

**SHOOTING BEGINS ON ALEXIS DOS SANTOS'
UNMADE BEDS
STARRING DEBORAH FRANCOIS, FERNANDO TIELVE & MICHIEL HUISMAN**

Tuesday 13 November: **UNMADE BEDS** begins principal photography this week. The second feature from acclaimed writer/director Alexis Dos Santos, **UNMADE BEDS** brings his Latin American New Wave sensibility to the film's cosmopolitan East London setting to tell the poignant but funny stories of Axl and Vera. The film features a cast of exciting young international acting and creative talent in front of and behind the camera, and cutting edge music by UK-based independent bands.

Rising talents **Déborah François**, star of the Palme d'Or winner *L'Enfant*, and **Fernando Tielve**, star of *The Devil's Backbone*, lead an exciting international cast which also includes **Michiel Huisman** (*Black Book*, *The Young Victoria*), **Iddo Goldberg** (*Suzie Gold*, *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*) and **Richard Lintern** (*Syriana*).

London, 2007. Twenty-year-old Axl (Fernando Tielve) arrives from Spain on a quest to find the father who abandoned him when he was a child. He takes up residence in a vibrant, colourful community of young foreigners from all over the world drawn to London's melting pot - among them, we also meet Vera (Déborah François), a beautiful Belgian girl making a new life in her adopted city. Although recently abandoned by her Argentinean boyfriend, her faith in romance is gradually rekindled as she embarks on a playful but tender affair with a charismatic stranger (Michiel Huisman). Axl and Vera's bittersweet stories of love, loss, identity and friendship are interwoven through the film until their paths finally cross and they help each other resolve their respective quests.

Produced by **Soledad Gatti-Pascual** (*Noi Albinoi*, *Joyeux Noel*) of The Bureau and **Peter Ettegui** (*Onegin*, *Kinky Boots*), **UNMADE BEDS** was developed with Film4 and is financed by Film4, the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund and EM Media, with the assistance of Natixis Coficine. The film will shoot on location in London and Nottingham for 5 weeks.

UNMADE BEDS is the second feature from writer/director **Alexis Dos Santos**, whose first film *Glue*, set in his native Argentina, was produced by Soledad Gatti-Pascual and has been showered with 15 awards at film festivals the world over including the Young Jury Award at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. Earlier this year it was selected to open the New York New Film New Directors Festival. Alexis studied film in Buenos Aires and Barcelona before relocating to London, where he attended the National Film and Television School alongside such contemporaries as Joachim Trier, Sarah Gavron and Tom Shankland. Tutored by Stephen Frears, Alexis wrote and directed several short films including *Sand*, winner of Best Script Award, Bologna Film Festival and Special Mention of the Jury, Brest Film Festival. In 2006, he was selected for the Cannes Film Festival's prestigious Cinéfondation in Paris, where he worked on the screenplay for *UNMADE BEDS*.

"Alexis stood out as a startling new cinematic voice when we started developing this project with him even before his first feature *Glue*," says Film4's Peter Carlton. "It's great to see this fresh and witty story of contemporary melting-pot London being brought to realisation with such a sparkling young international cast."

Twenty year old Belgian-born actress **Déborah François** received huge critical acclaim for her debut role of the teenage mother Sonia in Jean Pierre Dardenne's *L'Enfant*. The film won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival 2005 and Deborah received the Joseph Plateau Award for Best Belgian Actress. Her next performance in *The Page Turner* continued to establish her as an exciting talent and garnered her a César nomination. Twenty-one year old Spanish-born **Fernando Tielve** first demonstrated his acting talent in the lead role of Carlos, the young boy, in Guillermo del Toro's *The Devil's Backbone*. Since then he has appeared in *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Goya's Ghosts*.

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Notes to Editors:

The Bureau

The Bureau is a London based production company harbouring producers Bertrand Faivre, Soledad Gatti-Pascual, Kate Ogborn, and Matthieu de Braconier. The Bureau's latest films include: *Far North* directed by Asif Kapadia and starring Michelle Yeoh and Sean Bean, and the multi award winning *Glue* directed by Alexis Dos Santos.

Film4

Film4, headed by Tessa Ross, is Channel 4 Television's feature film division. The company develops and co-finances film productions and is known for working with the most innovative talent in the UK, whether new or established.

