

Press Release



Thursday 18 March 2010

Production begins on Mark Craig's HIGH HOPES

Tigerlily Films (SHE, A CHINESE) and Stopwatch Productions in association with EM Media have commenced production on HIGH HOPES, a feature documentary exploring what became of one group of 1970s art and design students at Leicester Poly, now De Montfort University.

Director Mark Craig, winner of the Grierson Innovation Award for his film TALK TO ME, has tracked down several of his peers from his college days at the end of the '70s. Now on the brink of hitting 50, what became of them all? Back then they were all white, all the tutors were male, and AIDS and desktop computers were unheard of. How are things different for today's students? Are they subject to same pressures and pitfalls as Mark and his contemporaries? How does their demographic make up, and career and life aspirations differ from those students 30 years previously?

Interviews and live action footage will be combined with a wealth of personal and library archive sourced from the Media Archive for Central England, and will include artwork from the students which strongly reflects individual talents and personalities. Contrasting recollections of the past with present day depictions of University activity, HIGH HOPES will be a powerful and visually engaging picture of contrast and change.

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media comments:

"We are very much looking forward to working again with Tigerlily Films following EM Media's 2007 investment in the feature documentary, GOTH CRUISE and our investment in the Locarno-winner SHE, A CHINESE. Tigerlily produces consistently interesting projects; this is another example of a local story which we believe has international appeal."

HIGH HOPES has been enabled by investment from EM Media and the UK Film Council's Digital Film Archive Fund supported by the National Lottery. The Digital Film Archive Fund has been set up to increase public access to regional screen heritage. HIGH HOPES is one of a number of projects approved for investment from EM Media through the UK Film Council's Digital Film Archive Fund (DFAF).

Others include the Nottinghamshire YMCA project, *Century of Youth*, which will see a number of short films made by young people, related to the decades from 1910 to 2010. The films will use archive

footage secured through YMCA film libraries, individual members' own collections and the Media Archive for Central England, and each will explore the changing lives of young people in the East Midlands.

tv/e, a third sector production company known for programmes focusing on global and environmental issues, has received DFAF investment through EM Media for *Nottingham Lace: Life on the Edge*. This 25 minute documentary will contextualise the rise and fall of the lace industry in Nottingham through use of archive film and interviews with one of the very few lace makers left in the area. The programme will be broadcast four times by BBC World News as part of its *Life on the Edge* series.

Also to receive DFAF investment through EM Media is the 13th British Silent Film Festival which will take place between Thursday 15 and Sunday 18 April 2010 at Phoenix Square in Leicester. The theme of this year's festival is exploration, science and nature in British film pre-1930 and includes conventional screenings of silent film alongside an education programme, special gala screenings, re-scored screenings with live musical accompaniment and collaborative events with partners such as the Imperial War Museum and the BBC.

For more information about HIGH HOPES please contact Natasha Dack, Producer, Tigerlily Films on 07973 624981.

For information about EM Media or the Digital Film Archive Fund please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications, EM Media on 07966 439 902 or via email at emily.lappin@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

EM Media

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England. EM Media secures finance, nurtures talent, invests in success and stimulates growth and innovation across the digital content sector.

EM Media has invested in the development and production of more than 60 British feature films. These include: Jim Loach's *Oranges and Sunshine*, Nick Whitfield's *Skeletons*, Karl Golden's *Pelican Blood*, Justin Molotnikov's *Crying With Laughter*, Samantha Morton's *The Unloved*, Brian Percival's *A Boy Called Dad*, Alexis Dos Santos's *Unmade Beds*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Duane Hopkins' *Better Things*, Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad*, Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise*, Shane Meadows' BAFTA-winning *This Is England* and Anton Corbijn's award-winning *Control*.

EM Media has also financed games and virtual worlds including the soon to be launched *Space Ark* and *Hunter's World*, as well as *mixm8*, *Beauty Salon*, *Geon: Emotions*, *Bugs of War*, *Manifest* and *Spell Souls*.

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