

FEDERATION
studios

The new series by Oscar-winning director Jean-Xavier De Lestrade

SAMBER

**ONE ROAD,
COUNTLESS VICTIMS,
30 YEARS UNPUNISHED.**

**A record-breaking success
on France Televisions**

WATCH
THE TRAILER



6 X 1 HOUR



france.tv

21% market share on launch night (nov. 13th 2023)
Breaking record figures in primetime on France 2 and on france.tv.

Samber is the most watched series ever
in France Television's platform history,
and a huge success on BBC iPlayer.

Based on true events

*

The story of decades of collective blindness

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**A must-see series about sexual
violence against women**

SYNOPSIS

Late 80's in Northern France, women are being sexually assaulted along the same road by the Samber river – with attacks taking place early mornings and in a similar style. The police fail to get to grips with the extent of these assaults or make a connection between the cases. The justice system is overwhelmed by the accumulating cases. It will take 30 years to catch a man, who never stopped attacking women and is responsible for at least 54 cases of rape or sexual assault. Samber is a thriller that recounts the progression of the investigation, and its repercussions from the 80's through to 2018 and the beginning of the #metoo era.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jean-Xavier De Lestrade

[The Staircase, Murder on a Sunday morning, Sin City Law, Laetitia...]

When Alice Géraud, writer and journalist, told me about her investigation about this story, I immediately felt compelled to share it with the world. I also felt a sense of necessity, a common legacy that had to be acknowledged. **If it were a fiction, no one would have believed it.** But it is a true story*.

To tell the story of SAMBER is to address 30 years of failure in considering rape victims; it is to recount the gradual transformation of a society that took decades to acknowledge that sexual crime is a plague. And women (and children) are its primary casualties.

This is also a story of denial. When the police eventually recognized the gravity of the case, it was difficult for them to contemplate that the man they were searching for might be right in front of their eyes.

SAMBER is the tale of a predator, living amongst his prey, in widespread indifference. **An exemplification of “the banality of evil”.**

**Rapist Dino Scala has been tried and convicted for 54 rapes and sexual assaults. Several other complaints are still under investigation.*

AN INNOVATIVE NARRATION: Six episodes, six points of view, over 30 years

Episode 1: **Christine (The victim)** – 1988 – Starring **Alix Poisson** *(The returned, Six Women)*

Episode 2: **Irène (The judge)** – 1996 – Starring **Pauline Parigot** *(Soldiers, HPI)*

Episode 3: **Arlette (The Mayor)** – 2002 – Starring **Noémie Lvovsky** *(Camille Rewinds, Farewell, My Queen)*

Episode 4: **Cécile (The Scientist)** – 2004 – Starring **Clémence Poesy** *(The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon, Tenet)*

Episode 5: **Winckler (The police inspector)** – 2011 – Starring **Olivier Gourmet** *(Oussekiné, La Promesse)*

Episode 6: **Enzo (The rapist)** 2018 – Starring – **Jonathan Turnbull** *(Soldiers)*

A worldwide success

already sold in 50+ countries



UK



Portugal



Spain



Japan



South Korea



Russia

A record-breaking success praised by the press

“Jean-Xavier de Lestrade’s new series is highly accurate, and avoids the usual trappings of ‘true crime’, resulting in an outstanding piece of fiction”

Le Monde

“An enlightening mini-series where the true crime becomes a social issue.”

Télérama

“Jean-Xavier de Lestrade’s latest masterpiece.”

France Info

“A disturbing yet essential series that shines a spotlight on the very slow response by society and key institutions when it comes to sexual crimes.”

Les Echos

“A superb and emotive piece of work.”

L’Humanité

“This standout mini-series retraces 30 years of collective disregard, and finally gives a voice to victims.”

La Croix

“Everything is spot on. This is a series that wakes you up to really see things through an honest lens.”

Le Parisien



An incredible international press review

“French talent played a major role in the true crime boom; as director, Oscar-winner Jean-Xavier de Lestrade could easily call himself godfather of the genre.”

Variety

“The French can boast of having invented modern true crime.”

El Pais

“This is not an easy series to watch. It is distressing and uncomfortable. But it also stands as an important artefact of outrage, spotlighting the institutional failings and ingrained cultural misogyny.”

The Guardian

“The stories of the women who were forgotten are brought back to life, in what is the uneasiest of tributes.”

Telegraph

“Thus, episode after episode, El caso del Sambre adds themes to its already powerful initial premise.” of a gritty thriller.”

El Mundo



A multi-awarded series

Shanghai TV Festival (Magnolia Awards) 2024

Best Foreign TV Film/Miniseries

The American French Film Festival 2024

Best Series

ACS Awards 2024

Best Production

Best Direction

Best Supporting Role in TV Series

Best Performance 40' (Alix Poisson)

Best Series 40'

Prix Italia 2024

Official Selection

Directed by Jean-Xavier de LESTRADE

Written and created by Alice GÉRAUD and Marc HERPOUX, based on the investigation of Alice GÉRAUD

With Alix POISSON, Clémence POESY, Olivier GOURMET, Noémie LVOVSKY, Jonathan TURNBULL, Pauline PARIGOT

Produced by WHAT'S UP FILMS (Matthieu Belghiti), Federation Studios (Pascal Breton, Lionel Uzan) in coproduction with VERSUS PRODUCTION

Original broadcaster: France Televisions



FEDERATION
international

france.tv

