

**Press release
For immediate use**

Screen WM ANNOUNCE NEW chair and directors to lead agency in next phase

Regional screen agency, Screen WM today announced new Non-Executive additions to its Board as it embarks on the next chapter in its history.

The additions follow a major restructuring of the agency along with the successful acquisition of significant new funds, and exciting new opportunities in digital media, film, education and archives.

Screen WM's Board is proud to announce Dr Samir Shah OBE as its new Non-Executive Chair. Dr Samir Shah is a major figure in the UK media industry, as CEO of the independent TV company Juniper Communications and Non-Executive Director of BBC Executive Board. His wealth of media and board governance experience will help Screen WM to connect at a national and international level.

In addition to Chairing Screen WM's Board, Samir will also sit on Screen WM's Investment Panels for the Media Production Fund and Digital Media Fund, and as such will be precluded from applying for Screen WM investment.

Dr Samir Shah said:

"I am delighted to become the new Non-Executive Chair of the Screen WM Board at such an exciting time for the agency. It is currently achieving unprecedented success in feature film production, digital media, and archive and audience development innovation, and I look forward; along with the rest of the Board; to help build upon this success"

Joining Samir as Non-Executive Directors are Birmingham born TV and film producer Tony Garnett; expert business consultant, Mary Martin; and leading games industry lawyer Alex Chapman.

All three are leading experts in their chosen field and will ensure Screen WM are best placed to meet the challenges and changing landscape of the screen media sector, as well as strengthen its commitment to supporting, promoting and developing a thriving screen sector in the West Midlands.

Suzie Norton, CEO of Screen WM said:

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Dr Samir Shah as our new Chair, he is an industry heavyweight of significant standing and reputation who will be well placed to lead and support the agency at this exciting time. We are also thrilled that three new Board Directors with specialism in film, digital media and finance are also joining us. Their combined knowledge, skills and experience will help to drive the agency forward as it moves into the next ambitious phase of its development"

As part of a review of governance undertaken by the Board, Screen WM is also

announcing today the appointment of two Vice Chairs from existing Board Directors.

Joh Dyer, CEO Hotbed Media, has been appointed Vice Chair of Operations and will support Screen WM's new Chair at a regional level.

Professor Rod Pilling has been appointed Vice Chair of Finance, and will Chair agency's the Audit-Sub Committee, and as such will be precluded from applying for Screen WM investment.

ENDS.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dr Samir Shah

Dr Samir Shah is currently the Chief Executive of the independent production company Juniper Communications and a former Head of Political Programmes and Head of Current Affairs at the BBC. He is also a non-executive director of the BBC's new Executive Board, a trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum and Chair of the Runnymede Trust. The University of Nottingham has appointed him to a Special Professorship in the Department of Post-Conflict Studies. Samir was awarded an OBE in 2000 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Television Society in 2002.

Tony Garnett

Tony Garnett began his television career as an actor, appearing in the movie *The Boys*, David Mercer's *CND Trilogy* for BBCTV and numerous other dramas, including *Z Cars*.

From 1964-1969 he worked on *The Wednesday Play* and produced many films for TV, including *Cathy Come Home*, *The Lump* and *The Gorge*. In 1969 he co-wrote and produced *Kes*, directed by Ken Loach, from the book by Barry Hines. Further feature films followed (*The Body*, *Family Life*) before he returned to BBC TV with Brecht's *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* and *Days of Hope*.

He produced, wrote and directed *Prostitute* in 1979 and *Handgun* in 1981. Working in Hollywood in the Eighties he produced work as varied as *Earth Girls are Easy*, the *Sesame Street* movie *Follow That Bird* and *The Shadowmakers*. In 1990 Tony returned to the UK to run *Island World Productions*, a new venture being set up by Chris Blackwell and John Heyman. His credits since then include *Between the Lines*, *Ballykissangel*, *This Life*, *The Cops* and *Attachments* among others.

Mary Martin

Mary Martin is a senior executive with experience in the public and private sectors. Mary has worked with organisations from start up right through the various stages of development to restructuring. Her business focus has included strategy, business risk assessment, team building, change management, quality management, investigations, controls and reporting. Financing activities cover bank refinancing; private equity; acquisitions and disposals of business and major assets; and exit planning. She also has an extensive business network in the Midlands. She currently runs her own small consultancy business having for four years been Pro Vice Chancellor of Birmingham City University. Prior to this her career has included working with Advantage West Midlands; a private venture fund manager focussed on technology start ups; and one of the large international accounting practices.

Alex Chapman

Alex Chapman is a leading games industry lawyer and intellectual property expert with first hand knowledge of the interactive media and games industries as part of development teams on a number of successful titles before taking up the law. He acts for some of Europe's top developers, publishers and brand and character licensors and licensees. Regarded by the UK legal directories as "a star" and "a leading authority on IP law pertaining to computer games" (Legal 500) and "an expert in the computer games sector" rated for "fighting his clients' corners well" (Chambers and Partners) he is also listed in Develop Magazine's 25 most important people in the UK games development industry.

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Screen WM is the regional agency which supports, promotes and develops a sustainable and thriving screen media sector in the West Midlands. Screen WM will:

- **promote** the West Midlands region by raising the profile of its diverse locations
- **promote** the West Midlands by highlighting the abundance of talent within the region's screen media sector
- **support** businesses through skills development and financial assistance
- **develop** talent, from new entrants to professional freelancers and employees, within the West Midlands through skills development
- **support** the region's moving image heritage and **develop** access to it
- **develop** and inspire audiences across a broad range of screen media
- **promote** and **develop** the cultural diversity of the region through the moving image

Screen WM is supported by the National Lottery through the UK Film Council, the European Regional Development Fund and Advantage West Midlands.

