



The Secret of Danish Success

Ingolf Gabold, the mastermind behind blockbuster series like “The Killing“ and “The Bridge“, is awarded a PRIX EUROPA for his lifetime achievement

How does a small country like Denmark manage to be so successful? Nearly a third of all Danes have watched these serials, “Borgen”, the series about a female prime minister and political intrigue in the Danish government, was sold to 70 countries, the Americans even produced re-makes of “the Killing” and “The Bridge”. These success stories go far beyond what many producers can only dream of. How do the Danes do it?

Ingolf Gabold is the man behind this overwhelming success. His recipe is quite simple, he says: “Stop before you start repeating yourself!” And further: Treat the writers like kings. Give them a “writers’ room”, full employment and creative freedom. His formula seems to work: The series he produced were showered with international awards.

Now Gabold himself is due to be awarded a prize: On 24 October he will receive the PRIX EUROPA Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of his work by the European television business.

“Ingolf is a master of dramaturgy. Just look at his own life. He is probably in the middle of his second act!” says Bjørn Erichsen, Director of Danish Television who in 1999 made Gabold Head of TV Drama. He was born in Heidelberg in 1942, his father was German, his mother Danish; three years later he fled to Denmark with his mother where he became a composer for 20th century classical music. But soon he wanted a larger audience and decided to start working in television. After a highly successful career with the Danish broadcaster, instead of retiring in 2012 he joined the international production company Eyeworks. There he is developing various new serials, among them “Witnesses”, a series about American terrorists in Scandinavia for the US broadcaster HBO.

Before leaving Danmarks Radio, Gabold and Peter Nadermann, his longstanding co-production partner from ZDF, had the idea for the European crime series “The Team” with

Lars Mikkelsen, Veerle Baetens and Jasmin Great to be broadcast in the spring of 2015. “Ingolf Gabold is a visionary”, says Nadermann. “He managed to make his idea of modern TV drama come true in Denmark, and the worldwide success of his series is the reward for his work.” For the actor Lars Mikkelsen Gabold is one of the godfathers of the Danish serial. “I owe him a lot for his trust in me. A Lifetime Achievement Award is well placed in his hands. And we haven't seen the last of him yet, I'm sure. He will keep inventing.”

PRIX EUROPA is the competition for the best European TV, Radio and Online productions of the year. It takes place from 18 to 25 October in Berlin. A total of 210 programmes are nominated, up to 1000 media professionals from all over Europe are expected to attend the festival.

Quotes about Ingolf Gabold

Lars Mikkelsen, Actor (Edderkoppen, Unit One, Nikolaj og Julie, The Killing, Borgen)

He is in many ways the godfather of the Danish TV show. Together with Svend Clausen and Rumle Hammerich. I owe him a lot for his trust in me. And I love him for watching the stage in constant search for new artists. A Lifetime Achievement Award is well placed in his hands. And we haven't seen the last of him yet, I'm sure. He will keep inventing.

Søren Sveistrup, Scriptwriter of “The Killing“

Ingolf is a wonderful warm and extremely enthusiastic person. They don't make his kind anymore. Ingolf's confidence in me was one of the main reasons why I was able to create Forbrydelsen/The Killing. He gave me carte blanche to do whatever I wanted to do and I'm eternally grateful for his generosity.

Bjørn Erichsen, Managing Director, DR TV 1996 - 2001

Ingolf is a Master of Dramaturgy. Just look at his own life. He is probably in the middle of his second act!

Peter Nadermann, Managing Director, NADCON FILM GmbH / Coproduction partner for Ingolf Gabold on *The Bridge*, *The Killing*, *The Protectors*, *The Eagle: A Crime Odyssey* and *Unit One*

It always is a great pleasure for me to work with Ingolf Gabold. He is a visionary. He managed to make his idea of modern TV drama come true in Denmark, and the worldwide success of his series is the reward for his work.

Piv Bernth, Head of Drama, DR Fiktion

Ingolf is one of the most significant people in the industry. Ingolf had the courage to let the writers and producers go all the way with their ideas. He inspired us and trusted us - and even though he didn't agree on all decisions, he was always backing us up. His open-mindedness is beyond comparison.