PEOPLE FEAR KINGS
KINGS FEAR POSES
POSES FEAR
THE MEDICI
Format 8 x 50'

Genre Murder Mystery
Political Thriller

Created by Nicholas Meyer
Frank Spotnitz

Directed by Sergio Mimica-Gezzan

Executive Producers Frank Spotnitz
Luca & Matilde Bernabei

Locations Florence: Renaissance real locations
Tuscan countryside
Rome

Shooting September 2015

Delivery September 2016

Production Company Lux Vide SPA
Big Light Productions Ltd

International Distribution Wild Bunch TV
Giovanni de’ Medici, thanks to a contract stipulated with the Papacy twenty years before, has transformed his family bank into an unprecedented economic force. But then, Giovanni is mysteriously murdered, and his sons, Cosimo and Lorenzo, are forced to face a range of enemies plotting to oust the Medici from power. First in line is Rinaldo Albizzi, head of the faction of nobles, who stands opposed not only to the rise of the middle class, favored by the Medici, but also to Cosimo’s vision for the city, including his patronage of magnificent works of art and architecture by such great artists as Donatello and Brunelleschi.

Also in the Medici family keeping the peace is not an easy task. Lorenzo and Cosimo are nearly opposite in temperament, and Cosimo’s marriage to Contessina de Bardi – formed as a political alliance but then matured into a formidable partnership – will be severely strained during his exile in Venice. It is there that Cosimo takes up with Maddalena, a beautiful slave who becomes his mistress and the mother of his illegitimate son.

In the meantime, the mystery of who killed Giovanni continues to lurk behind the scenes, and a new arch-enemy appears on the horizon in the person of the rival banker Pazzi. All the while, the onerous guilt of the compromises made and the evil done for the good of the family weighs heavily on Cosimo’s soul. He must decide how far he is willing to go to preserve his vision of Florence – a vision we now know as the Renaissance.
Frank Spotnitz's career in television includes creating, writing and producing series with networks, cable, streaming and other production companies all over the world. His credits include: the X-Files with Fox; Amazon's The Man in the High Castle with Scott Free and Headline; Crossing Lines season 3 with Tandem/Studio Canal; Hunted with Cinemax/HBO and BBC1; Transporter: the Series with TNT, Atlantique, M6, HBO Canada, EuropaCorp; Strike Back with Cinemax/HBO and Sky; Night Stalker with ABC; Michael Mann's crime series, Robbery Homicide Division, with CBS; unconventional heroes comedy-drama The Lone Gunmen with Fox; sci-fi drama Harsh Realm with Fox; and crime thriller Millennium with Fox.

As a screenwriter and director, Nicholas Meyer found success as a gifted filmmaker with a track record of producing crowd-pleasing Entertainment for both film and television. However, it was for his shepherding the franchise-saving sequel Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982) that Meyer would be most fondly remembered by genre film fans. He would be called back to contribute two more times on the successful iterations Star Trek IV: the Voyage Home (1986) and Star Trek VI: the Undiscovered Country (1991). More literary projects with a pair of adaptations based on novels by the revered American author Philip Roth - The Human Stain (2003) and Elegy (2008).
Sergio Mimica-Gezzan is a Croatian-born American film and television director. He has received three Directors Guild of America Awards for his work as an assistant director and is now a regular lead director in episodic television. He has often worked with Steven Spielberg as an assistant director. He directed several episodes of the reimagined Battlestar Galactica and Heroes, and the television adaptation of Ken Follett's The Pillars of the Earth. Mimica-Gezzan's other television credits include Invasion, Prison Break, Saving Grace, Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles and Falling Skies. In 2014 he directed the Halo: Nightfall digital feature.

