?

We are extremely excited about the prospect of this series. The original from South Korea has been a phenomenal hit, and its final episode was the top rated drama of all time for broadcaster tvN, watched by more than 6 million people, also making it the second most watched television series in Korean cable TV history.

The series is a deeply emotional rollercoaster ride following the highs and lows of a couple from different worlds who fall in love, get married, but slowly drift apart as their differences become more apparent, before finding each other again when they realise what they might lose.

Eccho Rights has a rich catalog that also includes Turkish series. Which of your titles have generated the most interest in the MENA region in recent years?

Without doubt the two most important titles for us lately have been *Golden Boy*, from OGM Pictures, and in the last year, *I Am Mother* from O3 Medya. Both titles have seen huge success with MBC in MENA, as day-and-date broadcasts, this is a very complex delivery process, particularly given the tight production timelines in Türkiye, and the fact that the series must be dubbed for MENA audiences, but the success of the series makes it all worth it!

Are there specific themes that you consider a priority for broadcasters in the MENA region? In some parts of the world, family dramas or crime-action series generate more interest, while in others, romantic comedies stand out. As someone who understands the region's preferences well, we would like to hear your insights.

Those principal themes that we mentioned before; love and sacrifice, family and loyalty, revenge and redemption, class conflict and social issues, identity and transformation, definitely speak to audiences in MENA. Another hugely important thing is the talent attached to a project, the Turkish actors are so well known in the region, so if we can promise a high-profile line up onscreen, as well as familiar writers, directors and producers, it makes the job so much easier for the buyer to commit to an acquisition!

Following MIPCOM, we're at DICM. What are Eccho Rights' goals for the MENA region in the upcoming period, and what are your expectations from DICM?

Based on the above, we already know that in MENA we have a very good track record with premium Turkish dramas, and that when we bring a new title with an A-list cast we can often quickly secure a deal. Our next hope is that we can bring more daily drama series to MENA. We understand that there is a rich history of Arabic productions in this space already, but we found that for example, in South America, after an initial resist-



ance to importing competition to the traditional telenovela, once Turkish dailies came over, the market really opened up and we have enjoyed a lot of success selling series such as *Elif*, *The Promise*, and now newer titles like *Winds of Love* into these territories. We absolutely believe we can see a similar pattern across the MENA region.

At Eccho Rights, you're also responsible for the sales of Turkish series to Western Europe. In recent years, we've seen growing interest in Turkish series in Western and Central Europe. What are your observations on this, and what are your expectations for Turkish series in the near future?

We have been very proud to be at the forefront of breaking a number of new territories for Turkish drama, and we hope to continue this work. After seeing the amazing success of Turkish series in Spain, neighbouring countries like France and Italy in particular have been watching very closely and there is an obvious rekindling of activity in these territories. In northern Europe we brought *Golden Boy* to Finland, after having several Turkish series air in Sweden going back over 10 years, and we are delighted to say that this has been a big success, with MTV (Finnish broadcaster) having just aired the second season finale. Which territory is next? We don't know, but we don't see any signs of the growth in Turkish series slowing down!

MENA we have a very good track record with premium Turkish dramas, and that when we bring a new title with an A-list cast we can often quickly secure a deal.

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CAN OKAN, FOUNDER AND CEO OF INTER MEDYA

“Valley of Hearts has received immense love from Turkish audiences since its debut and has also garnered significant interest from international buyers.”

By YAĞMUR ÇÖL



Can Okan, CEO and founder of Inter Medya, joins EPISODE once again for our DICM 2024 issue, highlighting the global debut of *Valley of Hearts* at MIPCOM, the company's expanding co-productions, and their fresh format, *Crossover*.

At DICM, Inter Medya will introduce their latest hit *Valley of Hearts* alongside *Love and Pride*, reflecting the growing international demand for Turkish content and partnerships.

Inter Medya introduced TIMS&B Productions' *Valley of Hearts*, one of the season's most popular series, at MIPCOM for the first time. *Valley of Hearts* has been very well-received in Türkiye, but how was the feedback at MIPCOM?

Yes, as Inter Medya, we have taken on the international distribution of *Valley of Hearts*, one of this season's most popular productions from TIMS&B Productions and launched it globally at MIPCOM. We celebrated this international launch with a small press event at our own stand. *Valley of Hearts* has received immense love from Turkish audiences since its debut and has also garnered significant interest from international buyers. Even before MIPCOM, we had already begun discussions with several clients for *Valley of Hearts*. This strong interest continued intensively throughout MIPCOM, with many promising talks. We look forward to announcing these sales very soon.

How do you see the global journey of *Valley of Hearts* progressing? What elements of the series do you think will captivate international audience?

Valley of Hearts exemplifies the hallmarks of a distinguished Turkish drama, masterfully combining captivating storytelling with the breathtaking scenery of Cappadocia. With a layered story full of love, passion, family values, and class conflict, along with moments of suspense, it keeps audiences engaged at every turn. The talented cast brings each character to life with depth and authenticity. Touching on themes that international audiences look for in Turkish dramas, *Valley of Hearts* stands out with its stunning visuals, captivating music, and high-quality cinematography. We are confident that this series will secure a lasting and prominent place in the legacy of Turkish television dramas.

You also introduced your music competition format, *Crossover*, at MIPCOM for the first time. How was the interest? Could you tell us a bit about this format?

We've recently refined and streamlined our format catalog to make it more focused and versatile. Our catalog now includes a vibrant selection of competition formats, tailored to meet various needs with some of the most dynamic and engaging concepts. *Crossover* is a new addition, a lively and entertaining music competition program. In truth, *Crossover* is much more than just a music show; it's a celebration of diversity, creativity, and musical artistry. It invites viewers to experience innovative, unexpected fusions of sound while providing contestants with a unique platform to showcase their versatility and range.



Valley of Hearts exemplifies the hallmarks of a distinguished Turkish drama, masterfully combining captivating storytelling with the breathtaking scenery of Cappadocia. With a layered story full of love, passion, family values, and class conflict, along with moments of suspense, it keeps audiences engaged at every turn.



Whether you're a fan of classical, pop, rock, or jazz, *Crossover* has something for everyone, bringing diverse musical tastes together in one electrifying show.

Your catalog of mini-series also received attention at MIPCOM. What does this interest make you think about the future of Turkish mini-series?

Mini-series have become a key focus in our catalog recently. To introduce these series internationally, we launched them under the brand New Generation Turkish Series, and we have put substantial effort into building this brand. The response has been very positive. Drawing on the richness of Turkish storytelling, these miniseries present bold, edgy narratives with a high production quality, creating an opportunity to reach new audiences previously untouched by Turkish content. They have succeeded in capturing the interest of viewers who may not have watched or preferred Turkish series before. In this regard, the impact of global platforms and successful Turkish productions is immense. Our mini-series play a significant role in contributing to the industry.

Inter Medya is making steady progress in terms of co-productions. You have completed four co-productions and mentioned you might provide updates on a new project. We'd love to hear the latest developments on this matter.

Yes, co-productions have been a strategic focus and area of investment for us for quite some time. We've already achieved historic milestones by launching the first-ever Turkish co-productions in Latin America and the U.S. Hispanic markets, with impressive results. Each project has helped us grow and refine our approach. To support these efforts, we've established an

in-house team dedicated to co-productions. They are continually scouting new projects and stories, evaluating each one for potential partnerships. Currently, we have another co-production in production, with plans to launch it in early 2025. We're confident that we will achieve many more firsts and successful projects in co-productions.

