# ORF, SRF and ARD to give industry insights and an exclusive preview at Berlinale Series Market 2023

**An expert panel of Austrian, German and Swiss industry experts from public broadcasting and film production talked about their two most recent collaborations and the implications of a market united by language, yet different in culture and financing. Both series are distributed worldwide by ORF-Enterprise.**

Berlin/Vienna - As part of this year's Berlinale Series Market, ORF-Enterprise, ORF and SRF, with the participation of ARD as well as producers Superfilm and MR Film, were hosting the co-production panel "DACH: Great Stories under one Roof" on February 21 at Cinemaxx Potsdamer Platz. The event provided an expert audience from all over the world with exciting insights into co-productions between the public broadcasters in the German-speaking countries.

"Collaborating with other public broadcasters from the DACH region not only allows us to share the cost of producing high-quality content but also opens up new financing opportunities that might not be available to us otherwise. It can be challenging to coordinate efforts, but the rewards of such collaborations are immeasurable, as we can create original series that resonate with audiences worldwide," says **Katharina Schenk**, Head of Fiction at ORF

"Following the worldwide success of ORF’s previous drama series we are confident that the broadcasters’ cooperation with German and Swiss partners will result in further highlights, telling exciting original stories. ORF-Enterprise will continue bringing unique content to audiences around the globe," adds **Armin Luttenberger**, Head of Content Sales International at ORF-Enterprise

DACH – Great Stories under one Roof

Germany (D), Austria (A) and Switzerland (CH) share a language as well as a cultural space. In an economically challenging environment and competitive market, co-productions have become all the more important for public broadcasters.

The panel gave insights in the workflow between public broadcasters and production companies from shaping stories for all three markets with a common and yet so different language to financing.

The experts panel itself consisted of **Katharina Schenk**, Head of Fiction (ORF), **Baptiste Planche**, Head of Fiction (SRF), **Claudia Luzius**, Commissioning Editor (BR), **Daniela Mussgiller**, Head of Department Fiction, Licenses and Children (MDR), **Catrin Strasser**, Producer (MR-Film), and **Samuel Schultschik**, Showrunner (Superfilm).

The collaboration was illustrated by using two recent examples, the hit series "**Days That Never Were**" (ORF/ARD, 2022) as well as "**School of Champions**" (ORF/BR/SRF, in production) with an exclusive look at first clips of filming to date. Both series are distributed worldwide by ORF-Enterprise.

“By pooling resources and sharing the financial burden, broadcaster from the ‘DACH’-region enable us to produce truly outstanding and universal stories – always including the unique local cultural aspects and language,” **Catrin Strasser**, Producer at MR-Film (“Days That Never Were”),on cross-country collaboration among public broadcasters.

“Being in midst of production of the series ‘School of Champions’, I can already say that it has been worth taking the challenges of collaboration with three public broadcasters, who have been involved in the upcoming series from the very beginning. The broadcasters’ commitment allows me to raise the production value to the next level,” adds **Samuel Schultschik**, Showrunner at Superfilm (“School of Champions”).

Days, That Never Were (ORF/ARD, 2022)

The story of four women whose friendship is put to the test. But when it comes down to it, the gang of four sticks together - just like in the old days. Miriam, Doris, Inès and Christiane - four women who have been friends since their own school days at the "Sophianum". Together they have experienced ups and downs, joy and sorrow, success and defeats. One day, a team of investigators from Vienna shows up and examines an accident that suddenly turns into a murder case. This puts the trust and the bond of the four friends to a hard test ...

School of Champions (ORF/BR/SRF, in production)

To realize their dream of reaching the top, ten young talents push themselves to their limit at an elite ski boarding school. They face immense pressure to succeed, tough training schedules and the struggles of adolescence. To succeed against the odds, some of them have to pay a high price ...

This eight-part series is currently still in production and will be aired in 2024.

About ORF-Enterprise

As a marketing subsidiary of ORF, ORF-Enterprise is exclusively responsible for marketing all supra-regional media offers of the leading Austrian media group. The portfolio includes, among other things, four television stations (ORF 1, ORF 2, ORF III Kultur und Information, ORF SPORT +), three national radio stations (Ö1, Hitradio Ö3, radio FM4), the print magazine ORF nachlese, the entire digital offer on ORF.at, the ORF-TVthek and ORF-Radiothek as well as ORF TELETEXT. ORF content and brands are licensed worldwide by the Content Sales International and Licensing and the Media Cooperations divisions. ORF-Enterprise also operates ORF-Enterprise Musikverlag and its own record label. The company is the national representative of leading international creative festivals such as Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, and organizer of national advertising awards such as ORF-TOP SPOT, ORF-WERBEHAHN and ORF-ONWARD. The management consists of **Oliver Böhm** (CEO, Advertising Sales, Content Sales) and **Heinz Mosser** (Finance and Administration, Music Publishing and Label, Sound & Vision, ORF nachlese). ORF-Enterprise is a 100 percent subsidiary of the ORF media group. Further information at <https://enterprise.ORF.at>, <https://contentsales.ORF.at> and <https://musikverlag.ORF.at>