**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

“Frank Spotnitz and his team of writers have created a feast of colorful characters and Luca Bernabei and his Lux Vide are unlocking the doors for us into some of the most amazing history. What a fascinating world to explore. The Medici’s Florence is the New York of the 15th century. The city’s dynamism gives birth to ridiculously many geniuses. It’s a perfect storm of human enterprise. The bustling economy and creative endeavors come to coexist in amazing harmony. And the Medicis are the catalysts of it all. Cosimo de’ Medici was one of the wealthiest businessmen in the world, who not only turned Europe’s trade and financing into an art, but then simply decided to funnel nearly half of his enormous fortune into most daring acts of human creativity ever.

I absolutely adore the clarity of Cosimo’s mind. He was fully aware of having the power to change the world and he did it. We wouldn’t be who we are today as a civilization if it hadn’t been for those wise Medici Florentines. They dreamed us up. The Medici family fought the gloom of the Middle Ages to provide us with the brightest of goals to aspire to. They installed belief in man’s potential to create beauty. It’s exactly this kind of bold mind frame that will soon move Columbus to sail out into the complete unknown.”
PRODUCER’S NOTE

Producing the “Medici: Masters of Florence” has been really meaningful for us. Above all because it represented a unique opportunity to set the story of the Medici Family in Tuscany and Florence, where the historical events took place. We decided to avoid the artificiality that a series entirely shot in a backlot could convey, preferring to set the Series mainly in the stunning city of Florence and other historical sites of Tuscany, and, where this was not possible, in our film studios with original and high-quality set design.

That was also a chance to shed light over the excellence of the Italian mastery of beauty, fashion and artisanal tradition. The best example of such skill and craftsmanship are the costumes designed by Alessandro Lai, a talent from the manifold Academy Award winner “Atelier Tirelli”, who crafted hundreds of magnificent costumes for many Italian and International masterpieces.

Such a demanding project needed a great ability for narrative. Therefore we joined forces with one of the masters of storytelling: American screenwriter Frank Spotnitz. This special mix between Italian art, artisanal tradition and Spotnitz’s talent for stories makes us confident to have won a great challenge, showing, through the story of the Medici family, the history of Renaissance.

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MATILDE BERNABEI
PRESIDENT
After starting her career as a journalist for the weekly magazine ‘Panorama’, she became the secretary-general of Asip, a company that worked on the creation of technical cooperation programs with developing countries. This experience brought her into the Montedison group where, at only 26 years of age, she became the manager of the group’s job creation program around industrial sites in southern Italy. In 1984, she became the strategy and development director of the newly created Iniziativa Me.Ta., a subsidiary of the Montedison group for the service and diversification sector. Following an important work experience as the managing director of the publishing company “Il Messaggero”, Matilde Bernabei began working for Lux Vide, and is currently president of the company.

LUCA BERNABEI
CEO
Luca Bernabei was born in Rome and holds a degree in Political Science from the La Sapienza University of Rome. He married Paola Lucanoni in 1995. They have six children. His first work experience was in advertising. In 1988 he began working for the advertising company Armando Testa and became Senior Account and vice-manager of New Business (including clients BNL, ENI, BMW, Plasmon, SIP and others). From 1992 to 1993 he worked as a producer for the BRW production company, creating commercials for several prestigious clients such as WWF, BNL, Nestlé, Coin, SIP, Cameo, Campari and Illy Caffe. He began working for Lux Vide in 1994 and, as Associate Producer, produced the first few miniseries in the Bible Series. In 2002 he was nominated Director of Production Activities, responsible for the entire product creation cycle, from set creation to post-production. After twenty-five years of experience in International production, in 2013 he was nominated first General Director then Managing Director of the company.
THE SERIES
SEASON 1
The Medici have changed Florence before Florence changed the world.
The Medici family suffers a great loss with the death of its patriarch GIOVANNI. When the designated heir COSIMO discovers that his father was poisoned, he decides to keep the news to himself and to put MARCO BELLO, his right-hand man, on the assassin’s trail. Cosimo, who has long abandoned his dream of becoming an artist, then takes his father’s place as head of the bank and of the Signoria, where he needs to defend himself against the hostility of the noble families, headed by RINALDO DEGLI ALBIZZI. When the Duke of Milan annexes the city of Lucca away from Florentine dominion, Cosimo must decide whether to side with the nobility, as Giovanni would have done, or to free himself from his father’s shadow.

