



I N F I N I T I

**CANAL+**

**STUDIOCANAL**  
A CANAL+ COMPANY

# KEY FACTS

**FORMAT:**  
6 x 1 hour

**GENRE:**  
Sci-fi Thriller

**LANGUAGES:**

60%	10%	30%
ENGLISH	FRENCH	RUSSIAN

**STATUS:**  
Available

**TX DATE:**  
4 April 2022

**CREATORS & WRITERS:**  
Stéphane Pannetier, Julien Vanlerenberghe,  
in collaboration with Thierry Poiraud

**DIRECTOR:**  
Thierry Poiraud


**PRODUCERS:**  
Raphaël Rocher, Eric Laroche,  
Lionel Uzan

**COMMISSIONING BROADCASTER:**



**PRODUCTION COMPANIES:**



A large space station with multiple solar panel arrays is shown in orbit above the Earth. The station is positioned vertically in the center-left of the frame. The Earth's surface, showing clouds and landmasses, is visible on the right side, curving away into the distance. A small satellite or probe is visible in the distance, orbiting the Earth. The background is the deep black of space.

**A FRENCH ASTRONAUT, DISMISSED FROM THE SPACE PROGRAM, AND A KAZAKH COP, CAST ASIDE BY HIS SUPERIORS, SET OUT TO SOLVE A MIND-BENDING PARADOX NAVIGATING BETWEEN THE KAZAKH DESERT AND THE DEEP SILENCE OF OUTER SPACE.**

**A VISUALLY STRIKING SPACE THRILLER BLENDING CRIME AND SCI-FI, WITH A RIVETING PLOT THAT WILL KEEP THE AUDIENCE ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEAT.**

A man and a woman are shown in profile, facing each other in a vast, open landscape. The man is on the left, wearing a dark brown hooded jacket. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark quilted jacket. They are standing in a desolate, open plain with mountains in the background under a sunset sky. The lighting is soft and golden, creating a contemplative mood.

**AN AMBITIOUS HIGH-CONCEPT SERIES**

WITH AN ACCLAIMED EUROPEAN CAST, THAT  
BLENDS CRIME THRILLER WITH SCI-FI.

**A GRIPPING MYSTERY**

AUDIENCES WILL EMBRACE  
ALONGSIDE A POWERFUL LOVE STORY.

**A COSMIC CRIME STORY WITH POLITICAL INTRIGUE**

THAT WILL RESONATE WITH CONTEMPORARY EVENTS  
CONCERNING THE GLOBAL SPACE RACE.

**A VISUALLY STRIKING EVENT SERIES**

NAVIGATING BETWEEN THE VAST PLAINS OF  
KAZAKHSTAN AND THE DEEP SILENCE OF OUTER  
SPACE, WITH VFX FROM THE STUDIO BEHIND  
BLADE RUNNER 2049 AND HBO'S WATCHMEN.



# CHARACTERS



# CÉLINE SALLETTE

## ANNA ZARATHI, FRENCH ASTRONAUT

An astronaut and doctor by training, Anna's character is inspired by several famous female astronauts such as Claudie Haigneré. She's an exceptional person with outstanding physical and mental qualities and a strong, determined character.

Despite being so well-adjusted, when we first meet her, she is shattered by her exclusion from the space mission she'd set her heart on joining and which had been her whole life's goal. Her sense of personal failure is exacerbated by mental distress and hallucinations, which her scientific mind resists and she does her best to conceal from others.

At the beginning of the first episode, one of her "hallucinations" comes true, and she begins to wonder whether the irrationality she has been fighting for months is actually reality. By setting out to rescue Kurz, Anna is following a personal quest; her journey into space is a path to recovery on which she will find herself, literally and figuratively.

### CREDITS:



2012  
NOMINEE

# DANIYAR ALSHINOV

ISAAK TURGUN,  
KAZAKH COP

Isaak Turgun, an honest young cop, wants his country to break free of “old world” corruption. He is brash, quick-witted and free-spirited, but his constant defiance also resulted in the death of his son, and now Isaak is haunted by the loss of his beloved child. His battle for justice brings him into conflict with everyone, and he sometimes behaves recklessly, since he has nothing left to lose.

