

Press Release



Tuesday 28 August 2007

For immediate release

East Midlands films scoop top awards at Edinburgh International film Festival

Anton Corbijn's critically acclaimed feature film, *Control*, which received investment from EM Media and shot on location in Nottingham, has been named winner of the prestigious Michael Powell Award for Best British Film at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival.

The Michael Powell Award is awarded to the best new British feature film screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Named in honour of one of Britain's most original filmmakers and inaugurated in 1993, the award is judged by an international jury and celebrates imagination and creativity in British filmmaking.

This isn't the first award for *Control*. It had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, where it opened Directors' Fortnight and received rapturous reviews from critics as well as the Prix Regards Jeunes (Young Eyes Prize), an award for best first or second directed feature film. It was also awarded the Europa Cinemas Label prize for best European Film.

Control tells the story of Joy Division singer Ian Curtis and was inspired by the book *Touching From A Distance*, written by Ian Curtis's widow Deborah Curtis. It follows Curtis's rise to fame, his battles with epilepsy, his relationships with both his wife and girlfriend and his suicide in 1980. *Control* is the directorial debut of photographer Anton Corbijn, well known for his iconic stills of Joy Division, and stars Nottingham-born actress **Samantha Morton** and newcomer **Sam Riley** as the eponymous Curtis, a role for which he won the award for **Best Performance in a British Feature Film**.

The film shot in Nottingham during summer 2006. EM Media's Location Services team assisted the production with establishing its production base in Nottingham at the former Carlton Studios, now owned by the University of Nottingham, along with securing work for 28 regionally-based crew members on the film. The film was co-financed with £250,000 of European Regional Development Funds via EM Media; the production brought an inward investment of £2 million into the city.

The win, which was announced on Saturday 25 August, marks the second year in a row that an EM Media co-financed film has won the coveted award, following success last year for Louis Pepe and Keith Fulton's *Brothers of the Head*.

The film will be on general release at UK cinemas from **Friday 5 October**.

Another East Midlands film also picked up a prestigious award at this year's festival; *Over The Hill*, a short animation from Lincolnshire-based writer/director Peter Baynton, was awarded the McLaren Award for best new British animation. The McLaren Award carries a prize of £1000 to allow the filmmaker to produce new and promote existing work. The film, which tells the story of a cunning trio of residents at the Over the Hill Rest Home who discover a sinister secret, was co-financed by EM Media and the UK Film Council and produced as part of the Digital Shorts Scheme. *Over The Hill* has also been selected for a number of other festivals including Rushes Festival 2007 and the 15th Raindance Film Festival.

Burton Upon Trent's finest - Bourne Ultimatum actor Paddy Considine also received a special mention for his directorial debut *Dog Altogether* – a short film co-financed by EM Media.

East Midlands winners:

Control (Anton Corbijn) – **Michael Powell award for Best British Film**,
Sam Riley (Control) – **PPG Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film**
Soft (Simon Ellis) **European Film Academy Short Film 2007 - Prix**
Over the Hill (Peter Baynton) **McLaren Award for New British Animation**
Dog Altogether (Paddy Considine) – special mention

A full list of all winners can be found here.

<http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk/news/view/1955/and-the-winner-is-/>

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Notes to editors

EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands. A delegate body of the UK Film Council, the agency invests RIFE Lottery and Treasury Finance in film activity and European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) in the development, production, distribution, exhibition, prototyping and publishing of Film (long and short form), Television (corporate broadcast, internet TV), Games (for console, PC, hand held, mobile phone) and Interactive (internet, mobile phone and TV software).

EM Media is a partner in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making, an initiative of UK Film Council, Film4, Screen Yorkshire, Optimum Releasing and EM Media.

EM Media has co-financed 14 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's forthcoming and current releases include: low-budget horror *Mum and Dad*, 2AM Films 2007 *Better Things*, Mascot Pictures 2008, *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* Number 9 Films 2007, *Magicians*, Intermedia Films 2007, *Control*, NorthSee 2007, *This is England*, Warp Films 2007. Other feature investments include *Brothers of the Head*, Potboiler Productions 2006, *A Cock and Bull Story*, Revolution Films 2006, *Dead Man's Shoes*, Warp Films 2005, *One For the Road*, One for the Road Productions, 2004, *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands*, Slate Films, 2003 and *Anita and Me*, Starfield Productions, 2002. Two further feature film investments will be announced shortly.

EM Media's Location Services has encouraged and assisted a range of productions to use the East Midlands for locations and filming, including *Atonement* (Working Title Films), *The Da Vinci Code* (Imagine Entertainment), *The Other Boleyn Girl* (BBC Films), *The Golden Compass* (New Line Cinema), *Pride & Prejudice* (Working Title Films).

www.em-media.org.uk.

