

BBC Children's and Education commissions an ambitious TV drama series adaptation of GIFTED novels by Marilyn Kaye from Black Camel & Media Valley.

A kids action adventure series set in Scotland to hit UK and international screens from autumn 2025.

Black Camel Pictures & Media Valley unveil GIFTED, a new action-adventure series for BBC Children's and Education

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 — BBC Children's and Education has commissioned *GIFTED*, a new action-adventure series for kids aged 8 to 12, adapted from Marilyn Kaye's popular novels by award-winning screenwriter Emma Reeves (*THE WORST WITCH, EVE*).

This 10 x 30 drama series is an international co-production between Glasgow-based producer Black Camel Pictures and Paris-based French producer Media Valley. The show has been commissioned by CBBC in association with NDR/ARD via One Gate Media in Germany, with additional support from Screen Scotland. VFX are provided by LipSync. Studio 100 International will handle global distribution.

Set in modern-day Edinburgh, GIFTED tells the story of a diverse group of young Scottish teens who discover they each have unique superpowers, from telekinesis to invisibility and mind reading. When they realise they're being targeted by a powerful organisation known as the Bodkin, they must join forces to protect themselves and those they love. With the guidance of their enigmatic teacher, Madame, the teens embark on a thrilling journey as they learn to control their powers and believe in themselves.

With over 3,000 Scottish youngsters applying, *GIFTED* has uncovered a wealth of new Scottish talent, bringing fresh faces to the screen in this ground-breaking production.

Filming in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the series is currently in production and is set to premiere on BBC iPlayer in the UK at the end of 2025, with an international rollout planned for Spring 2026.

GIFTED is produced by Black Camel Pictures, creators of hit series *ANNIKA* (UKTV/PBS), *FLOAT* (BBC), and *THE ISLAND* (BBC). Co-producers Media Valley are known for iconic animated series such as *ZOOM THE WHITE DOLPHIN* and were recently nominated for the 2024 ProciRep Award for Best French Producer.

The series is adapted by Emma Reeves, with Matthias Hoene (*THEODOSIA*) directing. Executive producers include Arabella Page Croft (*ANNIKA, THE ISLAND*), Luke Fresle (*SILENT WITNESS, WE HUNT TOGETHER*) and Natalie Altmann (*ASTERIX, ZOOM THE WHITE DOLPHIN, LOUCA*).

Sarah Muller, Senior Head of Commissioning 7+ BBC Children's and Education: *"Gifted will bring audiences high quality action-filled adventures from the book series, brought to life in Scotland. We're working with Screen Scotland to represent their vibrant creative industry with an exciting young Scottish cast and brilliant talent behind and in front of the camera."*

Arabella Page Croft, Executive Producer at Black Camel Pictures: *"Scottish kids clearly have talent and they want to act! We are excited to produce this show for CBBC and bring these young talents and our beautiful capital city to a young audience globally. GIFTED is an ambitious Black Camel show and it's a delight to partner with Natalie Altmann of Paris based Media Valley on our first live action kids show together from Scotland. It has been such a joy to collaborate and to produce for CBBC with partners Screen Scotland, LipSync, NDR, One Gate & Studio 100 International."*

Natalie Altmann, Executive Producer at Media Valley: *"For our first series out of the animation genre, we could not dream of teaming with a more experienced and talented partner than Black Camel. Coproducing international kids shows of this scope is an incredible challenge that we have been able to achieve with the constant support of CBBC and that of our international partners; NDR, One Gate and Studio 100 International. We are now looking forward to bringing our series to the rest of the world."*

Marilyn Kaye, author of the Gifted book franchise: *"I have had over 100 book titles for young readers published in the UK and the US, and Gifted is my favorite series. I am thrilled to know that my characters will soon come to life on CBBC and worldwide, thanks to the contribution of Black Camel Pictures and Media Valley."*

Ole Kampovski, Head of Children and Youth Department at NDR: *"Gifted is a great story full of friendship, mystery and adventures. It is a program, I am sure, our audience will enjoy a lot. NDR is very happy to produce such a marvelous show together with our great partners Black Camel Pictures, Media Valley, CBBC and OneGate"*.