Following MIPCOM, we're at DICM. Inter Medya will have a screening in DICM. Could we get more details on this?

On the first day of DICM, November 12 at 12:30 PM, we'll be holding a special screening. During this session, we'll present a 15-minute highlight reel of *Valley of Hearts*, giving our MENA clients, who may have missed MIPCOM, their first look at the series. We're thrilled to introduce the show here. Additionally, we'll be screening a 15-minute video of *Love and Pride*, a successful co-production that serves as an excellent example of Turkish collaborations. Through this presentation, we aim to showcase the potential of Turkish co-productions to our MENA audience. We look forward to welcoming all DICM attendees to enjoy this exclusive screening with us.

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6 of Us

Inside The Season's Boldest Family Drama

By OBEN BUDAK

Produced by OGM Pictures, with Onur Güvenatam as producer and Cem Karcı as director and distributed internationally by OGM Universe, *6 of Us* tells the story of six siblings who, after losing their parents in a tragic night, struggle to survive by clinging to each other despite all hardships. With its compelling storyline and powerful characters, the series stands out as one of the most ambitious projects of the season, following the siblings' challenging journey to İstanbul, revealing the strength of their bond and the transformative power of hope. Through its dramatic narrative and deeply crafted characters, *6 of Us* promises viewers an unforgettable experience.

In our interview with the lead actors, we discussed their experiences bringing this compelling story to life, the connections they've built with their characters, and the emotions the series is likely to evoke in audiences.



Hazal Subaşı

Azize takes on a parental role for her siblings. What aspect of this character impacted you the most while playing her? How do you perceive the challenging and empowering sides of Azize carrying such a heavy burden?

Azize's mother entrusted her with an enormous responsibility, saying, "Now, you're their mother," and left her siblings in Azize's care as she passed away. Azize was already raised to take on this role, being the oldest sister. Keeping her family together and protecting them has always been her top priority. She grew up aware of the dangers around them, yet always dreading the day they might truly come. A very difficult life awaits the six siblings. They're struggling to survive in an unfamiliar world, and the only thing keeping them from falling apart is Azize's strength. She learns about life, the city, and other people as she goes, and each difficult situation she faces makes her stronger.

Azize is a selfless character who is willing to do anything for her siblings. How do you bring out the strengths of this character as you portray her deep sense of loyalty and sacrifice? What was it like for you to explore Azize's almost "eagle-like" protective side?

When I first read the script, I was deeply moved by Azize's strength, her stance in life, and how she shields her siblings, almost like an eagle, protecting her own against the struggles of life. Her determination to stand tall against every challenge that comes with inexperience and the unknown moves me deeply.

How does this selflessness shape Azize's character? As you play this side of Azize, how do you interpret someone who puts herself so completely aside? As someone who completely changes her life for her siblings, how did understanding and portraying such deep emotional attachment make you feel?

Azize puts herself aside to care for her siblings, who rely on her entirely. No matter what they go through, their unwavering bond becomes the clearest expression of their love, showing how their connection is a powerful form of resistance against life's hardships.

As someone who has lived her entire life in the forest, what kind of challenges does Azize face when she arrives in a large, complex city like Istanbul? What kind of emotional state did you enter while portraying her ways of coping with this new world?

She knows nothing. For her, entering an entirely different life with her young siblings entrusted to her care is like going through a new birth.

It's an unknown life, a journey full of struggles, and they are a family without protection, unable to predict what will happen next.

Bringing Azize's experiences, emotions, and spirit to life and connecting with her world excites me as well.

This story emphasizes the strength of family bonds and the importance of supporting one another. From your character's perspective, what do you think about the significance of family ties? How does this loyalty motivate your character?

Family is where we take root, learn about life, feel protected and cared for, where bonds and loyalty come first. Azize and her siblings, however, were forced to continue their lives without this bond from a very young age. Despite all the hardships, they try to stand strong through their connection to each other. Love heals, protects, and nurtures everything. I hope that Azize and her siblings never lose the love they feel for each other.



Family is where we take root, learn about life, feel protected and cared for, where bonds and loyalty come first.

Kaan Mirac Sezen

Cemo is a young character forced to grow up with the tragic events within his family. How did you approach this sudden journey into maturity? While portraying Cemo's struggle with this burden and his inner turmoil, was there anything in real life, a story you experienced or witnessed, that inspired you?

Following a family tragedy, Cemo had to adapt to circumstances his father had, in a way, prepared him for. He could foresee that this day would come, and he feared it. But finally facing these events, he realized he had to become much stronger to protect his family. I wanted to portray Cemo from a place where he blames himself and feels inadequate, no matter what he does. He's strong, but in this way: he's painfully aware of his perceived powerlessness, feeling that the impact he has on his family's situation is insufficient, which causes him deep inner pain and he hides all traces of this pain from his family. His inner conflict growing like roots within him, contrary to the outward strength he projects. This internal struggle is a constant battle, and it grows within him. In short, that's how I approached the character.

In real life, I know of a few families who have been in similarly difficult situations. Even though they haven't suffered family losses, I've witnessed that some were as unprotected or financially vulnerable as Cemo. Their experiences have, at times, inspired me, and I hope I've managed to reflect the authenticity of his character.

The siblings lose their parents suddenly and traumatically. How do you think this loss affects Cemo and Zeliha? What kind of responsibility does it require to support their younger siblings while going through their own trauma?

We have two very young siblings. As their older brother and sister, one of our biggest responsibilities is to shield them from feeling the pain of losing our parents. Because of this, we don't really have the time to process our own grief. We have to protect our youngest sibling from the awareness of such a heavy loss at such a young age. That's why losing our parents has increased our burden as the older ones. The younger children will not feel safe without their mother and father, so we must also create a sense of security for them, and to do this, we have to act as if nothing has happened and match their energy and innocent unawareness. Carrying such a huge pain while doing this is incredibly difficult, and at times, we feel we can't handle it. But in the end, I believe that, as siblings left without anyone else, we can always overcome it together.

This journey to İstanbul represents a theme of survival and struggle for each character. Did anything inspire you while portraying your character's determination to hold on to life?

The characters Guts from *Berserk*, Izuku Midoriya from *My Hero Academia*, and Sung Jin-Woo from *Solo Leveling* were a source of inspiration for me in bringing Cemo from abstraction to something solid in my own mind.



As for love, Cemo feels emotions very intensely, so he's likely to experience love on a grand scale too.

The fire of revenge and Cemo's belief in honesty form the core conflict in his individual story. How does being torn between love and revenge create psychological pressure? How did you connect with your character's difficult choices?

Cemo is a child raised with strong virtues and morals. Growing up with four sisters has given him a protective and gentle nature. He's not driven by revenge for the pain inflicted on him personally, but rather by a desire to avenge those who put his family in this position. At the same time, his dedication to his family's needs always comes first, which means he won't easily compromise his honesty, though his pursuit of revenge may be inevitable (at least within himself).

As for love, Cemo feels emotions very intensely, so he's likely to experience love on a grand scale too. While pursuing revenge, the strength of this feeling could trap him in an inner conflict, sparking anger toward himself. If we consider revenge as anger and love as compassion, we might witness an internal turmoil where these emotions intertwine.

There's a tension between Cemo's desire for revenge and his commitment to honesty. How does this internal conflict affect his personal growth? Which defines Cemo more, pursuit of revenge or honesty?

