

# Sophie Turner takes the role of Joan Hannington in ITVX drama, Joan

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[Drama](#), [ITVX](#)

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**Sophie Turner takes the role of Joan Hannington in ITVX drama, Joan, inspired by the life of a notorious jewel thief, written by screenwriter Anna Symon, produced by Snowed-in Productions and directed by Richard Laxton**

ITV's Head of Drama, Polly Hill has commissioned *Joan*, a six-part drama inspired by the notorious jewel thief, Joan Hannington, with Sophie Turner (*Game of Thrones*, *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*, *The Staircase*) in the leading role.

Set in the fun, brash, aspirational world of 1980s London, the drama is a powerful female story that will premiere on the channel's new, free streaming service ITVX.

Commented Sophie Turner:

*"I'm so excited to be bringing Joan Hannington's fascinating life story to screen in Joan. She is one of the most notorious figures in the criminal underworld of London, earning her the nickname "The Godmother." A woman who goes between her thriving and daring career as a jewel thief, all whilst trying to get her daughter back from social services, we see a mother in despair swept up in the exhilarating world of crime."*

Created for television by acclaimed screenwriter Anna Symon (*Mrs Wilson, The Essex Serpent, Deep Water*) from Joan's memoirs, *Joan* tells the story of her meteoric rise from petty offender to highly talented diamond thief and criminal mastermind. Anna met with Joan Hannington whilst writing the series, and the drama will be filmed in London in the spring of 2023.

*Joan* will be executive produced by Ruth Kenley-Letts (*Stonehouse, The Midwich Cuckoos, Strike*), CEO of Snowed-In Productions, Jenny Van Der Lande (*Strike, You Don't Know Me, Too Close*) Creative Director of Snowed-In and Neil Blair (*The Midwich Cuckoos, Strike, Fantastic Beast: The Secrets of Dumbledore*) Chairman of Snowed-In and directed by BAFTA award winning Director, Richard Laxton (*The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe, Honour, Mrs Wilson*) and Anna Symon.

Commented Polly Hill:

*"Joan's story is incredible, making a success of life when the stakes seem stacked against her, by not playing by the rules. Anna's scripts are brilliant and a perfect fit for ITVX and I can't wait to see Sophie Turner step into Joan's shoes. Set in the 80's with Richard Laxton directing and Ruth Kenley-Letts and Snowed-In producing, this is a great story with a great team bringing it to screen."*

We're first introduced to Joan in her twenties, a fiery, uncompromising, and intoxicating character, who is not without her own deep scars and vulnerability, as a doting and loving young mother to 6-year-old Kelly. She's in a disastrous relationship to a violent thug, and when he goes on the run, Joan seizes the moment to leave her old life.

Inspired by her desire to care for Kelly and create a secure home for her daughter, Joan makes some heart-breaking decisions as she sets her sights on a better life.

Making full use of her sharp intelligence, charm, and her talent for impersonation and performance, we follow the twists and turns in Joan's life, the ups and downs, the heartache and the joy, which makes her story a compelling television drama.

Commented Ruth Kenley-Letts, Jenny Van Der Lande and Neil Blair:

*"We're thrilled to be bringing Joan Hannington's extraordinary and compelling life to the screen. Anna's brilliant scripts are both heart-breaking and complex capturing Joan's vivid and colourful life so perfectly. We couldn't be more excited to have the wonderful Sophie Turner playing the title role. And in Richard Laxton we have the perfect director to tell Joan's story."*

Commented Richard Laxton:

*"I am so excited to bring this story and Anna's astounding script to life. With Sophie Turner in the title role and the 1980's as a rich and vibrant backdrop Joan is sure to be an exhilarating and compelling ride."*

Commented Anna Symon:

*"From penniless single parent to accomplished diamond thief, Joan Hannington's life story is a thrilling, rags-to-riches rollercoaster. I couldn't be more excited to watch the stellar talent Sophie Turner step into Joan's shoes. Ever since I first read Joan's explosive memoir, I have been desperate to bring her story to screen and I am thrilled to be collaborating once again with the incredibly talented teams at Snowed-In Productions and ITV. With the brilliant Richard Laxton at the helm, I cannot wait to get started."*

All3Media International will be responsible for the international distribution of the drama. The series is produced in association with All3Media International.

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Note to Editors:

British actress, Sophie Turner is best known for her role as 'Sansa Stark', the eldest daughter of House Stark in the widely acclaimed Golden Globe, SAG and EMMY award winning series **GAME OF THRONES** (2011-2019). The last series aired on HBO in April 2019 and earned her a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series.

Sophie recently starred in **THE STAIRCASE** (2022) for HBO Max, an eight-episode limited series based on the case of Michael Paterson and mysterious death of his

wife Kathleen in 2001. Further cast included Colin Firth and Toni Colette. Sophie additionally had a comedic cameo role as Erica in **DO REVENGE** (2022) for Netflix.

In 2019, she returned to the big screen as Jean Grey in **DARK PHOENIX** (2019) alongside Jennifer Lawrence, Jessica Chastain, Michael Fassbender and James McAvoy.

Her further film credits include; **X-MEN APOCALYPSE** (2016), **HEAVY** (2019), **JOSIE** (2018) in the title role, **TIME FREAK** (2018) alongside Asa Butterfield and **BARLEY LETHAL** (2015) also starring Jessica Alba, Samuel L. Jackson and Hailee Steinfeld.

Sophie Turner is represented by Independent Talent Group and CAA.

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