FORBIDDEN: Once Upon A War

"In the chaos of war, love becomes the ultimate act of rebellion!"

A limited series based on a true story

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FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War

Set against the backdrop of Nazi-occupied Paris, *FORBIDDEN* reimagines the timeless story of Romeo and Juliet through the lens of wartime romance. This narrative, based on a true story about the complexities of life under occupation and the conflict between personal desire and societal expectations, follows two star-crossed lovers who defy not only the oppressive regime but also their own family loyalties. As their forbidden love flourishes amidst resistance and betrayal, their story becomes a powerful symbol of defiance and hope. *FORBIDDEN* explores the enduring strength of love and the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity and division.

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LOGLINE:

In Nazi-occupied France, a young French girl's life is up-ended when she falls in love with a Czech Nazi officer, sparking a series of events that test her courage, resilience, and ultimately, her capacity for forgiveness.

FORBIDDEN:
Once Upon A War

FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War follows Suzanne Liefooghe, a young woman from a wealthy family in Nazi-occupied Paris, as she navigates a forbidden romance with Bruno, a Czech Nazi officer. Amidst the chaos of war and resistance, Suzanne risks everything to help her Jewish friend, Ida, escape the Nazis. As love, war, and family loyalties collide, Suzanne faces betrayal, heartbreak, and the devastating consequences of forbidden love in a world torn apart by conflict.

“FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War” explores:

Forbidden Love: Defying societal norms and enemy lines, love becomes a dangerous act during war.

Loss of Innocence: War shatters youthful idealism, forcing characters into harsh realities.

Betrayal and Loyalty: The conflict between personal loyalty and betrayal underscores the costs of war.

Resistance and Survival: Courage and resilience define those who fight against oppression.

Identity and Belonging: The search for identity amid chaos reflects broader questions of belonging in fractured times.

The Human Cost of War: The series portrays war's profound toll on love, family, and morality.

Relevance: These themes echo current global conversations on love, identity, and resistance in the face of rising division and authoritarianism.

Main Characters

Suzanne Liefooghe
A naive 14-year-old who matures through the war, facing romance, danger, and loss. She protects her Jewish friend, falls for a Nazi officer, and battles to survive in occupied Paris.

Bruno
A Nazi officer torn between love and duty. His forbidden romance with Suzanne leads to punishment and despair, ending in his tragic suicide.

Blanche Liefooghe
Suzanne's controlling mother, obsessed with family reputation. Her betrayal leads to tragedy, and though war tempers her, the damage to her family remains.

Emile Liefooghe
Suzanne's quiet father, often overshadowed by Blanche. War shatters his life, but he seeks to repair his family, showing compassion in the aftermath.

Visual Approach and Tone

FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War blends the elegance of 1940s Paris with the harsh realities of Nazi occupation. Rich, warm tones depict moments of love and privilege, contrasted with cold, desaturated colors for war and oppression. Paris is a city of shadows, where beauty and fear coexist.

The tone is intimate and charged, focusing on Suzanne's inner conflict. Moments of tenderness are woven with tension, reflecting the risks of forbidden love in a world at war.

