

# Press Release



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## **Talent from the East Midlands selected for short filmmaking scheme**

**EM Media, the Screen Agency for the East Midlands, is delighted to announce the 17 writers, directors and writer/directors who have been selected for the development stage of the agency's digital short film talent development, training and production scheme, DV Shorts.**

DV Shorts is now in its eighth year and continues to go from strength to strength with films commissioned through previous year's of DV Shorts going on to secure festival screenings across the world and winning numerous awards, including the McLaren Award for New British Animation at Edinburgh International Film Festival and Best Short under 15 minutes at Palm Springs International Film Festival. In addition films produced through DV Shorts have been sold for UK and international distribution and broadcast, further promoting the creativity and talent stemming from the East Midlands. The scheme has proved to be a vital stepping stone with filmmakers from previous years of DV Shorts progressing in their careers; moving on to direct their feature film debuts.

The writers, directors or writer/directors were assessed across four areas; Craft, Product, Imagination and Vision and the successful filmmakers selected to take part in the development phase of DV Shorts are: Al Mackay, Alexandra Wilds, Anna Blandford, Carolina Giammetta, Catharine Ashdown, Charlie Sen, Darren Whittaker-Robinson, Iain Finlay, James Sharpe, Joe Barcham, John & Tom Turrell, Matt Howling, Mehul Desai, Roger Hadfield, Sally-Anne Betts, Simon Ellis and Tony Kelly. These successful filmmakers represent counties across the East Midlands including; Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

EM Media is keen that talent at all stages of their career are developed and supported by DV Shorts scheme, hence the people are a combination of filmmakers who have developed and made films through the scheme in previous years, filmmakers who have previously been through just the development phase of the scheme and those who are brand new to the scheme.

The aim of DV Shorts is to develop and produce live action drama and documentary short films in the East Midlands. The DV Shorts scheme forms part of EM Media's overall film development strategy for the region and therefore EM Media has gathered a talented group of emerging and established writers, writer/directors and directors with the vision required to make films that can surprise, challenge, delight and mesmerise

international audiences. Bringing together this regional talent in a collaborative environment, aims to encourage the filmmakers involved to work together, further strengthening the creative talent based in the East Midlands.

The successful filmmakers will now enter the development phase of DV Shorts, which involves regular script meetings, networking and group sessions along with specially devised filmmaker training through the Script Factory.

The filmmakers will resubmit their developed projects next spring for the commissioning round, from which up to eight projects will be commissioned and greenlit for production.

For further information or full filmmaker/producer biogs please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications or Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive at EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via email at [firstname.lastname@em-media.org.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@em-media.org.uk).

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#### Notes to editors

- 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: 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 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*.
- Visit [www.em-media.org.uk](http://www.em-media.org.uk) for further information.

