



NBCUNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS ACQUIRES *DEPARTURE* – THE HIGH-OCTANE CONSPIRACY SERIES STARRING ARCHIE PANJABI AND CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER – FROM STARLINGS TELEVISION AND RED ARROW STUDIOS INTERNATIONAL

- **Produced by Shaftesbury and Greenpoint Productions Ltd.**
- **Developed by Shaftesbury in Association with Corus Entertainment and Red Arrow Studios International and co-financed by Starlings Television**
- **Directed by Canadian Screen Award Winner T.J. Scott (*Orphan Black*, *Star Trek: Discovery*)**
- **Six One-Hour Episodes to air in the UK, Africa and Germany on UNIVERSAL TV and France, Spain and Poland on 13TH STREET in 2019**

London – January 7, 2019 – NBCUniversal International Networks (NBCUIN) today announced the acquisition of *Departure* from Red Arrow Studios International to air in Europe and Africa. The new, conspiracy series from Shaftesbury and Greenpoint Productions, in association with Corus Entertainment and Red Arrow Studios International, and co-financed by Starlings Television, is directed by Canadian Screen Award winner T.J. Scott (*Orphan Black*, *Star Trek: Discovery*) and created by Vincent Shiao (*Ransom*, *Aftermath*), with Malcolm MacRury as showrunner. The six one-hour episodes will premiere in the UK, Africa and Germany on UNIVERSAL TV, and France, Spain and Poland on 13TH STREET from late 2019, following the world premiere in Canada on Corus' conventional network Global Television.

Departure is a high-octane conspiracy series that follows the mystery of Flight 716 – a passenger plane that vanishes over the Atlantic Ocean. Following the mysterious crash, recently widowed, brilliant aviation investigator Kendra Malley, played by Emmy® Award-winner Archie Panjabi (*The Good Wife*), is called in to investigate by her former boss and mentor Howard Lawson, played by Oscar® winner Christopher Plummer (*All The Money In The World*). With the whole world watching, Kendra and her team race to pinpoint the missing aircraft and locate possible survivors. They must battle through a host of suspects and motives, from pilot suicide and terrorism, to politically motivated murder and systems failure to determine what really happened to Flight 716 – and to stop it from happening again.

The all-star cast also includes Kris Holden-Ried (*Vikings*), Claire Forlani (*Hawaii Five-O*), Rebecca Liddiard (*Frankie Drake Mysteries*), Shazad Latif (*Star Trek: Discovery*), Tamara Duarte (*Longmire*), Peter Mensah (*Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*), Kristian Bruun (*Orphan Black*), Allan Hawco (*Caught*), Dougray

Scott (*Snatch*), Sasha Roiz (*Grimm*), Mark Rendall (*30 Days of Night*), Dmitry Chepovetsky (*Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol*) and Paris Jefferson (*Sunset Contract*).

“Departure’s gripping storyline – steeped in conspiracy, mystery and intriguing characters – is a great fit for our international channel brands and will have our viewers on the edge of their seats,” commented Steve Patscheck, EVP Global Programming, NBCUniversal International Networks. *“We look forward to bringing this thrilling series and its stellar award-winning cast to our fans around the world.”*

“We are delighted NBCUniversal International Networks has come on board as a pay-TV partner for Departure,” added Bo Stehmeier, President, Red Arrow Studios International. *“Audiences across Europe and Africa will be captivated by the action-packed, suspenseful storyline and all-star cast.”*

Departure is a Canada/UK treaty co-production produced by Shaftesbury (Canada) and Greenpoint Productions Ltd. (UK) in association with Corus Entertainment and co-financed by Starlings Television. Starlings Television is overseeing distribution worldwide, with Red Arrow Studios International handling international sales outside of the US.

