

YORKSHIRE'S FILM INDUSTRY BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS 'TYRANNOSAUR' TAKES TOP AWARDS AT SUNDANCE

A feature film made in Leeds and Wakefield has become the talk of critics across the globe as it bagged two top awards at Sundance, the world's leading international independent film festival, in Park City Utah over the weekend.

Renowned actor Paddy Considine took the *World Cinema Directing Award: Dramatic Award* for his feature directorial debut *Tyrannosaur*, produced by Warp X and co-funded by Screen Yorkshire.

Olivia Colman and Peter Mullan were awarded The *World Cinema Special Jury Prizes: Dramatic for Breakout Performances* for their roles in the hard-hitting drama, which explores how love and friendship can be found in the darkest of places.

Tyrannosaur, also written by Considine, became the buzz of audiences and critics alike following its World Premiere at Sundance, where it screened in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition, on 21st January. Filmed in Leeds and Wakefield in 2010, *Tyrannosaur* was produced on Warp Films' low budget feature initiative Warp X, which aims to support emerging talent to break into feature films.

Starring **Peter Mullan** (*My Name is Joe, Trainspotting*), **Olivia Colman** (*Peep Show, Hot Fuzz*) and **Eddie Marsan** (*Happy Go Lucky, Vera Drake*). *Tyrannosaur* tells the story of Joseph (Peter Mullan) a man plagued by violence and a rage that is driving him to self-destruction. As Joseph's life spirals into turmoil a chance of redemption appears in the form of Hannah (Olivia Colman), a Christian charity shop worker. Their relationship develops to reveal that Hannah is hiding a secret of her own with devastating results on both of their lives. *Tyrannosaur* also had its European premiere last week as part of the Bright Future programme of first and second feature films at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

The wins for *Tyrannosaur* and last week's **Best TV Drama Award** for *This Is England '86* come as Screen Yorkshire undertakes redundancy consultation with fifteen of its nineteen staff.

Hugo Heppell, Head of Production at Screen Yorkshire, who co-funded Tyrannosaur and gave locations and crewing support, says:

"We are absolutely thrilled at the success of Tyrannosaur at the Sundance Film Festival and congratulate Paddy Considine, Peter Mullan and Olivia Colman for their richly deserved awards. This unflinching, wonderful film, shot entirely on location in Seacroft, Leeds, and part of Screen Yorkshire's long-term commitment to film made through its investment in Warp

X, takes its place alongside The Arbor and The Kings Speech among the most lauded films of the year, and shows that film is still very much alive in Yorkshire despite these difficult times."

Paddy Considine, a world renowned actor, previously co-wrote and starred in Shane Meadows' 2004 film *Dead Man's Shoes*, as well as appearing in films including *In America*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *A Room For Romeo Brass* and *My Summer Of Love*. The script for *Tyrannosaur*, written by Considine, was based on his 2008 BAFTA winning short *Dog Altogether*.

Tyrannosaur is produced by **Diarmid Scrimshaw** for **Warp X** and **Inflammable Films**, co-funded by Film4, the UK Film Council, Screen Yorkshire, Optimum Releasing, EM Media, Madman and Nonstop Entertainment. It will be released in the UK in autumn 2011 by Optimum Releasing, with Protagonist handling international sales.

For more about Warp X: <http://www.warpx.co.uk/>

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Screen Yorkshire is the regional screen agency responsible for inspiring, promoting and supporting a successful and sustainable film, television, games and interactive media sector in Yorkshire and Humber. Our aim is to grow the screen media industries in Yorkshire and Humber by helping businesses to compete in a fast-changing global marketplace. Screen Yorkshire offers a variety of funding and support initiatives to screen media companies based in the region and works nationally and internationally to attract inward investment and simulate the economic growth of the industry in the region.

Screen Yorkshire's Production Fund credits include; *This Is England '86*, *Andrea Arnold's upcoming Wuthering Heights*, Paddy Considine's upcoming feature directorial debut *Tyrannosaur*, *Son of Babylon*, *The Damned United*, *Red Riding*, *Married Single Other*, *A Passionate Woman*, *Unforgiven*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Lost in Austen*, *Brideshead Revisited*, *Bunny and The Bull*, *All Tomorrow's Parties* and the BAFTA award winning *This Is England*. Screen Yorkshire is committed to developing regional talent and supports low budget feature slate Warp X, in partnership with the UK Film Council, Film4 and Optimum Releasing.

Since the launch of its £10.2m Digital Media Content Programme in 2006, supported by **Yorkshire Forward**, Screen Yorkshire has attracted over **£82 million inward investment** to the region's economy, created **1086 jobs**, supported **812 businesses** and invested in the skills of **1637 individuals**.