



TOKAI TELEVISION BROADCASTING CO., LTD.

## Press Release

Embargo till April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7am (GMT+9)

### ***13-Thirteen- Japanese Version Coming soon!***

**Tokai TV and BBC Studios agrees a format deal for hit teen series  
*Thirteen***

1 April, 2020

The sensational BBC drama “*Thirteen*” collaborates with Tokai TV to be adapted into Japanese drama series.

**A shocking crime suspense, which portrays people swinging between chained cases and the absurd reality!**

The Japanese version of “*Thirteen*” starts from June 6th, 2020.



13-Thirteen- Japanese Version, Starring Nanami SAKURABA as main cast, Yuria

#### Story

Yuria, a girl that had been missing for 13 years from age 13.

When she suddenly comes back home, the frozen time restarts...

Is her return, the start to a second tragedy? She looks 26 but seems like a 13 year old...

Yuria’s elusive behavior toys with people and messes up their fate.

This summer, Nanami Sakuraba who broke new grounds in the morning drama “*Scarlet*” will show another new face!

TOKAI TELEVISION BROADCASTING CO., LTD.

1-14-27 Higashisakura Higashi-ku, Nagoya 461-8501, Aichi, JAPAN, tokai-tv.com





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Left photo... Protagonist Yuria (Nanami SAKURABA)

Lower right photo... Yuria (Nanami SAKURABA) eating cake by her hand, after returning home 13 years later.

**\*When using the screen and character costume shot above, please also use the caption and head shots.**

For more information, please contact:

### *13-Thirteen- Japanese Version*

Production and International PR:

Eriko FUJITOMI (Ms.)

TOKAI TELEVISION BROADCASTING CO.,LTD.

Email: [pgm@tokai-tv.co.jp](mailto:pgm@tokai-tv.co.jp)

Distribution:

Noboru TAKAHASHI (Mr.)

Fuji Creative Corporation (FCC)

Email: [noboru.takahashi@fujicreative.co.jp](mailto:noboru.takahashi@fujicreative.co.jp)

**Notes to editors:**

### *About Tokai TV*

**TOKAI TELEVISION BROADCASTING CO., LTD. (Tokai TV)** was established in 1958 in Japan.

It covers 11 million viewers in the Chubu region (Aichi, Gifu, Mie, in the center of Japan) where leading manufacturers in automotive, aerospace, machinery etc. set-up their bases.

Tokai TV produces its own TV programs such as news, sports, documentaries, dramas, and variety shows which are broadcasted both for its own channel and via Fuji Network Systems (FNS) affiliated broadcasters.

Tokai TV plays an important role in FNS as the key station which has been producing 200 drama series, the biggest number of episodes among Japanese dramas.

Tokai TV is a TV broadcaster with more than 50 years of experience in national broadcast, holding many talented producers and experienced production teams who created a large catalogue of TV drama series, out of which:

- Daytime telenovela (30mins daily from 13:30 Monday – Friday): over 52 years and 214 series produced.
- Since 2016, night drama series: “Saturday night drama for adults”: (1hr long from 23:40 on Saturdays) currently runs its 26th series.

[tokai-tv.com](http://tokai-tv.com)

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## Press Release

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### **Tokai TV and BBC Studios agrees a *format* deal for hit teen series *Thirteen***

1 April, 2020

BBC Studios and Tokai Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd. (Tokai TV) today jointly announced a format deal for *Thirteen*, a psychological drama miniseries. This is the first deal signed directly between Tokai TV and BBC Studios, a global content company and the commercial arm of the BBC. The local version will be rewritten by Taeko Asano, a famous Japanese writer and will air on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on the Fuji TV Nationwide Network across Japan, unveiling its tense and breath-taking plot to Japanese audiences reaching over 58 million households.



13-Thirteen- Japanese Version, Starring Nanami SAKURABA as main cast, Yuria

The original series of *Thirteen* first broadcast as an online drama on BBC Three in the UK and was described as 'the kidnap thriller that's redefining teen drama' (The Guardian, 23 Feb 2016). Bringing together some of the hottest young talent in UK television, including writer Marnie Dickens (*The*

*Musketeers*), plus lead actors Jodie Comer (*Killing Eve*, *Doctor Foster*) and Aneurin Barnard (*War and Peace*, *Dunkirk*), *Thirteen* focuses on a young woman's life in pieces after 13 years in captivity. This highly rated drama became a hit in no time, received 7.95 million requests to view online during its first month of release, and was one of the BBC's most talked-about new dramas of 2016.

Keisuke TOHYAMA, Producer at Tokai TV commented: "We are excited about this new partnership with BBC Studios by licensing this bold and creative British format. Remaking *Thirteen* is a significant step for us, as we will be exploring taking local versions of original British drama to Japanese audiences to meet their changing viewing habits and to explore more business opportunities. After the successful remake of *'Orphan Black - 7 Genes*, *Thirteen* will be the second remake from BBC Studios drama for Tokai TV. Our direct partnership with BBC Studios gives us one step further and we believe that this thriller will be another great success, giving chills down the spines of many Japanese viewers. We won't let you go to bed without watching this show on Saturdays."

Geo Lee, BBC Studios Senior Vice-President and General Manager for North East Asia, comments: "BBC Studios has an impressive range of formats for programmes that have been successful in the UK and which can also be successful in this region. We aim to artfully combine BBC Studios' creativity and boldness with the Asia TV industry's realism and inclusivity. With the support of our partners Tokai TV, I'm pleased to say that this deal for *Thirteen* marks the stability and maturity of our format licensing in Asia, and particularly in Japan."

Following the announcement on the first global format deal, *The Split*, in Korea, *Thirteen* is the second format licensed in the North East Asia region this year, under Geo Lee.

**For more information, please contact:**

Jingjing Chen  
BBC Studios  
Email: [Jingjing.Chen@bbc.com](mailto:Jingjing.Chen@bbc.com)

**Notes to editors:**

#### **About BBC Studios APAC**

Covering Australia, New Zealand and 23 countries across the Asia region, BBC Studios APAC is overseen by EVP Jon Penn. Operating from eight offices, with its main bases in Sydney, Beijing and Singapore, BBC Studios APAC comprises of Content Sales and Co-productions, Branded Services, Production, Format Sales, Consumer Products and Live Events.

The BBC Studios business in Asia sells content to digital and linear platforms, with some significant pre-sales to major broadcasters. Our channels, BBC Earth, BBC Lifestyle and CBeebies, are available in 15 markets; BBC First is available as a VOD service in Singapore, Malaysia, Mainland China and Hong Kong; branded blocks feature on third party channels; while the BBC's own SVOD service BBC Player offers curated content from BBC global brands in Singapore and Malaysia, including BBC Brit exclusively. In India, the production arm produces local versions of BBC hit shows, as well as licensing formats to third parties across Asia. The business has forged strategic JV relationships, including with Sony India for Sony BBC Earth channel and Tencent in China for BBC Earth Tribe, and has a range of partnerships for consumer products and ancillaries.

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