CREDIT:



# VLAD IVANOV

## EMIL DURKHOV, RUSSIAN OPERATIONS CHIEF

The head of ISS operations is Emil Durkhov, a white-haired 62-year-old who walks with a stick. He holds sway over the TSUP mission control centre where everything plays out on Earth.

This hero of the Soviet space program was on MIR twenty years ago when a violent solar storm swept the first Russian station away. He is close to Anna – he knew her mother well – and is unhappy about her return to the cosmodrome. His main concern is to quell the diplomatic crisis sparked by the ISS docking accident.

### CREDITS:



# LEX SHRAPNEL

## ANTHONY KURZ, AMERICAN ASTRONAUT

Anthony is a military-trained US astronaut whose late arrival on this new mission is viewed with suspicion by some.

He seems to cultivate his aura of mystery, playing on the dark and light sides of his personality. But his jokey demeanour hides a genuinely complex character – an inner darkness and gravity that are part of his magnetic charm. Kurz is a man in search of the absolute – the kind of man who would give his life for a cause, science, or... for love.

### CREDITS:





# KARINA ARUTYUNYAN

LYDIA JOUKOVSKAIA,  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S DELEGATE

Lydia is the eyes and ears of Moscow at Baikonur.

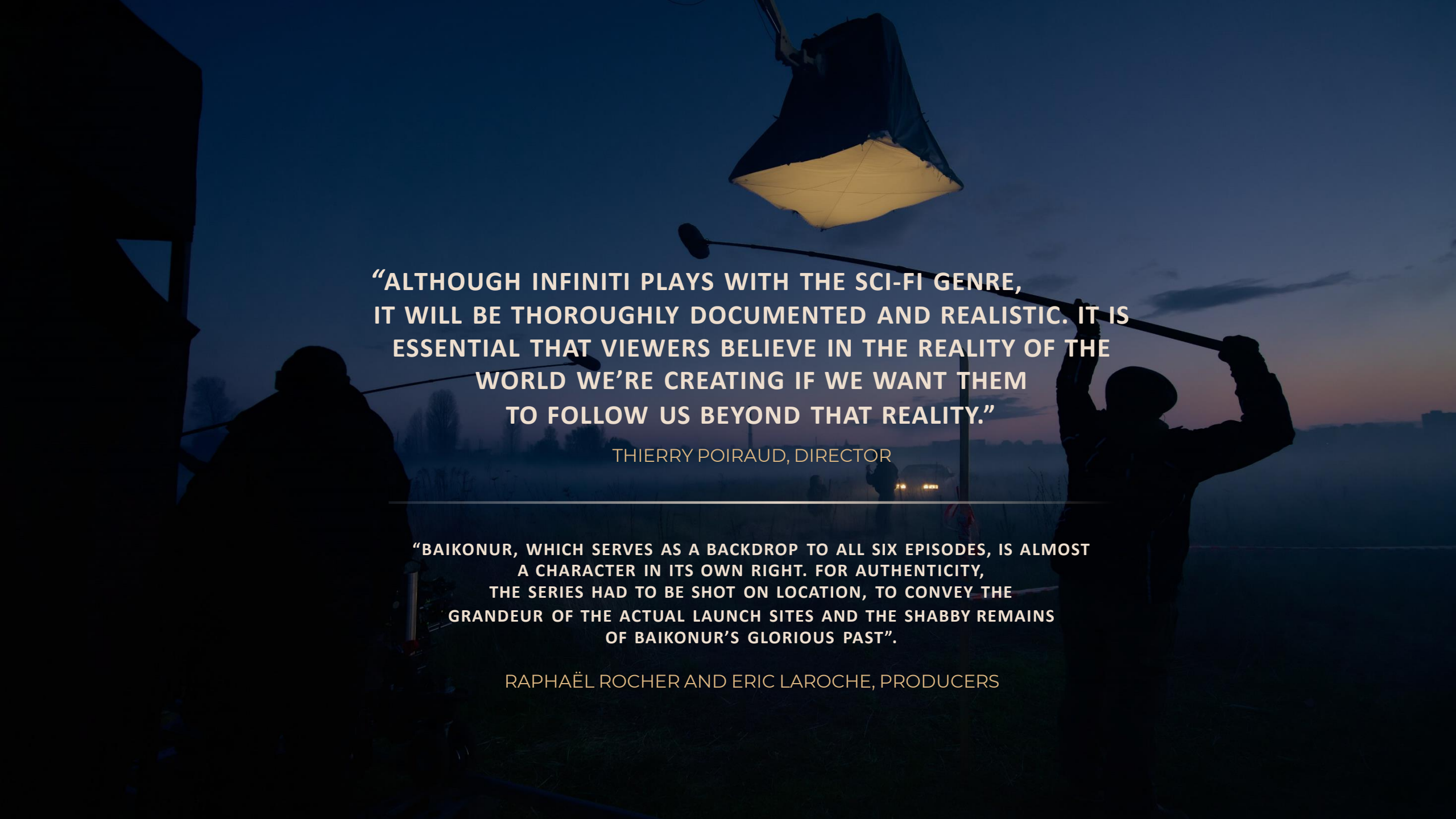
Formerly a Red Army colonel, she is now a seasoned politician with plenty of crisis experience. Strong-willed and domineering, sometimes scathing, she is familiar with the ways of the former USSR and the Army. She's Russia incarnate, and she hides a deeply Russian soul, a tendency to elevate feelings and events to theological and philosophical heights.

