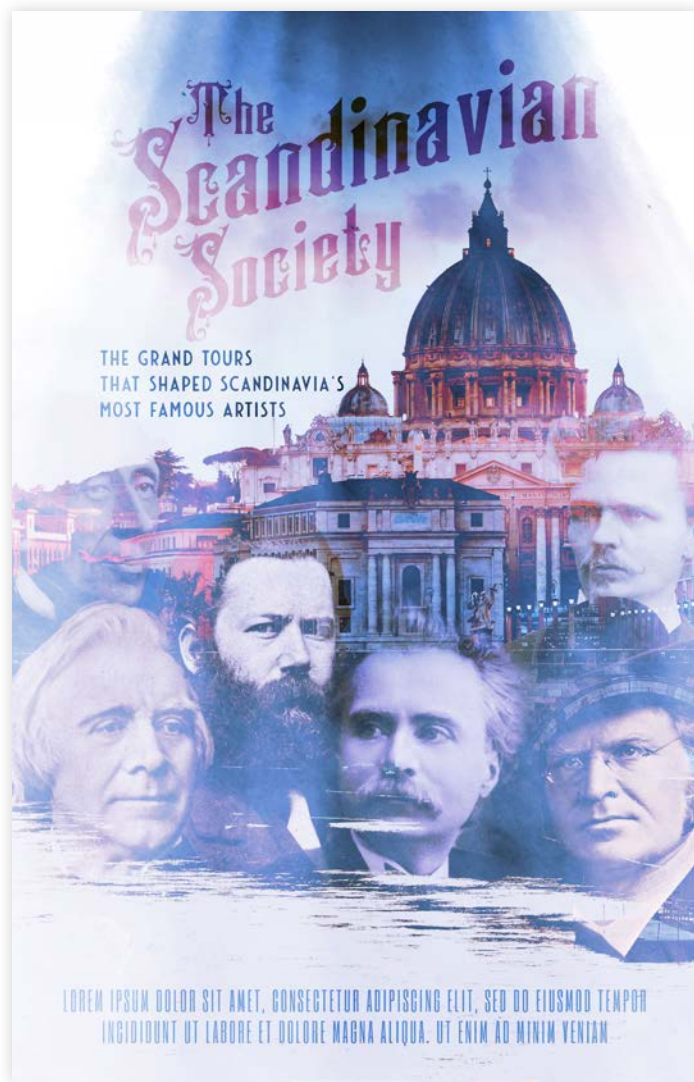


# THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY

— *The Grand Tours that shaped Scandinavia's most famous artists* —

Created by: JMG Stories | Written by: Edvard Hoem



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*Never in my Life, have I  
worked like here!*

*Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson,  
in a letter from Rome*

**Genre:** *Drama, History, Period-piece*

**Format:** *6 ep of 1 hr each limited series*

**Targetgroup:** *Culturally interested people all over the world*

**Potential buyers:** *HBO (Nordic, Europe), Sky arts, BBC, NRK, SVT, DR and more*

**Estimate:** *20-25 mill Euros*

**At Pitch-level end Q1 2021**

**Series concept:** *Ibsen, Bjørnson, Grieg, HC Andersen, Strindberg,  
Undset and more in Italy*

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## THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY

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In the second half of the 1800's, it was considered almost a prerequisite for any Scandinavian, and particularly Norwegian, artist with any ambition whatsoever, to embark on one or more formative journeys to Italy and Rome. It was considered the best, and almost only, way for an artist to become a mature and cultured person, and the climate, the food and the culture appealed immensely to the artists of the time. It was simply a part of the education for any serious artist.

Edvard Grieg, opined that northerners benefitted greatly from these Grand Tours, because the northerners in their nature carried so much heaviness and introvert reflection, and the style of life in Rome helped them shed this to the benefit of their creative powers.

Consequently, almost all of Norway's elite artists from this period of time, artists that today are among the most famous in the world, travelled to Italy on scholarships to work. And most of them experienced great inspiration from it. Ibsen stayed in Italy for four years and wrote six of his most famous plays there. Bjørnson stated that he had never worked as well as while being in Rome.

While in Rome, the lives of these magnificent artists centred around the social club called The Scandinavian Society, in Via Condotti, near the Spanish Steps. That became the hub where all the travellers gathered, drank, discussed politics and philosophy, started building the nation that became Norway and much more.

We want to make a limited series of 6 episodes, each of 45 mins up to an hour. The series will follow all the most famous names, and the ones that were the most central for the period in question. It will be a drama series that follows each artists journey on both a physical, emotional, artistic and political level. We want to let people get to know who these fantastic artists really were as people, not just as artists. We want to show their inner feelings, whether related to artistic struggles, drinking problems, love and lust and more – but always with the society as a point of reference.

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