The war is throwing Florence into chaos. PIERO, Cosimo’s only son, is eager to fight, but his wife LUCREZIA tries to restrain him. Meanwhile, Marco Bello continues his investigation into Giovanni’s murder, and tracks down a pharmacist who may know something.

While Cosimo’s brother LORENZO goes (in vain) to the Pope to ask for his intervention as peacemaker, Cosimo聘用 the artist BRUNELLESCHI to at last provide a dome for the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Only CONTESSINA, Cosimo’s wife, fully understands the value of that gesture and supports her husband. Just when Marco is at the point of obtaining the information he sought from the pharmacist, he finds the man stabbed to death. Cosimo manages to “buy” in secret the withdrawal of Milan’s troops, thus saving the city – but in the meantime Florence has again fallen into the grip of the plague.
EPISODE 3  
**PESTILENCE**

The Medici take refuge in the country to avoid contagion, but Marco stays in Florence to investigate the Corona, a family that seems to have something to do with Giovanni’s murder. Shortly after breaking into their palazzo and finding the couple both dead of the plague, Marco hears that some men are dismantling the dome piece by piece. Albizzi has managed to foment the citizenry against Cosimo and his project, accusing him of the crime of usury. When Cosimo learns of the situation, he decides to return to Florence, even though his mother Piccarda has come down with the plague. Cosimo succeeds in saving the dome, which is still under construction, by turning the cathedral into an emergency hospital. However, in the meantime, in addition to Piccarda, the baby Lucrezia was carrying also dies. Albizzi then invents a ploy to get Cosimo arrested and held for trial.

EPISODE 4  
**JUDGMENT DAY**

Albizzi accuses Cosimo before the Signoria of wanting to be the city’s dictator, and the trial begins. In Palazzo Medici, they are discussing what can be done, and Lorenzo thinks of resorting to force. From prison, Cosimo asks Contessina to try bribing a member of the Signoria, to buy votes in his favor. Meanwhile, Piero seeks proof to exonerate his father from the accusation of usury. However, the situation worsens when Albizzi starts poisoning Cosimo’s food through his prison guard. Next, Lorenzo appears with an army outside the walls of the city. He and condottiero SFORZA are prepared to set Florence on fire if Cosimo is not released! Cosimo finds out what is happening and is willing to risk his life so that his family does not lose Florence, but Contessina goes against his wishes and negotiates exile rather than the death penalty, in exchange for the withdrawal of the troops.

EPISODE 5  
**TEPTATION**

While the Medici are in exile in Venice, the situation deteriorates day by day in Florence, with Albizzi imposing his rule over a city gravely depleted by the absence of the Medici. Contessina remains alone in the city, where she is at risk, but Cosimo is too busy to defend himself from Venetian plots or to find a way to safeguard his wife’s fate. Meanwhile, Contessina encounters EZIO CONTARINI, a childhood sweetheart she has never forgotten. Distance also leads Cosimo into temptation when he is attracted by a slave girl, MADDALENA. When Cosimo finds he must evaluate the chance to regain Florence by force, with the help of Milan, it will prove to be information provided by Contessina and Marco Bello that enable him to make the winning decision.

