

Press Release



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For immediate release

Short film roadshow showcases opportunities for filmmaking in Leicester

EM Media and B3 Media will present two short filmmaking schemes at a roadshow for aspiring writers and directors taking place at The LCB Depot in Leicester. EM Media, the Regional Screen Agency for the East Midlands, will be launching its *DV Shorts* scheme for 2008 while B3, an agency which works to connect Britain's multicultural communities with its creative industries, will present *Blank Slate*.

The Leicester roadshow offers filmmakers and writers the chance to find out about DV Shorts and Blank Slate from representatives from both organisations, watch some films produced through the schemes and, of course, ask those all important questions!

DV Shorts and Blank Slate offer the opportunity to make short films using digital technology and DV Shorts is open to all sectors of the communities within the East Midlands while the Blank Slate scheme aims to support the next generation of filmmaking talent from the UK's black and minority ethnic communities.

Writers and directors selected for DV Shorts take part in a period of training and script development before production on their film commences, this includes participation in a workshop led by Script Factory and National Film and Television School. Participants on the Blank Slate scheme take part in a film-lab where they received advice and practical training in scriptwriting, directing, production and post-production from leading industry tutors.

Films previously produced through the schemes have been screened at a number of UK and International film festivals including Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, LA Shorts Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, London Film Festival and Encounters Short Film Festival in Bristol. *Over The Hill*, an animation from Peter Baynton produced through last year's DV Shorts scheme went onto to win the prestigious McLaren Award for New British Animation at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival.

DV Shorts, run by EM Media, is a training and production scheme for filmmakers in the East Midlands. The scheme is co-financed with Lottery funds via the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund with match via EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund supports the production of short films in partnership with the 12 nations and regions of the UK. Blank Slate is a UK-wide initiative produced by B3 Media in partnership with UK Film Council New Cinema Fund and Arts Council England.

The Short Film Roadshow takes place at The LCB Depot, 31 Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1RE on Tuesday 9 October between 6pm and 8pm. There's no need to pre-book a place – just turn up on the night!

Participants are requested to read EM Media's Talent Call Guidelines before coming along to the roadshow. The guidelines are available from EM Media's website at www.em-media.org.uk or by calling Sally Hodgson at EM Media on 0115 934 9090.

For further information, imagery or interview requests please contact Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via sally.hodgson@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

- EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands. A delegate body of the UK Film Council, 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 16 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's slate of films in production, forthcoming and current releases include: *Summer* (Sixteen Films 2007), psychological thriller *Hush* (Warp X 2007), *Donkey Punch* (Warp X 2007), *Complete History* (Warp X 2007), horror *Mum and Dad* (2AM Films 2007), *Better Things* (Mascot Pictures 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 2006). Other feature investments include *Brothers of the Head* (Potboiler Productions 2006), *A Cock and Bull Story* (Revolution Films 2005), *Dead Man's Shoes* (Warp Films 2004), *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).
- EM Media's Location Services has encouraged and assisted a range of productions to use the East Midlands for locations and filming, including *Atonement* (Working Title Films), *The Da Vinci*

Code (Imagine Entertainment), *The Other Boleyn Girl* (BBC Films), *The Golden Compass* (New Line Cinema), *Pride & Prejudice* (Working Title Films).

- For more info - www.em-media.org.uk.
- **B3 Media** nurtures, develops and showcases creative talent, filmmakers, visual artists, musicians, from communities that are underrepresented by the mainstream working across a range of media including short film, spoken word, moving image and feature film. B3 Media's work and events are hosted locally, regionally and internationally to support talent across these mediums.
- For more info - www.b3media.net

