

PRESS RELEASE

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Magic, Movies and Myths premiere Herefordshire's mysterious folklore brought to life in film

The Odeon cinema, Hereford, will host the premiere of **Magic, Movies and Myths** two new films made by young people on **Sunday June 11th at 10.30am**. Admission is free.

Magic, Movies and Myths is a film project that explores the darker stories and tales behind Herefordshire's more mysterious rural heritage. The project, created by **The Rural Media Company** as part of **The First Light Filmmaking Partners' Scheme**, enabled the company to continue its groundbreaking work with young filmmakers.

Over a period of six months 24 young people undertook practical workshops with film and television industry professionals in camera, sound, editing, composing, screen-writing and directing to develop their filmmaking skills. Working with local heritage and folklore experts also enabled the two young production teams to explore Herefordshire's rich cultural history and devise the storylines that form the basis for the two **Magic, Movies and Myths** productions; **Restless** and **The Vigil**.

"I've done a few of my own projects, but this is the first film I've worked with a professional team", says 17 year old Dieter Mittelholzer, co-director on **The Vigil**. "The professionals didn't undermine you; it was more a matter of standing back and telling us how to achieve what we wanted, it's definitely affected the way I make films."

After 6 months' hard work, the screenplays for **Restless** and **The Vigil** were finalised and ready to shoot. Scripted by Lou Osborn (ITV drama, *Holby City*, BBC Radio & Theatre Powys) and Christine Watkins (HTV, BBC) the productions entered a period of frenzied activity - casts were finalised, locations sourced and costumes and props unearthed from attics and stores. The Black Mountains, Downton Gorge and Steens Bridge were among the locations that provided the perfect film backdrops for the exploration of Herefordshire's folklore.

“The production teams were fantastic,” explains Adrian Lambert, producer and director of **Restless**. “Exploring local myths and folklore and putting the ideas on to the screen was an incredibly long and complicated process. The energy and commitment shown by the teams has created two fantastic new films.”

The Rural Media Company documentary feature, **Pugilists** - about Herefordshire’s boxing heritage from Tom Spring to Dazzo Williams - will also be shown at the Odeon on June 11th.

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Notes to Editors

- An 8 page booklet, detailing the process behind the films, will also be launched with the DVD. **Magic, Movies and Myths** DVDs are available from The Rural Media Company (www.ruralmedia.co.uk)

- **Restless**

“Where metal is laid `neath stone `tis told, the spirit wanders restless souled....”

When Ellen and Jack’s devotion to each other leads to tragic consequences it’s only the advice of the despised Sineater that uncovers the disturbing remedy to their future.

- **The Vigil**

“And his daughter, who had fallen into a trance, had a vision...”

If you had the chance to turn back time, to alter your destiny, to take the place of someone you loved, what would you do? What sacrifice would you be prepared to make?

- **Magic, Movies and Myths** is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund
- This project has been supported by the Lottery through the UK Film Council’s First Light initiative
- Based in Herefordshire and established in 1992 **The Rural Media Company** uses media and communications - film, video, photography, journalism, graphic design and the Internet - to produce high-impact moving image and new media work. We are a key client of the regional screen agency Screen West Midlands and have won numerous awards nationally and internationally and are renowned for our expertise in this field of work. **The Rural Media Company** is a registered charity.