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HBO Greenlights Goldman Pilot

JUNE 11, 2018



There's a lot happening these days, so much that some days it feels as if I cannot even keep up with my own life. So let me beg your indulgence for being late to the party with this news — but, yes, it is true, after more than a year of development, HBO has greenlit the first of the GAME OF THRONES successor shows that we've been working on, scripted by the amazing Jane Goldman.

Everybody else has already broken the news, so there's no sense in me just rehashing. You can read all about here:

https://www.newsarama.com/40289-hbo-greenlights-game-of-thrones-prequel-series-report.html

or here

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/video/hbo-moves-forward-pilot-order-untitled-game-thrones-prequel-thr-news-1118608

or in half a hundred other places. Pick the news outlet you like best,

To clarify, what we have here is a pilot order, not as yet a series order. Though of course we are all hoping that will follow.

Yes, this is a prequel, not a sequel. None of the characters or actors from GAME OF THRONES will appear in the new show. All of the successor shows we've been developing have been prequels, as I have mentioned before. This one really puts the PRE in prequel, since it is set not ninety years before GAME OF THRONES (like Dunk & Egg), or a few hundred years, but rather ten thousand years (well, assuming the oral histories of the First Men are accurate, but there are maesters at the Citadel who insist it has only been half that long). We're very early in the process, of course, with the pilot order just in, so we don't have a director yet, or a cast, or a location, or even a title. (My vote would be THE LONG NIGHT, which says it all, but I'd be surprised if that's where we end up. More likely HBO will want to work the phrase "game of thrones" in there somewhere. We'll know sooner or later).

We do have a showrunner: Jane Goldman, who penned the pilot script.

All of the news stories about the pilot being greenlit are slapping my own picture up there next to Jane's, which is very flattering but also a little misleading. Remember, they also slapped my picture up on the news stories about the TV development of Nnedi Okarafor's WHO FEARS DEATH, when they should have been using Nnedi's picture. I've consulted with all of the writers on all of the successor shows, and several of them have visited me in Santa Fe for long days of discussion, and we've gone back and forth in email, text, and telephone, so I have definitely been involved... but really, the accolades here should go to Jane. She has been an absolute thrill to work with... and my god, what a talent.

Those of you who are fans of not just GAME OF THRONES, but of television, film, and sf and fantasy in the broader sense are already well familiar with her work, whether you know it or not. She's wrote the KINGSMEN movies, scripted one X-MEN film and did the story for another, did the screenplay for the adaptation of Neil Gaiman's STARDUST, and for the superhero satire KICKASS as well. Among lots of other credits. Oh, and she's written the script for Disney's forthcoming live action version of THE LITTLE MERMAID too. Can't wait for that one.



I will try to keep you all informed as work progresses on the new show (whatever we end up calling it)... though, given the amount of stuff I am trying to juggle right now, news will probably break on a dozen other places before I get around to it, as happened here.

As for the other successor shows... if you have been following along, you know that we started with four, and eventually went to five. One of those has been shelved, I am given to understand, and of course Jane's pilot is now moving to film. But that does not mean the others are dead. Three more GAME OF THRONES prequels, set in different periods and featuring different characters and storylines, remain in active development. Everything I am told indicates that we could film at least one more pilot, and maybe more than one, in the years to come. We do have an entire world and tens of thousands of years of history to play with, after all. But this is television, so nothing is certain.

(Oh, and WHO FEARS DEATH is moving along well too, and I am very excited about that one as well. Selwyn Seyfu Hinds did a terrific job with his first draft of the pilot, based on Nnedi's novel).

(And yes, before you ask, work on WINDS OF WINTER continues, and remains my top priority. It is ridiculous to think otherwise. If I wasn't busy with WINDS, don't you think I'd be scripting one or more of these pilots myself? It's not as if I've never written for TV...)

So cross your fingers and your toes, fantasy fans. Some good stuff is coming. And let's have a round of applause for Jane Goldman.

Current Mood: excited

Tags: game of thrones, hbo, television

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