

Press Release



30 June 2008 - for immediate release

EAST MIDLANDS TALENT AND PRODUCTIONS SCOOP TWO AWARDS AT THIS YEAR'S EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Shane Meadows won the coveted Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature Film for his feature *Somers Town*, while Robert Carlyle collected the prestigious PPG Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film.

The Michael Powell Jury, led by actor Danny Huston, recognised Meadows' latest work as “the freshest, most imaginative maverick work, deserving of the Award. After viewing an impressive selection of films and a long deliberation we, the Jury, unanimously agreed that the award would go to *Somers Town*.”

This is the third year in a row that the Michael Powell Award-winning film has had an East Midlands connection, last year's winner *Control* filmed almost entirely in Nottingham and was co-financed by EM Media with European Regional Development Funds. The winner of the award in the previous year was another EM Media co-financed production *Brothers of the Head* which also filmed in the East Midlands.

Robert Carlyle received the PPG Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film for his striking portrayal of a man in conflict with his past in the Kenny Glenaan directed feature *Summer*.

The Jury commended his work as “a flawless performance in a great, uncompromising film that touches the heart.”

Summer shot in Bolsover, Derbyshire last year and received £250K of European Regional Development Funds through EM Media. The film also features Nottingham talent Michael Socha; a graduate of The Television Workshop, based in Nottingham.

After the award announcements Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media, commented, “This is really fantastic news and the awards pay testament to the hot-bed of talent we have here in the East Midlands. EM Media extends congratulations to both Shane and Robert, along with the teams behind both productions.”

Both awards were presented at a ceremony hosted by Sir Sean Connery which drew to a close a successful 62nd Edinburgh International Film Festival.

For further information contact Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via sally.hodgson@em-media.org.uk or Emma Hewitt on the same number or via emma.hewitt@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

EM Media is a dynamic Regional Screen Agency supporting the development of the film and media industries in the East Midlands region. It has three aims:

- Talent Development: to identify, grow and support the cultural, creative and economic ambitions of the region's dynamic talent pool.
- Audiences and Markets: to develop the range of markets, audiences and opportunities for consumption of digital product and to encourage participation, understanding and engagement with all forms of media product.
- Business: Utilise key business functions and practices to better shape our business to be able to inform and support film and media businesses across the East Midlands'

EM Media has built a reputation for investing in innovative and distinctive projects, and has led the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region. EM Media is also one of the main partners in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making.

Since 2002 EM Media has invested ERDF finance and/or Lottery in 22 feature films. Forthcoming releases include Duane Hopkins' *Better Things* (Cannes Official Selection 2008), Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Martin Radich's *Crack Willow* (Under The Radar – EIFF 2008), Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad*, Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise* and the films from the Warp X slate including Chris Waitt's *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*, Olly Blackburn's *Donkey Punch*, Mark Tonderai's *Hush*. Previous film investments include the BAFTA and BIFA winning *Control* (Anton Corbijn) and the BAFTA award-winning *This Is England* (Shane Meadows) (*Best British Film 2007*).

Visit www.em-media.org.uk for more information on the agency.