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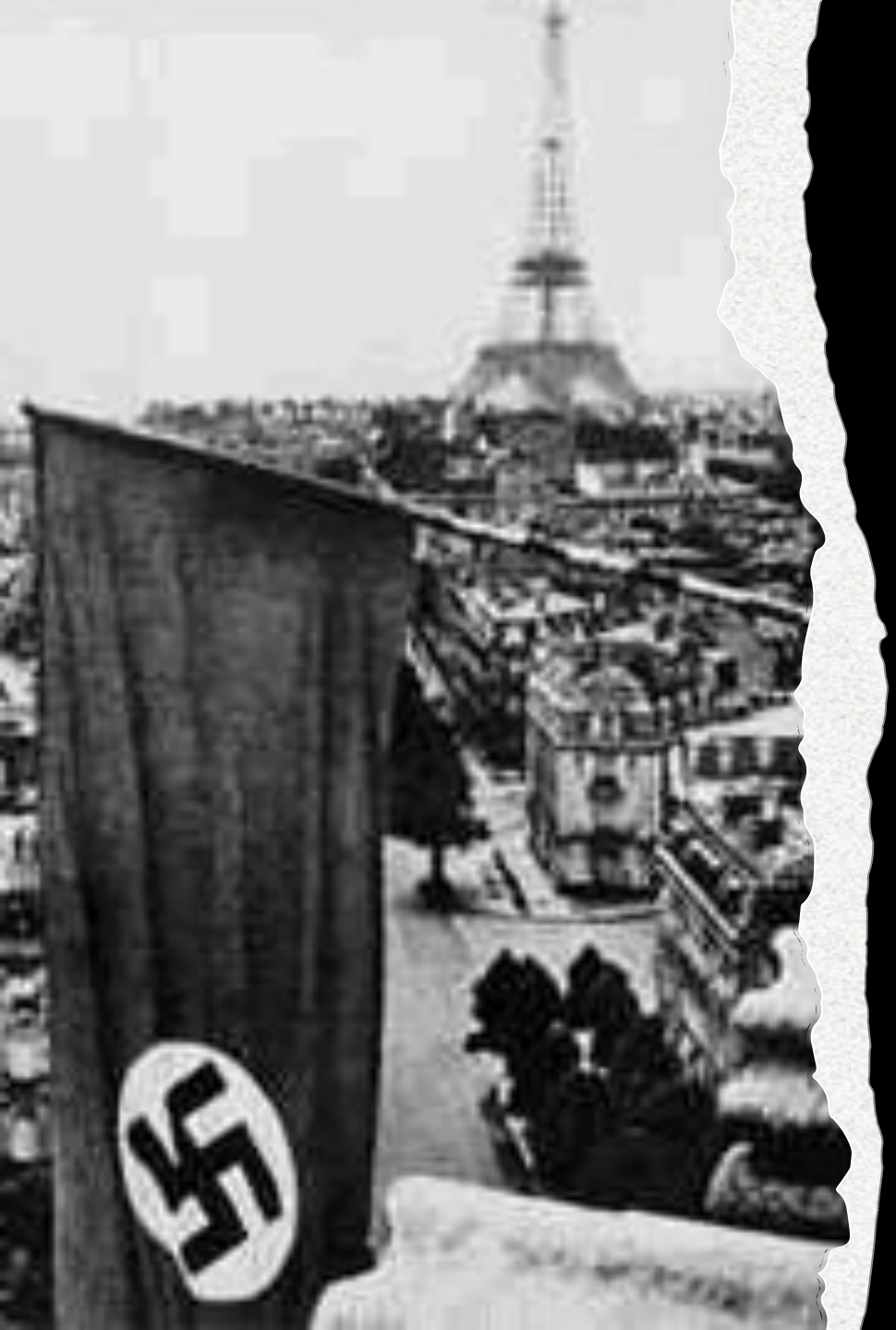
FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War is for adult viewers who love character-driven historical dramas and *Romeo and Juliet*-style forbidden romances. It will appeal to fans of shows like *The Crown* and *A Very English Scandal*, blending themes of love, war, and personal sacrifice.

The series speaks to those drawn to emotionally intense stories where passion and tragedy collide, offering a timeless tale of love against the odds in a world divided by war.



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Unique Selling Points:
FORBIDDEN reimagines a *Romeo and Juliet*-style love story in Nazi-occupied Paris, blending historical drama with the tension of forbidden love.

How It Stands Out:
Focusing on intimate personal conflicts rather than large-scale war, the series highlights the emotional depth of a woman torn between love and loyalty.

Potential Market:
Targeting fans of historical dramas, war stories, and tragic romances, *FORBIDDEN* has global appeal across traditional TV and streaming platforms.

