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*The full story is on page 2*



## Disney+ dominates Aus streaming

*The Falcon and The Winter Soldier soars*

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*The full story is on page 15*

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The group said the Dimsum team would be "redeployed within SMG to work on various ongoing and new projects already in the pipeline".

It's not clear what these projects are.

Chief marketing officer, Lam Swee Kim, was quoted in the group's flagship publication this afternoon saying that "while it was a difficult decision to end this chapter, we are excited to explore promising new ventures in the near future".

While speculation has been rife for months about Dimsum's ability to compete, news of the shutdown began spreading this morning.

The move is the first major public decision by Star Media's new group chief executive, Alex Yeow, who has been in the post since 1 March, and since the arrival of new chairman, former politician Chor Chee Heung, who assumed the role on 15 March.

The decision was reached after a strategic review that apparently identified more lucrative opportunities.

Based in Kuala Lumpur, Dimsum has distribution in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, and has over the years been a small but significant buyer of local content rights, including Korea and



Lam Swee Kim

Thai drama.

Star Media launched Dimsum in November 2016.

The Dimsum decision comes as Malaysia's streaming environment heats up, with the expected entry of two new players – Disney+ and Astro's Sooka – in the next few months,

and escalating competition from regional and global streamers including Netflix, Viu, iQiyi and WeTV/Tencent.

Malaysia's Media Prima is also believed to be revamping its tonton platform with new backend streaming tech licensed from iQiyi.

Disney+ and Sooka have not announced their launch dates.

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## New Year's Eve debut for iQiyi's *Hachiko*

Chinese streaming platform iQiyi has set a New Year's Eve premiere date for the Chinese version of classic Japanese screenplay, *Hachiko Monogatari*, by Kaneto Shindo.

*Hachiko* is a co-production with Lajin Entertainment Network Group.

The film tells the story of the dog Ba-tong, who waits in the same place for his owner, played by Feng Xiaogang, to return 10 years after his death.

This is Feng's first screen performance since he played a Beijing street punk in *Mr Six* in 2015.

Joan Chen (*Sheep Without a Shepherd*) stars as a candid and fiery mah-jong-loving landlady.

Already in production, *Hachiko* is directed by Xu Ang (*12 Citizens*) and supervised by Yeh Jufeng (*Red Cliff*).

*Hachiko* will be distributed by Hengye Pictures and premiere across China.

## Box office smash for *Godzilla vs Kong* WarnerMedia: Movie kickstarts Asia cinema attendance

*Godzilla vs. Kong* is smashing Covid-era box office across India, Southeast Asia and Korea, WarnerMedia says, touting the new monster-verse movie as kick-starting cinema attendance in Asia.

Warner Bros premiered the film across Asia on 24 March, ahead of the Easter holidays.

In China, where the film opened on 26 March (distributed by Legendary Pictures), it took US\$70.3 million from 42,000 screens, with a 82% share of the box office.

WarnerMedia says the film was the biggest Imax opening of the Monster Universe in 13 international territories, including India, Taiwan and Thailand.

Opening weekend regional revenues were US\$25.2 million (ex China). Taiwan box office was US\$5.3 million and the film captured 93% market share.



*Godzilla vs. Kong*, Warner Bros. Pictures

India opening weekend box office was US\$4.9 million, followed by Thailand at US\$3.3 million. In Thailand, the film captured 90% share.

Korea box office was US\$2.8 million for the weekend, followed by Vietnam with US\$2.5 million, Malaysia (US\$2.1 million), Hong Kong (US\$1.7 million) and Singapore (S\$1.6 million). Box office in Indonesia was US\$850,000.



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## Malaysia's broadband speed trails SG, TH on eve of streaming turbocharge

As Malaysia prepares for ramped up streaming competition in the wake of new arrivals Disney+ and Sooka, speedtest specialist Ookla put the country in third place for fixed broadband download speeds behind Singapore and Thailand and in fourth place behind Vietnam for upload speeds. The Philippines is fifth for both uploads and download speeds and Indonesia is last. Malaysia was fourth for mobile download speed.

At the same time, Ookla notes an improvement in Malaysia's mobile speeds between the first and second halves of last year. This is linked to initiatives from the government's National Digital Network Plan.

Ookla says that in the second half of 2020, Singapore had the fastest mean download speed over mobile broadband networks in major markets in Southeast Asia at 68.86 Mbps.

Thailand was second (40.54 Mbps) and Vietnam third (33.14 Mbps). Malaysia ranked fourth with a download speed of 24.53 Mbps, followed by the Philippines (17.41 Mbps) and Indonesia (16.69 Mbps).

