

Sep 30, 2025

Source: VARIETY

ZDF Studios Co-Produces Iberseries' Chilean-Spanish Thriller Project 'Patagonia. What Paradise Hides' (EXCLUSIVE)

Set to be presented at Iberseries & Platino Industria, the project has attached 'Money Heist' Star Itziar Ituño and Benjamín Vicuña ('Argentina, 1985')



Marking its latest high-end move in Spanish-language drama, German powerhouse ZDF Studios has boarded as co-producer thriller “Patagonia. Lo que Esconde el Paraíso” (“Patagonia. What Paradise Hides”), one of the series projects selected at this year’s Iberseries & Platino Industria.

The series brings together Chile’s María Wood Producciones and Spain’s Atlantika Films, with ZDF Studios’ international backing as the project advances toward production while closing its financing gap. Shooting is targeted for 2026.

Directed by Chilean filmmaker Julio Jorquera (“Noticia de un Secuestro”), the suspense-driven drama toplines Itziar Ituño (“Money Heist”), Benjamín Vicuña (“Argentina, 1985”) and Unai Arana (“La Infiltrada”).

Written by Luis Barrales and Anastasia Ayazi, the story follows Alicia, a mother whose son disappeared under mysterious circumstances, sparking a desperate search across continents and into Patagonia’s raw landscapes, where she discovers a paradise hiding dark secrets.

“This is the story of a mother and her son, and of the invisible weight of what we inherit as a family. In the raw beauty of Chilean Patagonia, it becomes a call to preserve nature and rescue it from the blindness and greed of humankind,” Atlantika’s producer Claudia Ruiz told Variety.

“Patagonia” has already secured Chilean public funding and is looking to tie down Basque Country incentives.

The project extends ZDF Studios’ growing investment in Spanish-language drama. The company recently co-produced RTVE’s “Weiss & Morales,” a four-part crime series shot in the Canary Islands, boarded “Boundless,” the Magellan-Elcano epic, as international distributor, and took worldwide rights on the second season of horror reboot “Historias para no dormir” (“Stories to Stay Awake”).

Chilean producer María Elena Wood has long championed fact-based drama, with credits including “Dignidad” (Canneseries 2020), “Mary & Mike” (Berlinale Series 2018) and Prime Video’s “Noticia de un Secuestro,” multi-awarded at the 2023 Platino Awards.

For its part, Madrid and Bizkaia-based Atlantika Films has produced “Chaplin: Spirit of Tramp,” winner of the Irizar Basque Cinema Prize at San Sebastián 2024, and co-produced Fernando Trueba’s animated feature “They Shot the Piano Player” as well as “200% Wolf: Pequeño Gran Lobo,” a pioneering Spain-Australia co-prod.

“Patagonia. What Paradise Hides” will be pitched on Wednesday, Oct. 1, as part of the Co-Production and Financing Forum at Iberseries & Platino Industria 2025 in Madrid.