Film4's most recent releases include Sarah Gavron's *Brick Lane*, Anand Tucker's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, David Mackenzie's *Hallam Foe* which won the Golden Hitchcock at the Dinard Film Festival and a Silver Bear in Berlin, Shane Meadows' *This is England* - winner of Best Independent Film and Most Promising Newcomer for Thomas Turgoose at the BIFAs, Julien Temple's *Joe Strummer: The Future is Unwritten*, Lenny Abrahamson's *Garage* which won the Prix Arts et Essai at Cannes' Directors Fortnight in May and Ken Loach's *It's a Free World* which won the Golden Osella for Best Screenplay at the Venice Film Festival this year.

Film4 films soon to arrive on British screens include Sharon Maguire's *Incendary*, Bob Weide's *How To Lose Friends and Alienate People*, Fabrice de Welz's *Vinyan*, Martin McDonagh's *In Bruges*, and Duane Hopkins' *Better Things*, as well as the new Mike Leigh film. Other films currently in production include Mark Tonderai's *Hush*, Alexis Dos Santos' *Unmade Beds*, Gerald McMorrough's *Franklyn* and Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Channel 4's involvement in British film dates back 25 years to its launch in 1982 when it established its own film commissioning department Film On Four, later re-branded FilmFour and now known as Film4. Film4 has built an enviable reputation for developing and financing the defining British films of the last quarter of a century – films like *My Beautiful Launderette*, *Trainspotting*, *Shallow Grave*, *East is East*, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *Touching the Void*, *Road to Guantanamo*, *This is England* and *The Last King of Scotland*.

The New Cinema Fund

The UK Film Council's **New Cinema Fund** encourages unique ideas, innovative approaches and new voices funding an eclectic mixture of films that connect with a range of audiences. The fund has an especially strong commitment to supporting work from the nations and regions and from black, Asian and other minority ethnic filmmakers. The fund also encourages digital technology in the production, distribution and exhibition of films. The New Cinema Fund has £15 million to invest over three years.

To date the New Cinema Fund has supported films including: Shane Meadows's *This is England* (Best Film, British Independent Film Awards); Ken Loach's *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival), Andrea Arnold's *Red Road* (Prix du Jury, Cannes Film Festival), Kevin Macdonald's *Touching the Void*, (Best British Film BAFTA), Peter Mullan's *The Magdalene Sisters* (Golden Lion Venice), Paul Greengrass's *Bloody Sunday* (Golden Bear Berlin), Jerry Rothwell's feature documentary *Deep Water*, Dan Reed's *Straightheads*, Paul Dibb's *Bullet Boy*, Adrian Shergold's *Pierpoint*, and Michael Caton-Jones's *Shooting Dogs*.

Up and coming projects include Sarah Gavron's *Brick Lane*, Mark Tonderai's *Hush*, Kenny Glenaan's *Summer*, Noel Clarke's *Adulthood*, Gerard Johnson's *Tony*, Michael Winterbottom's *Genova*, Chris Waitt's feature documentary *A Complete History*, Peter Greenaway's *Nightwatching*, Dominic Murphy's *White Lightnin'*, Olly Blackburn's *Donkey Punch*, and Nicolas Roeg's *Puffball*.

The New Cinema Fund invests in an ambitious programme of shorts schemes including Cinema Extreme, the Completion Fund and Low Budget Digital Shorts (producing more than 120 films to date) to encourage directors, producers and creative talent to explore new storytelling methods in the short film genre. In partnership with Film4, EM Media, Screen Yorkshire and Optimum Releasing, the New Cinema Fund also funds the Warp X Low Budget Film Scheme offering filmmakers development support, production finance and theatrical distribution in the UK.

EM Media

EM Media is the Regional Screen Agency for England's East Midlands. From its Nottingham base the agency invests RIFE Lottery 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.

As well as *Unmade Beds*, EM Media has to date co-financed 17 feature films with ERDF finance. EM Media's slate of films in production, forthcoming and current releases include: *Summer* (Sixteen Films 2007), suspense thriller *Hush* (Warp X 2007), *Donkey Punch* (Warp X 2007), *Complete History* (Warp X 2007), horror *Mum and Dad* (2AM Films 2007), *Better Things* (Mascot Pictures 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).