CREDIT:





# THE TEAM

A film set at dusk. In the foreground, two crew members are silhouetted against the dark sky. One is on the left, and another is on the right, holding a long boom microphone. Above them, a large, illuminated light fixture is suspended. The background shows a hazy landscape with some distant lights, possibly from a launch site.

**“ALTHOUGH INFINITI PLAYS WITH THE SCI-FI GENRE,  
IT WILL BE THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED AND REALISTIC. IT IS  
ESSENTIAL THAT VIEWERS BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF THE  
WORLD WE’RE CREATING IF WE WANT THEM  
TO FOLLOW US BEYOND THAT REALITY.”**

THIERRY POIRAUD, DIRECTOR

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**“BAIKONUR, WHICH SERVES AS A BACKDROP TO ALL SIX EPISODES, IS ALMOST  
A CHARACTER IN ITS OWN RIGHT. FOR AUTHENTICITY,  
THE SERIES HAD TO BE SHOT ON LOCATION, TO CONVEY THE  
GRANDEUR OF THE ACTUAL LAUNCH SITES AND THE SHABBY REMAINS  
OF BAIKONUR’S GLORIOUS PAST”.**

RAPHAËL ROCHER AND ERIC LAROCHE, PRODUCERS



DIRECTOR

**THIERRY  
POIRAUD**



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**CHRISTOPHE  
NUYENS**



PRODUCTION COMPANY

**EMPREINTE  
DIGITALE**



PRODUCTION COMPANY

**FEDERATION  
ENTERTAINMENT**





STAR TREK: DISCOVERY



BLADE RUNNER: 2049



LIFE OF PI

**BUF**

SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS




WATCHMEN



GAME OF THRONES: SEASON 4



AVATAR



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

## THIERRY POIRAUD

INFINITI begins like a classic murder mystery with a pair of investigators trying to uncover a dark plot – the kind of well-oiled machine that viewers are familiar with, and can get comfortably involved in, before we lead them into a fantasy story. My aim is to take the most skeptical viewers by the hand and lead them into space, into other dimensions, without them realising, until the inconceivable suddenly becomes plausible.

