



The Role of the Showrunner – Breaking the Mould Speakers Bios

Frank Spotnitz, USA/France
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Producer
Big Light Productions
Leonardo, Ransom, Medici, The Man in The High Castle



Award-winning writer and producer Frank Spotnitz founded Big Light Productions, a London and Paris-based production company, in 2013 with a vision to create distinctive and ambitious TV drama series.

As CEO Spotnitz oversees the development and production of the company's television slate. Under Spotnitz's stewardship, Big Light has produced a number of high-end drama productions

including Amazon's Emmy award-winning *The Man in the High Castle*, *Ransom*, *The Indian Detective* and three seasons of *Medici* for Netflix and Rai. New drama series *Leonardo*, co-created by Spotnitz, starring Aidan Turner and Freddie Highmore, is currently in production for RAI, France Télévisions, RTVE and Sony. The series is co-produced by Big Light Productions alongside Lux Vide. In addition, *Eisenhorn* a new drama series based on the hugely popular Warhammer 40,000 game, is in development.

Spotnitz has over 25 years' experience in television as a writer and producer. Serving as executive producer, he wrote or co-wrote more than 40 episodes of *The X-Files*. He shares three Golden Globes for Best Dramatic Series and a Peabody Award for his work on the seminal science-fiction series, and was Emmy-nominated both for writing and Outstanding Drama Series.

Spotnitz's other credits include *Hunted*, which he created for the BBC and Cinemax; *Strike Back*, for Sky and Cinemax; *Night Stalker* for ABC; Michael Mann's *Robbery Homicide Division* for CBS, as well as *The Lone Gunmen*, *Harsh Realm* and *Millennium* for Fox.

In 2013 Spotnitz helped establish and began teaching at Serial Eyes, a postgraduate training programme in Berlin which prepares for the next generation of European TV writer-producers. With the writers' room experience at the core of the programme, twelve participants are given the opportunity to learn from industry experts and develop a European model of showrunning. Each year one participant is also selected to do a three-month placement with Big Light.



Sarah Treem, USA
Writer, Producer, Showrunner
In Treatment, The Affair

Sarah Treem is a television writer, producer, and playwright. Treem is the co-creator and showrunner of the Golden Globe-winning Showtime drama *THE AFFAIR*. The series has received four Golden Globe nominations during its run, including wins for Best Television Drama, Best Actress in a Television Drama, and Best Supporting Actress in a Television Drama. She is currently developing a limited series based on the life of actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr, as well as adapting *Rodham*, Curtis Sittenfeld's best-selling novel, into a series with Hulu.

Previously, Treem was a co-executive producer on the first season of *HOUSE OF CARDS*. She also wrote on all three seasons of HBO's *IN TREATMENT*. Treem's work has earned her nominations for the Humanitas Prize, Primetime Emmy Awards, and Writers Guild Awards, including two wins for New Series for *HOUSE OF CARDS* and *IN TREATMENT*.



She began her career writing for theater. Her plays *WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND UNAFRAID*, *A FEMININE ENDING*, *THE HOW AND THE WHY*, and *MIRROR MIRROR* have been produced multiple times over and published by Samuel French and the Dramatists Play Service. She holds a B.A. from Yale University and an M.F.A from the Yale School of Drama. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her two children.





Vicki Madden, Tasmania/Australia
Producer, Writer, Showrunner
The Kettering Incident, The Gloaming



Victoria Madden is a Producer, Writer and Showrunner with over 25 years experience in the television Industry both in Australia and overseas. She has worked as Writer and Showrunner on such shows as *Halifax fp (Aust)* *The Bill, (UK)*, *Trial & Retribution (UK)* *The Clinic (Ireland)*, *Water Rats (Aust)* and *K9 (UK)* to name a few.

She was also the writer of *Blood Brothers*, a 90-minute true crime telemovie for the 9 Network and Playmaker media. Vicki runs her own Production Company, Sweet Potato Films, a small boutique film and TV company in Tasmania, her home state, and co-

created, co-produced and wrote the critically acclaimed TV series, *The Kettering Incident* and followed recently by *The Gloaming*. *The Kettering Incident* was a \$15 million elevated supernatural-thriller for Foxtel, set in the dramatic landscape of Tasmania and is the first adult TV drama to be set there. Critics worldwide have described it as ground breaking, bold and confident storytelling that subverts and elevates the crime genre.

TKI has enjoyed stunning award success both in Australia and overseas, winning the Special Jury Prize at the prestigious *Series Mania* Festival in Paris, with David Chase (*Sopranos*) as head Juror, four AACTA awards, the SPAA award for most outstanding telemovie or mini-series and two LOGIE awards for outstanding telemovie or mini-series. Madden was short-listed for an Australian writer award (AWGIE) for excellence in writing and for the prestigious NSW Premier's Literary Award. TKI has been Foxtel's highest rating drama ever and been critically acclaimed in Australia and is currently showing in the US and the UK to rave reviews. BBC worldwide has distribution rights. The recently released supernatural crime series, *The Gloaming* set once more in her beloved state of Tasmania has been an 18 million-dollar production in collaboration with John Molloy from 2Jons, STAN and ABC Studios US/Disney. *The Gloaming* was released on STAN in January 2020 to excellent reviews and is being distributed world-wide by ABC (US)/Disney.

