

# Press Release



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## UK premiere for **NOTTINGHAM LACE** Documentary



**A documentary telling the story of Nottingham's last remaining lace-makers will have its UK premiere at the Nottingham Contemporary gallery on Wednesday 13 October.**

***NOTTINGHAM LACE*, co-financed by Screen Agency EM Media, charts the decline of Nottingham's once world-renowned lace industry and the fight for survival of Ilkeston-based Cluny Lace, the last remaining company producing Nottingham lace using traditional techniques.**

Nottingham's famous Lace Market once pounded to the heavy metal beat of its handmade lace-making machines. From the start of the Industrial Revolution, Nottingham - and nearby Ilkeston - were the epicentres of a global industry that thrived as the market for intricate lace designs increased, at one time employing around 16,000 workers to meet demand from all over the world.

Today the UK Lace industry is at a historic low. ***NOTTINGHAM LACE***, a new film, backed by EM Media, documents Nottingham business Cluny Lace, owned and run by the tightly-knit Mason family who have been making lace for nine generations. They are the last of their kind, making intricate and beautiful lace on antique jacquard machines almost solely for top-end fashion designers and haute couture houses. Cluny Lace uses unique Leavers machines, made in 1902, meaning modern, mass production machines are incapable of copying their work. Only one local Ilkeston man knows how to punch out the Jacquard cards that determine the pattern the machines weave.

But Cluny Lace now faces a harsh dilemma: can the UK still find a place for the skills that made it rich? And does the lace which former UK Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher once lauded as "truly British" now belong on museum shelves, or designer dresses worn only by fashionable elites?

Through revealing interviews and archive footage ***NOTTINGHAM LACE*** charts Cluny Lace's journey as it navigates the choppy waters of industrial change.

***NOTTINGHAM LACE*** receives its UK premiere at **Nottingham Contemporary on Wednesday 13 October 2010**. The film screening is followed by a panel discussion with opportunities for questions from the floor.

BBC World News broadcast **NOTTINGHAM LACE** as part of the 'Life on the Edge' series in September to 172 countries worldwide. The event at Nottingham Contemporary is a unique opportunity to see the full length version of the film in the UK. A cut down version will be screened by BBC East Midlands *Inside Out* in December 2010.

**NOTTINGHAM LACE** was produced by Glimmer Films in Nottingham, directed by Jeanie Finlay, edited and graded by Lucas Roche and executive produced by Life on the Edge series editor Steve Bradshaw for tve. The programme was enabled by EM Media and the UK Film Council's Digital Film Archive Fund supported by the National Lottery, with additional support from the Greater Nottingham Partnership and BBC East Midlands.

Jeanie Finlay of Glimmer Films, Director and Producer of **NOTTINGHAM LACE** comments:

*"Making NOTTINGHAM LACE was an eye opening opportunity to find out more about the industry that helped build and shape my adopted home town of Nottingham. It was fascinating to contrast the archive footage of 1930, 1950 and 1970 - hundreds of people employed in lace production with what I discovered today - only a handful left. Cluny Lace as "the last man standing" is a rare treasure to be cherished."*

Jenny Richards, Deputy Director of tve comments:

*"For three years, 'Life on the Edge' has filmed the stories of people living 'on the edge' of globalization – from Europe's Roma to Tanzania's remote Hadza tribe. What we hadn't filmed before was a story about a whole old European industry that's on the edge because of globalization - in this case the world-renowned tradition of manufacturing Nottingham Lace. Jeanie Finlay has made a wonderfully evocative film about a small group of people trying to keep these craft skills alive against enormous odds."*

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive EM Media comments:

*"As well as detailing an important chapter in the UK's industrial history NOTTINGHAM LACE also highlights the region's talent – both in front of and behind the camera. We are delighted that EM Media's investment in the film has helped showcase Nottingham's heritage to global audiences"*

To book a place at the free screening taking place in Nottingham at 7pm on Wednesday 13 October go to the [Nottingham Contemporary website](#).

To read more about *Nottingham Lace* and to watch a clip from the film, visit the [Lifeonline](#) website or the [tve YouTube channel](#).

To read a feature article by Life on the Edge series editor Steve Bradshaw, visit the [BBC News website](#).

For information about EM Media or the Digital Film Archive Fund please contact Emma Hewitt, PR and Marketing Executive, EM Media on 07967 217 994 or via email at [emma.hewitt@em-media.org.uk](mailto:emma.hewitt@em-media.org.uk)

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## Notes to editors

**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 feature 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
- **75 high quality short films** have been completed launching the careers of the region's brightest new filmmaking talent

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**tve** works in global partnerships to inspire change. An independent, non-profit organisation with longstanding experience of communicating sustainable development through global broadcast, **tve** arguably has the biggest global footprint – through international broadcast television, online and global partnerships - of any organisation working in the field. Our flagship series include [Earth Report](#), on the global environment, and [Life on the Edge](#) which highlights how countries, communities and individuals are responding to the challenges of globalisation. Other productions include vignette series such as [Climate Thinkers](#), and the recent [African Football Shorts](#), going behind the World Cup headlines to focus on development stories across Africa.

**Glimmer Films** make intimate and personal documentary films and artworks made for the cinema, broadcast and the web. Founded in 2008 by filmmaker Jeanie Finlay.

Projects in production include THE GREAT HIP HOP HOAX a co-production Met Film for BBC Scotland and ORION: The Man Who Would be King with Quark Films and SOUND IT OUT.

[www.glimmerfilms.com](http://www.glimmerfilms.com) / [www.jeaniefinlay.com](http://www.jeaniefinlay.com)

