

# Press Release



Nottingham 17 November 2010

## Filming wraps on six new short dramas made in the East Midlands - home to the brightest new filmmaking talent.

The latest additions to EM Media's award-winning film portfolio have completed their shoots in the East Midlands taking the total number of short films made to 82.

EM Media has been backing creative talent for almost a decade with incredible results.

42 feature films have been produced ranging from the multi-award winning *Control* and *This Is England* to *Skeletons*, the first-time feature from ex-short filmmaker Nick Whitfield and eagerly anticipated first features from Jim Loach (*Oranges and Sunshine*) and Paddy Considine (*Tyrannosaur*).

But while feature films may grab the spotlight it is support for short film that has enabled the agency to discover the stars of tomorrow, launching careers and helping secure the future of British film. In partnership with the UK Film Council, EM Media has backed over 50 short films through its Digital Shorts scheme and financed a further 32 through support for other schemes such as Quad Shorts as well as making investments in one-off projects.

Investing in new talent has brought the best ideas to the screen from humorous animations about a great escape from an old people's home and pigs escaping slaughter to dramas about forbidden love and documentaries concerning disability and identity.

Diarmid Scrimshaw, producer of Paddy Considine's 2008 BAFTA-winning short film *Dog Altogether* and his debut feature film *Tyrannosaur* outlines why support for new talent is so important.

*"Shorts remain one of the main stepping stones into a feature film career for directors and producers. From a production point of view shorts are an opportunity to explore both a story idea and also to try out a working relationship with a new director. It's good to try a short on for size before committing to a more substantial project together. For me it's about building a healthy, creative and happy partnership. I look to help emerging directors spread their wings and take flight, it's an exciting place to be".*

EM Media's 82 short films have collectively picked up over fifty prizes at prestigious film festivals all over the world. Over 70% of the filmmakers who have made shorts with EM Media have gone on to develop further projects with EM Media. But it is not just the writers and directors and producers who have benefited. Local actors from Nottingham's BAFTA-winning Television Workshop have been cast in many of EM Media's shorts and features including Michael and Lauren Socha seen on TV screens in *This Is England '86* and *Misfits* respectively and Molly Windsor – a stand out in Samantha Morton's *The Unloved*.

The six films which have just finished filming are:

**Diary of a Thagee – by Loughborough writer director Charlie Sen, produced by Margaret Milner  
Schmuck - Split Second Films**

A young man roams the streets at night looking to enact a ritual of Thagee heritage.

**Pork, by Leicester writer/director Sally-Anne Betts, produced by Georgina Edwards, Strike Films**

A young boy of dual heritage finds that when your parents are fighting taking sides is hard enough without the weight of hundreds of years of racial oppression bearing down on you.

**Wings by Leicestershire writer Catharine Ashdown, produced by Tina Pawlik – Anthem Films Ltd**

A mother's love threatens to ruin Ellie's dream of leaving home to join the RAF.

**Hit and Run by Rutland writer/director Al Mackay, produced by Andrew Ryder – Elephant Gun Films**

When Michael leaves Shelley lying injured in the middle of the road he soon realises he can run, but he really can't hide in this tense thriller.

**Papa by Nottingham writer/director Carolina Giametta, produced by Spool Films**

A father and daughter embark on a journey of discovery and understanding when they find themselves working side by side over the Christmas period.

**Jam Today by Nottingham writer director producer Simon Ellis, Bub Ltd**

A young boy's sexual awakening propels him into a curious and surprising new world

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive EM Media comments:

*"The impacts resulting from eight years of making short films have been incredible. The shorts have resonated with audiences at film festivals across the world providing a tremendous platform and opportunity for those involved to further their careers. Many of the writers and directors have since developed feature films with EM Media and we have been continually impressed and delighted with the quality of the films and the dedication of the crews working on them."*

While the current crop of filmmakers prepare their marketing and distribution plans for 2011 the eight short films made in 2009 are still performing well on the international film festival circuit.

Deborah Haywood's drama *S/S* has picked up several festival prizes including the top prize at Rushes Soho Shorts festival and been nominated for a British Independent Film Award and Andy Taylor Smith's documentary *This Chair is Not Me* has won best short film at Silverdocs, best film at Supershots and has recently won first prize at Sheffield DocFest's Digital Horizons.

## Notes to editors

### EM Media

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England.

In less than a decade the profile, the reputation and impact of East Midlands' filmmaking has transformed through EM Media's interventions, which have driven creative excellence and economic growth:

- **£179m** economic benefit has been generated for the region's economy
- **42 films** have been co-financed by EM Media, from *Control* and *This Is England* to the forthcoming *Tyrannosaur* and *Oranges and Sunshine*, many achieving international acclaim winning 8 BAFTAs, 10 BIFAs and 3 Michael Powell awards
- **6 video games** have been co-financed and released to the global market
- **45 film projects** in development
- **82 high quality short films** have been completed launching the careers of the region's brightest new filmmaking talent

### Key Shorts to Features

Talent	Short Film	Feature Film	Features in Development
Paddy Considine (writer/director)	Dog Altogether (2007)	Tyrannosaur (2011)	King of the Gypsies (co-writer with Shane Meadows)
Tim Cunningham (writer/director)	1:10 Score (2003)	Dig Your Own Grave (2008)	Pecking Orders
Mark Devenport (writer/director)	Why I hate Parties (2003)	Big Things (2009)	Genocide
Jeanie Finlay (writer/director)	Love Takes (2003)	Goth Cruise (2009)	The Great Hip Hop Hoax Orion, The Man Who Would Be King
Deborah Haywood (writer/director)	SIS (2010)		Pin Cushion Bite
Tristan Goligher (producer)	Save Our Bacon (2009)	The Weekender (2011)	Genocide
Made Up North	Butterfly (2009)	A Boy Called Dad (2010)	Granny Flat

Productions (producer)		Best Laid Plans (2011)	
Steven Sheil (writer/director)	Cry (2003)	Mum and Dad (2008)	Everything Dies
Wellington Films (producer)	The Fastest Milk Float in the West (2003) Song of the Holy Cow (2004)	Better Things (2008) Crying With Laughter (2010)	Whatever Love Means Slasher School A Killing in the Woods
Nick Whitfield (writer/director)	Rebecca (2007)	Skeletons (2010)	Trenchmen

Visit [www.em-media.org.uk](http://www.em-media.org.uk) to view EM Media's film portfolio

For further information contact Emily Lappin: [Emily.lappin@em-media.org.uk](mailto:Emily.lappin@em-media.org.uk) 0115 993 2333

