

# Press Release



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For immediate release

## EM Media introduces the region's future filmmakers

EM Media is delighted to announce that four films have been commissioned through the agency's DV Shorts scheme, run in conjunction with the UK Film Council. The scheme is now in its sixth year and has built a reputation for producing films which go on to secure television broadcasts, festival screenings, awards and industry accolades. This year's films should prove to be no exception!

The four projects are: ***Tandem***; from writer/directors John and Tom Turrell, with Rachel Dargavel producing for Perfume Films; ***Tender***; from writer Roger Hadfield, with Deborah Haywood directing and Yvonne Bray and Tina Pawlik co-producing for Anthem Films; ***The Taxidermist***; from writer/directors Bert & Bertie, with Louise Knight producing for Warp Developments East Midlands and ***Wintering***, from writer Richard House and director Iain Finlay, with Rachel Dargavel producing for Perfume Films.

***Tandem*** is a touching and comical story exploring the complex relationships between adult siblings. Over 22 minutes, a semi-alcoholic brother and his well adjusted sister find their love for each other affected but unchanged by their father's death. Having made their first film aged ten, twin brothers John and Tom Turrell are already prolific filmmakers and promise to bring a fresh look at their subject. Their work has been broadcast on BBC2 and they have been regular contributors to *Bang!*, Nottingham's International Short Film Festival.

Commissioned writer Roger Hadfield has a strong background in copywriting and runs his own business, working for a range of clients including BAA and Wedgwood. He also writes for publications including FHM and Total Film, but ***Tender*** is his first short film script to be commissioned. Deborah Haywood's short film debut *Lady Margaret*, commissioned through last year's DV Shorts scheme, went on to secure her the accolade of 'Star of Tomorrow' from film industry trade publication Screen International. Roger and Deborah are working together on *Tender*, a coming of age story about one boy's hunger to survive.

**The Taxidermist** is a dark and quirky tale from female writing and directing team Bert & Bertie (aka Amber Templemore-Finlayson and Katie Ellwood). The pair worked together on *Phobias*, which went onto win Jury Prize for Best Comedy at SOPOT International Film Festival and announced as runner-up in the Best Short Film category at the Raindance International Film Festival. A cross between *Amelie* and *Delicatessen* with a very English twist, *The Taxidermist* is 'a love story that will knock the stuffing out of any tail that has gone before'.

**Wintering** will be Iain Finlay's second commissioned short. With a strong background in post-production and extensive knowledge of editing software, his talent at telling visual stories can be seen in the self-financed music video *Lightheaded*. Already screened at the Big Chill Festival, Brasilia Film Festival, and Sheffield Showcomotion Festival, it is currently available for viewing on the BBC Film Network. Another short running the gamut of comedy to thriller in near to no words, Iain's short film *Number 54* (produced through DV Shorts 2003) and co-written by Richard went onto be nominated for 2004's BBC Newcomer Award and secure a broadcast on BBC3.

Over 100 projects were submitted from across the East Midlands region to get a chance to be in the final four. Just 12 were selected to go through an intensive development phase, involving weekly script development meetings and tailored training at The National Film & Television School.

Roger Hadfield, writer of commissioned project **Tender** commented on the development phase, "The whole process has been amazing, a real journey. I've seen my script evolve, and I've felt myself evolve as a writer - it has been much more intense, much harder, yet, ultimately, much more rewarding than I ever thought possible."

John and Tom Turrell commented on their commission, "After a year of thinking, visualizing and writing about **Tandem**, it is both exhilarating and encouraging that the film has been greenlit and a privilege to know that EM Media have faith in our film. We feel we've been granted a real chance to shine as writer/directors."

Suzanne Alizart, Head of Partnerships at EM Media commented on the final four, "The selected films are all ambitious, bold and will help those making them to step up in their careers. We are delighted to support newcomers and returning talent from the East Midlands filmmaking community in demonstrating their talent and look forward to adding their names to our growing list of award winners from the region. "

For further information please contact Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive or Emma Hewitt, Communications Coordinator at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via email at [firstname.surname@em-media.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@em-media.org.uk).

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### Notes to editors

- DV Shorts is the training and production scheme for filmmakers in the East Midlands. The scheme is co-financed with Lottery funds via the UK Film Council and European Regional Development Funds via EM Media.
- Films produced through previous years of the DV Shorts scheme have gone on to win the coveted McLaren Award for New British Animation at Edinburgh International Film Festival (*Over The Hill*, dir. Peter Baynton), nominated for the Fortean Times Award (*Shadowline*, dir. Dan Seagrave) and been programmed in competition screenings at Edinburgh International Film Festival and Encounters Short Film Festival (*The Visitor*, dir. Dave Smith). TV broadcasts have included *What About The Bodies* on BBC Three (dir. Simon Ellis).
- EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands. From its Nottingham base 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 to date co-financed 19 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's slate of films in production, forthcoming and current releases include: *Bronson* (Vertigo 2008), *Unmade Beds* (The Bureau 2008), *Crack Willow* (Perfume Films 2008), *Summer* (Sixteen Films 2007), *Hush* (Warp X 2007), *Donkey Punch* (Warp X 2007), *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* (Warp X 2007), *Mum and Dad* (2AM Films 2007), *Better Things* (Third Films 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).
- For further information, visit [www.em-media.org.uk](http://www.em-media.org.uk).

