

Press Release



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For immediate release

Films with an East Midlands connection feature in this year's British Independent Film Awards nominations

The British Independent Film Awards (BIFA's) is one of the most important ceremonies in the UK film calendar, the BIFA's honour the best and brightest film talent, rewarding excellence in independent films. The nominations for the 11th Awards ceremony have today been announced and once again the East Midlands is well represented with feature films *Hush* and *Somers Town*, documentary *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* and short film *Soft* all nominated within key categories.

A Complete History of My Sexual Failures receives a nomination in the **Best British Documentary** Category and is up against *Man on Wire* and *Of Time and The City*. *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* is the first documentary from the low-budget studio Warp X, and was co-financed by EM Media with European Regional Development Funds.

Also nominated from the Warp X slate and also co-financed by EM Media with European Regional Development Funds is *Hush* which is nominated in the **Best Achievement in Production** category.

Nottingham film director Shane Meadows has once again been recognised by the BIFAs with *Somers Town* receiving a number of nominations, including **Best British Independent Film**, **Best Director** and there are also nominations for its star **Thomas Turgoose** who has become the youngest ever nominee in the category of **Best Actor**. Congratulations must also go to Nottingham writer **Paul Fraser**, nominated in the **Best Screenplay** category for his work on the film.

Another Nottingham filmmaker **Simon Ellis** receives a nomination for his short film *Soft* which is nominated in the **Best Short Film** category.

Locations across the East Midlands also played their part in providing an outstanding backdrop for nominated films *The Duchess* and *Easy Virtue*. Chatsworth House and Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire were both used as prime locations for *The Duchess*, which receives nominations in the categories: **Best Actress** (Keira Knightley), **Best Supporting Actress** (Hayley Atwell), **Best Supporting Actor** (Ralph

Fiennes) and **Best Technical Achievement** category (Michael O'Connor for Wardrobe) and Kristen Scott Thomas is nominated in the **Best Supporting Actress** category for her role in **Easy Virtue** which partly filmed on location at Flintham Hall in Nottinghamshire.

The full list of nominations is available on the BIFA website -

<http://www.bifa.org.uk/awards/nominations/2008.html>

Throughout the past decade the BIFA's have become established as a stamp of quality for British independent film, acknowledging cinematic masterpieces including *My Name is Joe*, which won Best Film and Best Director for Ken Loach in BIFA's inaugural year 1998, followed by: *Wonderland*, *Billy Elliot*, *Sexy Beast*, *Sweet Sixteen*, *Dirty Pretty Things*, *Vera Drake*, *The Constant Gardener* and *This is England*; all past winners of the Best British Independent Film Award.

Enjoying ever increasing international recognition, the BIFA's have become a landmark in the careers of many new filmmakers. Director Shane Meadows received the prestigious Douglas Hickox (Debut Director) Award in BIFA's first year for *24:7*.

Last year EM Media co-financed productions secured six awards, with Anton Corbijn's fêted *Control* picking up a total of five awards including the BIFA's the Best British Independent Film Award and Paddy Considine's directorial debut *Dog Altogether* securing Best British Short Film. In 2006 Meadows' *This is England* won the Best British Independent Film Award.

The British Independent Film Awards will celebrate their 11th anniversary with a special awards ceremony hosted by James Nesbitt in London on Sunday 30 November 2008

For further information please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via firstname.surname@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

- **EM Media** is a dynamic Regional Screen Agency supporting the development of the film and media industries in the East Midlands region. It has three aims:
 - Talent Development: to identify, grow and support the cultural, creative and economic ambitions of the region's dynamic talent pool.
 - Audiences and Markets: to develop the range of markets, audiences and opportunities for consumption of digital product and to encourage participation, understanding and engagement with all forms of media product.
 - Business: Utilise key business functions and practices to better shape our business to be able to inform and support film and media businesses across the East Midlands'

- **EM Media** has built a reputation for investing in innovative and distinctive projects, and has led the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region. EM Media is also one of the main partners in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making.
- Since 2002 **EM Media** has invested ERDF finance and/or Lottery in 27 feature films. Forthcoming releases include Brian Percival's *A Boy Called Dad*, Duane Hopkins' *Better Things* (Cannes Official Selection 2008), Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Martin Radich's *Crack Willow* (Under The Radar – EIFF 2008), Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad* (Film4 FrightFest), Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise* and the films from the Warp X slate including Chris Waitt's *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*, Olly Blackburn's *Donkey Punch*, Mark Tonderai's *Hush*.
- Previous film investments include the BAFTA and BIFA winning *Control* (Anton Corbijn) and the BAFTA award-winning *This Is England* (Shane Meadows) (*Best British Film 2007*).

www.em-media.org.uk

- **The British Independent Film Awards** (BIFAs), created by Raindance, are now under the newly appointed directorship of Johanna von Fischer and Tessa Collinson, who have jointly been involved with the running of the Awards since its inception in 1998.
- Patrons of **BIFA** include Tilda Swinton, Ray Winstone, Mike Figgis, Tom Hollander, Adrian Lester, Ken Loach, Ewan McGregor, Samantha Morton, Bill Nighy, Trudie Styler, Meera Syal and Michael Winterbottom.

www.bifa.org.uk