Cemo is constantly at war with himself. He faces the pressure of not being able to fully support his family, the extra effort needed to adapt to changing life circumstances, the struggle against hunger and thirst, and the search for a roof over



their heads, all of which he tries to handle alongside his older sister. At this stage, he isn't in a position to even think about revenge, but once he stabilizes his family's situation and overcomes these intense hardships, he is a character who can likely use these experiences as fuel. I'm certain he won't hesitate to make others feel the pain he's endured. For now,, I would say honesty defines Cemo more, as revenge may come to the forefront later. His honesty and sincerity toward his family are the things defining him at this point.

Cemo takes on a major responsibility for his family. How does this strong bond with his siblings place him in a leadership role? What aspects did you focus on while portraying his loyalty and leadership?

Cemo is actually more of a dedicated soldier than a leader. He's his sister's loyal soldier. I envisioned the family as a beehive, fitting, since they're actually beekeepers in the storyline. After the parents' death, Azize becomes the queen bee, while I represent the grown, mature guard bee. My sole purpose is to serve her needs as best as I can and support my family's survival and well-being. However, the natural, human reactions I have to the situations we face may eventually start to pull me away from this mindset.

This story emphasizes the strength of family bonds and the importance of supporting one another. From your character's perspective, what do you think about the significance of family ties? How does this loyalty motivate your character?

The fear of losing the bonds of love we have is actually one of my character's biggest motivations. Even if there's no way to return to the happy times of the past, longing for those days and the effort to bring back that happiness is crucial for Cemo.



Reha Özcan

Cevdet wants to leave behind his days of being a “tough guy,” but the arrival of his sibling forces him to confront his past once again. While portraying Cevdet’s internal struggle, how do you balance his desire to escape his past with his efforts to act as a protector for the neighborhood?

In good dramas, we don’t see characters in simple black and white. It’s the same in real life. If you asked ten different people what someone is like, you’d get ten different answers. For those you hurt during a rough time years ago, you’re still that coarse, abrasive person. Yet to your kids, you’re a caring father figure, or vice versa. But one constant, I believe, is that people are capable of transformation. Cevdet’s greatest dilemma, even his tragedy, is being judged by his past. As he tries to cling to the new identity he’s built in the neighborhood, he’s suddenly forced to confront everything he’s tried to run away from. When I play Cevdet today, I try to conceal traces of his past in my body, my voice, basically my entire being, for the audience to discover. Likewise, if they see hints of his present self in his past, then I am happy...

Cevdet is a respected, wise figure in the neighborhood. As a former tough guy, how does he balance his effort to avoid violence with this role? How do his reputation and internal conflicts add depth to his character?

Cevdet has built his new life around the identity of the neighborhood protector, resembling the warm-hearted yet firm figures of old-school tough guys. This is, in a way, a tradition passed down from the Ottoman-era “külhanbeyi” figures. Their role wasn’t just to put out fires. They were the ones people in trouble would turn to, who would size up newcomers, and give the first warning to anyone who might cause harm. In those days, people looked out for one another so well that violence was rarely necessary. Often, just a look or a slight change in tone from those tough figures was enough to make someone straighten up. Cevdet is a character trying to achieve this balance. His ability to keep calm despite provocations, his acceptance of his inner struggles, and his quiet efforts to keep the neighborhood in harmony are perhaps his greatest strengths.

Cevdet’s complex relationship with his brother Haşmet makes his struggle with the past even harder. As you portray the tension in this relationship, which aspects of your character did you focus on?

As an actor, I feel that Cevdet currently approaches Haşmet more as a father than a brother. He has a remarkable ability to overlook Haşmet’s faults, his roughness, and all the traits he disapproves of. Even though he can’t set foot in their home, he feels he must look out for the whole family from afar because he knows Haşmet isn’t capable of doing it himself. Despite all the provocations from his brother, Cevdet has chosen not to engage in conflict with him. He doesn’t have that luxury. Sometimes, to fulfill our duties and protect others, we have to put aside our personal problems. As the older brother, even as the family’s hidden father figure, he’s trying to do just that.

This story emphasizes the strength of family bonds and the importance of supporting one another. From your character’s perspective, what do you think about the significance of family ties? How does this loyalty motivate your character?

Family is the core value of my life. It always has been. I grew up in a relatively large family, and we were the kind of kids who would always run to each other in tough times. Of course, we didn’t face major traumas as in *6 of Us*, but whose life is perfect anyway? I believe that children who grow up in families where siblings support each other start life a step ahead. Siblings become those playmates who turn childhood struggles into fairytales through the power of imagination. They’re the ones you can turn to, sharing everything from worries to celebrations, even before your parents. Large families that offer this kind of connection are truly precious to me. That’s why, as both a person and an actor, I place special importance on being part of projects that emphasize family bonds.

Cevdet has built his new life around the identity of the neighborhood protector, resembling the warm-hearted yet firm figures of old-school tough guys.



Cem Karci

6 of Us tells a story of strong family bonds and resilience in the face of hardships. What specifically drew you to this project and resonated with you?

First and foremost, our story sheds light on the struggles in today's Türkiye. It paints a portrait of the Turkish people fighting against all financial struggles. It emphasizes the bond of siblinghood, the importance of family, and the strength that comes from standing tall together against all the hardships. In a way, it's a series about never losing hope, and that's what drew me in the most.

The series also features strong character depth and development. As the director, how did you work with the actors to enrich the characters' stories?

One of my main priorities was to bring life to the journey of our six young actors, who each portray siblings with distinct personalities, yet must also feel as inseparable as flesh and bone. To make this happen, we did two weeks of intensive preparation. Together with our second director, Enes Kartal, along with our coach Bahar Kerimoğlu, we conducted a 'character development workshop.' Over two weeks, we delved into the unique traits that set each sibling apart. We practiced how they should unite against every challenge and, how they would sense each other's presence even with their eyes closed.

The cast features young actors and child characters. What was your approach to directing this young cast? It must have been challenging to reflect the dynamics of six siblings, each with different character traits.

First, it was essential for me that all six actors truly feel like siblings. We shot difficult scenes under very tough conditions. So it was important for them to bond off set, supporting and lifting each other up whenever they felt overwhelmed. Fortunately, we were very lucky to have a cast that genuinely cares for one another, respects each other, and never lets go of each other's hands. This bond was built through the work we did during the preparation phase. It made things much easier during shooting.

6 of Us explores universal themes such as loss, family bonds, and resilience. Do you think these themes will be equally impactful for viewers from different cultures? What aspects of the story make it relatable to the international audiences?

The most important quality of this series is its emotional core. This means that even if watched on mute, viewers can easily empathize with it, regardless of the language. Naturally, it will resonate more with audiences from cultures similar to ours, but it won't exclude those from different backgrounds either. No matter how different our languages or cultures are, I believe in the universality of emotions.

The series' strong visuals and atmosphere add dimension into the story. How might international viewers perceive Istanbul's captivating aesthetic? In portraying the impact of locations on the characters' emotional worlds, what feeling do you aim to evoke for the audience?

We've set the world of our series in Balat, one of Istanbul's most beautiful and touristic neighborhoods. With its high-ceilinged, bay-windowed houses, its blend of Ottoman and Byzantine architecture, and its residents of various religions and languages, Balat beautifully reflects the harmony between East and West. Through our story, we aim to show how each of our characters is affected by this modern complexity at times.

First and foremost, our story sheds light on the struggles in today's Türkiye. It paints a portrait of the Turkish people fighting against all financial struggles.

