

For immediate release: 20 November 2009

## **ORANGES AND SUNSHINE DIRECTED BY JIM LOACH AND STARRING EMILY WATSON HEADS TO AUSTRALIA**

**Shooting wraps in Nottingham on Jim Loach's *Oranges and Sunshine*. Production now moves to South Australia where principal photography ends on 31 January, 2010.**

*Oranges and Sunshine* marks the **feature film debut of director Jim Loach**. The screenplay is by **Rona Munro** based on the book *Empty Cradles* by Margaret Humphreys. The film tells the story of **Nottingham social worker Margaret Humphreys**, who uncovered one of the most significant social scandals in recent times: the forced migration of children from the United Kingdom. Almost single-handedly, against overwhelming odds and with little regard for her own well-being, Margaret reunited thousands of families, brought authorities to account and worldwide attention to an extraordinary miscarriage of justice.

The cast of *Oranges and Sunshine* includes **Emily Watson** (*Synecdoche, New York, Hilary and Jackie*) in the role of Margaret Humphreys. The Oscar-nominated star of *Breaking The Waves* leads a cast also including **David Wenham** (*The Lord of the Rings*), **Hugo Weaving** (*The Wolfman, V for Vendetta*) and **Molly Windsor**, the gifted young performer last seen in Samantha Morton's *The Unloved*.

The film is a UK/Australia co-production through **Sixteen Midlands** and **See-Saw Films**, produced by **Camilla Bray, Emile Sherman** and **Iain Canning** and presented by **Screen Australia** and **Little Gaddesden Productions**. In association with **Fulcrum Media Finance, EM Media, South Australian Film Corporation, Deluxe, Screen NSW** and **BBC Films**. **Icon Film Distribution** will distribute *Oranges & Sunshine* in the UK and **Icon Films Entertainment** is handling international sales.

Production company Sixteen Midlands is the East Midlands base of **Rebecca O'Brien and Ken Loach's Sixteen Films**. The company, based in Derbyshire, was set up in 2007 to produce the feature film *Summer*, also co-financed by EM Media.

### **Quote from the producers:**

"*Oranges and Sunshine* is an incredible story of one woman's courage and compassion, one that

exposes an injustice suffered by thousands of children. This film will strengthen and deepen our understanding of the past, and will touch and inspire audiences around the world."

**Debbie Williams of EM Media:**

"Margaret Humphrey's incredible story belongs to Nottingham and is rooted in the East Midlands. Her fight for justice on behalf of thousands of children has placed Nottingham in the international spotlight for all the right reasons. We're delighted that EM Media's investment, the first using new finance secured from the East Midlands Development Agency, has ensured this film is made right here in the region, creating jobs and inward investment. The formidable combination of Jim Loach's vision and Rona Monro's powerful script will deliver a deeply moving film."

***Oranges and Sunshine*** wraps in the UK on Saturday 21 November, and in South Australia on 31 January 2010.

**Icon Film Distribution enquiries:** For further information please contact Zak Brilliant, VP of Distribution & Publicity, Icon Film Distribution on 020 8492 6300 or at [Zak@iconfilmdistribution.co.uk](mailto:Zak@iconfilmdistribution.co.uk).

**EM Media enquiries:** For further information please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Emma Hewitt, Communications Coordinator, EM Media on 0115 934 9097 or at [emma.hewitt@em-media.org.uk](mailto:emma.hewitt@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 32 British feature films. These include: Jim Loach's *Oranges & 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 co-financed the first six films from Warp X, the low-budget digital studio including *Bunny & the Bull*, *She*, *A Chinese* and *All Tomorrow's Parties*.

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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