DRAMA TRENDS

ANYTHING GOES

Such is the range of drama buyers on the international market these days that it is impossible to talk of a single unifying trend. These days anything goes — from period to procedurals, fantasy to fact-based fiction — depending on where you’re selling and who’s buying. Andy Fry reports.

For some broadcasters and platforms, the key trend in drama is the hunt for ever-more impressive event series. For others, it is the attempt to revive the workhorse procedural. Period, crime, espionage, fantasy and relationship dramas are all in demand — depending on where in the world you are doing business. This sprawling diversity is reflected in the range of titles being showcased at MIPTV. On Monday night, for example, there is a World Premiere TV Screening of the lavish new 10-part drama Riviera, created by Oscar-winning director Neil Jordan. Set amid the glamour of the French Riviera, the show is a continuation of a trend that has seen star-studded series such as The Night Manager and The Last Panthers have such an impact on the international market. In this case, the story follows the moral descent of a smart and resourceful art curator, played by Julia Stiles, who discov-