



In brief: TVO sets up fourth round of Political Blind Date

BY PLAYBACK STAFF

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The PSP also launches the Story Department Internship, while doc *The Paper Man* picks up Whistler Film Festival's Audience Award.

Political Blind Date returns to TVO

TVO has brought back its original unscripted series *Political Blind Date* (6 x 28 minute; pictured) back for a fourth season, which premieres on Jan. 19. The series is produced by Open Door Co. and Nomad Films, in association with TVO, and brings together politicians with varying points of view on a critical political issue and offers a chance to find common ground. *Political Blind Date* is created and executive produced by Open Door Co.'s Tom Powers. Mark Johnston is director and executive producer while Nomad Film's Amanda Handy is executive and series producer.

Topics discussed in season four include the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion, hospital capacity and health cuts, and the protection of green spaces. Featured political figures include Elizabeth May, former Green Party leader and current MP, Sara Singh, NDP MPP and Deputy Party Leader, and former Flint, MI mayor Karen Weaver.

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PSP unveils new story department internship

The Pacific Screenwriting Program (PSP) has launched a new initiative: the Story Department Internship. The program is a reimagined version of the CMPA/Creative BC internship and encompasses production and development room roles. It is designed for B.C. writers already working in the film and TV industry, as well as emerging writers who are interested in a focused professional development opportunity.

Projects must be for scripted episodic content and intended for broadcast as a series on network television or a VOD platform. As well, internships must take place in a story department of a confirmed production licensed for broadcast or funded for development and must be under the guidance of an experienced mentor. Applications are now open and will be evaluated on a first come, first served basis until the program's budget has been committed for the entire fiscal year. An information session about the internship will take place on Jan. 13.

Documentary *The Paper Man* wins Whistler Audience Award

Documentary *The Paper Man* (*Lafortune en papier*) was given the Audience Award at the close of the 2020 Whistler Film Festival (WFF). The film, directed and produced by Tanya Lapointe, offers a look at Quebec children's television host Claude Lafortune and his legacy following his death in April. The award is given to the highest-rated film at the festival, as voted by the audience; this is the third consecutive year that the award has gone to a film with a woman at the helm. *The Paper Man* also received an honourable mention in the festival's World Documentary Competition. The Audience Award runner-up was Wendy Hill-Tout's film *Marlene*. WFF ran from Dec. 1 to 20, 2020.

Blue Ant Studios in development with FOX and Denise Hahn

Fox and Blue Ant Studios are in development on *Daylight*, a one-hour thriller drama with writer Denise Hahn.

Based on Marion Pauw's Dutch novel *Daglicht*, which was previously released in the U.S. under the name *Girl In The Dark*, the project penned by Hahn (*Rise, The Fix*) follows a high-powered Korean American lawyer who discovers that a local convicted murderer is her estranged brother. When she learns that the man shares the same developmental disability as her son, the lawyer gets pulled into a case that uncovers family secrets and corruption.

Of note, both Pauw and Hahn serve as executive producers on the family drama alongside Sofia Sondervan-Bild and Janet Grillo as well as Blue Ant Studios' Laura Michalchyshyn and Eva Miller. Blue Ant Media's Blue Ant Studios is based out of L.A. with an office in New York.

Pictured (L-R): NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and Ontario Premier Doug Ford

