

## French production and distribution giant Gaumont acquires the adaptation rights for *About Anthony*, a new series from ComediHa!, in collaboration with Quebecor Content

**Quebec, March 21, 2022** – Although the first scenes have yet to be shot in Quebec, *About Anthony* is already attracting international interest—starting in France. French production and distribution giant **Gaumont** has acquired the format for the series *About Anthony*, a comedy-drama written by **Cathleen Rouleau**, scripted by **Benoît Pelletier** and currently being developed by **ComediHa!** in collaboration with Quebecor Content. The original Quebec version of *About Anthony* will be directed by **Podz** (*Lupin*, *Vikings*, *Cardinal*, *Mafia inc.*, *Minuit le soir*, *19-2*, *Three Pines*).

Inspired by the author’s own life, *About Anthony* tells the story of Julie, who starts a new relationship and finds herself drawn into an unconventional family. She soon takes on the role of stepmom to her boyfriend’s two kids, including Anthony—a loveable nine-year-old who happens to be physically disabled, intellectually challenged, autistic, non-verbal and a high-functioning epileptic.

“Living with someone with a disability means having to deal with a thousand challenges and setbacks while constantly hoping for the best. But it also means laughing till it hurts at the smallest victory. It means discovering what unconditional love truly is. And it means collecting countless memories and stories every day. Anthony has changed my life—and I want for him to change the lives of everyone in the world,” explains writer Cathleen Rouleau.

Gaumont was instantly charmed by this bold, touching and surprisingly funny project. “*About Anthony* is so successful in treating disability as more than an issue but a part of life itself. This series is a must-watch. It’s compassionate, funny and a welcome break from the doom and gloom of the past couple of years. We can’t wait to share it with you!” says Isabelle Degeorges, president of Gaumont Television France.

“It’s a great source of pride that the series *About Anthony* has moved Gaumont’s senior management to such an extent that they decided to acquire it and adapt it for the French market, even before the series has been produced here in Quebec,” said Sylvain Parent-Bédard, president and CEO of ComediHa!

“We’re thrilled that this wonderful series is already generating international interest,” says Yann Paquet, Vice President of Strategy and International Affairs, Quebecor Content. “We couldn’t be happier about this collaboration with Gaumont and our partner ComediHa!, which will shine a light on the talent of the show’s creators around the world.”

The development of the project *About Anthony* was made possible thanks to Quebecor Content, the invaluable support of the Canada Media Fund (CMF), the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC) and AMI-télé.

**About Cathleen Rouleau**

A multitalented writer, actress and comedian, Cathleen Rouleau made a name for herself by appearing in various celebrated comedy festivals, including ComediHa! Fest in Quebec City, Just for Laughs in Montreal, Voo Rire in Belgium and Morgue Sous Rire in Switzerland. She's also appeared in several television shows including the hit show LOL ;) and several Quebec series. Her incredible writing skills have led her to publish nine children's novels as part of two series: *Z* and *Les introuvables*. Right now, Cathleen is writing for a few other series that are currently under development with broadcasters.

### **About ComediHa! Voir la vie en drôle**

ComediHa! is a leading creator and producer of side-splitting content for various platforms, including live performance, film and television. With 80 full-time employees and more than 3,200 temporary and freelance staff, the agency's head office is in Quebec City, with satellite offices in Montreal and Hollywood—all dedicated to making people laugh around the world. The agency is also behind the biggest French-language comedy festival in the world, ComediHa! Fest in Quebec City, which paints the town funny every August. Founded in 1997, ComediHa! has brought thousands of live performances to the stage and hundreds of shows to the small screen.

### **About Gaumont**

Founded in France in 1895, Gaumont is the world's first ever motion picture company, boasting 126 years of history and innovation. With offices in Paris, Los Angeles, London, Cologne, Berlin and Rome, Gaumont remains an industry leader in the production and distribution of top-quality films and television programs.

Gaumont co-produces and distributes around 10 films per year, with an impressive portfolio that includes more than 1,400 titles by prestigious directors such as Louis Malle, Jean-Luc Godard and, most recently, Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache for *Intouchables*, the highest-grossing French-language film to date, with more than \$450 million in revenue.

Specializing in the production of local stories with global appeal, Gaumont's current slate features talent-driven, diverse and distinctive titles in various languages for major international platforms and channels. For example, the Netflix U.S. flagship series, *Narcos*, and *Lupin* for Netflix France, starring Omar Sy.

### **About Quebecor Content**

Quebecor Content, a wholly owned business unit of Quebecor Media Inc., creates, develops, acquires, distributes and exports distinctive, high-quality audio-visual content, providing consumers with a multi-platform experience via Videotron and TVA Group services while promoting Quebec artists at home and abroad.

### **Source: ComediHa!**

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