EPISODE 6  
**ASCENDANCY**

The return of the Medici to Florence is an out-and-out triumph, with Albizzi in prison for his attempt to become the city’s “tyrant.” The Signoria is inclined to sentence him to death, but when POPE EUGENE IV – having led to Florence following riots in Rome – asks for clemency for him, the situation becomes more complicated. While Marco Bello is uncertain whether to reveal to Cosimo his suspicions about Lorenzo, it seems that the latter is now about to be married. In addition, Contessina must deal with the presence of her husband’s mistress in her home. The Pope’s presence, too, makes Cosimo uneasy and pushes him to find a compromise to spare Albizzi’s life. In the end, Cosimo will have to decide how far he is willing to go to defend his family.
The Signoria now has a vacant chair, and Cosimo is asked to choose who should occupy it. Piero thinks that his moment has now come, but the banker Pazzi, too, has his eyes set on that seat. Meanwhile, Cosimo spends less and less time with Maddalena, who instead develops a rapport with Marco Bello. The latter at last decides to share with his master his suspicions regarding Lorenzo, and when Cosimo confronts his brother about his father’s murder, Lorenzo defends himself but Cosimo doesn’t believe him. In the meantime, Albizzi’s wife accuses Cosimo of her husband’s murder, which causes the Pope to leave Palazzo Medici and take up residence in a convent. Lucrezia, sure of Lorenzo’s innocence, helps him – along with the accountant Ugo and Piero – to find evidence that seems to shift suspicion about Giovanni’s death to someone else: Marco Bello!

Pazzi has managed to convince the Pope to remove the Medici as Church bankers, but Cosimo is disinclined to surrender what he has worked so hard to attain. Meanwhile, Maddalena finds that she is pregnant; and when Contessina too finds it out, she is faced with the decision of what to do about the slave and her baby. Cosimo asks Lorenzo’s forgiveness and persuades him to stay and help him to incriminate Pazzi. While Cosimo goes to Rome in an effort to retake the city and the Papacy for Pope Eugene, Piero has to give a speech in the Signoria on his father’s behalf, to bring Cosimo’s strategy to completion. Lorenzo’s investigations lead him to discover evidence against Pazzi, but the consequences will prove tragic. In the end, Cosimo will once again find himself at a crossroads: what he chooses could safeguard the family’s future, but it might also condemn his soul for eternity.
THEY BET ON THE FUTURE
AND THEY WON
Richard Madden is best known for his compelling role as Robb Stark in the acclaimed HBO series Game Of Thrones. Earlier this year, Richard debuted in the leading role of Prince Charming in Disney’s live-action Cinderella, directed by Kenneth Branagh, which has gone on to gross over 500 million in worldwide box office. He recently achieved critical acclaim in the Discovery Channel original mini-series Klondike and wrapped filming on the BBC film Lady Chatterley's Lover. Most recently he completed filming on Bastille Day alongside Idris Elba, directed by James Watkins.
A two-time Academy Award winner and seven-time nominee, whose arrival in Hollywood helped usher in a new and revitalized approach to filmmaking, Dustin Hoffman continues to add singular performances to a career rich with unforgettable characters. Among his unforgettable films The Graduate, Midnight Cowboy, Lenny, Marathon Man, All the President’s Men, Tootsie, and Wag the Dog. His career is a track record of success ranging from acting to producing and directing and dubbing lately lending his voice to the box office hit, Kung Fu Panda. On television, Hoffman starred in Michael Mann’s and David Milch’s acclaimed drama, Luck for HBO.
Stuart Martin is an actor, known for Robin Hood (2010), Slow West (2015) and Far Cry 3 (2012). In Game of Thrones, he played Morgan’s friend, a Lannister soldier, in the Season 4 episode, Two Swords. He also lent his voice to various characters in Assassin’s Creed III.

Annabel Scholey was born in January 1984 in Yorkshire, England. She is an actress, known for Walking on Sunshine (2014), Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II (2011) and Being Human (2008). Scholey has worked extensively in Classical theatre. She most recently appeared (July/Aug 2013) in the revival of Passion Play by Peter Nichols. Annabel Scholey played the lead role of Michelle ‘Midge’ Lerner in the BBC Three comedy drama Personal Affairs. Also for television, she played Diana Rivers in the 2006 BBC adaptation of Jane Eyre. She has also appeared in episodes of Doctors, EastEnders, Holby City and Poirot.
PIERO DE’ MEDICI
Alessandro Sperduti

Italian actor, born in 1987, young but with many roles that are quickly shaping his career. In 2014 he lived an extraordinary experience to be among the stars of the new feature film of Ermanno Olmi Greenery will bloom again. We saw him at the cinema in the film How nice to make love by Fausto Brizzi. He played in the TV series signed by Pupi Avati, A marriage. Between 2015 and 2016 we will see him again on TV directed by Carlo Carlei in the miniseries The Border and for the second time with Pupi Avati in the miniseries The Marriage of Laura.