COMING SOON: OGM PICTURES' ŞEHRAZAT

The first table read for *Şehrazat*, a new series produced by OGM Pictures for Star TV, recently took place. The show boasts an impressive cast, including İsmail Hacıoğlu, Simay Barlas, Aytaç Şaşmaz, Burcu Cavar, Mehmet Çevik, Ayşegül Ünsal, Şehsuvar Aktaş, Özlem Tokaslan, Pınar Çağlar Gençtürk, Yağmur Özbasmacı, Gökhan Bekletenler, Zeynep Dreyfi Zuhri, Batuhan Bayar, Sami Aksu, and Tamer Levent.

Şehrazat is a remake of the acclaimed Iranian TV series that achieved great success in its original form. The story centers around Shahrzad, a young woman forced to marry the son-in-law of a political leader while in love with someone else.



HALİT ERGENÇ AND MERVE DİZDAR LEAD OGM'S NEW DRAMA KRAL KAYBEDERSE

Following their recent projects *6 of Us* and *Şehrazat* for Star TV, OGM Pictures is now set to begin filming *Kral Kaybederse*. Directed by the Taylan Brothers and written by Ertan Kurtulan, the series stars Halit Ergenç (*Magnificent Century*) as Kenan, a man who seemingly has it all; charm, wealth, and admiration, yet struggles with deep insecurities beneath the surface. According to the latest news, acclaimed actress Merve Dizdar (*About Dry Grasses*) has been cast in the role of Fadi, a bar waitress whom Kenan falls in love with.



ONUR TUNA AND BELÇİM BİLGİN STAR IN UPCOMING FILM BAĞLANTI HATASI

Belçim Bilgin and Onur Tuna come together in *Bağlantı Hatası*, a new film from Atölye Production and Böcek Films. Written by Ali Kobanbay and directed by Gökçen Usta, the story focuses on a group of students at a private school who face bullying and turn to social media to seek justice.

In the film, Onur Tuna plays Alper, Belçim Bilgin is Merve, with Timur Acar as Tayfun, Hamdi Alkan as Principal İlhan, Kubilay Tuncer as Vedat, and Çağdaş Onur Öztürk as Levent. *Bağlantı Hatası* is expected to hit theaters on March 27.



MEDYAPIM ADAPTS TO VERTICAL TV SERIES TREND WITH *LOVE, REASON, GET EVEN*

The vertical TV series format is gaining attention in Türkiye, with MedYapım leading this new trend. According to recent news, the company is currently adapting one of its existing series into a vertical 1.5-minute format through special editing. The first of these adaptations will be their popular series *Love, Reason, Get Even*, starring Burcu Özberk and İlhan Şen.

In addition, MedYapım plans to produce new original series specifically for the vertical format. One of these upcoming projects is titled *O Kadın*, a 60-minute love story directed by Ali Cabbar, with casting currently underway.



NEW DRAMA: *ŞAKİR PAŞA AİLESİ* BRINGS OTTOMAN FAMILY DRAMA TO THE SCREEN

The first teaser for MedYapım's upcoming series *Şakir Paşa Ailesi: Mucizeler ve Skandallar* was released on November 4. Directed by Bahadır Karataş and written by Hande Altaylı, the series has already sparked curiosity with its intriguing storyline and impressive cast.

Featuring a lineup of acclaimed actors, including Vahide Perçin (*Deception*), Fırat Tanış, Devrim Yakut, Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu, Denise Capezza, Nilsu Berfin Aktaş, Helin Kandemir, and Yağmur Başkurt, the series will also introduce Meryem Uzerli (*Magnificent Century*) in a key role.

Set in 1912, *Şakir Paşa Ailesi: Mucizeler ve Skandallar* delves into the lives of a real-life Ottoman family full of secrets and intrigue. The story brings to light the extraordinary lives and relationships within the Şakir Paşa family and will be available soon on NOW.



UPCOMING DRAMA *FER* SET TO PREMIERE SOON ON GAIN

GAIN is gearing up to launch its latest drama, *Fer*, starring Melisa Sözen and Ertan Saban. Filming for the series has officially begun, and it will premiere exclusively on GAIN soon.

Fer follows Dilek, a mother of two who is going through a challenging divorce and trying to rebuild her life. Played by Melisa Sözen, Dilek works as an unlicensed taxi driver to make ends meet. Her routine is upended when a mysterious passenger named Şadi, portrayed by Ertan Saban, steps into her life, bringing unexpected and life-altering changes.

The cast also includes Ferit Aktuğ, Ceren Taşçı, Gül Onat, Mutlu Güney, Mustafa Konak, Ahsen Türkyılmaz, Murat Kılıç, and Onur Dilber, with a special appearance by Celil Nalçakan. Produced by BKM, directed by Türkan Derya, and written by Devin Özgür Çınar, *Fer* promises a compelling story of resilience and transformation.

KEREM BÜRSİN ON *BLUE CAVE*:

Love, Magic and Power of Storytelling

By OBEN BUDAK



B *Blue Cave* is a Prime Video Original film directed by Altan Dönmez. We spoke with lead actor Kerem Bürsin about the newly released film to gain insight into its creation. Bürsin, who co-wrote the screenplay with Osman Kaya, shared his thoughts on the project's origins, his perspective on love, and the mystical elements that serve as the film's central theme.

We usually direct our questions to you as an actor, but this time, how does it feel to be the creator of a story?

In short, it's an incredible feeling. To create a story, the characters, the world, and then see it all come to life, it's indescribable, in my opinion. Those close to me know well that storytelling has always been something I've devoted my time into, almost obsessively, doing it with passion, curiosity, excitement, and joy. I'm in love with and fascinated by every part of filmmaking; I'm one of those who believes in its magic.

How did this journey begin? I'm really curious about the creative process. Did you join an existing project, or did you already have a story you wanted to bring to life?

Honestly, we were just wrapping up a project I had been working on for years. It was something we called *Bi'Tuhaf Hikaye*, a collaboration with Osman Kaya, and a world completely different from something like *Blue Cave*. In the meantime, I'd received an offer for a project that had romantic nuances, and I do understand why I get offered work like that. But, if I'm being honest, I was looking for something a bit deeper, with a bit more playfulness, though I couldn't quite convey that at the time.

As soon as I got back from the meeting, I decided to write a story to express what I had in mind. I asked myself what kind of story about love I would want to tell and how I'd want to tell it, and that's how this story came to life. I immediately sketched out the entire story, scene by scene, in my notebook. Then, I sat down with Osman Kaya (my close friend, an incredible director, and someone I co-write every project with) and we wrote the first draft in a week. For me, this project just flowed naturally. Yet, I never thought I'd write a love story in my life. I remember that Osman Kaya and I kept joking about this as we wrote. But now, I'm glad it happened.

Cem is one of your most emotional performances to date. What kind of preparation did you go through to bring Cem's emotional journey to the screen, and were there any particularly challenging moments?

Playing Cem wasn't exactly an easy five weeks. He's a character with a lot of emotional weight, and the complexity of his situation was tough to handle. Of course, we had fun on set, but constantly diving into those emotions was draining. On one hand, writing the story and creating the character made things easier, but on the other, knowing the character so deeply and bringing that depth to life was incredibly challenging.

Watching it a second time, though, you realize that everything is laid out there for both the audience and for Cem. We aim to make the audience experience what the character is going through.



We usually see you in charismatic businessman roles, but in *Blue Cave*, you're portraying a soldier.

I'd say it's one of the most mature roles I've played. His soul feels older, and the weight of his situation is heavier than any character I've taken on before.

The film has a mystical atmosphere intertwined with Cem's personal journey. In your view, how do these mystical elements enhance the emotional depth and story? I ask because I think they make it feel more real.

