

Press Release



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For immediate release

EM Media films receive five nominations at the British Independent Film Awards

Films made in the East Midlands and co-financed by screen agency EM Media are today nominated for five awards at the UK's most important celebration of independent film, the British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs). The nominations enhance the East Midlands' reputation as the UK's most exciting filmmaking region and continue the tradition of BIFA acknowledgement for EM Media films, which have received nominations every year since 2005.

Nominated films are Nicolas Winding Refn's biopic *Bronson*, actress Samantha Morton's directorial debut, *The Unloved* and *Mighty Boosh* director Paul King's off-the-wall road movie *Bunny and the Bull*. All the films were co-financed by EM Media and filmed entirely in the East Midlands.

Bronson, the acclaimed biopic of 'Britain's most dangerous prisoner', is nominated for two BIFAs. The film is nominated in the **Best Achievement in Production** category and **Tom Hardy** receives a **Best Actor** nomination for his visceral performance in the titular role. *Bronson* filmed at locations in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire for the whole of its ten week shoot in the spring of 2008. The film is currently wowing cinema audiences in America and is available on DVD in the UK.

Samantha Morton's acclaimed debut *The Unloved* gives a unique insight into Britain's care system as seen through the eyes of a child. Loosely drawn from Samantha's own childhood experiences and shot entirely in her home city of Nottingham, *The Unloved* recently garnered further critical acclaim following its North American premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. Samantha is nominated for **the Douglas Hickox Award** for her **Directorial Debut**.

Paul King's *Bunny and the Bull*, which premiered to sell-out audiences at the London Film Festival last week, is nominated for **Best Achievement in Production** and **Production Designer, Gary Williamson**, is in the running for **Best Technical Achievement**. The entire shoot took place in the University of Nottingham studios where the production was also based. The nomination is testament to the skills of

the region's talented crew who, though working to a tight budget, managed to transform the studios into a surreal and fantastical world for the film shoot.

The BIFA nominations follow hot on the heels of the recently announced **BAFTA Scotland** nominations. Nottingham production company Wellington Films' feature film ***Crying With Laughter*** received three BAFTA Scotland nominations and **Robert Carlyle** received a **Best Actor** nomination for his performance in Samantha Morton's ***The Unloved***.

Also to be congratulated is Graham Lester George. The Nottingham writer's short film *Wash Days* receives a BIFA nomination in the Best British Short Film category.

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media, comments on the nominations, *"That EM Media films have once again received nominations at the British Independent Film Awards clearly demonstrates that the East Midlands continues to punch above its weight, gaining recognition on the world stage as a place where innovative and exciting filmmaking happens – and where filmmaking talent is developed and supported through incisive investment from EM Media. I would like to congratulate all the filmmakers involved; we are proud to have played a role in their success."*

Films made in the East Midlands are up against a stellar line-up, competing alongside Sam Taylor Wood's *Nowhere Boy* and Duncan Jones's *Moon*. Lincolnshire-born Jim Broadbent also receives a nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category for ***The Damned United***, which partly filmed in Derbyshire and Emily Blunt receives a Best Actress nomination for her role as ***The Young Victoria***, which filmed partly at locations in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

Daniel Day Lewis, one of the most exceptionally talented and enigmatic actors in the industry, will be honoured by BIFA with the Richard Harris Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Film by an Actor.

The British Independent Film Awards set out to celebrate merit and achievement in independently funded British filmmaking, to honour new talent, and to promote British films and filmmaking to a wider public. BIFA 2009 will take place at The Brewery in Central London on **Sunday 6 December, 2009**. For more information about the awards and a full list of nominees see www.bifa.org.uk.

For further information about EM Media and its nominated films please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Emma Hewitt, Communications Coordinator on 0115 934 9090 or via email at firstname.lastname@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England.

EM Media secures finance, nurtures talent, invests in success and stimulates growth and innovation ensuring East Midlands' digital content industries lead and compete globally.

EM Media has invested in 31 British feature films. These include: Nick Whitfield's *Skeletons*, Karl Golden's *Pelican Blood*, Justin Molotnikov's *Crying With Laughter*, Samantha Morton's *The Unloved*, Brian Percival's *A Boy Called Dad*, Alexis Dos Santos's *Unmade Beds*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Duane Hopkins' *Better Things*, Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad*, Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise*, Shane Meadows' award-winning *This Is England* and Anton Corbijn's award-winning *Control*.

EM Media has co-financed the first six films from Warp X, the low-budget digital studio including *Bunny & the Bull*, *She*, *A Chinese* and *All Tomorrow's Parties*.

EM Media has also financed games and virtual worlds including the soon to be launched *Space Ark and Hunter's World*, as well as *mixm8*, *Beauty Salon*, *Geon: Emotions*, *Bugs of War*, *Manifest* and *Spell Souls*.

Visit www.em-media.org.uk.