LUCREZIA DE’ MEDICI
Valentina Belle

The actress was born on 16 April 1992 in Verona. She attended the Experimental Centre of Cinematography in Rome and studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in New York. In 2013 she has a part in the film The obscene life directed by Renato De Maria, in competition at the Venice Film Festival in 2014 in the Horizons section. In 2014 she acted in The Hole, directed by Daniele Cipri and Marvelous Boccaccio by the Taviani brothers. In 2015 she was in the new film by Ben Stiller. Also in 2014, one of the stars of the webseries Under, directed by Ivan Silvestrini, which is a huge web hit. She won numerous awards at the Rome Web Fest7, as best actress.

PICCARDA DE’ MEDICI
Frances Barber

Frances Barber has worked in a string of award-winning productions for the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, taking roles as diverse as Eliza in Pygmalion and Lady Macbeth in Macbeth. Among her film appearances are roles in Stephen Frears’ Prick Up (1987), Dennis Potter’s Secret Friends (1991) and John Irvine’s Shiner (2000). Frances made her television breakthrough in Mike Leigh’s Play for Today: Home Sweet Home (1982). Subsequent TV work includes Kenneth Branagh’s Twelfth Night, or What You Will (1988) as Viola. On stage, Frances won the 1984 Olivier award for Most Promising Newcomer as Marguerite in the RSC production of Camille. She has worked in some of the UK’s most prestigious theaters, including the Royal National Theatre, the RSC, Hull Truck, Oxford Playhouse, the Royal Exchange, and many others.

UGO BENCINI
Ken Bones

Doctor Who (BBC), Tyrant - Series 2 (Fox 21), AD (LightWorkers Media), Atlantis 2 series (Little Monster Films/BBC Wales) Scott And Bailey (Red Productions for ITV), Casualty (BBC), The Great Train Robbery (World Productions), Doctor Who S06 (BBC), Atlantis (Little Monster Films/BBC), Starlings (Baby Cow), Foyle’s War (F’War Productions), The Bible (Lightworks Media), Da Vinci’s Demons (BBC Worldwide/Starz), Young Dracula (BBC), Holby City (BBC), Nativity (BBC), Midsomer Murders (BBC), Any Human Heart (Carnival), Identity (ITV), Henry VIII – Mind of a Tyrant (Red House), The Bill (Talkback Thames), Law and Order (Kudos). Doctors (BBC), Wallis & Edward (Company Pictures), Paris (Talkback), Moving Story (Central TV), Seekers (Central TV), A Skirt Through History (BBC) Frankie and Johnnie (BBC) Dispatches - Black and Blue (Channel 4).
MESSER BARDI
DAVID BRADLEY

Nominated for 2009 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor for No Man's Land. Nominated for 2006 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Henry IV Part I & II at the National Theatre. Nominated for 1993 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actor for Henry IV Part II at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Winner of 1990 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for King Lear at the National Theatre. Winner of BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor for Broadchurch – 2013.

RINALDO DEGLI ALBIZZI
LEX SHRAPNEL

Winner of Cult TV Award 2009 - Breakthrough Performance for TV series Minder. Nominated for The Milton Shulman Award for Outstanding Newcomer at the 2008 Evening Standard Awards for Henry IV Part I: Ian Charleson commendation for roles in Henry VI - 2006. The short film Strange Weather, which Lex both produced and acted in, has been nominated for Best UK Short at the Raindance Film Festival 2015.