Sire Ramos, Head of Development at LipSync: *"We can't wait to welcome Black Camel, Media Valley and the entire Gifted team to LIPSYNC. We're honoured to be part of this incredibly endearing project and excited to make these wonderful Gifted kids' powers even more extraordinary."*

Sean Greenhorn from Screen Scotland: *"It's fantastic to be able to support Black Camel to produce this impressive new series for CBBC with partners Media Valley. GIFTED reflects Screen Scotland's commitment to making ambitious broadcast series with creativity at their core. With such a thrilling premise and, of course, a spectacular location, we're sure the series will be a hit with children across UK and beyond."*

Tania Reichert-Facilides, Managing Director One Gate Media: *"Being part of this truly European co-production along with all the great partners involved is very exciting for us. Seeing those wonderful books brought to life will be a joy, not just to us, but to all audiences we can deliver the series to. We are also happy to act as financial complimentary to NDR's editorial expertise in our territory."*

Dorian Buehr, Head of Global Distribution at Studio 100 International: *"We are thrilled to be part of this outstanding project and to be working together with Black Camel and Media Valley. Arabella Croft and Natalie Altmann have assembled a highly talented team and GIFTED truly is an exceptional series with so many elements kids will fall in love with. We are very excited to be bringing the show to audiences around the globe."*

ENDS

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Notes to editors

About Black Camel Pictures

BLACK CAMEL PICTURES leads Scotland's scripted production with entrepreneurial flair, impeccable editorial standards, and cutting-edge craftsmanship. Based in Glasgow, our BAFTA award-winning indie is renowned for fostering creative talent. The company was founded by Arabella Page Croft & Kieran Parker.

Our TV portfolio includes the hit crime series ANNIKA, starring Nicola Walker, a BBC, UKTV & Masterpiece PBS hit celebrated on both sides of the Atlantic – Series 2 premiered in 2023 to record-breaking viewership and critical acclaim. Our new crime drama, THE ISLAND, BBC's first Gaelic and English high-end thriller series filmed in the Hebrides, hits screens in January 2025. Up next is GIFTED, a 10-part drama for CBBC, set in Edinburgh, and shooting from November till February '25. Diverse storytelling is at our core, evident in BAFTA-winning FLOAT, a multi-award-winning queer YA series for the BBC, hailed as "ground-breaking TV" by The Guardian – series 2 aired in March 2024.

The company co-owns TG Entertainment Ltd. Our BAFTA-winning children's animation, THE BRILLIANT WORLD OF TOM GATES, delights audiences on SKY KIDS, with series 3 recently airing and series 4 in pre-production, alongside a 2025 feature film.

Our films include FALLING FOR FIGARO, SUNSHINE ON LEITH and the OUTPOST trilogy.

About Media Valley

Media Valley develops and produces audiovisual and film projects for kids and families with strong international potential. Created in 2010 by Natalie Altmann, former head of M6 youth programs, Media Valley is based in Paris.

The company has delivered seven animated series to date, in both CGI and 2D, among which: THE TRIPLETS (78x7') for France 5 and Universal, ZOOM THE WHITE DOLPHIN (three seasons of 52x13') for TF1 and ZDF, ERNEST & REBECCA (52x12') for TF1, Canal Plus and ZDF and NICHOLAS'S FANTASTIC SUMMER (52x12') adapted from the iconic Le Petit Nicolas for M6, Gulli, Cartoonito and Cartoon Network. These series score among the highest rated kids' series in France. Media Valley is currently producing LOUCA (26x22') for TF1, based on the French comic book franchise.

Media Valley owns several digital channels based on its IPs and sells its catalogue in various selected territories.

The company also acts as Executive Producer either directly or through its sister company, Production Value. It provides consulting and production services to major international actors. The company EP'd high-end CGI animated films ASTERIX – THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS (2014), and ASTERIX – THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION (2018) for M6.

For further information: www.mediavalley.fr

About Studio 100 International

Studio 100 International is a leading production and distribution company specializing in high-quality children's and family movies and series. Based in Munich, it represents a portfolio of well-known brands such as "Maya the Bee", "Mia and me" or "House of Anubis". Studio 100 International further engages in global brand rights licensing and manages its own state-of-the-art production studio, Studio Isar Animation.

The company is part of the Belgian Studio 100 Group with a strong presence in the theme park industry across Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

For further information: www.studio100international.com

About LipSync

LIPSYNC is an internationally recognised post-production house based in London, renowned for delivering high-quality services to the film and TV industry for over 40 years. In addition to its reliable post-production capabilities, LIPSYNC offers equity financing and has invested more than £280M in nearly 300 film and TV projects over the last 15 years. With frequent festival appearances and over 200 major award nominations and wins, LIPSYNC is one of the UK's leading production partners.