

Press Release



May 6, 2009

For immediate release

The Talented Region: Films made in the East Midlands once again set to shine at Edinburgh International Film Festival

EM Media, Regional Screen Agency for the East Midlands and a key investor in British film talent, has today announced six of its co-financed films have been selected to premiere at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF).

A total of **six** EM Media co-financed films are receiving their UK or World premieres during the festival; with another film made in the East Midlands – Shane Meadows' latest feature with Paddy Considine, *LE DONK* – also featured in the official selection. Three of the selected EM Media co-financed films – *A BOY CALLED DAD*, *CRYING WITH LAUGHTER*, *UNMADE BEDS* – are in the running for the EIFF's top prize, the Michael Powell Award.

This extraordinary achievement builds upon similar success in 2008 when another six films co-financed by EM Media were included in the official EIFF line up. 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 second 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 six selected films co-financed by EM Media are:

- **A BOY CALLED DAD** (Made Up North Productions) Directed by Brian Percival.
The feature debut from BAFTA-winning shorts director Brian Percival. The film stars Ian Hart (*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Land and Freedom*) and Kyle Ward (*The Street*) and is produced by Michael Knowles and Stacey Murray of Made Up North Productions. Kyle Ward has also been nominated for a Skillset Trailblazer Award. The film premieres in Edinburgh on 18 June.
- **ADHA CUP** (IWC Media) Written and directed by Sarmad Masud.
Set in the Mirpury Community in Nottingham and produced by Vicki Patterson and Jack Ravenscroft of IWC Media for Channel 4's Coming Up scheme. The film premieres in Edinburgh on 18 June.
- **ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES** (Warp X)

A DIY concert film featuring performances from an eclectic mix of some of the world's most influential artists. The film is a semi-found bricolage made from Super8, camcorder and mobile phone footage contributed by over two hundred filmmakers, fans and musicians over the festival's recent history, with key contributions from Jonathan Caouette (*Tarnation*) and Vincent Moon (The Take Away Shows, Arcade Fire). The film premieres in Edinburgh on 24 June.

- **BIG THINGS** (Anonymous Rooms Productions) Written and Directed by Mark Devenport. The debut feature from Nottingham based Mark Devenport and producer Luke Dennis. The film stars Tony Claassen as Richard who, bored with his mundane existence as a cycle courier, attempts to make his own film, "A Distance Too Far" in a bid to escape to a better life. The film premieres in Edinburgh on 20 June.
- **CRYING WITH LAUGHTER** (Wellington Films/Synchronicity Films) Directed by Justin Molotnikov. Justin Molotnikov's debut feature is a darkly comedic revenge thriller, starring Scottish actor Stephen McCole in the lead role of JOEY FRISK, an abusive stand-up comedian heading for a big break or a big breakdown. The film is a Synchronicity Films - Wellington Films co-production and premieres in Edinburgh on 21 June.
- **UNMADE BEDS** (The Bureau) Directed by Alexis Dos Santos. The second feature from acclaimed writer/director Alexis Dos Santos. The film tells the story of two young foreigners living in a vibrant, hip squat in London's East End who each embark on separate quests. The film is produced by The Bureau's Sol Gatti-Pascual and is co-produced by Nottingham based Wellington Films. The film premieres in Edinburgh on 24 June.

Suzanne Alizart, Head of Content Creation at EM Media, said of the announcement:

"As an investor in British film EM Media aims to develop the best creative talent and invest in distinctive and innovative films. That Edinburgh International Film Festival has once again recognised the quality and range of films made in the East Midlands is testament to this region's dynamic talent pool. The East Midlands is home to some of the most exciting film talent working in Britain today; Edinburgh's announcement that seven films made here, six of which were co-financed by EM Media, are in its official selection confirms once and for all what we've always known: this is the region to watch."

The Edinburgh International Film Festival runs from 17-29 June 2009: www.edfilmfest.org.uk/

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

All feature films were co-financed by EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund.

~ends~

Notes to editors

About EM Media

EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands.

The agency has built a reputation for investing in distinctive and innovative digital media projects and has led the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region.

Since 2002 EM Media has invested ERDF finance and/or Lottery in 31 feature films. These include Karl Golden's *Pelican Blood*, Samantha Morton's directorial debut *The Unloved*, Brian Percival's *A Boy Called Dad*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Duane Hopkins' *Better Things* (Cannes Official Selection 2008), Martin Radich's *Crack Willow* (Under The Radar – EIFF 2008), 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 is also a partner in Warp X, the low-budget digital film initiative which has produced Chris Waitt's *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*, Olly Blackburn's *Donkey Punch*, Mark Tonderai's *Hush* and the forthcoming *Bunny & The Bull* and *She, A Chinese*.

EM Media has co-financed the development and production of games and virtual worlds with European Regional Development finance, including *Space Ark*, *mixm8*, *Beauty Salon*, *Geon: Emotions*, *Bugs of War*, *Manifest*, *Spell Souls* and *Hunter's World*.

www.em-media.org.uk

About the selected films

- A BOY CALLED DAD was co-financed by EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund and also received investment from North-West Vision & Media, Film Agency Wales and Made Up North's private equity partners in the north-west. EM Media also invested Lottery finance in the development of the film and the placement of trainees on the production.
- ADHA CUP was developed and co-financed by EM Media using Lottery finance through the Regional Investment Fund for England. The film was produced by IWC Media as part of the Coming Up talent scheme run by IWC and Channel 4 in association with Skillset.
- ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES was produced through the Warp X digital studio, an initiative of UK Film Council, Film4, Screen Yorkshire, EM Media and Optimum Releasing.
- BIG THINGS is an Anonymous Room production and was co-financed by EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund.
- CRYING WITH LAUGHTER is a Synchronicity Films/Wellington Films co-production and was co-financed by EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund and Scottish Screen through the Express Film Fund.
- UNMADE BEDS was produced by Soledad Gatti-Pascual (*Noi Albinoi*, *Joyeux Noel*) of The Bureau and Peter Ettedgui (*Onegin*, *Kinky Boots*). The film was developed with Film4 and is financed by Film4, the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund and EM Media, with the assistance of Natixis Coficine.

