

Press Release



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For immediate release

EM Media continues its winning four year run at this year's British Independent Film Awards

The talent behind films made in the East Midlands and co-financed by screen agency EM Media are celebrating today after scooping two awards at the UK's most important celebration of independent film, the British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs) last night.

These awards continue the tradition of BIFA acknowledgement for EM Media films, and films from talented filmmakers based in the East Midlands, which have received awards every year since 2006.

Tom Hardy received the **Best Actor** award for his visceral performance in *Bronson*, the acclaimed biopic of 'Britain's most dangerous prisoner'. *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.

Paul King's *Bunny and the Bull* won **Best Achievement in Production**. 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.

Through Lottery finance EM Media supported the employment of ten regionally based trainees on the productions of *Bronson* and *Bunny and the Bull*, in addition to these trainees another 31 crew members based in the East Midlands worked across both films. All these talented people now have BIFA award-winning films on their CVs!

Debbie Williams, EM Media's Chief Executive, commented, "*The BIFA awards highlighted what a great year it has been for British independent film and EM Media is thrilled that once again films made in the East Midlands have triumphed. The competition was fierce and we congratulate the teams behind Bunny and the Bull and Bronson on their thoroughly deserved success.*"

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. For the full list of winners see www.bifa.org.uk.

For further information about EM Media and the winning films please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive 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*.
- Previous award-winning EM Media films and films from talented filmmakers based in the East Midlands:
 - *This Is England* won **Best British Independent Film** (2006)
 - Thomas Turgoose won **Most Promising Newcomer** for his role in *This Is England* (2006)
 - *London to Brighton* from Nottingham-based Wellington Films won **Best Achievement In Production** (2006)
 - *Control* won **Best British Independent Film** (2007)
 - Anton Corbijn won **Best Director of a British Independent Film** and **The Douglas Hickox Award** for his work on *Control* (2007)
 - Sam Riley won **Most Promising Newcomer** for his portrayal of Ian Curtis in *Control* (2007)
 - *Dog Altogether*, the directorial debut from Paddy Considine won **Best British Short Film** (2007)
 - Toby Kebbell won **Best Performance by a Supporting Actor or Actress** in a British Independent Film for his role in *Control* (2007)
 - *Soft* from Nottingham-based director Simon Ellis won **Best British Short Film** (2008)
- Visit www.em-media.org.uk for further information.

