



Today's top stories in, around and about Asia, from ATF and everywhere else, are...

- **TVB profit could dip 65% this year, broadcaster warns**
- **myTV Super hits paydirt, expected start-up loss 50% lower than expected**
- **Berdiev replaces Boswell as Discovery Southeast Asia head**
- **BBC faces charges for violating Thailand's lese majeste laws**
- **Group M Entertainment brings Passion's "Robot Wars" to Southeast Asia**
- **Globe Studios, HOOQ promise "OTJ" premiere in Q1 2017**
- **Discovery Asia bets on Guy Martin & Gordon Ramsay for 2017 schedule**
- **ContentAsia's ATF Programming Picks...**



TVB profit could dip 65% this year, broadcaster warns

Hong Kong's dominant free-TV broadcaster, Television Broadcasts Ltd (TVB), is warning investors that profits for this year could be down by as much as 65% compared to last year. Revenue could be down by close to HK\$400 million/US\$52 million, a decrease of about 13%. The good news is that the new myTV Super OTT service is performing much better than expected and that the start-up deficit is likely to be half the expected HK\$100 million/US\$12.8 million (see following story). Twice this year - in March and in August - TVB flagged adverse operating conditions, including the weak advertising market. The broadcaster also said earlier this year that the Rio Olympic Games under-recovery of costs would be about HK\$150 million.



myTV Super hits paydirt, expected start-up loss 50% lower than expected

Hong Kong's Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) OTT platform, myTV Super, has topped the two million set-top box/mobile app user mark (at 4 December), exceeding expectations by almost 50%. TVB's initial forecasts were 1.4 million users by its 50th birthday in November 2017. myTV Super launched on 18 April this year. Expectations for the full year to end December were that start-up costs would be HK\$100 million/US\$12.8 million. TVB's board said this was likely to drop to HK\$50 million. myTV Super carries about 19,000 programming hours of TVB content; drama series from mainland China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan; variety shows and anime; and live broadcasts of 40 local/international TV channels and third-party channels. More about myTV Super and other OTT players around the region in ContentAsia's latest who's who of streaming/online platforms [here](#).





Berdiev replaces Boswell as Discovery Southeast Asia head

Discovery has made another significant change to its Asia team, bringing in business strategist and former Tanzanian telco exec, Shavkat Berdiev, as VP/GM for Southeast Asia. Berdiev replaces Louis Boswell, who shifts to a distribution role; details of the new role have not been disclosed. Discovery said today that Berdiev would “focus on accelerating growth of the business and brands toward a true convergent media and entertainment company”. Based in Singapore, he will also be responsible for refreshing Discovery’s suite of products to “deliver more compelling content to younger audiences”. Berdiev reports to president/MD Arthur Bastings’, who kicked off the regional network’s radical overhaul when he joined in September last year.



BBC may face charges for violating Thailand’s lese majeste laws

BBC may be facing charges of violating Thailand’s lese majeste laws for an online profile it ran last week on the country’s new king, King Maha Vajiralongkorn. A report on the BBC’s Thai-language news site said police had visited BBC’s Bangkok offices as part of their investigation but that it had not been informed of formal charges. BBC said an opponent of Thailand’s military-backed government was arrested after sharing the profile on his Facebook page. A BBC spokesperson said “BBC Thai was established to bring impartial, independent and accurate news to a country where the media faces restrictions, and we are confident that this article adheres to the BBC’s editorial principles”. The statement appears in Thai on the BBC Thai website and in English in a BBC report. Thai Prime Minister and head of the National Council for Peace and Order, Prayut Chan-o-cha, is quoted as saying that as BBC has “an office in Thailand and [as] Thai reporters work there they must be prosecuted when they violate Thai law”. The investigation and possible charges comes about two weeks after BBC upgraded its Thai news service from a Facebook page to a dedicated website. The online news platform was created in July 2014 as a social media service on Facebook after the military coup.



Group M Entertainment brings Passion’s “Robot Wars” to Southeast Asia

“Robot Wars” is coming to Southeast Asia in a deal between Passion Distribution and Group M Entertainment APAC. The knockout competition entertainment format, which returned to U.K. screens on BBC Two in July this year, combines robotics, engineering, competition and gaming. The new series has driven sales of the original seasons, which ran in the U.K. between 1998 and 2004, including a Turner Toonami pick up of seasons five to seven for Thailand.



Globe Studios, HOOQ promise OTJ premiere in Q1 2017

Philippines' Globe Studios and mobile streaming platform HOOQ will premiere the pilot episode of their first original series, crime thriller "OTJ: The Missing 8", in the first quarter of 2017. The six-part series, co-produced with Reality Entertainment in the Philippines, is based on Erik Matti's award-winning movie "OTJ - On The Job". Globe Studios, which opened its doors in June this year, is the original content production unit of Philippines telco Globe.

Discovery Asia bets on Guy Martin & Gordon Ramsay for 2017 sched

Discovery Asia has acquired a slate of all3media International shows, including engineer and speed racer Guy Martin's "Our Guy in India" and Gordon Ramsay's "Hotel Hell". "Our Guy in India" plays in the region from January 2017. "Hotel Hell" premieres in Spring next year.



