



Press Release

Paris, February 12th, 2020

Newen launches Ringside Studios in collaboration with Gub Neal as it expands in the UK

Newen is delighted to announce the launch of a new UK production company, Ringside Studios, a collaboration with renowned English producer, Gub Neal and production house DoveTale Media. Ringside Studios is majority owned by Newen, with both Gub Neal and DoveTale Media owning stakes in the business.

Gub Neal is one of the most prominent producers in the UK. He is best known for award-winning and critically acclaimed dramas including *The Fall* and *The Last Enemy*. *Insoupçonnable* (Léonis production for TF1), the French adaptation of *The Fall*, is one of the most successful dramas in France. Gub Neal also produced and commissioned dramas for Granada TV (ITV) and Channel 4 including *Cracker* and *Queer as Folk*. He also won a Primetime Emmy for *Prime Suspect*. Edward Barlow, Commercial and artistic manager, also joins Ringside Studios and will work with Gub Neal on creative projects.

Ringside Studios will develop high-quality English and international dramas, which may be distributed by Newen. English dramas are a core part of the drama market worldwide, making it an important development for Newen's growth strategy. Ringside Studios will attract and hire new talent, such as authors, showrunners or producers in the United Kingdom to work with Gub Neal, who will lead the team as Creative Director.

Ringside Studios already has several projects under advanced development within Newen, notably ambitious international co-productions, including *Okxa Pollock*, a huge editorial success, having been sold in 30 countries with nearly two million readers, co-produced with Jean-Benoit Gillig (Leonis).

Romain Bessi, Managing Director of Newen, said: "With the creation of Ringside Studios, **Newen continues to develop its strong international presence**. The highly-regarded British fiction market is an **important part of our growth strategy** and it is essential that we develop a presence there. With Gub Neal, we have the opportunity to work with a talented producer who already has strong creative ties with Newen, while offering other English-speaking talents the opportunity to join our ambitious creative ecosystem."

Gub Neal, Creative Director of Ringside Studios, added: "**Never has there been a more exciting or timely opportunity to join forces with leading European media hub Newen**; and work with Newen's teams in building a new drama powerhouse in London. The ability to attract top English talent with such strong European backing is a wonderful prospect, and a truly rewarding venture that I am thrilled to be part of."

About Newen

Newen (subsidiary of TF1 Group) is one of European leader in audiovisual production and distribution, with an ability to develop every format: from daily fiction, to prime-time access and major series, from animated feature films to prestigious documentaries, from factual entertainment to infotainment magazines, including TV movies.

Newen has accelerated its international development with the acquisition of companies: Tuvalu and Pupkin (Netherlands), Nimbus (Denmark), De Mensen (Belgium), Reel One (Canada, United States and United Kingdom).

Newen is one of the leading audiovisual distributors in France and abroad, with 1,200 hours produced per year and a catalog of 5,500 hours internationally, sold in more than 130 countries from public and private channels, to platforms.

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