



“What could be more exciting than initiating, developing and producing new series at Blue Spirit Productions? I am proud to join a team for whom storytelling, graphics and new technologies are a passion.” *Jacques Romeu*

**Justine Francke**, who has been a producer in the company since 2021, will take over the production of feature films, with Sara Wikler at her side as artistic producer.

She joined the Blue Spirit Group in 2018 as Legal Director, after several years of experience in international distribution at Studiocanal.

She will continue the development of films already underway: *The Ballad of Dreyfus* directed by Hélène Giraud and Thomas Szabo, *The Legend of (almost) King Arthur*, based on an original idea by director Jean-Luc François, *Cut & Run*, based on the graphic novel by Chloé Cruchaudet, and *Colleen & Amélia* by Eric Summer, in coproduction with Syon Media in Canada. Two of these films are scheduled to go into production in 2023. In parallel, Justine Francke is also taking over, alongside Folivari, production of the premium series *The Baker Street Files*, adapted from the comic book published by Glénat.

“I am proud to follow in the footsteps of Armelle Clerehennec, to bring ambitious films to the screen and to champion sensitive, captivating animation cinema that is in tune with the times and which can open new paths in everyone’s imagination.” *Justine Francke*

## **About Blue Spirit**

Blue Spirit is a Premium Animation Studio and Producer since 2004, based in France and Canada ( Angoulême, Paris and Montreal).

Blue Spirit Studios have experienced similarly strong growth with the manufacturing of productions, series helmed by French producers but also thanks to the executive production of Global Streaming Platforms on ambitious international series

Notable series produced by Blue Spirit Productions include The Mysterious Cities of Gold (6 seasons), Arthur and the Children of the Round Table (2 seasons), Alice & Léa (2 seasons), Splat & Harryopdidoo (5 seasons), UFO (2 seasons), and Little Chickadee. Whether original creations or adaptations, the series allow Blue Spirit Studios to experiment with new techniques and enrich their expertise, and for the company to strengthen its ties with national and international broadcasters.

In terms of cinema Blue Spirit Productions has been involved in the production of feature films, accompanying authors on remarkable projects, such as The Painter by Jean-François Laguionie (nominated for a CESAR award in 2012), followed a few years later by the award-winning My Life as a Courgette by Swiss director Claude Barras (CESAR 2017 for Best Animated Film and Best Adaptation, Cristal for Best Feature Film 2016 and Audience Award at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, Emile Award winner and nominated for OSCARS, GOLDEN GLOBES and BAFTA); and The Brumage directed by Jean-François Laguionie and Xavier Picard) released in December 2019.

## **About Newen Studios**

Newen Studios, a subsidiary of the TF1 group, is a major fast growing European player in audiovisual production and distribution, with a multi-genre strategy (drama, film, animation, TV movie, documentaries, scripted...).

Deeply rooted in 11 countries, the group has more than 50 creative labels and a passionate overall team of 600 people each bringing their unique expertise.

Shows produced by Newen Studios are exported globally alongside a curated slate of third party programming, thanks to its distribution subsidiary Newen Connect whose activities help to shine a light on European content.

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