Departure is executive produced by Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Malcolm MacRury, T.J. Scott, and Archie Panjabi. Creator Vincent Shiao is co-executive producer; Patrick Cassavetti, Tina Grewal are producers, with Julie Lacey serving as Shaftesbury’s producer. For Corus, Kathleen Meek is Production Executive; Rachel Nelson is Director, Original Content, Drama, Kids and Factual; Lisa Godfrey is Vice President of Original Content, Corus Entertainment. Chris Philip and Karine Martin are executive producers for Starlings Television; Henrik Pabst and Carlo Dusi are executive producers for Red Arrow Studios International. Episodes are written by showrunner Malcolm MacRury, Vincent Shiao, Ellen Vanstone, John Krizanc, and Stephanie Tracey. *Departure* is directed by T.J. Scott. David A. Stern and Matt Geller made the initial introduction of the project to Shaftesbury and have assisted in raising the financing for the production.

Departure is currently in production in Canada and the UK.

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About NBCUniversal International Networks

NBCUniversal International Networks is one of the world’s premier entertainment portfolios, delivering quality content and compelling brands to over 165 territories across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia Pacific. The channel brands in the portfolio include UNIVERSAL TV, SYFY, E! Entertainment Television, 13TH STREET, DIVA, Studio Universal, Telemundo, Bravo, DreamWorks and Golf Channel. These unique brands deliver a full range of entertainment experiences to local audiences across the globe; the portfolio also includes Movies 24 in the UK and The Style Network in Australia. Further, NBCUniversal News Group, one of the most influential and respected portfolios of on-air and digital news properties in the world, operate CNBC and NBC News internationally.

NBCUniversal International Networks is a division of NBCUniversal, one of the world’s leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production, and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience. NBCUniversal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment television networks, a premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group, world-renowned theme parks, and a suite of leading Internet-based businesses. NBCUniversal is a subsidiary of Comcast Corporation.

About Red Arrow Studios International

Red Arrow Studios International is a world-leading TV distributor of scripted, formats and factual shows from a global network of in-house production companies, outstanding third-party producers and digital-content partners. With offices in Munich, London, Los Angeles and Hong Kong, Red Arrow Studios International co-produces and finances global entertainment, and distributes acclaimed content to over 200 territories worldwide. Red Arrow Studios International is part of Red Arrow Studios, which is comprised of 20 production companies in seven territories; world-leading digital studio, Studio71; and film distributor Gravitas Ventures. Red Arrow Studios is a ProSiebenSat.1 Media SE company, one of Europe's leading media groups. redarrowstudios.com/international

About Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film, digital, and brands. Shaftesbury's current slate includes 12 seasons of *Murdoch Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment, two seasons of detective drama *Frankie Drake Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and Kew Media, three seasons of critically acclaimed thriller series *Slasher* for Netflix, as well as new primetime series *Rex* for CityTV/Rogers Media, and *Departure* for Global/Corus Entertainment. Shaftesbury's digital arm produces original digital, convergent, and branded entertainment projects including the global phenomenon and MIPTV Brand Content of the Year award winner *Carmilla*. Shaftesbury's branded entertainment division drives profitable engagement with millennials using scripted series, turning brands into executive producers. Recent brand partners include Walmart, Interac, U by Kotex®, and RBC.

About Starlings Entertainment

Starlings Entertainment is a collection of interconnected companies that focus on financing and producing smartly budgeted, highly commercial live action and animated films and television programs along with other media. Projects are developed in house as well as sourced from an expansive network of affiliates and longstanding producer relationships. Starlings Entertainment has established a dedicated production financing fund designed to invest in a portfolio of partly or wholly-owned projects over a multi-year term. The fund aims to generate enduring value through a diverse catalogue of entertainment ventures, offer transparency to investors and increased revenue generating opportunities.

About Corus Entertainment

Corus Entertainment Inc. (TSX: CJR.B) is a leading media and content company that creates and delivers high quality brands and content across platforms for audiences around the world. The company's portfolio of multimedia offerings encompasses 44 specialty television services, 39 radio stations, 15 conventional television stations, a global content business, digital assets, live events, children's book publishing, animation software, technology and media services. Corus' roster of premium brands includes Global Television, W Network, OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network Canada, HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada, HISTORY®, Showcase, National Geographic, Q107, CKNW, Fresh Radio, Disney Channel Canada, YTV and Nickelodeon Canada. Visit Corus at www.corusent.com.