



WWE® and Blumhouse Partner to Develop 'The United States of America Vs. Vince McMahon'

07/26/2021

LOS ANGELES & STAMFORD, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- WWE® (NYSE: WWE) and Blumhouse Television are partnering to develop a limited scripted series called, *The United States of America Vs. Vince McMahon*. Jason Blum's company, Blumhouse, will develop the series for television, led by Blumhouse TV President Chris McCumber. The series, *The United States of America Vs. Vince McMahon*, will be the first-ever scripted dramatic portrayal of a chapter in WWE's history. Additionally, it is also the first scripted portrayal of McMahon as well as many of the legendary Superstars of that era.

The show will delve into WWE during the 1990s, at the time Rupert Murdoch had purchased the New York Post to further his massive infiltration into the U.S. media landscape. For years, infamous Post writer Phil Mushnick regularly hammered WWE Chairman & CEO Vince McMahon in his column. Headlines like "Legislators Give WWE A Free Pass On 'Roids'" and "McMahon Skips Through the Cemetery" eventually captured the attention of the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York – the nation's most prestigious federal prosecutor's office with a conviction rate of over 96 percent.

In 1994, the U.S. government indicted McMahon for allegedly supplying anabolic steroids to WWE talent. McMahon, with his liberty at stake, two school-aged children at home and with WWE on the brink of bankruptcy, refused to take a plea deal. Ultimately, McMahon stood trial and was acquitted unanimously by a jury of his peers and went on to build a multi-billion-dollar global sports entertainment empire.

"Jason, Chris and their team at Blumhouse create amazing work and we look forward to delivering an inside look into one of the most pivotal moments in our company's history," said Kevin Dunn, WWE Executive Producer & Chief of Global Television Distribution.

"We have a dramatic, riveting saga – one that's crazier than fiction – that will appeal to the cross-section of Blumhouse and WWE fans," said Chris McCumber, Blumhouse Television President. "To say I'm thrilled about collaborating again with WWE is an understatement."

McMahon, Dunn, Blum, McCumber and Jeremy Gold will serve as executive producers on the project.

The Blumhouse Television team, led by McCumber, have made several significant development announcements in the last few weeks, including: the straight-to-series pick-up of *The Thing About Pam*, starring Renee Zellweger in her broadcast TV debut for NBC; *Blumhouse Ghost Story*, the scripted series based on *The Battersea Poltergeist* BBC podcast, and the companion unscripted series; the continuing series based on Patricia Cornwell's world's best-selling "Kay Scarpetta" novels for a major; and the exclusive multi-year partnership with ITV America for provocative, disruptive and terrifying content to every corner of the non-fiction space, including *Escape the Maze* (wt) the first project derived from the partnership; among several other announcements.

About Blumhouse

Blumhouse is known for pioneering a new model of studio filmmaking: producing high-quality micro-budget films and provocative television series. Regarded as the driving force in the horror renaissance, Blumhouse has produced over 150 movies and television series with theatrical grosses amounting to over \$4.8 billion. The company has produced iconic, genre, film franchises like *Halloween*, *Paranormal Activity*, *The Purge*, and prolific films like Leigh Whannell's *The Invisible Man*; *Glass*, *The Visit* and *Split* from M. Night Shyamalan; Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman*; *Get Out* from Jordan Peele; among several others. Blum's television company operates in horror programming - with streaming anthology series for Epix and *Welcome to the Blumhouse* for Amazon - and has also expanded beyond genre with provocative and acclaimed scripted and unscripted series and documentaries, such as *The Good Lord Bird*, starring Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke, for Showtime; *The Loudest Voice*, starring Golden Globe winner Russell Crowe for Showtime; *A Wilderness of Error* (FX); *The Jinx* for HBO; *A Secret Love*, from executive producer Ryan Murphy, for Netflix; and lauded HBO series *Sharp Objects*, starring Amy Adams and Patricia Clarkson, among others.