MARCO BELLO
GUIDO CAPRINO

The Sicilian born actor moved to Milan to work as a model, then to Rome to start his career as an actor. After shooting several short films and acted in theater, he debuts in television and film. His first appearance on the big screen is for The Wedding Director (2005), directed by Marco Bellocchio. In 2007 he co-starred in the role of John the Baptist, in The Viceroy, directed by Roberto Faenza. His television debut is in 2003 with the series of RAI 2, Wind west. Among other television works, TV movie Matilde in 2005, the miniseries The Last Frontier (2006), and the TV series General Practice (2007), all broadcast on Rai 1. From 2009 to 2011 he played the main character, with the role of Luca Manara, for RAI 1. In 2015 he is one of the characters of the television series 1992.

ANDREA PAZZI
DANIEL CALTAGIRONE

Daniel Caltagirone is an English actor, best known for his roles in The Beach, Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life, and the Oscar winning movie The Pianist. His breakthrough role came in Guy Ritchie’s television series Lock Stock. He has also starred in internationally acclaimed shows such as Friends and The Tudors.
Miriam Leone was born on April 14, 1985 in Catania, Sicily, Italy. She is an actress, known for I soliti idioti: Il film (2011), La scuola più bella del mondo (2014) and Distretto di polizia (2000). Most recent works for television are the TV series of Sky Italy in 1992, set in Milan Tangentopoli, in which she plays the character of Veronica Castle, an aspiring showgirl ready to do anything to reach fame and success, alongside Stefano Accorsi. In the same year she played the role of Clara Grandi Fossà, the main character of another TV series: The veiled lady, for Rai 1. In 2015 she began to shoot the detective fiction Don’t Kill for Rai3, in which she plays a young police inspector.

Sarah Felberbaum

The actress was born on March 20, 1981 in London, England. She is an actress, known for Il gioiellino (2011), Due vite per caso (2010) and Il principe abusivo (2013). For television she recently shot Young Montalbano and A big family. The series are both aired on RAI 1 and are still ongoing.
LOCATIONS
THE RENAISSANCE
AT ANY PRICE
Shot in the original locations of Tuscany.
VILLA D' ESTÈ
CGI

The unimaginable comes to life with accurate CGI reconstructions of a legendary historical period.
THE FIRST DYNASTY THAT REIGNED WITHOUT A CROWN
DRAWINGS

Starting from an artistic reconstruction of the original locations the genius and the beauty of Renaissance comes back to life.
MONEY DOESN'T SLEEP, FROM SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS
Wild Bunch, listed on the German stock market, is a leading independent European film distribution company that manages a library of more than 2,200 titles. A major player in international sales, the company developed a pan-European distribution network and is committed to direct distribution in France (Wild Bunch Distribution and Wild Side), Italy (BIM Distribuzione), Germany (Wild Bunch Germany/Central Film), Spain (Vertigo) and Austria (Wild Bunch Austria). Wild Bunch has also positioned itself on the market of direct electronic distribution via its French VOD/ SVOD platform, FilmoTV. With the launch of Wild Bunch TV, the company expands its activities to co-production and distribution of TV series dedicated to the international market.

Lux Vide is a leading European TV and feature film production company that has produced more than 600 primetime hours of programming. They specialize in international TV series and movies, including Coco Chanel, War & Peace, and Anna Karenina. Their primetime historical drama series War & Peace was co-produced by seven countries, and The Bible was distributed in 140 countries. Lux Vide’s Joseph won an Emmy Award for Best Miniseries, and their miniseries Coco Chanel was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards, including Best Actress for Shirley MacLaine. Since its founding in 1992, Lux Vide has achieved partnerships with many major international TV broadcasters and distributors such as CBS, Turner, Lifetime, Mediaset España, and Beta Film, among others.

Award-winning American writer and producer Frank Spotnitz founded Big Light Productions Ltd. in 2013 to create and oversee a diverse slate of international television series including drama, comedy, and documentaries. Under its banner, the London-based production company has co-produced the Amazon drama series The Man in the High Castle, Crossing Lines season 3, and Transporter: The Series season 2 for U.S. and international markets. Big Light signed a first-look distribution deal with Tandem/Studio Canal in April 2014 and has since become one of the fastest-growing independent production companies in Europe.

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