Fuji TV, ZDFE, Boogie team to reveal the dark side of soccer

FUJI TV and ZDF Enterprises (ZDFE) are co-producing and distributing the 10 x 60 mins drama series The Window. Created and written by British screenwriter James Payne (The Musketeers, Hooten & The Lady, Mr. Selfridge), the series has been developed and will be produced by Berlin-based Boogie Entertainment along with Japan’s Fuji TV and ZDFE, and co-produced by Belgian companies Panenka and Belga-Films.

The Window follows a cast of players, agents, club owners, administrators, journalists, and explores the off-field machinations of the elite world of soccer. The story starts at the end of the English soccer season. The champions have been crowned and the transfer window is opening. The series follows 17-year-old star Jordan Burdett, who finds himself on the wish list of every major club in Europe.

What starts as a fight between a number of team managers over the young player’s first professional contract, becomes a bigger, darker, criminal conspiracy.

“The Window is a thrilling human drama that does for soccer what House Of Cards did for politics,” vice-president, ZDFE drama at ZDF Enterprises, Robert Franke, said. “A unique blend of the Machiavellian horizontal storylines of shows like Game Of Thrones, and compelling character-driven series like Billions, where moral right and wrong blurs along the lines of ambition and the willingness to do whatever it takes to succeed.”

Taka Hayakawa, director for worldwide production and business development at Fuji Television Network, added: “With hopes of making a captivating drama series, we are making a special drama on soccer and power, applying the creativity of both Asia and Europe. I am confident that this new drama series will be the best in 2019.”

For creator James Payne, the series is about one of the great passions in his life. “Like many fans, I’m glued to my phone in the summer months, following the sagas of the transfer window,” Payne said. “But behind every headline is a high-stakes human story, and for some, to seal the deal is the real game.”

The Window gets its official launch in Cannes during a lunch at the Carlton on Tuesday, October 16 at 12.30

Lessons in how to adapt Japanese drama

JAPANESE broadcasters are holding a session on Monday, October 15, focusing on the adaptation of Japanese drama series for Turkish television, including excerpts of example series, aiming to encourage further such international adaptations. There follows a networking session where Turkish and Japanese participants will talk to professionals from other countries about their successful partnerships.

The following evening at the Majestic hotel, the J-Creative Party is open to all professionals in the business of producing and distributing dramas re-made from international sources; a number of Japanese dramas will be screened at the party.

Many Japanese entertainment formats have already proven to be popular worldwide, and the Japanese industry now plans to use that experience to promote its drama series worldwide.

The Turkish experience has shown that it is possible to adapt Japanese stories to local audienc-

Yapim after discussions at last year’s MIPCOM for a Turkish version of their female-led thriller My Dangerous Wife.

Examples include Nippon TV hits Mother and Woman: My Life For My Children, both adapted from the Japanese originals by Turkish production companies MF Yapım and Medyapim for Fox Turkey. Mother has since been re-adapted for further international success. Kansai TV is also in development with MF

Kadın, the Turkish version of Nippon TV’s Woman: My Life For My Children

Kansai TV’s My Dangerous Wife, to be adapted for Turkey by MF Yapım