

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR HARLAN COBEN LAUNCHES INDIE WITH RED PRODUCTION COMPANY

NEW U.S.-BASED PRODUCTION COMPANY DEVELOPING DRAMA *SIX YEARS*

NEW YORK, March 8, 2016: Award-winning and number one international bestselling author Harlan Coben is launching his own independent production company, in partnership with one of the UK's most successful producers, RED Production Company. Coben will be joint CEO alongside RED founder Nicola Shindler with STUDIOCANAL handling international distribution of the original content.

Final Twist Productions, which will be based in the U.S., will develop contemporary, thrilling drama for American broadcast networks. The new company is already in development on a major returning drama series, *Six Years*, adapted from Coben's bestselling novel of the same name.

The ambitious series tells the story of Jake, a college professor who six years earlier watched the love of his life, Natalie, marry another man. But, when Natalie's husband is murdered and Jake goes to find her, he discovers that the grieving widow is not Nathalie at all, but a woman he's never seen before. As Jake seeks to uncover the truth and find his lost love, his search takes him on a dark and unforeseeable journey that puts his very life at risk.

"Nicola and I had such a terrific experience creating The Five for Sky One. I couldn't be prouder of what we've made," said Harlan Coben. *"Final Twist Productions will take our American-British teamwork to the next level by bringing Nicola's daring new outlook and producing style to the USA."*

"It has been a privilege to work with Harlan on developing, producing and delivering his first original screenplay," added Nicola Shindler. *"I am incredibly proud of what we have created together and am excited about our upcoming projects for U.S. audiences which will have Harlan's unparalleled and characteristic blend of suspense, humour and hope."*

STUDIOCANAL will work with Final Twist on securing international co-production partners and will hold the distribution rights to the company's finished programming. STUDIOCANAL is Europe's leading studio in the production, rights acquisition, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series.

Coben's first TV screenplay is the hotly anticipated Sky One drama *The Five*, premiering in the UK at 9pm from Friday April 15th. The gripping 10-part series, written with acclaimed writer Danny Brocklehurst, tells the story of four friends who are haunted by the disappearance of one of their younger siblings years earlier. When the boy's DNA turns up at a murder scene, they are forced to revisit the past and ask: is he really alive?

With over 60 million books sold worldwide, Coben's last eight consecutive novels all debuted at No.1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. His books are published in 43 languages in over 100 countries across the globe. His 2001 thriller *Tell No One*, was adapted into the critically-acclaimed French-language movie by Guillaume Canet and, more recently, French channel TF1 adapted his bestselling novel *No Second Chance* into a six-part series that became the highest-rated French TV series in a decade.

RED Production Company has produced some of the UK's most successful and award-winning dramas – from Sally Wainwright's *Happy Valley* and *Last Tango in Halifax*, to Russell T Davies' *Cucumber* and *Queer As Folk*, as well as Lenny Henry's *Danny and the Human Zoo* and Danny Brocklehurst's *Ordinary Lies*.

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About Harlan Coben

With over 60 million books in print worldwide, Harlan Coben's last eight consecutive novels, **THE STRANGER**, **MISSING YOU**, **SIX YEARS**, **STAY CLOSE**, **LIVE WIRE**, **CAUGHT**, **LONG LOST** and **HOLD TIGHT** all debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and lists around the world. His books are published in 43 languages around the globe and have been number one bestsellers in over a dozen countries.

Harlan's 2001 thriller **TELL NO ONE**, was turned into the commercial and critical smash hit French film of the same name, starring Francois Cluzet and Kristin Scott Thomas. The movie was the top box office foreign-language film of the year in USA, won the Lumiere (French Golden Globe) for best picture and was nominated for nine Cesars (French Oscar) and won four, including best actor, best director and best music. The movie with subtitles is now available on Netflix, Amazon Prime and DVD/Blu-Ray.

Currently Harlan is the creator and executive producer for **THE FIVE**, an original drama for Sky1, and **NO SECOND CHANCE**, based on his novel, which was adapted into a six-part TV miniseries for Europe's largest network TF1. The series became the highest-rated French TV series in a decade.

About RED Production Company

RED Production Company was set up by Nicola Shindler in 1998 to work with the best writers on modern, innovative and entertaining programming. The Manchester-based indie has since produced some of the UK's most popular drama series working with esteemed writers including Russell T Davies, Bill Gallagher, BAFTA-winning Sally Wainwright, award-winning Danny Brocklehurst and critically acclaimed writer Sean Conway.

RED's TV credits range from Russell T Davies' award-winning cult hit **Queer as Folk** for Channel 4, to Sally Wainwright's multi BAFTA award-winning **Last Tango in Halifax**.

Nicola Shindler's award-winning Indie's current slate of productions include a second series of Sally Wainwright's critically acclaimed and multi award winning crime thriller **Happy Valley** for BBC One, US novelist Harlan Coben's first original TV screenplay **The Five** for Sky 1 and a second series of Danny Brocklehurst's ratings-hit drama **Ordinary Lies** for BBC One. RED will also be producing a fourth series of **Last Tango in Halifax** for BBC One and has produced two seasons of gripping mini-series **Prey** for ITV.

2015 saw the return of RED's partnership with Russell T Davies on his critically acclaimed trilogy of shows **Cucumber**, **Banana** and **Tofu** for Channel 4, E4 and 4oD respectively. Danny Brocklehurst's new drama **Ordinary Lies** achieved high ratings when it premiered on BBC One last year and will return for a second series in 2016.

Nicola Shindler was named Female Indie of the Year 2012 by Women in Film & TV and RED was Broadcast Award's Independent Production Company of the Year in 2013.

Following a partnership deal at the end of 2013, RED Production Company is now part of STUDIOCANAL'S international production network which includes TANDEM Communications in Germany and SAM in Scandinavia.

About STUDIOCANAL:

STUDIOCANAL is Europe's leader in production, rights acquisition, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series. STUDIOCANAL operates directly in all three major European markets, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. STUDIOCANAL has fully-financed recent box office hits like Paddington, Shaun the Sheep and Non Stop. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include The Commuter, featuring Liam Neeson, and Nick Park's stop-motion movie Early Man, with Aardman Studios. STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning production companies, including Tandem Productions (Crossing Lines, Spotless) and the UK's RED Production Company (Happy Valley). Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, with more than 5,000 international titles. STUDIOCANAL's parent company, CANAL+ Group, is fully-owned by Vivendi, a global media and content production and distribution group.