The two storylines – one set in the plains, the other in the cosmodrome and in space – intertwine and visually overlap throughout the series. This narrative approach allows me to create a new visual universe combining and contrasting the vast open spaces and mineral beauty of the Kazakh plains and the confined sterilized interiors of ultra-modern spaceships. The result will add a new chapter to the tried and tested crime-story genre: a “cosmic crime story” with adventure, political intrigue, mystery and a touch of poetry.

But beyond notions of genre, the true driving force behind the characters' actions is love: the love that drives a small-town Kazakh cop to seek the truth about his son's death; the love that sends a young French woman on a dangerous journey into space to save a US astronaut in distress – her partner in an unexpected and irrational love affair. The grit and determination of the unlikely detective duo, stimulated by their powerful emotions, lead them to the limits of what is possible.

I want INFINITI to deliver on its promise of spectacular drama. By mixing archives and 3D reconstructions, we can create scenes that are as realistic as the images we get from space. We want to take the “fiction” out of science fiction. This is the challenge we've set ourselves with INFINITI: to do away with the boundaries of the sci-fi genre and of realism, in both the writing and the directing. The more viewers believe in what they see, the more they will go along with the fantasy.

# PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

RAPHAËL ROCHER & ERIC LAROCHE

After the series MISSIONS, Empreinte Digitale is reaching for the stars again with a bold and original new mini-series, INFINITI. Written by Stéphane Pannetier and Julien Vanlerenberghe, and directed by Thierry Poiraud for Canal+, this exciting project features a mix of established actors and newcomers and breaks down the usual barriers between genres.

Baikonur, which serves as a backdrop to all six episodes, is almost a character in its own right. The town was built around the cosmodrome; it played a major role in the space conquest and is the last place on Earth that still sends humans into space. Baikonur is a dilapidated town that seems incapable of moving on from its Soviet past. A whole chunk of the crime story plays out in its dingy streets and Soviet housing projects – a desolate, depopulated setting that contrasts with the confined interiors of the ISS.

On the vast Kazakh plains, Baikonur is living out its last hours. For authenticity, the series had to be shot on location, to convey the grandeur of the actual launch sites and the shabby remains of Baikonur's glorious past.

We are extremely proud to be working on a new genre series in sync with the call for innovative projects at CANAL+. After the Netflix series MARIANNE and the feature film LET'S DANCE, INFINITI is another joint project with Federation, who share our passion for high-flying ventures.





# INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# WORLD PREMIERE AT CANNESERIES 2022 (APRIL 2ND)

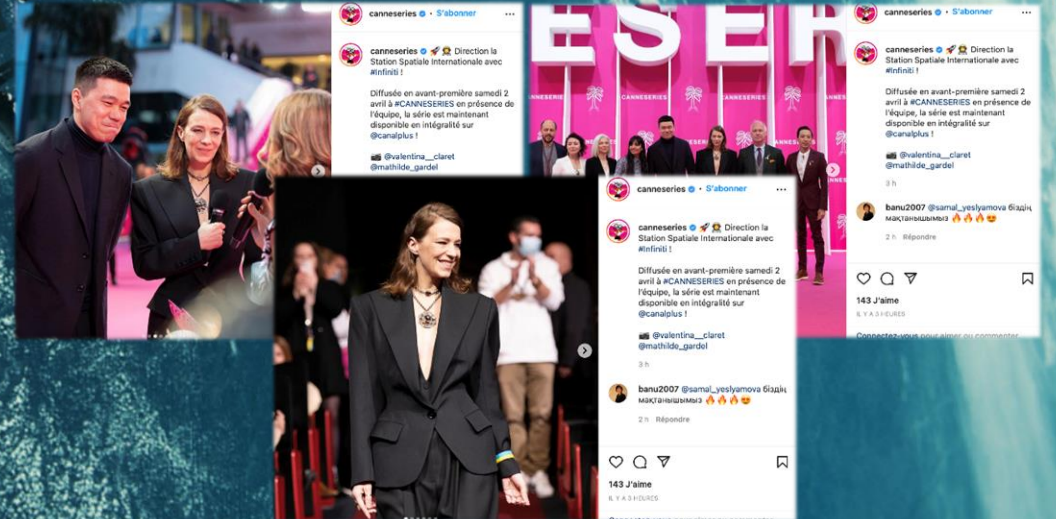
**STUDIOCANAL**  
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CANNESERIES  
Out of  
Competition  
Official Selection  
2022