When we pay attention, life actually offers us so much, but if we don't know how to look, we miss it. I agree with your last point; it's something I truly believe. I think it's a fine line because you want to include these hints, yet you don't want the audience to become aware of them. Watching it a second time, though, you realize that everything is laid out there for both the audience and for Cem. We aim to make the audience experience what the character is going through.

You have a large international fanbase. Throughout the year, I follow TV/content fairs in various countries, and you're one of the rare actors who is eagerly sought out by name. *Blue Cave* will be released globally on Prime Video. How do you think international audiences will connect with this film, especially considering the emotional journey of your character?

I hope they like it. I put a lot of effort into making the stories I write truly universal, and that's something I value deeply. This approach opens up many possibilities. Love is a universal theme after all. And I think we've all had moments where we look back on our lives and realize how quickly time has passed. We often postpone our dreams and the things we want to do, but is it worth it?

You originally wanted to film inside the cave, but backed out when you realized it was seal birthing season, a truly admirable choice that everyone should know about. So, where is the puppy that kept you company during filming now?

Yes, when we set out by boat to explore the Blue Cave, two incredible people approached us and explained the situation with the caves in the area. These people have been protecting the caves for years. As soon as our director and dear friend Altan Dönmez heard, he was one of the first to drop the idea of using the real cave. It was truly an incredible decision, and I'm so glad we made it.

Those close to me know well that storytelling has always been something I've devoted my time into, almost obsessively, doing it with passion, curiosity, excitement, and joy.



I asked myself what kind of story about love I would want to tell and how I'd want to tell it, and that's how this story came to life.

We hope people will respect this and avoid visiting the area. As for adopting the puppy, Devrim and I were both tempted. Someone did end up taking him, and we found out they're trustworthy. I hope he's having a very happy and wonderful life.

Romantic movies aren't made as often these days. I think it partly reflects changing views on love and the focus on individual lives. As fewer people believe in lasting love, what's your view on whether love can be timeless?

I think, of course, we meet people we admire, care for, and create beautiful memories with, but I'm not sure if we can define today's concept of love as the classic, old-fashioned love. I don't even know if there's people that truly wants to experience that kind of love anymore. To me, love is about both luck and patience. In a life moving at such a fast pace, finding it is genuinely difficult. But I do believe in the timelessness of love, and if you're able to find it, you're incredibly lucky.



ÇETİN YILMAZ ON **CREATING CELEBRITY TEACHER**

“After all, one of the most vulnerable moments for any adult is when they can’t explain something to a child.”

By OBEN BUDAK

We spoke with Çetin Yılmaz, producer/director at Siyah Sekiz Media, whose format *Celebrity Teacher* won first place at NATPE Budapest. The award, given by a panel of top executives and owners from some of the world's most prominent format companies, highlighted the originality of the concept. Yılmaz shared insights into *Celebrity Teacher* and the journey that followed this significant achievement.

You received the 2024 Best Format award for *Celebrity Teacher* at NATPE Budapest, standing out among numerous entries from various countries. Winning with an idea alone seems incredibly significant to me. What was that moment like for you?

Yes, there's no doubt that it's a fantastic feeling to have your idea recognized. If I start from the beginning, we were first informed that we made it to the finals, among the last three formats out of 60, and that these three would be competing. My initial thought was, "This is fantastic news; even placing third would be valuable." At first, I wasn't even thinking about winning. But when I arrived in Budapest, my mindset changed. When you see world-renowned and respected figures on the jury, like Avi Armoza and other reputable names in the format and television industry, you start hoping that they might pick your show above the others. When I found out we won, the most dominant feeling was validation. After that, I felt an incredible boost in motivation to keep creating.

Could you describe your format in your own words?

There are people who become so associated with their fields, icons in their professions. When you think of Ferrari, for example, who comes to mind? Michael Schumacher. When I realized how many such names there are and how universal this phenomenon is across countries, I thought, "Why not create a format around this?" Some of these figures are world-famous; others are local, but the appeal is global. The idea of bringing these icons together with three mischievous kids and having them teach their profession to the kids in one hour really excited me. At first, the practicality is being questioned, it doesn't sound feasible. But that's where the format begins. We defined a set of rules and outlined focus areas for each profession, and then we prepared a demo. We started the demo with journalism/news, and started filming with a prominent and iconic Turkish news figure that everyone knows, Erhan Ertürk. A journalist would spend an hour with the kids, teaching them, and then have them present a news story at the end. Worth the watch, right?

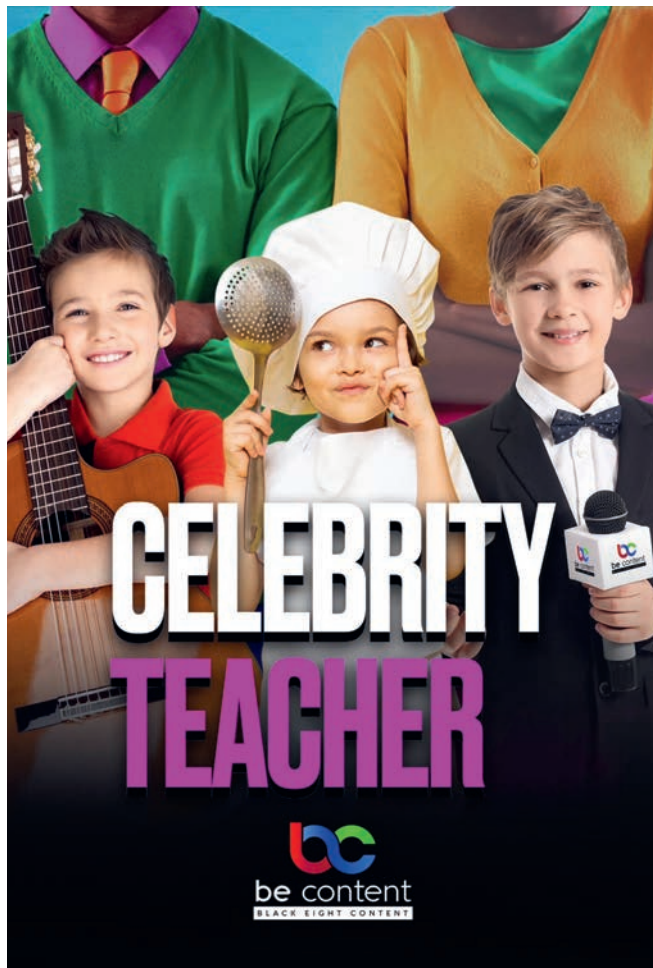
It took me a few years to develop the idea in my head, and once I felt everything was in place, we shot the pilot. TV, as we know, is all about ratings, so a channel wouldn't want something that feels like a public service announcement. We needed to appeal to parents, to viewers who want to see celebrities, and even make kids to set their video games aside to watch the format.

How did you come up with the idea of explaining a profession to kids through a professional?

We actually had formats in various genres, but we were missing one for the kids, so I wanted to complete that. It took me a few years to develop the idea in my head, and once I felt everything was in place, we shot the pilot. TV, as we know, is all about ratings, so a channel wouldn't want something that feels like a public service announcement. We needed to appeal to parents, to viewers who want to see celebrities, and even make kids to set their video games aside to watch the format.

I've only seen the first episode, but I'm genuinely curious about the rest. In the end, it's a show where we, along with the kids, can learn so much, and it's incredibly entertaining thanks to them. What are your goals for the first season?