More than 83% of time spent on mobile networks in Malaysia in the second half of 2020 was on 4G. 3G followed at 12.1%.

But, the report says, "despite the strong time spent on 4G, there are still major gaps in 4G coverage in Malaysia". 5.2% of devices in Malaysia were 5G-capable at the end of 2020.



## GMA offers free Covid-19 vaccines to staffers

The Philippines' leading free-TV broadcaster, GMA Network, is offering free Covid-19 vaccines to full- and part-time staffers and talent as part of a voluntary programme.

## Veteran animator backs minority inclusion

Nelson Recinos launches GoFundMe page for new series



Veteran animator Nelson Recinos has started a Go Fund Me page to create content that will promote minority inclusion in animated film and television programming.

Recinos, who directed the Emmy Award winning *Pinky and the Brain*, is hoping to raise US\$50,000 for a multi-ethnic pre-school educational project that teaches children about famous people, culture, and history of different regions around the world.

The series, *The Magic of Discovery*, follows four characters – Carl, Rosie, Antoine and Lin – to various cities and countries, including India, China, Japan and South Korea in different ages where they meet the seven-year-old versions of famous people such as Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Albert Einstein,

among others.

"Our characters will learn and be inspired by these extraordinary masters," Recinos says.

Recinos says he will distribute the series for free in inner-city schools "so kids can learn in a fun way about famous people, culture, and history of different regions around the world".

Recinos has worked on shows such as *Batman*, *Animaniacs*, *Baby Looney Tunes*, *Catdog*, *Oswald the Octopus* and *Super Hero Squad* for, among others, Warner Brothers, Paramount Pictures, Nickelodeon and 20th Century Fox.

Recinos, a long-time advocate of diversity in animation, founded animation production house InMotion Films, based in California, in 2018.



Nelson Recinos



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## Philippines' Cignal DTH picks up TechStorm, Wakuwaku Japan

Singapore-based regional tech/esports network TechStorm debuts on Philippines' direct-to-home satellite platform, Cignal, today (5 April), along with SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation's Wakuwaku Japan general entertainment channel.

The deal gives both channels additional potential reach in another three million homes across the country.

TechStorm is already available on Cignal's streaming platform, Cignal



E-Sports Revolution

Play, and has broad distribution across other platforms in the country, including Sky Cable and 85 MSOs and provincial cable systems.

Wakuwaku Japan has also been picked up for Cignal Play streaming service. The service is available to post- and pre-paid premium subscribers.

The channel is now on 40 platforms across Asia.

## #StopAsianHate: AXN All-Stars returns AXN Asia original re-release with new dedications



KC Global Media has re-released AXN Asia's talent special, *AXN All Stars*, dedicating the original 2020 production to the #stopsasianhate movement.

The 90-minute digital streaming feature, initially released at the end of 2020 as one of KC Global Media's pandemic "celebration of hope" specials, features David Foster, Michael Bolton, Mel C and Anggun, among others, across nine countries and eight time zones.

Among the acts is a collaborative performance of *That's What Friends Are For*, including participation by the Philippines' Gerphil Flores and Indonesia's Afgan, Angela July, Saniyah, and Indonesian Dangdut musician Lesti, along with Foster and Anggun.

The special also includes appearances by Australian illusionist Cosentino and Japan-based magician Cyril Takayama.

"We stand alongside our Asian community," says the L.A.-based KC Global Media Networks' president-CEO,

George Chien.

The updated programme is running on AXN's YouTube channel.

Chien says the English-language Asian special has been made available for streaming worldwide "to help bring greater awareness to the escalating, racially motivated, pandemic-fueled attacks being directed at the Asian-American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community".

*AXN All-Stars* premiered digitally in selected territories on AXN Asia's Facebook and YouTube pages in late November 2020 before airing as a two-part TV special on the AXN channel throughout Southeast Asia in December.

"We originally offered this showcase in Asia as a part of the greatest celebration of hope yet in these challenging times," Chien says, adding: "Now, with thousands of reports of terrible violence being reported against vulnerable AAPI members, *AXN All-Stars* takes on new meaning beyond the pandemic".



