

PRESS RELEASE

International Format Distribution

Speed Dating in Finnish: WDR mediagroup sells “Autumn Tingles” to Northern Europe

Cologne, 17th October 2016. The WDR-format “Autumn Tingles” makes the leap into Finnish television. In the run-up to the international trade fair MIPCOM, WDR mediagroup (WDRmg) has sold the rights to a remake in the local language to the Finnish production company Kaiho Republic, which will realise the series for the public broadcaster Yle. Six 25-minute episodes are planned for the series. For WDRmg, this contract is a success in international format distribution, a field that is currently being actively promoted by the Cologne corporation.

In the original version of “Autumn Tingles”, a group of seniors takes part in a speed dating event. The special twist: each actor knows only his/her character’s biography – there is no script, there are no prescribed dialogues and no stage direction. The spontaneous interaction between professional actors creates entertaining and bizarre situations, but also moments that inspire viewers to pause and reflect. In Germany, “Autumn Tingles” has been distinguished with several accolades, including the renowned Grimme Award. The readily adaptable format was shown across the ARD broadcasting network as a feature film version and as a six-part series.

Andrea Zuska, Chief Content Officer at WDRmg: “‘Autumn Tingles’ has a strong appeal in European countries, thanks to its original underlying concept and the comparatively low production expenses required. The open approach allows for diverse programme placement and adaptability under various budget requirements.”

Liisa Penttilä-Asikainen, Producer at Kaiho Republic: “We are absolutely delighted to do a Finnish version of ‘Autumn Tingles’ that cherishes experience, longing and love. The series brings up both humorous and important issues that wide audiences can relate to.”

Jarmo Lampela, Head of Drama at Yle: “Yle Drama is excited by the opportunity to see such highly experienced and charismatic actors, the most beloved ones of their generation, in this challenging and character-driven comedy.”

Alongside “Autumn Tingles”, the WDRmg format catalogue also contains the prime time family show “The Human Quiz”, that enjoys great success in Germany, as well as the ensemble comedy “The Unlikely Events in the Life Of...” and the drama series “Moral Springs.” Additionally, the company offers various attractive programming rights for international use and recruits partners for the (co-)production of new, innovative children’s programmes.

Images are available for download at:

<http://www.wdr-mediagroup.com/unternehmen/presse/aktuelles>

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