

Press Release



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Major broadcasters shoot new TV dramas in the East Midlands

Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire have both proved to be a major draw with not one, but two new TV dramas; **Cast Offs**, an ambitious and darkly comic drama series for Channel 4 and a new BBC TV drama.

Written by Jack Thorne **Cast Offs** tells the story of six disabled characters who have been sent to a remote British island for a fictional reality TV show. The production shot in a range of locations across Nottinghamshire and on the Lincolnshire coast during September last year and almost half of the crew working on the production were regionally-based talent. **Cast Offs** will be broadcast on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for three weeks at 11pm commencing on Tuesday 24 November.

The series features a cameo from Thomas Turgoose, who has plenty of experience of filming in Nottingham through his starring role in the BAFTA-winning *This Is England*, which filmed almost entirely in Nottinghamshire during 2006 and he is joined in **Cast Offs** by fellow *This Is England* actress Vicky McClure.

During filming the production set up a permanent base in Nottingham and almost half the crew working on **Cast Offs** were from the East Midlands, they filled roles across a number of departments including Locations, Art Department and Camera Department.

Dave Dickinson, who worked as Art Department Assistant explains how he got into his line of work, *"I've got no formal training and started out as a Runner on EM Media's DV Shorts productions then worked as a runner in the Art Department on a couple of feature films. Running for the Art Department is a really useful way of learning how the department functions."*

During the shoot the **Cast Offs** production used a range of diverse Nottingham locations, including Bulwell, Bobbersmill, the Victoria Leisure Centre in Sneinton Market, The University of Nottingham's Sports Centre plus lots of exterior locations in the Lace Market and interior shots in the Lace Market Theatre. The Lincolnshire coast was also used for filming.

Meanwhile a new BBC TV drama will be filming in Nottinghamshire for almost a month starting next week and a number of regional crew have been employed on the production.

EM Media, through the agency's dedicated Location Services team, supported both productions, providing crew CVs, facilitating contacts with local councils and authorities and finding locations; all to help ensure filming went as smoothly as possible. Nick Girvan, Location Manager, **Cast Offs** commented on his experiences of filming in the East Midlands, "*From the location owners to the police to all the local councils that I dealt with - nothing was a problem. As filming in London has become so entangled in red tape I feel that to come to the East Midlands is a 'no brainer' as far as location based productions are concerned. I look forward to making more and more productions in the area and with EM Media's help and support I am sure this will become a reality.*"

For further information on **EM Media** please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications, Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive or Emma Hewitt, Communications Coordinator, EM Media on 07966 439 902 or via email at firstname.lastname@em-media.org.uk. For specific **Cast Offs** enquiries please contact via email Donna Emmerson, Alex Wells or Louise Hutton, for images or footage (previews or clips) please contact Rebecca Allin, all at Channel 4. initialsurname@channel4.co.uk.

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Notes to editors

Cast Offs and Channel4 - www.channel4.com/programmes/cast-offs

- Satirical, poignant and unashamedly honest, *Cast Offs* blows preconceptions of disability out of the water. The series starts with the disabled *Cast Offs* marooned on an island. As the camera crew follows their struggle with island life, from learning to build their own homes and grow their own food, to fights, births and falling in love, flashbacks reveal more about each of them and the year leading up to the moment they are left stranded.
- Each episode of the *Cast Offs* mini series focuses on one character's story and stars disabled actors; Victoria Wright as April (cherubism), Kiruna Stamell as Carrie (dwarfism), Peter Mitchell as Dan (paraplegic), Sophie Woolley as Gabriella (deaf), Tim Gebbels as Tom (blind) and Mat Fraser as Will (thalidomide affected).
- *Cast Offs* was written by Jack Thorne (*The Scouting Book for Boys*), who teamed up with writers Tony Roche (*The Thick Of It*) and Alex Bulmer (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame, R4*) to create the six part comedy-drama 'mocumentary'.
- *Cast Offs* is made by Eleven Film for Channel 4 with Joel Wilson as series producer, Judy Counihan as executive producer. The series is directed by Miranda Bowen and Amanda Boyle, who have previously made short films for the channel's new talent strand, *Coming Up*.

EM Media - www.em-media.org.uk

- 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: 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 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*.