You're in for a lot. It's a format that appeals to children, both individually and as a family experience, and that engages adult audiences too. It's not just for kids; the topics are broad enough to appeal to adults as well. When viewers see a celebrity, someone they know, admire, or follow, it'll grab their attention. After all, one of the most vulnerable moments for any adult is when they can't explain something to a child. You can't get mad, but you have to make it work, especially if you're a celebrity and facing a know-it-all seven-year-old, all while being evaluated at the end. I would watch something like that!





When I found out we won, the most dominant feeling was validation. After that, I felt an incredible boost in motivation to keep creating.

**What happened after winning at NATPE?
What's next for *Celebrity Teacher*?**

We've started serious talks with two European countries. I believe they might launch the show in 2025, though that's not definite yet. I'm not sure if I can reveal the countries, so I'd need to check with my dear distributor, Umay Ayaz. I would like to thank her again here for her outstanding presentation. In Türkiye, I'm handling the negotiations myself, two channels are interested, but we haven't sealed a deal yet. There's an opinion that it's an ideal weekend format, although some European countries are considering airing it during prime time.

What are Siyah Sekiz Media's goals and expectations for DICM 2024?

We aren't sticking to a single lane at Siyah Sekiz Media. While it started as a TV production company, we later added advertising to our portfolio. In a third area, we serve as the format agency for several brands. We've also created a new name called Be Content, which we felt was needed for a more global label. So now we have a sub-company focused solely on content creation, with seven original projects to our name. We've started showcasing these projects at major fairs, and winning this award has certainly boosted our motivation.



TRT SALES

**FATIH: SULTAN OF CONQUESTS**

Mehmed, who became sultan when he was only 21 years old, stood out among the candidates for the throne with his intelligence and greatness. He has only one dream: After conquering Constantinople and making it his capital, he wants to transform the Ottoman Empire into a world power through reforms in education and justice. But his progressive ideas are seen as dangerous by traditional Ottoman statesmen. A fierce political struggle broke out between his team and Zağanos and Şehabettin Pashas, who had raised Mehmed and were influential in the formation of his ideas. As a political maneuver, Mehmed marries and is caught in a love war in the harem. The rivalry between his first wife and new wife turns into an argument that can be used by his rivals in the political arena. When everything becomes complicated, Mehmed finds his new friend by his side. Mehmed, who does not care about the situation he is in, is subjected to an assassination attempt as he is about to march to Constantinople. It is revealed that his close friend is behind the assassination and that he was commissioned by the Byzantine emperor Constantine. The Ottomans, now united into a single fist, stand against the Byzantine walls under Mehmed's leadership.

**SALADIN: THE CONQUEROR OF JERUSALEM**

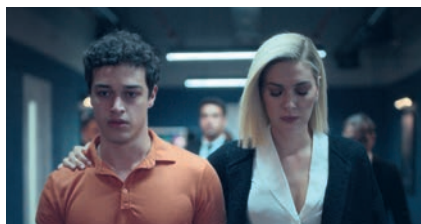
In the 12th century, the Crusader invasions upheaved the Islamic world, leading to the conquest of pivotal territories, including Jerusalem. Nureddin Zengi emerged as a hopeful figure, driven by the mission to reunite the fragmented Islamic world, expel the Crusaders, and liberate Jerusalem from their grasp. Faced with the loss of his own son, Nureddin adopts Yusuf, renaming him Selahaddin, entrusting him with the monumental task of realizing this vision. Selahaddin's journey unfolds against a backdrop of internal and external challenges. As he matures, conflicts with his Ayyubid family, clashes with adversaries, and the complexities of love shape his path. Jerusalem, the linchpin in both the Islamic world and Selahaddin's personal odyssey, remains a sought-after objective, with Selahaddin holding the key to its liberation. Throughout these struggles, Selahaddin remains resolute in his commitment to the mission bestowed upon him by Nureddin Zengi. Unbeknownst to him, a significant secret gradually unravels, adding an unforeseen layer to his life and the unfolding narrative of his quest for Jerusalem's freedom.

**THE SHADOW TEAM**

A terrorist attack is organized to a SIHA (armed unmanned aerial vehicle) factory in Türkiye, a country that has increasingly become the target of operations of foreign intelligence services. It is found out that the attack was organized by foreign intelligence services. As a result of this attack, the senior levels of the government assign Mr. Mete in order to create a team consisting of members who are the best of their fields to completely eliminate the enemy. After being appointed, Mr. Mete creates a team of experts in their field. But there is only one condition for becoming a member of this team: the team members will be officially considered dead from now on and no one, including their loved ones, will know that they are alive. These heroes from now on will live in the shadows among crowds.

**LEGEND OF THE BLACK TREE**

Celal Aga, who covets all the lands in his region, seizes the lands of all the aghas and has his last rival Osman Aga killed. Osman Aga's wife Raziye gives birth to a son that night. To protect her son from the wrath of Celal Aga, who has another daughter, she gives him to Celal Aga's wife Asiye through Naile Kadın. Ömer is now the son of Celal Aga, the murderer of his father. The daughter born to Celal Aga's wife Asiye is a secret. Years pass and Ömer grows up as Celal Aga's son. Sultan returns to the town claiming to be Osman Aga's daughter and seeks revenge. Fate reunites two people born on the same night.



6 OF US

A story of six siblings, Azize, Cemo, Zeliha, Fidan, Samet, and Balım who, after suddenly losing their parents, struggle to stay united and survive. The roots of their tragedy trace back to their parents, Bala and Rifat, whose forbidden love began in a village in Mardin.

Rifat, a teacher, falls in love with Bala, but Yavuz, the wealthy and obsessive son of Mardin's richest family, kidnaps her. Despite his abuse, Bala escapes with Rifat, and they build a secluded life in the forest, raising six children in peace. However, Yavuz's revenge shatters their world when he finds and attacks them.

Fleeing to Istanbul, the siblings face the dangers of the city while seeking refuge with "Uncle Aslan," their father's trusted friend. The story highlights resilience, as the older siblings are forced to grow up quickly to protect their younger brothers and sisters in the face of overwhelming challenges.



THE TAILOR

The Tailor delves into the intertwined pasts of Peyami, a renowned tailor, his childhood friend Dimitri, and Dimitri's fiancée, Esvet. Set against the captivating backdrop of Istanbul, the story begins as Peyami is tasked with sewing Esvet's wedding dress. Unbeknownst to him, Esvet harbors dark secrets that could unravel not only her life but also the fragile bonds between the three of them. As these hidden truths emerge, Peyami finds himself caught in a web of love, betrayal, and mystery, forcing him to confront the shadows of his past.

DILEMMA

Dilemma follows the story of Neslihan Turhan, a successful journalist known for her honesty and integrity, making her a favorite among viewers. At the peak of her career with her show "One Truth," which tackles cases of missing persons and murders, Neslihan's life takes a devastating turn when her son Can is accused of murdering his friend Leyla. Thrust into a nightmare, Neslihan faces a harrowing choice: protect her son or uncover the truth. As the world she built on principles of justice and truth crumbles, Neslihan must decide if she will pursue Leyla's murderer, even at the cost of sending her son to prison.

WHEN A MAN LOVES

An entertaining romantic series that explores the unexpected love story between Zeynep, a divorced mother of two, and her charismatic and successful boss, Kenan. In her early thirties, Zeynep works as an assistant at one of the country's leading women's clothing companies. Heartbroken after her ex-husband Oktay leaves her for another woman, she has lost faith in love-until she meets Kenan. Kenan, in his late thirties, is a handsome, intelligent, and athletic businessman who attracts the attention of many women, including Yelda, Zeynep's boss, who hopes to turn their business partnership into a marriage. While Kenan finds the prospect of marriage daunting, his feelings for Zeynep begin to change everything. As he gets to know her, he realizes that love might just be worth the risk.



