

Press Release



EMBARGOED UNTIL 3PM ON THURSDAY 02 JULY, 2009

Lisa Opie announced as Chair of EM Media's Board of Directors

Ex-Channel Five Managing Director of Content Lisa Opie has taken up the role of Chair at EM Media, recently cited as one of the UK's most progressive Regional Screen Agencies. Opie will be joined by new non-executive directors from across the film and digital media industry.

The new non-executive directors joining Opie are Marc Boothe (Founder, MD and Executive Producer - B3 Media), Jeremy Gawade (Senior Partner - Lee & Thompson), Elizabeth Karlsen (Producer and Co-Director - Number 9 Films), Dr. Lisa Mooney-Smith (Associate Dean of Arts for Research and Enterprise, University of Northampton) and David Shear (Head of Theatrical Distribution - Revolver Entertainment).

On the appointments Debbie Williams, Chief Executive, EM Media commented, "I am delighted the board has appointed Lisa Opie as Chair of EM Media. Lisa brings to the board a clear understanding of the multiplatform operating environment, incredible energy and exceptional leadership skills amongst many other qualities and attributes. The new non-executive directors joining Lisa are outstanding industry specialists and bring to EM Media's Board a wealth of experience and talent. Their combined knowledge, skill and passion for film and the digital media sector will ensure their valuable contributions to the board. They will play a key role in EM Media's effective decision-making processes which have been key to growing our highly successful investment portfolio and in shaping and driving the agency's future."

The new chair and non-executive directors all join EM Media at an exciting time for the agency; hot on the heels of an impressive six EM Media co-financed films receiving their premieres at Edinburgh International Film Festival.

On her appointment Lisa Opie commented, "EM Media is an innovative and dynamic business run by a talented and committed team. By brokering and leveraging imaginative and creative partnerships they have successfully energised the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region. What's more, their lively and confident success is now increasingly recognised in the international marketplace and impacting the games, interactive and TV industries too. I'm delighted to act as Chair to such an impressive Board of Directors and am very much looking forward to continuing to deliver cultural and economic value to the East Midlands in a time of increasing challenge and increasing opportunity."

Full biographies for Opie and the non-executive directors can be found at EM Media's website.

<http://www.em-media.org.uk/pages/about/board>

For further information, full biogs or images please contact Emily Lappin, Head of Communications, Sally Hodgson, Communications Executive or Emma Hewitt, Communications Coordinator, EM Media on 0115 934 9090 or via email at firstname.lastname@em-media.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

- EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands.
- Working in harmony with a range of partners locally, nationally and internationally, EM Media secures finance, nurtures talent, invests in success and stimulates growth and innovation in the Film, Games, TV and Interactive sectors; ensuring East Midlands' digital industries lead and compete globally.
- EM Media has financed over 70 distinctive and innovative digital media projects, including the development and production of 31 feature films, leading the creation of a national profile for the East Midlands as a film-led region.
- Financed productions include:
 - Justin Molotnikov's *Crying With Laughter*
 - Karl Golden's *Pelican Blood*
 - Samantha Morton's directorial debut *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*
 - Martin Radich's *Crack Willow*
 - Steven Sheil's *Mum and Dad*
 - Jeanie Finlay's *Goth Cruise*
- Award-winning 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*).
- EM Media has also co-financed the first slate of films from Warp X, the low-budget digital film initiative which has produced:
 - *A Complete History of My Sexual Failures*
 - *Donkey Punch*
 - *Hush*
 - *Bunny & The Bull*
 - *She, A Chinese*
 - *All Tomorrow's Parties*
- EM Media has co-financed the development and production of games and virtual worlds with European Regional Development finance, including *Space Ark*, *mixm8*, *Beauty Salon*, *Geon: Emotions*, *Bugs of War*, *Manifest*, *Spell Souls* and *Hunter's World*.
- Visit www.em-media.org.uk.

