

Press Release



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EM Media co-financed features selected for Sundance Film Festival

The 25th anniversary edition of the Sundance Film Festival will include premieres from two films made and financed in the East Midlands. The films have been selected for the highly contested World Cinema Dramatic Competition strand and join a selection of 16 films, chosen from a record 1,012 submissions.

The two films are ***Bronson***, directed by Nicolas Winding Refn and ***Unmade Beds***, directed by Alexis Dos Santos. Both films received European Regional Development Fund production finance through EM Media and join a strong slate of other co-financed award winning British independent films including *Control*, *This Is England* and *Summer*. *Bronson* and *Unmade Beds* also received Lottery Funds from the UK Film Council via EM Media to support trainees who worked on the productions.

Bronson traces the transformation of Mickey Peterson into Britain's most notorious, dangerous and charismatic prisoner, Charles Bronson. Taking the title role of Bronson will be Tom Hardy (*Black Hawk Down*, *WΔZ*, *RocknRolla*, *Stuart: A Life Backwards*) who is cited by critics as one of the UK's most promising young actors. The film shot in the East Midlands region from a Nottinghamshire base over six weeks during 2007, using a range of locations including Great Central Railway and Stanford Hall in Loughborough and created jobs for twenty-two highly skilled crew from the East Midlands. The film will receive its North American Premiere at Sundance.

Unmade Beds tells the story of two young foreigners who find romance in the vibrant, artistic underground of London's East End. The film features a cast of exciting young international acting and creative talent in front of, and behind the camera, and cutting edge music by UK-based independent bands. The diverse architecture and streets of Nottingham stood in for London during a four week shoot in and around the city during last year. The film also used the talented crew based in the East Midlands, with trainees being employed on the production with support from Lottery Funds from the UK Film Council via EM Media. The film will receive its World Premiere at Sundance.

On news of the announcement EM Media's Chief Executive, Debbie Williams commented, "EM Media is delighted to have been instrumental in financing and supporting *Bronson* and *Unmade Beds*, two remarkable feature films which are an exciting addition to our portfolio of investments. Four films from the UK have been selected for the World Cinema Dramatic Competition at one of the world's most innovative and influential film festivals. The fact that two of those films were made

right here in the East Midlands is testament to the region's continuing reputation as a filmmaking centre of excellence."

On the announcement of this year's selection of films Sundance Festival Director Geoff Gilmore commented, "We think long and hard about what we're going to put into the festival and we're passionate about what we like. We have a mandate for discovery and that's what we aim to reflect in the selection."

For next year's event the festival received a total of 3,661 submissions, these were whittled down to just over 100 films, of which 64 are in competition. The festival runs from Thursday 15 – Sunday 25 January 2009.

For further information please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via firstname.surname@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

EM Media is a dynamic Regional Screen Agency supporting the development of the film and media industries in the East Midlands region. It has three aims:

- Talent Development: to identify, grow and support the cultural, creative and economic ambitions of the region's dynamic talent pool.
- Audiences and Markets: to develop the range of markets, audiences and opportunities for consumption of digital product and to encourage participation, understanding and engagement with all forms of media product.
- Business: Utilise key business functions and practices to better shape our business to be able to inform and support film and media businesses across the East Midlands'

EM Media has built a reputation for investing in innovative and distinctive projects, and has led the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region. EM Media is also one of the main partners in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making.

Since 2002 EM Media has invested ERDF finance and/or Lottery in 27 feature films. Forthcoming releases include Karl Golden's *Pelican Blood*, Samantha Morton's directorial debut *The Unloved*, Brian Percival's *A Boy Called Dad*, Duane Hopkins' *Better Things* (Cannes Official Selection 2008), Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Bronson*, Martin Radich's *Crack Willow* (Under The Radar – EIFF 2008), Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad* (Film4 FrightFest), Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise* and the films from the Warp X slate including Chris Waitt's *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*, Olly Blackburn's *Donkey Punch*, Mark Tonderai's *Hush*. Previous film investments include the BAFTA and BIFA winning *Control* (Anton Corbijn) and the BAFTA award-winning *This Is England* (Shane Meadows) (*Best British Film 2007*).

www.em-media.org.uk

Sundance Film Festival

The Sundance Film Festival is a film festival that takes place annually in the state of Utah, in the United States. Set up by actor Robert Redford in 1981, it is the largest independent cinema festival in the U.S. Held in January in Park City, Salt Lake City, and Ogden, Utah, as well as the Sundance Resort. The festival is the premier showcase for new work from American and international independent filmmakers. The festival comprises competitive sections for American and international dramatic and documentary films, both feature-length films and short films, and a group of non-competitive showcase sections, including the New Frontier, Spectrum and Park City @ Midnight.

<http://festival.sundance.org/2009>.

