

NEW HOPE FOR BRITISH HORROR COMPLETES FILMING

Film London and EM Media are delighted to announce that **Mum & Dad**, the first film to be produced under Film London's micro-budget film fund **Microwave**, has wrapped following a successful and intensive three week shoot in London and Nottingham.

Written and directed by Steven Sheil, and produced by Lisa Trnovski of 2AM Films, *Mum & Dad* is a nerve-fraying horror about a murderous family living in the shadow of a major London airport. Chosen for its startling originality, *Mum & Dad* is Steven's first feature length production and already he is being heralded as a major new talent in British horror. The film brings together a new generation of budding film-makers with a cast that includes Perry Benson (*This is England*) and Olga Fedori (*Skins*).

Microwave is a brand new initiative for London-based film-makers to produce ten micro-budget feature film projects. The scheme challenges film-makers to shoot a full length feature film for up to £100,000 with cash and in-kind support. **Microwave** provides an intensive approach to film-making, with an emphasis on tightly focused scripts, short production schedules and is open to film-makers working in documentary, fiction and to artists working with the moving image.

Backed by the BBC, the scheme provides up to £75,000 of direct funding per project together with a unique professional mentoring scheme from leading industry figures including directors **Stephen Frears** (*Mrs Henderson Presents*), **Gurinder Chadha** (*Bride and Prejudice*), and **John Akomfrah** (*Seven Songs for Malcolm X*); and producers **Sandy Lieberson** (*Rita, Sue and Bob Too*), **Jeremy Thomas** (*Sexy Beast*) and **James Schamus** (*Brokeback Mountain*).

Film London and its partners will also offer a range of assistance including in-kind support from leading facilities and service companies, competitive locations fees from many of London's local authorities; and a 'revenue share' model which will return a generous percentage of any revenue back to the film-makers.

EM Media co-financed *Mum and Dad* with £50,000 via European Regional Development Funds, and supported the production through locations support and the financing of production trainees from the East Midlands. *Mum and Dad* is the agency's twelfth feature and having supported Steve Sheil's development through investment in his short films EM Media is delighted to be co-financing his first feature.

Completed projects will be broadcast on the BBC and have the opportunity to showcase at the annual London UK Film Focus sales event as well as at major international markets.

The next round of applications for Microwave is now open and closes on Friday 29 June, full details and an application pack can be found at www.filmlondon.org.uk/microwave.

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Notes to editors:

In-kind sponsors of the Microwave scheme include Ascent Media, AFM Lighting, 3 Mills Studios, Ealing Studios, Marsh, Fuji, Midnite Express, Accor Hotels, DTS, Chantrey Vellacott and Olswang.

Film London is the capital's film and media agency. Film London sustains, promotes and develops London as a major international film-making and film cultural capital. This includes all the screen industries based in London – film, television, video, commercials and new interactive media. Film London is supported by the UK Film Council and the London Development Agency. Film London also receives significant support from Arts Council England London, the European Regional Development Fund, the Mayor of London and Skillset. www.filmlondon.org.uk

Film London's activities include:

- Investment in new and established film-makers through a range of low budget production schemes, from shorts to features
- Supporting training and business development activities
- Developing audiences and access provision across the film and media sector
- Showcasing of London films and talent
- Domestic and international tourism initiatives
- Promoting London on an international stage as an attractive base for film and media production
- Providing comprehensive information on London locations and production services, as well as practical advice and support to film-makers shooting in London

EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands. The agency invests RIFE Lottery and Treasury Finance in film activity and European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) in the development, production, distribution, exhibition, prototyping and publishing of Film (long and short form), Television (corporate broadcast, internet TV), Games (for consoles, hand held, mobile phone) and Interactive (internet, mobile phone and TV software).

EM Media has co-financed 12 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's current and forthcoming releases are: *Better Things*, Mascot Pictures 2006, *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* Number 9 Films 2006, *Magicians*, Intermedia Films 2006, *Control*, NorthSee 2006, *This is England*, Warp Films 2005. Other feature investments include *Brothers of the Head*, Potboiler Productions 2005, *A Cock and Bull Story*, Revolution Films 2005, *Dead Man's Shoes*, Warp Films 2004, *One For the Road*, One for the Road Productions, 2003, *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands*, Slate Films, 2003 and *Anita and Me*, Starfield Productions, 2002.



EM Media is a partner in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making, an initiative of UK Film Council, Film4, Screen Yorkshire, Optimum Releasing and EM Media.

EM Media's Location Services has encouraged and assisted a range of productions to use the East Midlands for locations and filming, including *Atonement* (Working Title Films), *The Da Vinci Code* (Imagine Entertainment), *The Other Boleyn Girl* (BBC Films), *The Golden Compass* (New Line Cinema), *Pride & Prejudice* (Working Title Films).

www.em-media.org.uk.