

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## American Crime Story names final Versace cast

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*Gianni Versace*

By STAFF REPORTS

Actor Edgar Ramirez has been cast as Gianna Versace in the upcoming primetime drama based on the fashion designer's murder.

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Ryan Murphy, the creator of "Glee" and "American Horror Story," will focus the third season of his "American Crime Story" series on the 1997 murder of Mr. Versace. Tentatively titled "Versace/Cunanan: American Crime Story," the FX network show will debut in 2018 over 10 episodes.

### Casting a crime

Mr. Versace was fatally shot twice in the head by Andrew Cunanan as he was opening the front gates of his Miami home. In addition to Mr. Versace, Mr. Cunanan murdered five others before taking his own life after avoiding Miami Dade police for eight days.

Only 50 years old at the time of his death, Mr. Versace's 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.

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 ([see story](#)).

Mr. Ramirez, who is best known for his role in "The Bourne Ultimatum," will play Mr. Versace while Glee alum Darren Criss has been cast as Mr. Cunanan.

The role of Ms. Versace will be played by actress Penelope Cruz.



*Although the TV retelling is unauthorized, Ms. Versace and Lady Gaga are personal friends*

Production for the Versace-themed American Crime Story begins in March alongside the series' second season based on Hurricane Katrina.

When news broke that Mr. Murphy's television series would take on the murder of Mr. Versace, the fashion house told WWD it "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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