Madden is represented by Ted Miller at Creative Artists Agency in the US and Georgina Carrigan at United Agents in the UK.





Emma Frost, UK/USA

Showrunner, Writer, Executive Producer

The Spanish Princess, The White Princess, The White Queen, Jamaica Inn

Emma Frost is an accomplished TV showrunner, writer and Executive Producer in both the UK and US; she is also a movie screenwriter.

Frost is currently writing and show-running **LIFE UNDERCOVER**, an 8 hour character driven spy show for Apple, which will star Brie Larson. Media Res is the studio and 51 Entertainment also EP.

Frost's limited TV drama series **THE SPANISH PRINCESS** airs autumn 2020 on Starz. Frost serves as showrunner/EP alongside her (now) TV showrunning partner, Matthew Graham. The show is a follow up to Frost's critically acclaimed series **THE WHITE PRINCESS**, 2017, and her BBC1/Starz co-production **THE WHITE QUEEN**, 2013, which starred Rebecca Ferguson and was nominated for 3 Golden Globe Awards, including Best TV Movie or Miniseries, and 4 Emmys, including Outstanding Miniseries.

Frost and Graham's jointly created limited Amblin TV drama **JUDAS** was picked up by HBO Max and will star Keri Russell. With Graham, she is also developing **INTERWORLD** based on Neil Gaiman and Michael Reeves's book.

In movies, Frost recently adapted Jennifer Donnelly's best seller **STEPSISTER** for 51 Entertainment and Bruna Papandrea's Made-Up Stories. She penned the screenplay for Ron Howard movie **ZELDA**, which will star Jennifer Lawrence, to be produced by Justine Ciarrocchi, New Republic and Imagine. Sam Gold is attached to direct her adaptation of John Elder Robison's true story **SWITCHED ON** for Focus Features. Also for Made-Up Stories, she adapted YA novel **ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL STRANGERS** with John Polson (SWIMFAN) attached to direct; and co-wrote, with Matthew Graham, marriage and murder thriller **AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE**.

Prior to this, Frost adapted Daphne du Maurier's **JAMAICA INN** for BBC1. Sarah Dunant, on BBC Radio 4 Front Row, called it 'terrific' 'the adaptor and director are to be congratulated'. Frost's original film BBC4 film **CONSUMING PASSION** won great critical acclaim with Caitlin Moran writing 'Consuming Passion pops with focus and energy' '...wholly admirable - the kind of blue-skies thinking that's going to get us through this recession', and The Times gave it 5 stars, 'Frost's script was wickedly clever'.

Frost has written episodes of Amazon's Philip K. Dick adaptation, **THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE**; and Sky Atlantic's **THE TUNNEL**. She was lead writer on three series of Channel 4's multi-award-winning drama **SHAMELESS**. Her series 5 episode starring Anne Reid was the BAFTA nominated episode at the 2009 BAFTA television awards. She also worked with Julia Davis on her award-winning comedy **NIGHTY NIGHT**.

Frost has written further movie scripts for Universal Studios, Sony Studios, Working Title Films, BBC Films and Origin Pictures. She is also a playwright and her play **AIRSICK** which premiered at The Bush Theatre, London to great critical acclaim in 2003.

Frost graduated the prestigious WGA Showrunner Training Programme in 2016. Screen International named her one of 2009's 'Stars of Tomorrow' on their movie talent list. Frost originally trained as a fine artist.





Curro Royo, Spain
Executive Producer, Creator, Writer
Hernán, Desaparecidos



Curro Royo has more than twenty years of experience in screenwriting. Five of his scripts have been produced as feature films, however much of his writing has been for television.

His career started with the birth of private television in Spain, with the already classic *Médico de Familia* or *Periodistas* among his credits. Since then, he has worked as a creator, head writer, co-executive producer and staff writer on several TV shows.

For ten seasons, Curro Royo was a staff writer of the acclaimed and awarded Spanish series *Cuéntame*. Altogether, he wrote 41 episodes for the series. Other credits include *Alatriste*, a European co-production adapting the bestseller novels by Arturo Pérez Reverte. Also, the cops series *Olmos y Robles* and *Servir y Proteger*.

As showrunner, he is the content executive producer of *Hernán* produced by Dopamine (MX) with the collaboration of Onza Entertainment (ESP). He is also involved in the writing of *El Cid*, an Amazon Studios original produced by Zebra (ESP).

His late release is *Desaparecidos, la serie*, produced by Plano a Plano for Mediaset with the collaboration of Amazon.

Curro Royo holds a Master's in Scriptwriting and a Bachelor of Arts in History. He also has a Diploma in Digital Film Production from the University of Cumbria, Carlisle (UK) where he lived for two years.

Married and father of three, he named his daughter after Alice in Wonderland due to his obsession with the character and his devotion to the writer, Lewis Carroll.





Malin-Sarah Gozin, Belgium
Clan, Tabula Rasa

Malin-Sarah Gozin is a Belgian showrunner, creator, and writer. Gozin is best known for her signature TV dramas *Clan (The Out-Laws)* and *Tabula Rasa*, both of which earned worldwide acclaim and are being adapted for English language remakes.

Gozin was awarded with The Author's and Hustinx prize for her unique contribution to the development of Flemish Fiction into an important cultural export. Her work has drawn the attention of both the media and public for its innovative character, distinctive tone and elegance of genre-bending concepts.