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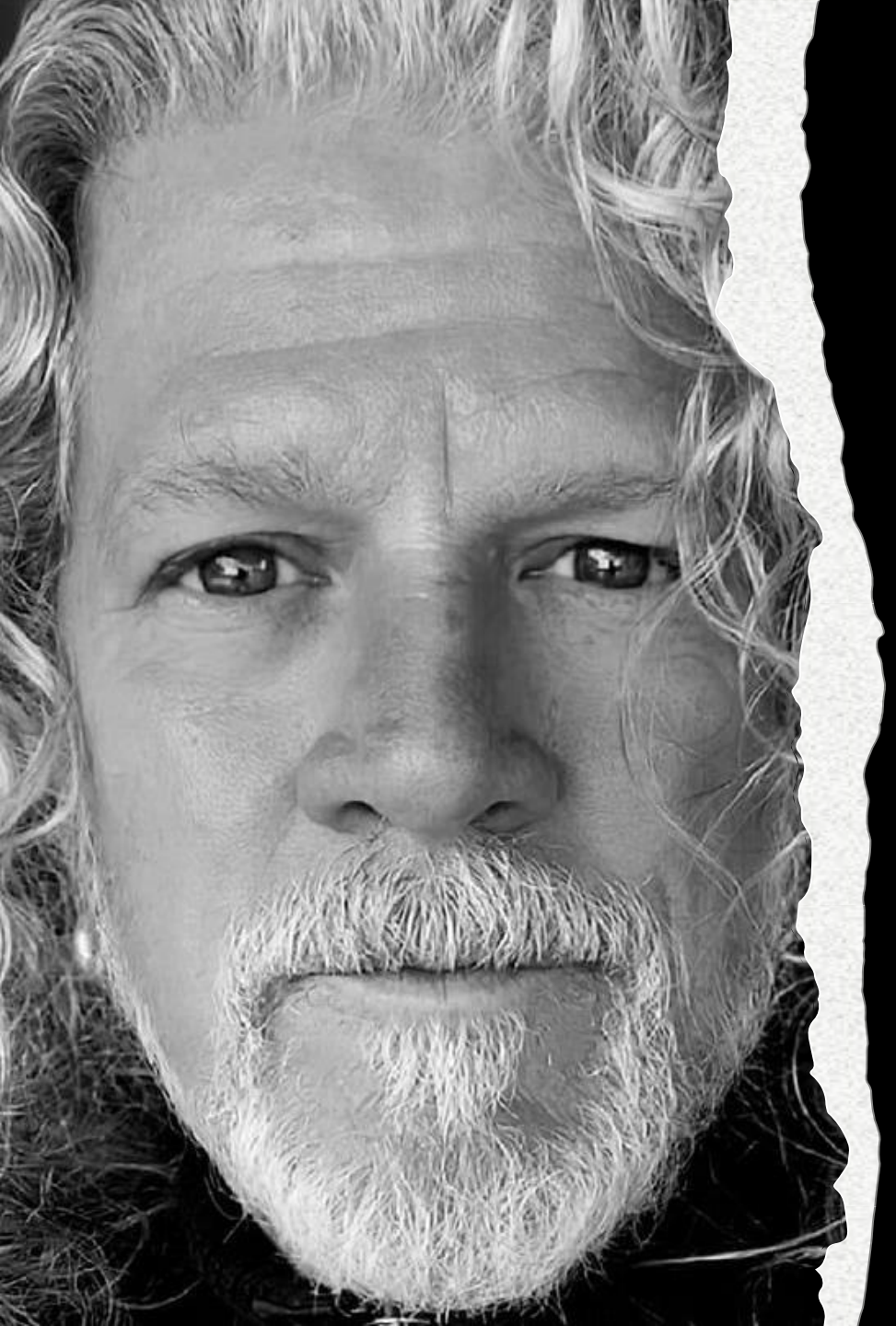
Development Status

FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War is a completed pilot script that has won numerous awards internationally, solidifying its appeal and potential impact. The project has gained recognition for its compelling narrative and emotional depth, positioning it as a strong contender in the marketplace.

The next steps include securing production partnerships, attaching key talent, and entering pre-production to bring this award-winning story to the screen.



FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War

R.A. Modro (Ron) is an international screenwriter based in Los Angeles, known for his compelling narratives that weave together personal experiences and historical depth.

With a background in human rights and Holocaust education, Ron's storytelling explores complex themes with sensitivity and insight. His latest projects include *My Name Was Icek*, a historical drama about identity and forgiveness, and *Nearer to God*, a poignant story set during the AIDS crisis.

FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War, one of his passion projects, is a Romeo and Juliet-inspired tale set in Nazi-occupied Paris, showcasing his unique blend of creativity and social consciousness.

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Call to Action

We are seeking production partnerships and funding to bring *FORBIDDEN: Once Upon a War* to life. Your support will help elevate this award-winning script from the page to the screen, ensuring its powerful story resonates with a global audience.

By joining forces, we can create a series that not only captivates viewers but also sparks important conversations about love, loyalty, and the human condition in times of war.