



SHAFTESBURY EXPANDS FOOTPRINT IN THE U.K. AND EUROPE WITH APPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDRA FINLAY AS SENIOR DIRECTOR, CREATIVE AND CO-PRODUCTIONS

TORONTO, CANADA: April 3, 2019 — Leading producer **Shaftesbury** continues to expand its global footprint and in particular, its presence in the U.K., by appointing **Alexandra Finlay** to the company's newly created role of **Senior Director, Creative and Co-Productions**. Formerly Head of Acquisitions and Co-Productions at UKTV, Finlay will be based in London and report directly to Christina Jennings, Chairman & CEO Shaftesbury.

“Shaftesbury has a long history of working with international partners to produce award-winning co-productions including recent successes *Murdoch Mysteries* and *Frankie Drake Mysteries* with CBC and UKTV, as well as upcoming event series *Departure*. Co-production opportunities are more important than ever and having Alexandra on the ground in London will allow Shaftesbury to continue to work closely with British and European partners,” said **Christina Jennings, Chairman & CEO, Shaftesbury**. “Alexandra brings an unparalleled wealth of expertise across all facets of the industry, including creative, acquisitions, and programming, all of which will be an incredible asset to Shaftesbury as we continue to grow our slate of sought-after primetime titles.”

Most recently, Finlay was Head of Acquisitions and Co-Productions at UKTV where she led strategic content supply, expanding the network's relationship with major U.S. studios and delivered brand-defining series acquisitions, theatrical features, and international co-productions. She identified and secured many of the award-winning hits which drove UKTV's market-beating YoY growth and profits over that period, including *Suits*, *Castle*, *Grimm*, *Rizzoli & Isles* and *Storage Hunters*.

In the co-production arena she devised and implemented key strategies to grow UKTV's exclusive IP, serving as creative exec across scripted and non-scripted fare with domestic and international partners. She more than doubled the volume of pre-investment hours, with key titles including the dramas *Primeval: New World* and *Murdoch Mysteries*, now in its thirteenth season.

Other roles include positions at Channel 4, where she was Editor, Feature Films, programming titles across Channel 4, E4 and More4. Prior to that, she managed short film acquisitions for C4's Shooting Gallery strand and Film4 Channel. Her early career was at the BBC, where she was a production assistant on film and series-related

documentaries for BBC1 and BBC2. Awards and honours include being named World Content Trendsetter by Worldscreen.

In addition to Canada's #1 Drama *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC) and multi-CSA-nominated *Frankie Drake Mysteries* (CBC), Shaftesbury's expanding roster of content includes three new and upcoming series for Spring 2019: *Hudson & Rex* for Citytv/Rogers, *Departure* for Global/Corus Entertainment and NBC Universal, and the third season of anthology series *Slasher* for Netflix.

– 30 –

About [Shaftesbury](#)

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film, digital, and brands. Shaftesbury's current slate includes 13 seasons of *Murdoch Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment, three 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 *Hudson & 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 Nokia, Walmart, Interac, U by Kotex®, and RBC.

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