LOST IN LOVE

Mete and Naz, from affluent families, are bound by a childhood promise. Mete returns from studying abroad to fulfill his promise to marry Naz. However, fate intervenes when he meets İncila, Naz's loyal servant. Both Mete and İncila carry emotional scars, and their unexpected connection complicates Mete's feelings. Amidst family rivalries and secrets, the story delves into love, trust, and competition.



VALLEY OF HEARTS

At a young age, Sumru abandoned her newborn twins without even holding them. She moved to Cappadocia with her mother, where she married Samet, a wealthy and prominent figure in the city's tourism industry. They had two children. Samet also has a son from his first marriage, Cihan. Growing up under difficult circumstances the twins, Nuh and Melek, fueled by hatred for the mother who abandoned them, find out their mother's identity. They come to Cappadocia to claim what they believe they are entitled to and confront their mother. Caught off guard, Sumru denies everything, but she is aware that it's only a matter of time before the secret she has hidden is revealed. Things are also complicated at the Şansalan mansion. Sumru's widowed sister-in-law lives at the mansion with her daughter Sevilay. Her goal is to marry her daughter off to her nephew Cihan and secure their future. Also, Samet supports this plan. As the twins pursue what they believe is rightfully theirs from their mother, Melek crosses paths with Cihan, and Nuh encounters Sevilay. From the first moment, Cihan is deeply affected by Melek and can't get her out of his mind, even as he finds himself on the brink of a forced marriage. Meanwhile, as Sevilay tries to oppose the marriage on her own, she crosses paths with Nuh. Although Sumru tries to keep the children she rejected away from her family, Melek and Nuh will gradually infiltrate both the family and the hearts of Cihan and Sevilay. As Samet's health problems worry the entire family, his old enemy, Tahsin, waits in the shadows, ready to take revenge for the past.

DECEPTION

Güzide Yenersoy is a respectable family court judge living in Istanbul. With a marriage of 30 years and two children, Güzide Yenersoy has what could be described as the epitome of a perfect family. Her husband, Tarık, is an experienced and successful lawyer, running his own law firm. Her son, Ozan, is a construction engineer working at a prestigious company, while her

daughter, Oylum, is studying medicine in the Netherlands, upon her mother's insistence. From the outside, Yenersoy family has a picture-perfect life based on trust and love, but the truth is completely different from this false reality. Although everything seems to be going well, Güzide is not aware that the events buried in the past will come to light again. Every member of her family, whom she loves and dedicates her life to, is lying to Güzide. She does not know that Oylum has made the decision to go to the USA to realize her dream of studying modern dance. While Oylum is counting down for the day she will go to New York, her family friend Tolga, whom she met by chance at the airport, becomes her partner in secret. Oylum is not the only one lying to Güzide. After not receiving the promotion he was expecting, Ozan follows his friend's advice of investing in crypto money, but he gets himself into huge trouble by sinking his father's friend's entrusted money. However, her husband is the one who commits the betrayal that will change Güzide's life forever. Tarık has a second family, which he has been keeping secret for five years. When her husband's betrayal is revealed, Güzide finds herself confronting the reality that her life has been a lie.

LOVE AND PRIDE

The Köksoys live in an ancestral mansion as a wealthy and rooted family. With three daughters, the family is sinking and on the verge of losing everything. In a state of great panic, they contemplate how to escape the impending disaster when Tolga enters their lives like a savior. He is the heir to a wealthy and established family. If one of the daughters marries him, life will continue as it used to, affluent and secure. The idea is considered for the eldest daughter, Mercan, to marry him. However, Mercan rebels against this imposition, finding Tolga excessively arrogant and frivolous. Despite Tolga and

Mercan being attracted to each other, Mercan's high pride and Tolga's spoiled attitude build thick walls between them. However, unlike Mercan, there is someone who desires him passionately- the middle daughter, Gül. As they drift towards marriage, Tolga's heart remains with Mercan. Mercan, too, has fallen in love with him. The girls' mother insists on a quick marriage because Tolga will rescue them from the financial crisis. However, Tolga is just as submerged as them and desires this marriage for his own salvation.

POISON IVY

Macide, the daughter of a poor family who has studied psychology and is not happy in business life and seeks to heal others, falls in love with the elder brother of Ahmet, Kazım Işık, who is known as the smartest and the most successful businessman in the country. She has just met and fallen in love with the man with a morbid passion. Moreover, Kazım Işık is married to Nermin. Macide's love is not unrequited. Kazım passionately embraces Macide, who is by his side at his weakest moment... But will he be able to protect her from the cruelty of the rich and powerful life he created? Will Macide be able to preserve the purity, innocence and sensitivity she had when she first met Kazım? Or worse yet, when everyone makes her a "queen" out of false reverence... This is the story of a young woman who falls in love for the first time on her way to heal herself by healing others, following the healing she received from her father. The story of a man who has everything he wants in life, but perhaps mostly for this reason, looking for a companion in unhappiness and loneliness... *Poison Ivy* is a love story that tells that when two souls find each other despite the whole world, even themselves. Everything stands in front of them but still, they meet. However, no one can illuminate another's darkness.



THE COST OF LIES

Adem, a clerk at the Mint, creates a commemorative coin as a gift for his son. However, when his son shows the coin to his peers at school, Adem is fired from his job, plunging him into a downward spiral. Faced with the risk of losing his family and home, a desperate Adem partners with his swindler brother Kartal to counterfeit money. As the money is printed it changes their lives, but it also attracts trouble.

A JOURNEY TO BELONG

When Yasemin leaves her little sister Mine at their estranged grandmother Münevver's mansion, she sets off a chain of events that risks exposing buried family secrets. Münevver, living in a mansion amidst an increasingly poor neighbourhood, lost her husband years ago and her daughter left home without explanation. With Mine's arrival, Münevver hopes for a chance to reconnect with her long-lost daughter and to reunite her family, but to regain their trust, she must confront painful events from the past.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Cihan, a determined investigator whose life has been shaped by her oppressive father, secretly looks into his murder when he's found dead, though officially the case is handled by her colleague, Metin. As they race to uncover the truth, an emotional attraction forms, though matters are complicated as Cihan's sisters emerge as Metin's primary suspects.



HIDDEN GARDEN

Demir is a successful architect from a wealthy, educated family, known for his award-winning projects. Scarred by a traumatic past relationship, he avoids women and has lost hope of starting a family until he learns about his late brother Ateş son. When he attempts to get to know his nephew, he faces a shocking revelation: the boy's mother is an escort. Demir is determined to reclaim his brother's son from her.

Nazlı, the woman Demir looks down on, is a university dropout struggling to make ends meet, juggling jobs from waitressing to English translation, thesis writing and booth attendant. Her only companion is her son Memo, but she harbors a bigger secret: Nazlı does not work as a typical escort and she is not Memo's real mother.

As Nazlı and Memo live modestly yet contentedly, Demir helps them and claims rights over Memo. The fierce conflict between Nazlı and Demir gradually transforms into a love shrouded in secrets.

Along their journey, they face a powerful family accustomed to control, an obsessive lover waiting in the shadows for his turn, and haunting figures from the past. United by the desire to keep Memo by their side, this couple sometimes risks losing each other, and it is their sacrifices for Memo that ultimately lead them to a happy ending.

