

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Story of Gianni Versace's death coming to the small screen

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*Gianni Versace*

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By STAFF REPORTS

The murder of Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace will be serialized in an upcoming television drama.

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In 1997, Mr. Versace was murdered outside his Miami estate after returning home from morning errands. The television retelling of Mr. Versace's untimely death will be part of Ryan Murphy's "American Crime Story" series, which debuted with the murder trial of O.J. Simpson.

### Remembering Gianni

Mr. Versace was fatally shot twice in the head by Andrew Cunanan as he was opening the front gates of his home.

Mr. Versace was only 50 years old at the time of his death, but his legacy and fashion label has been continued by his brother Santo, who serves as the brand's CEO with Jorge Saud, and his sister Donatella, the head of design at Versace.

Tentatively titled "Versace/Cunanan: American Crime Story," the FX network show will concentrate on Mr. Versace's murder, as well as the four other victims of Mr. Cunanan over the course of three months. After more than a week on the run following his fatally shooting Mr. Versace, Mr. Cunanan committed suicide aboard a nearby houseboat.



*Gianni Versace's sister Donatella took on the creative director role after his death*

The storyline, slotted for American Crime Story's third season, will be based off "Vulgar Flavors," written by Vanity Fair reporter Maureen Orth in 1999.

A cast has yet to be announced, but rumors suggest an A-list actress will play Ms. Versace.

As the 20-year anniversary of his death quickly approaches, Mr. Versace's murder has become the subject of a number of projects.

Actor Antonio Banderas has been cast to play fashion designer Gianni Versace in an unauthorized biographical film.

The Versace family is not involved with the forthcoming project starring Mr. Banderas, and they have stated that the film should be seen as a "work of fiction" ([see story](#)).

In regard to American Crime Story's telling of Mr. Versace's death, Versace released a similar statement telling [WWD](#), the fashion house "neither authorized nor had any involvement whatsoever in the forthcoming series about Versace. The series should only be seen as a work of fiction."

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