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## **ORIGINAL CONTENT PRODUCERS and SENIOR PRODUCERS (LONG FORM & DIGITAL)**

- ✓ Strong storytelling skills, animation/motion graphics, video production, creativity, detailed in project management
- ✓ Develop international and Asian relevant production concepts, script draft, timelines, for in-house Studio TV programmes and drive production from start to finish
- ✓ In-studio news production, shooting experience a must
- ✓ Some prior experience with OB production trucks preferred
- ✓ To manage multiple deadlines, tight budgets working professionally with other peer members in the team
- ✓ Proficient in motion graphics, animation, sound and video editing software including but not limited to:  
Final Cut, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premiere, Flash, Photoshop, AV & lighting equipment

## **ESPORTS MARKETING & PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

- ✓ Work with esports Business Lead to identify, plan, roadmap and execute flawlessly key esports partnerships on a regional basis across Asia and US markets
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More job openings available, see TechStorm's LinkedIn page. Send your CV to [recruit@techstorm.tv](mailto:recruit@techstorm.tv)



## Formats body Frapa warns of "existential threat" to the entire system"

Global formats body Frapa has warned about a "devil's bargain" that could ring a death knell for creators and indie operators, and leave control of the entertainment industry in the hands of a few Global Entertainment Giants (GEGs).

Phil Gurin, Frapa co-chairman/CEO of The Gurin Company, called upon format creators and small/medium-sized companies to safeguard their independence; to fight hard to keep a lasting financial stake in the fruits of their labour; and to be wary of "the comfortable, constricting glove of a warm paycheck upfront".

In the introduction to Frapa's April newsletter, Gurin warned of a future where a few giant companies owned everything, small companies would be at their mercy, and indies would disappear entirely.

While the "increasingly alarming trend" seemed "innocuous" on the surface, it was "actually an existential threat to the entire system".

"Yet there is hope if people stick to their principles and inner creative compasses," he said, highlighting entertainment giants' need for fresh ideas. "That's the leverage independent sellers need to acknowledge in order to stay strong and potentially keep, or at the very least share, the rights of their intellectual property".

He added that it was "easy to understand the allure" of selling an idea for a premium and walk away. "A cheque is a cheque when the rent is due," he said.

"But like the strange guy in the white van parked outside a children's playground offering "the first one is free", once you are hooked it's hard to get unhooked," he said.

## Mongolia debuts *The Rolling Kitchen* NTV 1st worldwide to adapt Japan's YTV format



*The Rolling Kitchen*

Mongolian free-TV station NTV premiered a local version of Osaka-based Japanese programmer Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation's (YTV) studio-based cooking show format, *The Rolling Kitchen*, at the weekend.

The new series is the first time the format has been localised for a full season anywhere in the world.

The show involves two couples competing to create the best dish in 40 minutes, from separate kitchens and without talking about the cooking process. Every 10 minutes, the kitchen rotates 180 degrees and the couples switch dishes and carry on cooking.

NTV Mongolia will air 12 episodes in the prime time 6.45pm-8.05pm slot on Sun-

days.

The original format was broadcast in Japan in September 2018.

NTV's head of production, Amarjargal B, says the network "fell in love [with the format] at first sight".

YTV's biggest successes as a format distributor so far has been in Korea, where its drama *Pure Soul*, a love story about a young woman with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease, was adapted in Korea as feature film, *A Moment to Remember*. Another of its Korean adaptations is MBC's *365: Repeat the Year (2020)*, based on YTV's *Wheel of Fortune (Repeat)*.

YTV's broadcast operation is part of Nippon Television Network System.





# Women to Watch



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*Srishti Behl Arya, Director, International Original Film, Netflix India*



