

Press Release



Monday 14 June 2010

Edinburgh International Film Festival spotlights talent from the East Midlands

EM Media, Screen Agency for the East Midlands and a key investor in British film talent, will unveil four new co-financed films at the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF), which kicks off on Wednesday.

EM Media will present two feature films and two short films at EIFF 2010. The two features - Karl Golden's *PELICAN BLOOD* and Nick Whitfield's *SKELETONS* - will screen in EIFF's British Gala strand and both are in the running for the festival's top prize, the prestigious Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature Film. The Michael Powell Award has twice been won by EM Media-backed features in the past, with *BROTHERS OF THE HEAD* and *CONTROL* scooping the prize in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Could 2010 mark a hat trick for the East Midlands?

EM Media's EIFF selected shorts are Lincolnshire filmmaker Peter Baynton's animation *SAVE OUR BACON*, which will screen in the festival's McLaren Animation strand, and Nottingham-based David Alexander Smith's thriller *IN THE MEADOW*, which will screen in the festival's UK Shorts strand. Both films are screening in competition at EIFF: *SAVE OUR BACON* is in the running for the McLaren Award for New British Animation, *IN THE MEADOW* is competing for Best British Short Film award.

EM Media's strong showing at EIFF 2010 builds upon similar success in 2008 and 2009, when the agency presented six films in the official selection. EIFF is renowned as a festival that discovers and promotes the film world's brightest new talent; to secure the festival's endorsement on this scale for the third year running cements the reputation of EM Media as a keystone investor in British film, and the East Midlands' reputation as home to the UK's most exciting new film talent.

The four EM Media films screening at EIFF 2010 are:

- **PELICAN BLOOD** (Ecosse Films) Directed by Karl Golden.
Set in the world of obsessive bird-spotters, or *twitchers* as they are known, *PELICAN BLOOD* tells the story of Nikko, he's charming, funny, obsessive, compulsive and self-destructive - a unique combination for a bird-spotter. Starring rising British talent Harry Treadaway (*CONTROL*,

FISH TANK) and Australian actress Emma Booth (HIPPIE HIPPIE SHAKE), PELICAN BLOOD is a thrilling, funny and passionate look at the things that make us tick and the things we tick off the list. The world premiere of PELICAN BLOOD takes place in Edinburgh on Thursday 17 June.

- **SKELETONS** (Forward Films / Edge City Films) Written and directed by Nick Whitfield.
SKELETONS tells the story of Davis and Bennett, a mismatched pair of travelling salesman in the business of cleaning skeletons from closets. Together they travel across Britain, wandering in and out of other people's lives, performing the 'Procedure' whereby hidden secrets and lies are exposed. SKELETONS stars an ensemble of European actors including Danish actress Paprika Steen in her English language debut, rising British star Tuppence Middleton (TORMENTED) and internationally renowned British actor Jason Isaacs (the HARRY POTTER series). In their feature debut, breakout leads Ed Gaughan and Andrew Buckley display a winning chemistry, bringing humour and pathos to the central roles of Davis and Bennett. The UK premiere of SKELETONS takes place in Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 June.
- **IN THE MEADOW** (Sodalite Films) Written and directed by David Alexander Smith.
IN THE MEADOW is a psychological chiller that tells the story of a married man and his younger mistress who head into the countryside for an illicit birthday picnic. As the afternoon progresses, events begin to take a disturbing turn. The film stars Chris Larkin (VALKYRIE, MASTER AND COMMANDER) and Tuppence Middleton (SKELETONS). Filmmaker David Alexander Smith is based in Nottingham and has made three short films in the East Midlands. IN THE MEADOW is David's first film with Derbyshire-based producer Nicola Clayton; it premieres in Edinburgh on Friday 18 June.
- **SAVE OUR BACON** (Glendale Picture Company / The Bureau) Written and directed by Peter Baynton.
SAVE OUR BACON is Peter Baynton's second animated short film, and tells the story of a Lincolnshire farmer who is hit hard by the credit crunch, squeezed by the local supermarket and struggling to survive. All his fortunes lie in the farm's one remaining pig, and a rather dubious plan to cross it with a worm. Produced by Tristan Goligher (Glendale Picture Company) and Valentina Brazzini (The Bureau), SAVE OUR BACON premieres in Edinburgh on Friday 18 June.

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media, comments:

"We are thrilled that Edinburgh International Film Festival has once again selected so many films from the East Midlands, and we congratulate the talented filmmakers whose work successfully beat competition from across the world to secure their places in the programme. The UK's festival of

discovery and new talent continues to spotlight talent from the East Midlands, confirming EM Media's belief that the East Midlands is home to the UK's most innovative, exciting and dynamic new filmmakers."

For further information, including images and interviews, please contact:

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Notes to editors

EM Media

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England. The agency secures finance, nurtures talent, invests in success and stimulates growth and innovation across the digital content sector.

EM Media has invested in the development and production of more than 60 British feature films. These include: Jim Loach's *Oranges and Sunshine*, Paddy Considine's *Tyrannosaur*, Shane Meadows's *This Is England 86*, 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*.

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