

Press Release



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For immediate release

EM Media films set to dominate Edinburgh International Film Festival

The Edinburgh International Film Festival has today unveiled its line up for this year's festival and films made and financed in the East Midlands look set to dominate.

Kenny Glenaan's **Summer**, written by Derbyshire writer Hugh Ellis and featuring actor Robert Carlyle receives its world premiere. The film shot on location in Bolsover and Bramley Vale last year.

Olly Blackburn's debut feature **Donkey Punch** follows the misadventures of six young holidaymakers and looks set to provide thrills and shocks.

Nottingham produced **Better Things**, described by Edinburgh festival director as the most eagerly-awaited British debut of the year, will receive its UK premiere.

A new strand of films in the Edinburgh programme called *Under the Radar* will showcase potentially cult movies. Martin Radich's debut feature **Crack Willow** will feature within this section.

The festival will also showcase twenty-two documentary features including Chris Waitt's Nottingham produced **A Complete History of My Sexual Failures**.

Shane Meadows also makes a welcome return to the festival with the UK premiere of **Somers Town**. Meadows re-unites with *This is England* star Thomas Turgoose to further cement his place as a great British filmmaker.

Another Nottingham filmmaker will make his feature film debut with **Mum and Dad** which will screen within the *Midnight Madness programme*. Not for the faint-hearted the film promises a hearty dose of horror served up with an (un) healthy dose of wit.

A total of six EM Media co-financed features are receiving their UK or World premieres.

- Donkey Punch* dir Olly Blackburn
- A Complete History of My Sexual Failures* dir Chris Waitt
- Mum and Dad* dir Steven Sheil
- Crack Willow* dir Martin Radich
- Somers Town dir Shane Meadows
- Better Things* dir Duane Hopkins
- Summer* dir Kenny Glenaan

* Co-financed by EM Media, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Four of the features listed above are eligible for the Michael Powell Award for Best British Film which was won last year by *Control*, the Nottingham filmed and EM

Media co-financed biopic about Ian Curtis, fated singer with Joy Division. In 2006 the EM Media co-financed feature *Brothers of the Head* picked up the award. Will 2008 make it a hat-trick?

Debbie Williams, Chief Executive EM Media comments:

“While we in the East Midlands are still celebrating the official selection of *Better Things* in the Cannes Film Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival’s selection has ensured that once again the East Midlands is the beating heart of British Film. From the Derbyshire filmed *Summer*, a poignant tale of love and friendship to *Mum and Dad*, the horror debut of Nottingham filmmaker Steven Sheil the East Midlands films being showcased in Edinburgh run the gamut of human emotions. We are delighted the festival has recognised the quality of the work being made in the region and we hope audiences across the East Midlands will support home grown talent by going to see the films when released at UK cinemas this year.”

The Edinburgh International Film Festival runs from 18-29 June 2008.

www.eiff.org.uk

Notes to editors

EM Media is a dynamic Regional Screen Agency supporting the development of the film and media industries in the East Midlands region. It has three aims:

- Talent Development: to identify, grow and support the cultural, creative and economic ambitions of the region’s dynamic talent pool.
- Audiences and Markets: to develop the range of markets, audiences and opportunities for consumption of digital product and to encourage participation, understanding and engagement with all forms of media product.
- Business: Utilise key business functions and practices to better shape our business to be able to inform and support film and media businesses across the East Midlands’

EM Media has built a reputation for investing in innovative and distinctive projects, and has led the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region. EM Media is also one of the main partners in Warp X, the pioneering digital film studio established to revitalise low-budget British film-making.

Since 2002 EM Media has invested ERDF finance and/or Lottery in 19 feature films. Forthcoming releases include Duane Hopkins’ *Better Things* (Cannes Official Selection 2008), Kenny Glenaan’s *Summer*, Nicolas Winding Refn’s *Bronson*, Martin Radich’s *Crack Willow* (Under The Radar – EIFF 2008), Steven Sheil’s *Mum and Dad*, Jeanie Finlay’s *Goth Cruise* and the films from the Warp X slate including Chris Waitt’s *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*, Olly Blackburn’s *Donkey Punch*, Mark Tonderai’s *Hush*.

Previous film investments include the BAFTA and BIFA winning *Control* (Anton Corbijn) and the BAFTA award-winning *This Is England* (Shane Meadows) (*Best British Film 2007*).

Visit www.em-media.org.uk.