About WWE

WWE, a publicly traded company (NYSE: WWE), is an integrated media organization and recognized leader in global entertainment. The Company consists of a portfolio of businesses that create and deliver original content 52 weeks a year to a global audience. WWE is committed to family-friendly entertainment on its television programming, pay-per-view, digital media and publishing platforms. WWE's TV-PG programming can be seen in more than 900 million homes worldwide in 28 languages through world-class distribution partners including NBCUniversal, FOX Sports, BT Sport, Sony India and Rogers. The award-winning WWE Network includes all live pay-per-views, scheduled programming and a massive video-on-demand library and is currently available in more than 180 countries. In the United States, NBCUniversal's streaming service, Peacock, is the exclusive home to WWE Network. The Company is headquartered in Stamford, Conn., with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Orlando, Dubai, London, Mexico City, Mumbai, Munich, Riyadh, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo.

Additional information on WWE (NYSE: WWE) can be found at wwe.com and corporate.wwe.com.

Trademarks: All WWE programming, talent names, images, likenesses, slogans, wrestling moves, trademarks, logos and copyrights are the exclusive property of WWE and its subsidiaries. All other trademarks, logos and copyrights are the property of their respective owners.

Forward-Looking Statements: This press release contains forward-looking statements pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are subject to various risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, risks relating to: the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our business, results of operations and financial condition; entering, maintaining and renewing major distribution agreements; a rapidly evolving media landscape; WWE Network (including the risk that we are unable to attract, retain and renew subscribers); our need to continue to develop creative and entertaining programs and events; the possibility of a decline in the popularity of our brand of sports entertainment; the continued importance of key performers and the services of Vincent K. McMahon; possible adverse changes in the regulatory atmosphere and related private sector initiatives; the highly competitive, rapidly changing and increasingly fragmented nature of the markets in which we operate and greater financial resources or marketplace presence of many of our competitors; uncertainties associated with international markets including possible disruptions and reputational risks; our difficulty or inability to promote and conduct our live events and/or other businesses if we do not comply with applicable regulations; our dependence on our intellectual property rights, our need to protect those rights, and the risks of our infringement of others' intellectual property rights; the complexity of our rights agreements across distribution mechanisms and geographical areas; potential substantial liability in the event of accidents or injuries occurring during our physically demanding events including without limitation, claims alleging traumatic brain injury; large public events as well as travel to and from such events; our feature film business; our expansion into new or complementary businesses and/or strategic investments; our computer systems and online operations; privacy norms and regulations; a possible decline in general economic conditions and disruption in financial markets; our accounts receivable; our indebtedness including our convertible notes; litigation; our potential failure to meet market expectations for our financial performance, which could adversely affect our stock; Vincent K. McMahon exercises control over our affairs, and his interests may conflict with the holders of our Class A common stock; a substantial number of shares are eligible for sale by the McMahons and the sale, or the perception of possible sales, of those shares could lower our stock price; and the volatility of our Class A common stock. In addition, our dividend is dependent on a number of factors, including, among other things, our liquidity and historical and projected cash flow, strategic plan (including alternative uses of capital), our financial results and condition, contractual and legal restrictions on the payment of dividends (including under our revolving credit facility), general economic and competitive conditions and such other factors as our Board of Directors may consider relevant. Forward-looking statements made by the Company speak only as of the date made and are subject to change without any obligation on the part of the Company to update or revise them. Undue reliance should not be placed on these statements. For more information about risks and uncertainties associated with the Company's business, please refer to the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Risk Factors" sections of the Company's SEC filings, including, but not limited to, our annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q.

View source version on businesswire.com: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210726005383/en/>

Media Contacts:

Blumhouse

Karen Barragan

310-350-2969

karen@blumhouse.com

WWE

Chuck Kingsbury

203-352-8701

Chuck.Kingsbury@wwecorp.com

Investor Contact:

Michael Weitz

203-352-8642

Michael.Weitz@wwecorp.com

Source: WWE