

Press Release



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For immediate release

EM Media continues its support of Shane Meadows through investment in a pioneering VOD project

EM Media, Warp Films and Film Four have teamed up to invest in the creation of an innovative new website which will, for the first time, make Shane Meadows' vast back-catalogue of shorts available for download.

The website will capitalise on Warp Films' experience of alternative forms of distribution, which the company developed through its work on Shane's 2004 feature, *Dead Man's Shoes*, and will make the director's mammoth collection of shorts available to audiences across the world.

Around 100 of Shane's short films will be accessible via the website, reflecting the filmmaker's prolific output during the early stages of his filmmaking career, which saw him making an average of one short per month, often using borrowed equipment and with no budget. The portfolio includes acclaimed films such as *Where's the Money Ronnie?* and *Smalltime*, as well as many of the director's lesser known films, the majority of which were originally shot on video and are to be digitised as part of the project.

This exciting new project cements Shane Meadows' longstanding creative relationship with both EM Media and Warp Films, and marks EM Media's continued support for Shane Meadows which dates back to the Agency's investment in his third feature, *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands*. The project also reinforces Meadows' position as one of the East Midlands' key talents.

The East Midlands region is fast becoming base for a wealth of filmmaking talent who, through investment from EM Media, are able to create innovative and distinctive product at every stage of their careers. Many of these filmmakers are attending this year's Cannes International Film Festival, along with EM Media representatives who are currently in Cannes with acclaimed photographer Anton Corbijn and his debut feature *Control*, which opened Director's Fortnight yesterday and for which Corbijn is automatically nominated for the Camera D'Or. The film received £250,000 investment from EM Media

through the European Regional Development Fund, and the production received support to source locations and crew through EM Media's Location Services.

Nottingham based production company Wellington Films, led by producers Rachel Robey and Alastair Clarke who picked up the Best Achievement in Production Award at the 2006 BIFAs for their debut feature *London to Brighton*, are in Cannes to promote their latest film, *Better Things*, which is currently in post production. *Better Things* is the debut feature from acclaimed shorts director Duane Hopkins (*Love Me or Leave Me Alone, Field*), and the film will incorporate the styles and themes of his shorts, using natural light and non-actors to show an often unseen aspect of rural teenage life. *Better Things* also received investment from EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund and the film shot on location in Northamptonshire and the Cotswolds.

Another unique East Midlands talent currently out in Cannes is director Steven Sheil, whose debut feature *Mum & Dad* is co-financed by EM Media through the European Regional Development Fund and Film London through its Microwave scheme. Sheil is based in Nottingham and also received support from EM Media for his short film *Deliver Me*, which was produced through the DV Shorts Plus scheme. *Mum & Dad* is an intense, relentless, and nerve-fraying horror film about a murderous family living in the shadow of a major airport; the film shot on location in Nottingham and is currently in post production.

Producer Jane Hooks, who is also based in Nottingham, is attending the festival with her latest project, *Crack Willow*, from BAFTA nominee and award-winning short filmmaker Martin Radich (*Wake Up, A Good Man is Hard to Find, In Memory of Dorothy Bennett*). *Crack Willow* is currently shooting in the UK and has received investment from EM Media and the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund.

2007 looks set to be the most successful year yet for EM Media's diverse slate with co-investments including Shane Meadows' most lucrative film to date *This Is England*; also *Magicians*, which stars Peep Show's David Mitchell and Robert Webb and goes on general release today; and the adaptation of Blake Morrison's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, starring Jim Broadbent and Colin Firth, which is set for release on 5 October.

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.

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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 consoles, 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 12 feature films with ERDF finance. Currently in production is low-budget horror *Mum and Dad*, 2AM Films 2007. EM Media's forthcoming releases are *Better Things*, Mascot Pictures 2006, *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* Number 9 Films 2006, *Magicians*, Intermedia Films 2006, *Control*, NorthSee 2006, *This is England*, Warp Films 2005. Other feature investments include *Brothers of the Head*, Potboiler Productions 2005, *A Cock and Bull Story*, Revolution Films 2005, *Dead Man's Shoes*, Warp Films 2004, *One For the Road*, One for the Road Productions, 2003, *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands*, Slate Films, 2003 and *Anita and Me*, Starfield Productions, 2002.

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.



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