Our ATF daily news updates from [Wednesday, 7 December](#) and from [Thursday, 8 December](#).

ContentAsia's ATF Programming Picks...

SIX

This new series is inspired by the real missions of Navy SEAL Team Six, the unit best known for killing Osama Bin Laden. With a former Special Operations team member ensuring authenticity while preserving the secrecy of classified missions, SIX depicts the emotional truths of what it means to be in SEAL Team Six, their complex personal lives and the life and death decisions that protect the world. The key members of the team are the cynical ladies' man Caulder, the deeply religious Graves, family man Ortiz, and Taggart, the veteran leader of SEAL Team Six. A+E Networks **ATF Stand # G20**

Mata Hari

Mata Hari is an epic new drama that charts the extraordinary life of exotic dancer, courtesan and infamous spy Mata Hari. To her audiences, Mata Hari was the notorious performer and dancer. To her wealthy lovers she was the charming yet mysterious seductress. To both the German and French Intelligence Services she was an invaluable and trustworthy informant who was exposed as a double agent. But few saw Margaret Zelle, the real woman behind the legend of Mata Hari. This landmark new drama about love, loss and defiance features an acclaimed international cast including Christopher Lambert, John Corbett, Rutger Hauer, Gérard Depardieu and Vahina Giocante. Red Arrow International **ATF Stand # H21**

Need to Compete

A rare glimpse at the spirit of competition celebrated in communities and cultures around the world. Discover traditions like the Highland Games, where Scottish clans see who can heave massive logs the farthest. Experience Italy's 16th-Century gladiator tournament, where teams battle on a public square in a sport that combines rugby and street fighting. This series also introduces you to a competition featuring Chinese fighting crickets, with the tiny insects costing thousands of dollars. Find out what makes these events so special and why so many have lasted generations. Deutsche Welle - Transtel Asia **ATF Stand # E20**



Taken

Executive producer Luc Besson (Taken, The Fifth Element) delivers an action-packed, modern-day prequel to the international blockbuster Taken franchise. Clive Standen (Vikings) stars as Bryan Mills, a younger version of the iconic character from the Taken films. A former Green Beret, Mills becomes swept

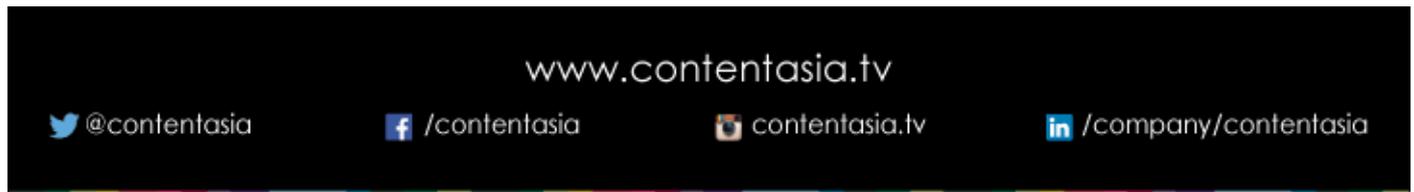
up in a quest for vengeance after he fails to protect one of those closest to him. Recruited to join a group of CIA operatives, Mills begins to hone his deadly skill set as he dives headfirst into dangerous missions that test his courage and push him to the edge. NBCUniversal **ATF Suite # 5003**

Love and Defiance

In Love and Defiance, Rachel and Junjun face the hardships of marriage and of raising a child very early in life. To add to their difficulties, they also have to deal with the dark secrets that have created a major conflict between their families. GMA Worldwide Inc **ATF Stand # J01**

The Girl

The Girl, series which leads in Colombia's prime time, is a story based in real life events, and tells the story of a girl who was forcefully recruited by the guerrilla and who lived through the horrors of war firsthand. After many years she leaves the armed group to start a road back to society, which won't be easy. When she begins the reintegration process she has to face the rejection of many people, including her own family. Caracol Television **ATF Stand # B29**



Karen Senki: The Movie

Karen Senki begins her destiny as she leads a team of rebels to save humanity from extinction at the hands of an oppressive robot army. Next Animation Studio Ltd. **ATF Stand # C10**

Time After Time

Livia and Felipe are in a forbidden love story doomed to end tragically. A century later, they both have a new chance to make their love real again. "Time After Time" is an innovative romance set in two different eras in which characters hold the opportunity to make up for their mistakes, come to terms with the past and write themselves another story. Globo **ATF Stand # E26**

L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables

Two new movies in production: The second and third movies in our trilogy focuses on Anne as she progresses through her teenage years, and the effect this has on her bewildered middle-aged guardians. As friendships and rivalries take shape and evolve, Anne finds herself torn between her passionate nature and her desire to fit in, while also getting into one mishap after another. By the end, Anne will have learned valuable lessons about family, responsibility, sacrifice, and loss; and transform from a scatter-brained adolescent into a young woman, with a hard-won wisdom of her own. Breakthrough Entertainment **ATF Stand # J28**

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