
Plot Twist! The TV and film
industry's big shake up
A guide for translators.

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About Me

- Twenty + years in Film & TV
 - Specialist in international distribution
 - Writer
 - Translator
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2024 felt like this...



AI Dubbing



When do
filmmakers
think about
localisation?



Getting paid... or not.



2025 Whickers Cost of Docs

- 13% of English-speaking documentary makers were able to take a wage from their production fund.
 - 34% of English-speaking respondents say that they need mental health support but cannot afford to access it.
 - Commissioners are funding fewer and fewer projects – more films are self-funded.
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Production Companies

Freelance filmmakers – TV and film

Independent producers – TV and film

Groups (e.g. Endemol Shine, All3)

In-house production

Streaming Platforms

There is life beyond Netflix!



Distributors and Agents

Sales

Acquisitions

Markets

Development

Co-productions





Broadcasters

- National FTA broadcasters
 - FAST channels – niche interests
 - Broadcasters who acquire finished content
 - Specialists - sports, film, news
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My TV clients want you to know....

- Check formatting needed before you start the project
 - Foreign language versions are produced in layers – v/o, dialogue, maps and on-screen text, so everything must be translated and clearly marked
 - Research compliance regulations in your target language
 - The director has the final word - even if you are correct
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What do they need?

Production Companies – co-production pitches, funding applications, scripts, synopses, subtitles

Film festivals – subtitles, funding applications, publicity materials

Streaming platforms and aggregators in target language – subtitles, synopses, localization.

Distributors and agents – catalogues, pitch documents, scripts, subtitles

Broadcasters – scripts, post-editing, news and current affairs

So... do you speak TV?



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