SCREENING OF THE FIRST TWO EPISODES AND PINK CARPET  
WITH TALENTS ATTENDING FOLLOWED BY PRESS ACTIVITIES

## Note from the artistic direction

A new original creation by CANAL+, *Infiniti* delves with ambition into a journey tinged with supernatural and even mysticism. Through a very surprising narrative, the series takes place in visually stunning Kazakh landscapes and spatial universe.



### Studiocanal's 'Infiniti' Leads Raft of Canal+ Creation Originale Global Sales (EXCLUSIVE)

Bowing in [Canneseries](#) official selection, six-episode miniseries "Infiniti" isn't just for sci-fi aficionados, Empreinte Digitale producer Eric Laroche told *Variety*.

Co-produced between France and Belgium, the latest [Canal Plus](#) offering – created by Stéphane Pannetier and Julien Vanlerenberghe – interweaves multiple storylines, moving from the International Space Station (ISS) that suddenly goes silent to an investigation in Kazakhstan, where a beheaded, wax-covered body is found by a local cop.

Discouraged by his superiors, Isaak (Daniyar Alshinov) decides to solve the mystery, while French astronaut Anna Zarathi (Céline Sallette) pursues her dream of space travel.

"Having more than one genre, especially in a TV series, is very interesting. But one of them still needs to form the skeleton of the show. In our case, it's the murder mystery," says Laroche.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

### Banner Canal Plus Original 'Infiniti' Bows at Canneseries, Blending Sci-Fi, Kazakh Noir and Love

At the [Unifrance Rendez-Vous](#) in Biarritz, [Studiocanal](#) revealed further sales on its high-budget sci-fi thriller "Infiniti," produced by Empreinte Digitale and Federation Entertainment Belgium, as well as a raft of sales on other [Canal+](#) Creation Originale drama series.

The show has already sold to more than 60 territories internationally, including Spain, Portugal and Latin America. It has now been acquired by AMC Networks International, SBS (Australia), Now Studio (Hong Kong), TV2 (Norway), NOVA (Greece), Go3 (Baltics), HOT (Israel) and Telus (English speaking Canada). More deals are in the pipeline.

"Infiniti" blends a sci-fi crime thriller with political intrigue and a classic love story woven through, as well as echoes of the current global space race.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)



"An intriguing series that blends multiple genres while taking thematic and visual inspiration from the likes of *Apocalypse Now*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Blade Runner 2049*."  
Michael Pickard, Drama Quarterly

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

**Writers Stéphane Pannetier & Julien Vanlerenberghe and producer Eric Laroche tell DQ about making Canal+ drama *Infiniti*, a six-part story that blends science fiction, crime, politics and romance against the backdrop of space.**



By Michael Pickard

MEDIA COVER IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

- SBS



*"It's this blend of a True Detective-inspired narrative style infused with the contemplative nature of Philip K. Dick's sci-fi novels that sets this series apart."*

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

**Sci-fi gets a noir makeover as a slow-burn whodunnit in 'Infiniti'**

MEDIA COVER IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

- AMC



*"This six-episode French production delves into a journey with supernatural overtones and touches of mysticism." AMC*

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

**The mysteries of space and time come to AMC+ with 'Infiniti'**

# LIST OF BROADCASTERS



HONG KONG



BRAZIL & LATIN AMERICA



GERMANY



NOVA

GREECE



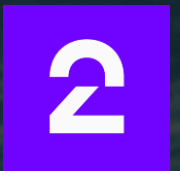
POLAND



CANADA



PAN BALTICS



NORWAY



AUSTRALIA



TURKEY



ISRAEL



evision

MIDDLE EAST



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