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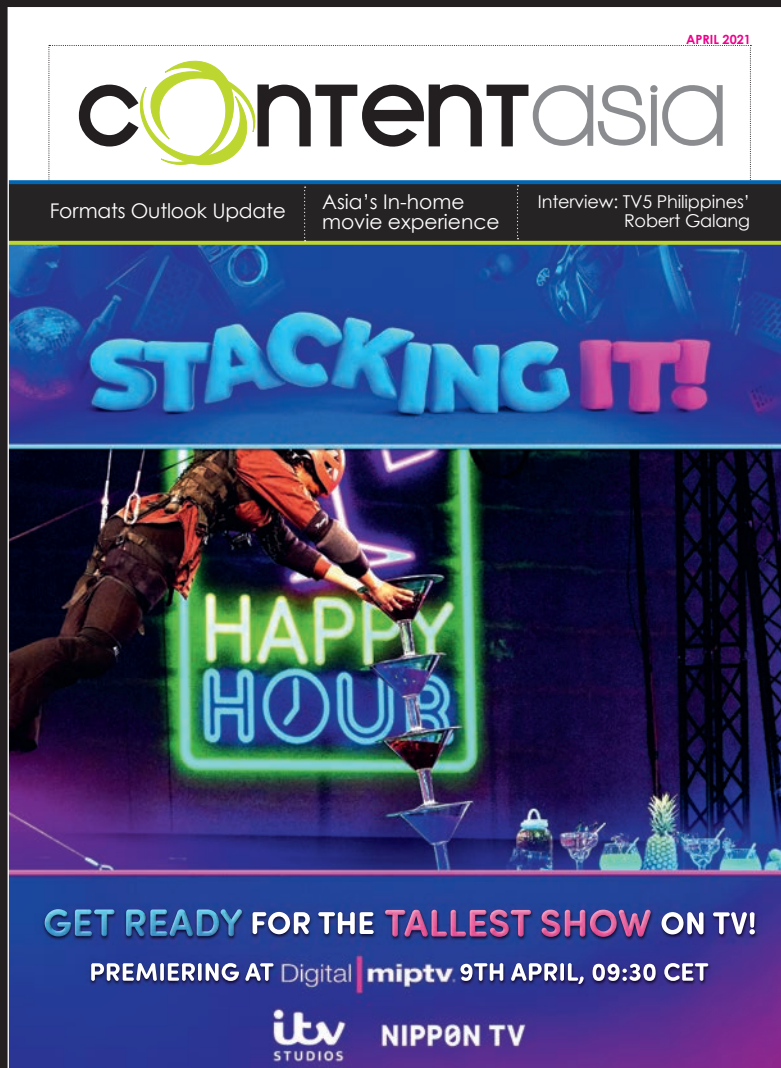
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# All ready for Mip TV Online



ContentAsia's Formats Outlook

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PRODUCTION: *World of Himmaman* director, Taweewat Wantha

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### Who is Ghislaine Maxwell?

As the enigmatic British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell faces trial for her role in the Jeffrey Epstein scandal, this new documentary special will ask who and what she really is, in the context of where the trial takes her on her stranger-than-fiction journey. Featuring exclusive interviews with Maxwell's friends, former boyfriends, rivals and confidants, many of whom have never spoken publicly before and focusing on key stages in her life, *Who is Ghislaine Maxwell?* is set to offer a revealing insight into her personal life and true nature. Length: 1x90 mins **All3media International** 1 George Street, #10-01, Singapore, 049145 T: +65 9459 2139



### Law of Revenge

Two former close friends go head-to-head trying to bring each other down in both business and love. But deep resentments can lead to deadly conflicts. Length: 75 (approx) x45 mins **ABS-CBN Corporation** ELJ Communications Center, Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City, 1118, Philippines E: [Internationalsales@abs-cbn.com](mailto:Internationalsales@abs-cbn.com)

### Secrets of the Supercars

Supercars are the multi-million-pound masterpieces of the world's most iconic brands - but what does it take to create them? With access to the factories, the test tracks, and the designers and engineers who build these record-breaking status symbols, we reveal the secrets that make them so special. From the 4.5m Bugatti Divo and the sleek Ferrari Roma to Swedish upstart Koenigsegg Regera and Elon Musk's cutting-edge Tesla Model S, we put one modern-day supercar through its paces in each episode, and also look at the game-changing vehicles of the past as well as the extremes of supercar design. Length: 10x60mins **ITV Studios** ITV Studios Global Entertainment Rooms 517-520, 5th Floor, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong T: +852 2511 9700



### Cities Reinvented

Before long, most of the world's population will be living in cities. If megacities are to be in a position to tackle the challenges represented by overcrowding, overburdened infrastructure, energy provision and climate change, appropriate structures need to be established. Whatever is planned or built today will determine whether cities will be good places to live in the future or whether they will collapse under the strain. The series shines a light on innovative architectural and urban-planning projects in New York, Tokyo and Singapore that can be considered exemplary responses to some of those challenges. Length: 1x90 mins/ 3x45 mins/ 2x30 mins **DW** Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 3, 53113 Bonn, Germany T: +49 228 429 2712; +60 12 277 2201

### Key To Heart, Dating show

Does your smartphone know you well enough to find you a perfect date? *Key to Heart* is a bold and entertaining dating show where young singletons have a chance to scrutinise potential dates' smartphones before seeing what they look like. Length: 10x90 mins **Hunan TV** Changsha, Hunan, China T: +86 0731 82871224



