

Press Release



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East of England film professionals co-opted to board of EM Media

Lisa Opie, Chair of the board of EM Media has confirmed that Roger Morris, MD Elstree Studios, Lucy Ward, Director of Norwich-based Wavelength Films and Bill Thompson, Chair of the Cambridge Film Trust have been co-opted to the board of Nottingham-based Screen Agency EM Media in an advisory capacity to ensure full representation from the East of England.

The appointments follow the expansion of EM Media's geographical remit since the demise of Screen East in 2010 to include the East of England. EM Media is in its tenth year of successfully developing and supporting the film and digital media sector in the East Midlands. The agency's support now extends to film and media professionals based in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and the unitary areas of Bedford, Luton, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

Lisa Opie, Chair of the board of EM Media said: *"It is essential that the board of EM Media fully represents the interests of the film industry in the East of England as well as the East Midlands. Our new board members are outstanding industry specialists who bring to our board a wealth of international experience and crucially local knowledge of and commitment to talent across the East of England"*.

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive EM Media said: *"I am delighted to welcome Roger, Bill and Lucy who will play a key role in EM Media's investment decisions, helping shape our strategy, integrating activity across both regions and in the ongoing discussions regarding the establishment of Creative England. It is our intention to create the best possible solution for talent and the cultural infrastructure England-wide and our strengthened board will have much to contribute"*.

Roger Morris, MD Elstree Studios said: *"Since the demise of Screen East, EM Media has been ensuring that the creative industries in the East of England have been given representation and assistance. The East of England is one of the most prolific areas for Film and Television production, and for Games creation. I hope over the next five months I can be of help to EM Media in establishing the ongoing strategy for the East of England and the proposed Creative Regions"*.

Lucy Ward, Director Wavelength Films said: *"There is a wealth of creative talent with a growing international reach and reputation in the East of the region and I look forward to working with EM Media to do what we can to support and develop projects of the highest quality"*.

Bill Thompson, Chair Cambridge Film Trust said: *“It is a great pleasure to join the EM Media board and to have the opportunity to play a part in its decisions at this critical time for the development of film strategy going forward. EM has an enviable track record and I look forward to working with the board in ways that encompass the East of England in planning and delivery”.*

Morris, Ward and Thompson will have full voting rights on all investment decisions pertaining to both the East Midlands and East of England. They will attend regular board meetings alongside the Chair of EM Media’s board Lisa Opie (MD Rocket Science, Director Branded Business, Twofour) and fellow board members: Mike Blair (Editor, Network Current Affairs, ITV), Marc Boothe (Founder, MD and Executive Producer - B3 Media), Stephen Frears (Film Director), Jeremy Gawade (Senior Partner - Lee & Thompson), Elizabeth Karlsen (Producer and Co-Director -Number 9 Films), Dr. Lisa Mooney-Smith (Director of Research for Art, Architecture and Design, University of Lincoln), David Shear (Head of Theatrical Distribution - Revolver Entertainment). The new appointments are on an initial fixed term basis of six months until 1 October.

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Further information: Emily Lappin, Head of Communications 0115 993 2333 emily.lappin@em-media.org.uk
www.em-media.org.uk <http://twitter.com/#!/EMMedia>

Notes to editors

EM Media is the Screen Agency providing investment support to film and media professionals across the East Midlands and Eastern regions of England. EM Media’s interventions have driven cultural excellence and economic growth: **£179m** economic benefit has been generated for the East Midlands economy; **42 feature films** have been backed by EM Media, including *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Control*, *This Is England* and the forthcoming *Tyrannosaur* and *Weekend*. EM Media product has won 6 BAFTAs, 3 Scottish BAFTAs, 10 BIFAs and 3 Michael Powell awards; **9 video games** have been co-financed and released to the global market; **100 high quality short films** have been completed launching the careers of the region’s brightest new filmmaking talent; Education and audience initiatives have led to a **100%** rise in literacy in participating Cine Hub Schools and a **50%** increase in audience reach for independent and world cinema.

