

# Press Release



For immediate release: Nottingham, Monday 7 June 2010

## **EM Media co-financed *The Unloved* scoops Single Drama BAFTA**

**Oscar-nominated actress Samantha Morton's directorial debut, *The Unloved* last night won the award for Single Drama at the 2010 British Academy Television Awards. Co-financed by EM Media and shot entirely on location in Nottingham during 2008, the moving drama gives an intimate child's eye view of life in a children's home.**

*The Unloved* stars acclaimed actor Robert Carlyle (*28 Weeks Later*) alongside its two young leads - Molly Windsor as Lucy and Lauren Socha as Lauren - who were both cast through a series of open auditions held across Nottingham schools, drama groups and at the EM Media-supported Television Workshop (where Morton herself attended aged 12).

Last night Lauren Socha was also recognised by BAFTA for her performance in the film, gaining a nomination in the Supporting Actress category. Last night's recognition follows Robert Carlyle's award at the Scottish BAFTAs last November, winning the BAFTA for Acting Performance in TV (Male) category for his role in *The Unloved*.

Samantha Morton worked with acclaimed writer Tony Grisoni (*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, In This World, Red Riding*) to create the fictional script, which draws loosely on Morton's own childhood experiences in the British care system.

*The Unloved* was broadcast as part of Channel 4's Britain's Forgotten Children series in May 2009. Since then it has gone on to screen at the Toronto International Film Festival where it received widespread critical acclaim, and in February this year was released theatrically in the UK by the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA). In May 2010 *The Unloved* was released on DVD.

Producer of *The Unloved*, Kate Ogborn, who last night collected the BAFTA award for *The Unloved* comments:

"QUOTE GOES HERE"

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive of EM Media, comments:

*"Samantha is an astonishing British talent and I am delighted that BAFTA has recognised this beautiful and powerful film. It should also be remembered that The Unloved is Sam's directorial debut and*

therefore an outstanding achievement in so many ways.. Our warmest congratulations go to Sam, Kate, Tony and the whole production team on a fantastic and well-deserved award..

*This latest recognition by BAFTA of an EM Media-backed project once again throws a spotlight on the high quality film and television production activity taking place outside London. The East Midlands is home to a wealth of aspiring and proven creative talent working across the film, TV and digital media industries. That EM Media has so far backed 27 feature films from first time directors clearly shows the agency's ongoing commitment to finding, nurturing and supporting Britain's brightest new talent; we look forward to continuing this support and celebrating more creative success in the future."*

For further information please contact Emma Hewitt, PR and Marketing Executive, EM Media on 0115 993 2350 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

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England. The agency secures finance, nurtures talent, invests in success and stimulates growth and innovation across the film and 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' award-winning *This Is England* and Anton Corbijn's award-winning *Control*.

EM Media 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 finances 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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