

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**Cinebook to publish cult graphic novel series “XIII”  
in English from May 2010**

Canterbury, Kent, 28 August, 2009—Over the last 25 years, the dark, engrossing graphic-novel series “XIII” has attracted a cult following in French-speaking countries and beyond, with readers eagerly awaiting every one of the 19th instalments published so far.

Launched in 1984 by two Belgian authors, Jean Van Hamme and William Vance, “XIII” has been turned into a video game by Ubisoft as well as a TV miniseries starring Stephen Dorff and Val Kilmer, which premiered on France’s Canal+ in October 2008 and on NBC in the US in February 2009. Such is the popularity of the graphic novel that a gallery of its characters drawn by Vance was used to illustrate special-edition “XIII” scratch card tickets in France since 2000.

The central character in “XIII” is an amnesiac on the run, caught in the crossfire as he tries to understand his true identity while attempting to make sense of various conspiracies swirling around him. With many twists and turns, it’s a compulsive read for teenagers and adults alike and has already been translated into several languages.

Initially serialized in *Spirou* magazine in 1984, “XIII” was created by Jean Van Hamme, the author behind “Thorgal” and “Largo Winch”—the latter in comic and book form as well as on the big screen,” and William Vance, illustrator of the bestsellers “Howard Flynn,” “Bruce Hawker,” “Bruno Brazil,” “Bob Morane and Marshall Blueberry.”

From May 2010, Cinebook will publish “XIII” in English at the rate of one new volume every two months. Only three episodes of the cult Franco-Belgian *bande dessinée* originally saw the light of day in English in the late Eighties, so this will enable fans new and old to discover and rediscover the mystery series.

The Canterbury-based publisher has acquired the English-language publishing rights in an exclusive agreement with Mediatoon.

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“I’m delighted that Cinebook has committed to publishing “XIII” alongside “Thorgal,” “Largo Winch” and “Lady S,” as well as “Blake & Mortimer.” “XIII” is another one of the many prestigious series Jean Van Hamme has been associated with over the years,” says Mediatoon director of Foreign Rights Sophie Castille.

“I’m proud to add this legendary series to our catalogue, especially as readers have been clamouring for it for several years,” notes Cinebook founder Olivier Cadic.

“XIII” joins internationally-famous series such as “IR\$,” “The Scorpion,” “Insiders” and “Aldebaran,” already published by Cinebook in addition to other Van Hamme series, further strengthening its portfolio of English-language titles particularly popular with teenagers and adults.

These and other Cinebook titles are distributed:

In North America, by National Book Network Distribution, Inc. (NBN), <a href="http://www.nbnbooks.com">www.nbnbooks.com</a> .	In Europe (except France & Benelux), by Turnaround Publisher Services, <a href="http://www.turnaround-uk.com">www.turnaround-uk.com</a>
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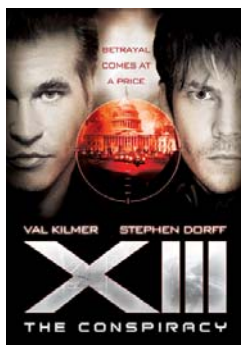
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To read more about the company or to view Cinebook’s catalogue, visit <http://www.cinebook.com>.



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**Brief personal profile of Olivier Cadic:**

In 1982, at age 20, Olivier Cadic started electronics firm Info Elec in Paris. In 1996, he transferred the company's business offices to England, where he founded the association *La France libre . . . d'entreprendre* ("Free France . . . free enterprise") to assist other French businessowners. In 1999, Cadic raised €10 million in funding and created PCB007.com, the first global Internet marketplace for printed circuits. In 2003, observing the electronics market trend toward Asian production, Cadic began systematically divesting his activities in this domain. At the end of 2005, with the founding of his publishing firm Cinebook Ltd, Cadic began to promote Franco-Belgian comic strips to the English-speaking world. He has published approximately 30 series in English, including "Lucky Luke," "Blake & Mortimer," "Largo Winch" and "Thorgal." A self-described "history fanatic," Cadic coauthored the award-winning "Queen Margot" series, Cinebook's only original graphic novel line to date.

With the support of current French president Nicolas Sarkozy, Cadic was elected in 2006 to the A.F.E. (the assembly of French nationals living abroad) to represent French citizens living in the United Kingdom. In the order of protocol, he is third in line after the French Ambassador and the French General Consul.

MEDIATOON: Media-Participations, the European leader in comics publishing and in animated cartoon production, has created Mediatoon to oversee the group's various business activities outside the sphere of comic-book editing and animation production. Mediatoon, managed by Jean-Christophe Delpierre, includes four divisions.

MEDIATOON Foreign Rights, a division managed by Sophie Castille, is responsible for selling publishing rights to the comics to international publishers, magazines, and newspapers. These comics include those published by Dargaud, Dupuis, Lombard, Lucky Comics and Kana, as well as by several independent publishers, such as Tabary. Over 1.5 million comic albums in foreign languages are sold under license every year, in over 40 countries and in more than 30 languages.

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