

## **Mediawan and Anonymous Content are partnering to produce the series adaptation of French bestseller *Civilizations***

Paris / Los Angeles, July 6, 2020 – Païva Studio (a Mediawan production label) and Mediawan Rights have acquired adaptation rights to French author Laurent Binet's best-selling novel *Civilizations*, and are partnering with Anonymous Content to produce the series, an ambitious project with a high international potential. The series will be shot in South America and Europe in several languages.

In *Civilizations*, the Incas prevail over the "Conquistadors": Christopher Columbus never reaches America but Atahualpa takes over Charles V's Europe – an over-the-top and yet plausible rewriting of global history by Laurent Binet, famous author of *HHhH* and *The Seventh Function of Language*. *Civilizations* was published in August 2019 in French (© Editions Grasset et Fasquelle) and was awarded the "Grand Prix du Roman" 2019 by the Académie Française.

"I am very happy to partner with Anonymous Content, one of the most creative and prestigious studio in Hollywood, to give global exposure and the ambition it deserves to this fascinating novel and be able to count on the support of Mediawan Rights for this", said Simon Istolainen, CEO of Païva.

"We're excited to partner with Mediawan and their Paiva Studio, two best in class teams, to bring Laurent's riveting exploration of what might have been to a global audience," said Anonymous Content's Keith Redmon.

Translation rights for *Civilizations* have been acquired for 16 languages already including: Czech, Dutch, English, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish.

### Synopsis

**Imagine Christopher Columbus had never discovered America and the Incas were the ones to come to Europe. This over-the-top – yet entirely plausible – story comes to us from Laurent Binet, cult author of *HHhH* and *La septième fonction du langage*, both of which have been translated throughout the world. An instructive and entertaining book juggling with historical codes and literary styles.**

What are the conditions whereby what has happened might never have? The Amerindians lacked three things that would have allowed them to resist the conquistadors. With horses, iron, and antibodies, world history would have to be rewritten. This hypothesis is at the centre of *Civilizations*, the story of inverted globalization which, ultimately, could have just as easily become our reality.

Laurent Binet is the author of *HHhH* (© Editions Grasset et Fasquelle, 2010 - Prix Goncourt for a First Novel), translated into 34 languages and adapted into the motion picture film, *HHhH* by Cédric Jimenez (starring Jason Clarke, Rosamund Pike, Jack O'Connell, Jack Reynor and Mia Wasikowska), and *La Septième fonction du langage* (2015, Prix du roman Fnac, Prix Interallié). He was a high school literature teacher for ten years.

### **About Mediawan - [mediawan.com](http://mediawan.com)**

Created in late 2015 by Pierre-Antoine Capton, Xavier Niel and Matthieu Pigasse, Mediawan soon became one of the main independent European studios producing premium content. Mediawan brings together

best-in-class talents in audiovisual creation by operating on the entire value chain: production of drama, documentary and animated original content (Mediawan Originals and Mediawan Animation), distribution of audiovisual content (Mediawan Rights), and publishing of channels and digital services (Mediawan Thematics). Mediawan currently gathers 30 production labels.

## **About Anonymous Content**

Founded in 1999 by Steve Golin, Anonymous Content is a leading management and Film, TV and Commercial production company. As one of the largest and most successful management companies operating today, Anonymous Content boasts an exceptional roster of over 600 clients including many of the world's most renowned and innovative directors, writers, actors, and comedians and works closely with its management clients to help them achieve their goals by both creating and finding opportunities for them, whether in feature films, television, commercials, music videos or brand integrated content. Anonymous Content's clients have been recognized with Academy Awards®, Emmys®, Golden Globes®, Tony Awards®, Pulitzer Prizes® and other prestigious awards. The company's award-winning Film & TV division boasts many commercially successful and critically acclaimed works, including BABEL, WINTER'S BONE, BEING JOHN MALKOVICH, ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND, THE REVENANT and Best Picture Academy Award winning SPOTLIGHT. The company's TV credits includes "True Detective" (HBO), "Mr. Robot" (USA Network), "Schitt's Creek" (POP), "13 Reasons Why" (Netflix), "Homecoming" (Amazon), "Catch-22" (Hulu), "Briarpatch" (USA) and "Dickinson" (Apple). Current Anonymous Content films in production include STILLWATER, directed by Tom McCarthy and starring Matt Damon and Abigail Breslin, GOOD MORNING MIDNIGHT, directed by George Clooney and starring Clooney and Felicity Jones and SWAN SONG, written and directed by Ben Cleary and starring Mahershala Ali. On the television side, the company produced recently released series "Paradise Lost" (Paramount Network), "Home Before Dark" (Apple), "Defending Jacob" (Apple), "When the Streetlights Go On" (Quibi) and soon to be released "The Now" (Quibi). Through its Commercial work, Anonymous Content is also the driving creative force behind countless leading global brands including HP, Prada, Nike and Coke. In 2016, Anonymous Content received a substantial minority investment from Emerson Collective, the organization founded and run by Laurene Powell Jobs, to allow the firm to expand its production offerings in socially relevant content aimed at inspiring change. For more information, visit [www.anonymouscontent.com](http://www.anonymouscontent.com).

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