### Hekimoglu

This local version of the hit U.S. scripted series *House M.D.* stars Timuçin Esen as Ateş Hekimoğlu, an acclaimed infectious diseases and nephrology physician. With his team of three young doctors, Hekimoglu does whatever it takes to solve the most puzzling cases in his own way. **Kanal D International** Yelda Haber Ve Gorsel Yayincilik A.Ş., Demirenen Medya Center 100. Yıl Mah. 2264. Sk. No:1, 34204 Bağcılar, İstanbul, Turkey T: +90 212 413 56 66





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	12-16	MIP TV	Online
	14-16	Content Expo Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
	20-22	APOS April Edition	Online
	29	AVIA Future of Video India	Online
May 2021	18	AVIA Philippines in View	Online
June 2021	14-15	DW Global Media Forum	Bonn, Germany & Online
	16-18	Vietnam Telefilm	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam & Online (7-30 June)
	22-23	APOS India	Online
	28-30	MIP China	Online
July 2021	12	AVIA Satellite Industry Forum	Online
	14-16	BroadcastAsia/CommunicAsia	Singapore & Online
August 2021	26-27	ContentAsia Summit	Online
	27	ContentAsia Awards	Online
September 2021	1-3	APOS September Edition	Online
	8	AVIA Vietnam in View	Online
	9-12	Gwangju ACE Fair	Gwangju, Korea
October 2021	9-10	MIP Junior	Cannes, France
	8-13	Canneseries	Cannes, France & Online
	11-14	Mipcom	Cannes, France
	30 Oct-8 Nov	34th Tokyo International Film Festival	Tokyo, Japan
November 2021	1-3	TIFFCOM 2021	Tokyo, Japan & Online
	9-11	AVIA Asia Video Summit - State of Piracy	Online
	10-12	Busan Contents Market (BCM)	TBC
	24-25	Dubai International Content Market	Dubai
December 2021	1-3	Asia TV Forum & Market	Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

\* As of Monday, 5 April 2021

The full list of events is available at [www.contentasia.tv/events-list](http://www.contentasia.tv/events-list)



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# Disney+ dominates Aus streaming

## The Falcon and The Winter Soldier soars

Disney+ totally and absolutely dominated demand in Australia for the week of 24-30 March, taking top three spots on the digital originals list by a long way with one additional title – *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* – making it onto the list at number nine and giving the streaming newcomer 40% of the top 10 digital originals list.

The top three – *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*, *WandaVision* and *The Mandalorian* – all hit above 20.4% above average demand for shows in the mar-

ket. The three were the only titles on the digital originals list that hit 20%. In fourth place was Netflix's *The Crown* at 14.7%, joining the top 10's seven other titles in the low teens.

*The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* and *WandaVision* also led the overall list for the week, with *The Mandalorian* narrowly beat out by Japanese anime title, *My Hero Academia*. A second anime series, *Attack on Titan*, also hit the 20% above average demand mark for the week.

## Top 10 overall TV shows: Australia

Rank	Title	Average Demand Expressions®
1	<i>The Falcon And The Winter Soldier</i>	26.9
2	<i>WandaVision</i>	26.3
3	<i>My Hero Academia</i>	22.4
4	<i>The Mandalorian</i>	20.4
5	<i>Attack On Titan</i>	20.2
6	<i>Married At First Sight (AU)</i>	19.6
7	<i>The Walking Dead</i>	19.2
8	<i>Grey's Anatomy</i>	19.1
9	<i>Outlander</i>	19.1
10	<i>Shameless</i>	18.6

## Top 10 digital originals: Australia

Rank	Title	Platform	Average Demand Expressions®
1	<i>The Falcon And The Winter Soldier</i>	Disney+	26.9
2	<i>WandaVision</i>	Disney+	26.3
3	<i>The Mandalorian</i>	Disney+	20.4
4	<i>The Crown</i>	Netflix	14.7
5	<i>The Boys</i>	Amazon Prime Video	14.4
6	<i>Stranger Things</i>	Netflix	13.8
7	<i>Cobra Kai</i>	Netflix	12.8
8	<i>The Expanse</i>	Amazon Prime Video	12.4
9	<i>Star Wars: The Clone Wars</i>	Disney+	11.8
10	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Hulu	10.7

Date range: 24-30 March, 2021

Demand: The total audience demand being expressed for a title, within a market. Audience demand reflects the desire, engagement and viewer-ship, weighted by importance; so a stream/download is a higher expression of demand than a 'like'/comment. In this dataset we are comparing the demand that exists for each series in this market, against the average TV show. A difference of 1x represents the market average and 10x means a series is ten times more in demand than the average TV show in this market



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