

Press Release



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For immediate release

EM Media provides 'Six of the Best' at the Edinburgh Film Festival

The UK's biggest and longest running film festival gets underway tomorrow in Edinburgh and this year the spotlight will well and truly shine on films made and financed in the East Midlands.

A total of **six** EM Media co-financed features are receiving their UK or world premieres. All six were financed through EM Media's ERDF investment fund which was secured in 2006.

- *Donkey Punch* dir Olly Blackburn
- *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* dir Chris Waitt
- *Mum & Dad* dir Steven Sheil
- *Crack Willow* dir Martin Radich
- *Better Things* dir Duane Hopkins
- *Summer* dir Kenny Glenaan

Out of the slate of films from Production Company Warp X comes Olly Blackburn's debut feature ***Donkey Punch*** which receives its UK premiere on Friday 20 June and follows the mis-adventures of six young holidaymakers and looks set to provide thrills and shocks.

The festival will also showcase 22 documentary features including Chris Waitt's Nottingham produced ***A Complete History of My Sexual Failures***. This will receive its UK premiere on Thursday 19 June.

Nottingham filmmaker Steven Sheil will make his feature film debut with ***Mum & Dad*** which will screen within the *Midnight Madness* programme. Not for the faint-hearted the film promises a hearty dose of horror served up with an (un) healthy dose of wit. Mum and Dad screens at midnight on Saturday 21 June.

A new strand of films in the Edinburgh programme called *Under the Radar* will showcase potential cult movies. Martin Radich's debut feature ***Crack Willow*** will feature within this section on Saturday 21 June.

Fresh from its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, Nottingham produced **Better Things**, described by Edinburgh festival director as the most eagerly-awaited British debut of the year, will receive its UK premiere on Sunday 22 June.

Kenny Glenaan's **Summer**, written by Derbyshire writer Hugh Ellis and featuring actor Robert Carlyle also receives its world premiere on Sunday 22 June. The film shot on location in Bolsover and Bramley Vale last year.

Shane Meadows also makes a welcome return to the festival with the UK premiere of **Somers Town**. Meadows re-unites with *This is England* star Thomas Turgoose to further cement his place as a great British filmmaker.

Five of the features listed above are eligible for the **Michael Powell Award for Best British Film** which was won last year by *Control*, the Nottingham filmed and EM Media co-financed biopic about Ian Curtis, fated singer with Joy Division. In 2006 the EM Media co-financed feature *Brothers of the Head* picked up the award. Will 2008 make it a hat-trick?

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive EM Media comments, *"We are absolutely thrilled that seven films from this region are premiering at Edinburgh. For EM Media to have six co-financed features in the official selection is an unprecedented achievement. From the Derbyshire filmed Summer, a poignant tale of love and friendship to Mum & Dad, the horror debut of Nottingham filmmaker Steven Sheil the East Midlands films being showcased in Edinburgh run the gamut of human emotions. We are delighted the festival has recognised the quality of the work being made in the region and are proud that the investments we have made through our ERDF investment fund have produced work that is once again being heralded as the Best of British film. We hope audiences across the UK will further support home grown talent by going to see the films when released at UK cinemas throughout this year."*

The Edinburgh International Film Festival runs from 18-29 June 2008. www.edfilmfest.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.