



Press Release

Monday 3 March 2008 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shooting begins on Nicholas Winding Refn's **BRONSON**

Principal photography has commenced on **BRONSON**, a feature film based on the life of Britain's most notorious prisoner **CHARLES BRONSON**. Vertigo Films is producing the project in association with 4DH Films, EM Media, Str8jacket Creations and Aramid Entertainment. The film will shoot for six weeks in Nottinghamshire.

Taking the title role of **BRONSON** will be Tom Hardy (*Black Hawk Down*, *WΔZ*, *RocknRolla*, *Stuart: A Life Backwards*) who is cited by critics as one of the UK's most promising young actors.

Nicholas Winding Refn, whose previous films include the highly acclaimed and controversial **PUSHER** Trilogy and *Fear X* with John Turturro, will direct **BRONSON**.

Vertigo's Rupert Preston and 4DH Film's Danny Hansford will produce **BRONSON**; executive producers will be: for Vertigo Nick Love, Allan Niblo, James Richardson, for Str8jacket Paul Martin, and for EM Media Kate Ogborn. Director of Photography is Kubrick collaborator Larry Smith (*Eyes Wide Shut*), who previously worked with Nicholas Winding Refn on *Fear X*.

Protagonist Pictures will handle international sales for **BRONSON** with Vertigo Films handling UK distribution. The film is slated for release in early 2009.

BRONSON is the evolutionary journey of Mickey Peterson into Britain's most notorious and dangerous living prisoner **CHARLES BRONSON**. Originally sentenced to 7 years in prison for burglary, Charles Bronson has been behind bars for 34 years, 30 of which have been spent in solitary confinement. Bronson has forged an outrageous reputation through hostage taking and rooftop protests to become a notorious figure in the British public's consciousness.

With a large dose of humour the film evolves into a fascinating study of the culture behind prison walls, as told from the point of view of its institutionalised central character.

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media, comments: *“This is an exciting project for EM Media and for the region. BRONSON has an excellent cast and creative team: like EM Media, Vertigo Films are well known for distinctive projects and unstinting support for new talent; Nicholas Winding Rein’s unique talent combined with the exceptional eye of Larry Smith and Brock Norman Brock’s powerful script will ensure a visually arresting and thought-provoking final product. The project has already created jobs for 22 of our highly skilled regional crew and, through its use of regional locations and facilities, will continue to bring a significant amount of inward investment to the East Midlands.”*

EM Media, the Regional Screen Agency for the East Midlands, has invested £250,000 production finance in **BRONSON** through the European Regional Development Fund and is supporting trainees on the production through RIFE Lottery. **BRONSON** is the 19th feature film to be co-financed by EM Media, currently in post-production are Alexis Dos Santos’ **UNMADE BEDS** (The Bureau 2008), Martin Radich’s **CRACK WILLOW** (Perfume Films 2008), and Kenney Glenaan’s **SUMMER** (Sixteen Films 2007).

Producer Rupert Preston comments: *“The combination of Nicolas Winding Refn directing, Tom Hardy starring and this extraordinary story is a very powerful, potent and commercial force.”*

Danny Hansford, also producing, adds: *“It’s been a long four year journey to finally bring this project home and as a result a life long friendship has developed between myself and Mr. Bronson. However, it was only once I had teamed up with Rupert Preston at Vertigo Films that the dream of making this remarkable story soon became a reality.”*

BRONSON will be Vertigo’s 10th movie production in its five-year history, presently in production is Tom Shankland’s horror movie **THE DAY**.

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

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Notes to editors

EM MEDIA

EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England’s East Midlands. From its Nottingham base the agency invests RIFE Lottery and Treasury Finance in film activity and European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) in the development, production, distribution, exhibition, prototyping and publishing of Film (long and short form), Television (corporate broadcast, internet TV), Games (for console, PC, hand held, mobile phone) and Interactive (internet, mobile phone and TV software).

EM Media is a partner in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making, an initiative of UK Film Council, Film4, Screen Yorkshire, Optimum Releasing and EM Media.

EM Media has to date co-financed 19 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's slate of films in production, forthcoming and current releases include: *Bronson* (Vertigo Films, 2009), *Unmade Beds* (The Bureau 2008), *Crack Willow* (Perfume Films 2008), *Summer* (Sixteen Films 2007), *Hush* (Warp X 2007), *Donkey Punch* (Warp X 2007), *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* (Warp X 2007), *Mum and Dad* (2AM Films 2007), *Better Things* (Third Films 2008), *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* (Number 9 Films 2007), *Magicians* (Intermedia Films 2007), *Control* (NorthSee 2007), *This is England* (Warp Films 2007). Other feature investments include *Brothers of the Head* (Potboiler Productions 2006), *A Cock and Bull Story* (Revolution Films 2006), *Dead Man's Shoes* (Warp Films 2005), *One For the Road* (One for the Road Productions 2004), *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands* (Slate Films 2003) and *Anita and Me* (Starfield Productions 2002).

For further information, visit www.em-media.org.uk.

VERTIGO

Vertigo Films is a UK film and media production and distribution company, founded in 2002 by producers Allan Niblo and James Richardson.

In its first year in 2003, Vertigo produced *The Football Factory*, which entered the UK Box Office at number 3 and has now sold over one million copies making it the most successful independent UK film on DVD ever and *It's All Gone Pete Tong* which went on to win several awards including Best Film at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2004.

That year three more partners joined the company - Nick Love, whose Vertigo produced films *The Business* went on to beat *The Football Factory's* commercial success on its release in 2005, Rupert Preston who came in to run the distribution side overseeing the release of films such as *The Football Factory*, critical hit *London To Brighton*, *A Good Woman* starring Scarlett Johansson and Helen Hunt, acclaimed documentaries *Joe Strummer - The Future is Unwritten* and *Shadow of the Moon* and the horror film *Shrooms* and Rob Morgan from UBS bank.

In 2006, Vertigo produced four films - a big screen version of the MTV show *Dirty Sanchez*, *WΔZ* a horror thriller set in the US, the comedy *Dogging - A Love Story* and Nick Love's *Outlaw* starring Sean Bean, Danny Dyer and Bob Hoskins, which went on to outperform the *Football Factory*.

Forthcoming productions for 2008 include Tom Shankland's horror film *The Day*, *Bronson* directed by Danish award winner Nicolas Winding Refn, *The Trail* directed by Rupert Wyatt and two films by Nick Love - a contemporary remake of *The Sweeney* and a sequel to *The Business* set around the birth of the rave scene. Vertigo will be also launching several directors in 2008 - the Vertigo produced *Faintheart* - the first user generated feature made in conjunction with MySpace and Film4, Sundance entry *The Escapist*, the award winning *Shotgun Stories*, and *WΔZ*.

In addition to its production and distribution businesses, Vertigo has a post production company based in Berlin - *The Post Republic* and is a joint partner in the newly formed international sales company, *Protagonist Pictures* with Channel Four and Ingenious Media.