FARAH

Adapted from the award-winning Argentinian series *La Chica Que Limpia*; Farah is the story of an Iranian woman, who had to run away from her country and is struggling to live



in İstanbul, working as a cleaning lady in order to maintain the treatment of her son. Farah was one of the brightest students at one of Iran's leading medical schools, until months before she had to flee. But she and her entire family ruthlessly pay the price for a man's failure to reciprocate her love, and Farah flees to Türkiye, unaware that she is pregnant with a boy. Seven years later, this bright future woman is forced to work as a cleaning lady in order to provide for herself and her son. Farah's son Kerim has a disease called "balloon boy disease".. One night while cleaning, Farah witnesses a mafia murder. She begs to the hitman Tahir to let her go promising to keep her mouth shut and offers to clean the murder scene. The following day, Farah finds out that the victim of the crime is a policeman; a dear friend to her neighbor Gönül and her big brother Chief Inspector Mehmet (Firat Tanış). Farah decides to testify and goes to the police station where she meets Tahir, who has been detained by Mehmet. Leaving the station at once, Farah decides to leave the country, however, fate has its own way and she suddenly finds herself at a hospital. While she tries to get away, a deadly injured man is being brought to the E.R. Farah intervenes in order to rescue him, unaware of the fact, that the man she tries to rescue is the leader of the mafia and Tahir's boss - Ali Galip. This instinctive act takes her to the middle of the mafia-police war and an unpredictable love with her hunter Tahir, at the first season. With Farah's son Kerim, all three together, create a family, against all odds around them. But the love between Farah & Tahir will be tested even harder at the second season when Behnam, the father of Kerim who was known as dead, arrives İstanbul to get his so-called "family" back.



Series

PROMISE OF THE HEART

Promise of the Heart focuses on the powerful story of free-spirited Kerim, whose life is shattered when his father dies in a traffic accident, forcing him to take charge of the family. His life becomes emotionally entwined with that of the beautiful Ecrin, whose father is arrested on suspicion of Zeki's murder, leaving her to prove his innocence. When she begins to work for Kerim's family, she faces abuse from those who believe her father was a killer, but everything changes when she discovers a dark conspiracy plotted by an enemy of Kerim's father. Kerim and Ecrin embark on a dramatic journey of discovery that transforms lives, fueling passions that pull them both towards taking revenge and falling in love.

ONE LOVE

One Love tells the captivating story of the idealistic Doğa falling hopelessly in love at university with the charming Fatih, a man from a devout family whose values clash with those of her mother, creating

a moving drama as they seek to overcome their differences. Doğa's life plans are turned upside down and her mother is shaken to the core when she refuses to have an abortion and instead marries him. With her devastated mother convinced that religion will doom their marriage, Doğa and Fatih face a battle for their love to triumph over this culture clash. Her mother too faces a struggle that triggers major changes in her attitudes, enriching a complex love story that brings together two families who are worlds apart but share the same deep truths.

Formats

EVERYBODY SING

Everybody Sing is a unique singing contest with the inspiring goal of uniting community groups through music, whether those with the same job, the same hobbies or life experiences. The show, anchored by a charming host, sets the 50 contestants entertaining musical challenges and gives them the chance to win a big money prize and bond as they have fun. Contestants must complete lines

of lyrics as the orchestra halts mid-song, using pictorial and letter clues, rearranging lyrics and guessing songs hummed by the host, before seeking to win the final jackpot. *Everybody Sing* is a joyous celebration of music and its power to bring people together, packed with entertainment for viewers who can share the delight of the contestants.

PLAN IT

Knowledge, strategy and quick thinking under pressure are essential in *Plan It*, a fun and intriguing game show in which players block opponents and turn grid segments to their color in an entertaining battle of wits. Over three rounds the three contestants must answer questions in various categories, with the player who wins the least amount of money eliminated at the end of the first two rounds. The final player advances to the third round and must answer multiple-choice questions with the goal of doubling their prize money. In an exciting test of knowledge and cunning, the victor of *Plan It* can win big if they prepare well, choose wisely and move faster than their rivals.





THE NIGHTFALL

Mahir, whose father was assassinated in the city of Denizli by Kürşat Kilimci, returns twenty years later as a police inspector, determined to avenge his father's death. On his first day back, he has a fateful encounter with a mesmerizing girl named Canfeza, the daughter of Kürşat, and instantly falls in love. As Mahir searches for this mysterious woman, he also keeps a close watch on Kürşat, waiting for him to slip up. Mahir realizes his chance will come at the wedding of Kürşat's daughter. But what he doesn't know is that this event will change his life forever, marking the beginning of a night filled with unexpected twists.

SAFIR

Feraye, a textile design student and housekeeper at a wealthy Gülsoy family mansion in Cappadocia, has a flaw in her affection for Yaman, one of the family's heirs. Her father, Muhsin, married Cemile, who was cruel to the family. Ateş, the eldest child, returns to his native Cappadocia where his grandfather has grander plans for him. Yaman plans to propose to Feraye, but she meets Bora, a shady character. Bora is hospitalized, and Yaman remains silent to protect his family. Yaman is now forced to wed Aleyna as a result of threats made by an eyewitness. Aleyna deceives Feraye, leading to her insane behaviour. Ateş saves her and they learn she is expecting a baby. Both loves are unable to reveal their truths, and Ateş will eventually fall in love with Feraye.



STREET BIRDS

Five friends living on the streets, they sell handkerchiefs. They find a baby in the trash bin, because of Mercan's motherly instincts, they decide to take care of the baby; named 'Gülayşe'. Çatal, the bad guy notices the baby, thus the chaos begins by accidentally hurting him on their way to escape. Moreover, they had to kill the woman who was looking for the baby, again accidentally. Time goes by and the five 'Ruthlesses' are adults now. They run a cafe called 'Ateş Kuşları' and everything will soon fall apart after a policeman called Barbaros is after Gülayşe.

THE FATHER

A secret service assassin who served his country, Cezayir Türk, takes revenge on his brother for being sabotaged. The necessary actions are taken and he fakes his own death, for the sake of the two things he values most in the world: his family and the government. Fate loves him and he starts his new life in Tashkent with his new family but everything starts to fall apart when he is discovered and forced to return to Istanbul.

FOR MY FAMILY

A hurtful story starts when the same day both their parents died. Their big brother Kadir takes responsibility for their little siblings' care. Now, unfortunate siblings have to face every painful truth of wicked life. Despite of poverty and homelessness they always stick together and stand by their side with every heartbreaking truth and situation.



US AND THEM - LIVING IN A POLARIZED WORLD

The world's increasing complexity is apparently resulting in a growing polarization among people – over issues such as war and peace, dealing with the climate crisis, the gap between rich and poor, the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence and the right to affordable homes. Are we still capable of adopting other perspectives, or does everything really need to be so irreconcilable? What happens when people explain the background behind their very individual world view, thereby offering an insight into their lives and promoting greater understanding?

THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Humans have always had a thirst for knowledge – whether it be to improve their lives and circumstances or out of sheer curiosity and the urge to get to the bottom of things. Without scientific discoveries, humanity would not have evolved at such a rapid pace. Life as we know it today would be unthinkable without the knowledge we gain through science and scholarship. Innovations and new insights are integrated into our lives in ever quicker succession. We watch scientists, engineers and inventors as they look for ways to increase human knowledge. These fascinating films accompany them in their *Quest for Knowledge*.

The background of the poster is a composite image. On the left, the Burj Al Arab hotel is visible against a clear sky. On the right, there's a view of a traditional-style building with a tower. The bottom half of the image shows a scenic view of a canal with a wooden bridge, palm trees, and a boat. A large red diagonal shape cuts across the top right corner.

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