



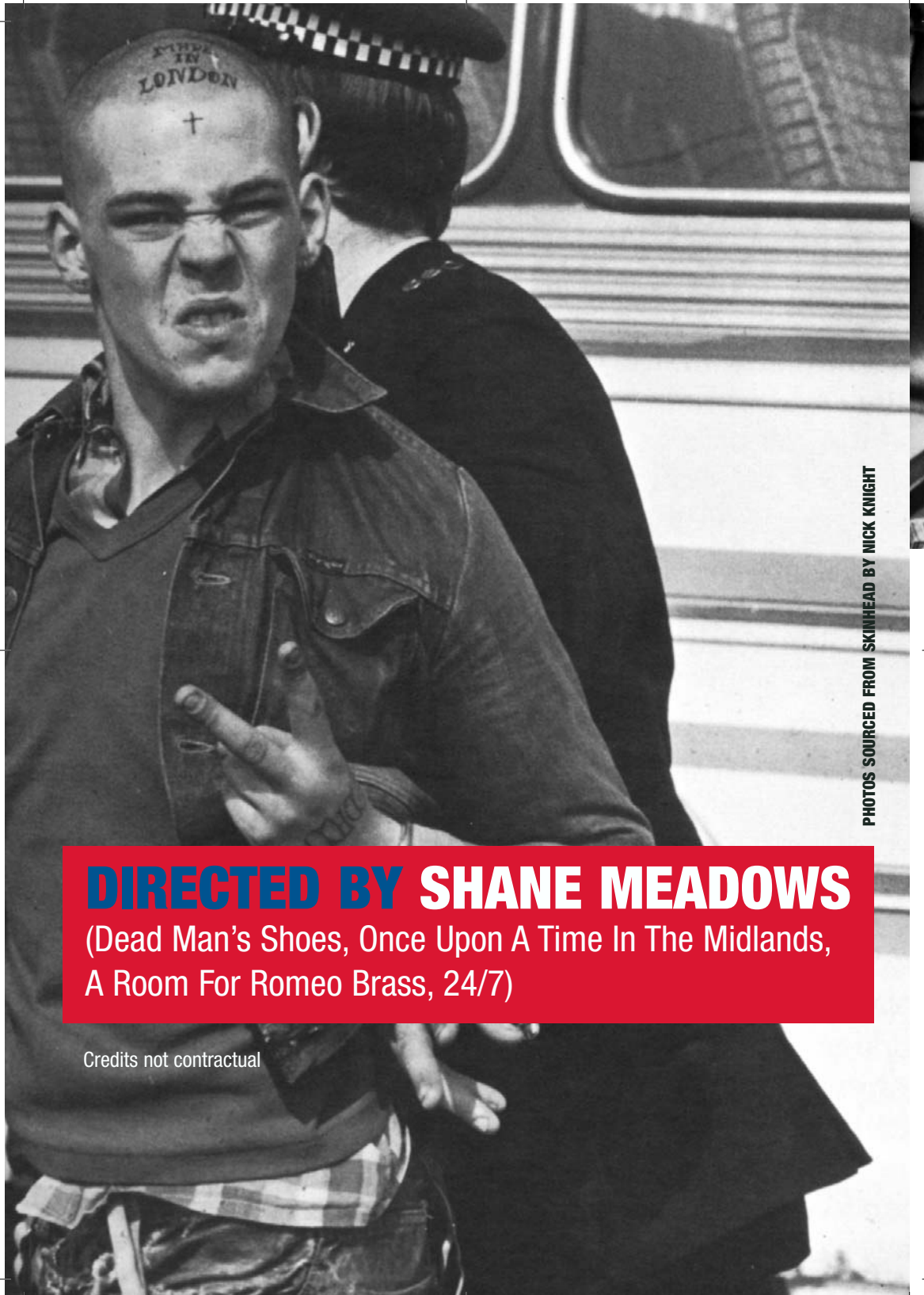
**O!**

**THIS IS ENGLAND**

**THE NEW FILM FROM SHANE MEADOWS**

PRODUCED BY - WARP FILMS  
EXECUTED PRODUCED / UK DISTRIBUTION- OPTIMUM RELEASING  
FINANCE - FILM FOUR

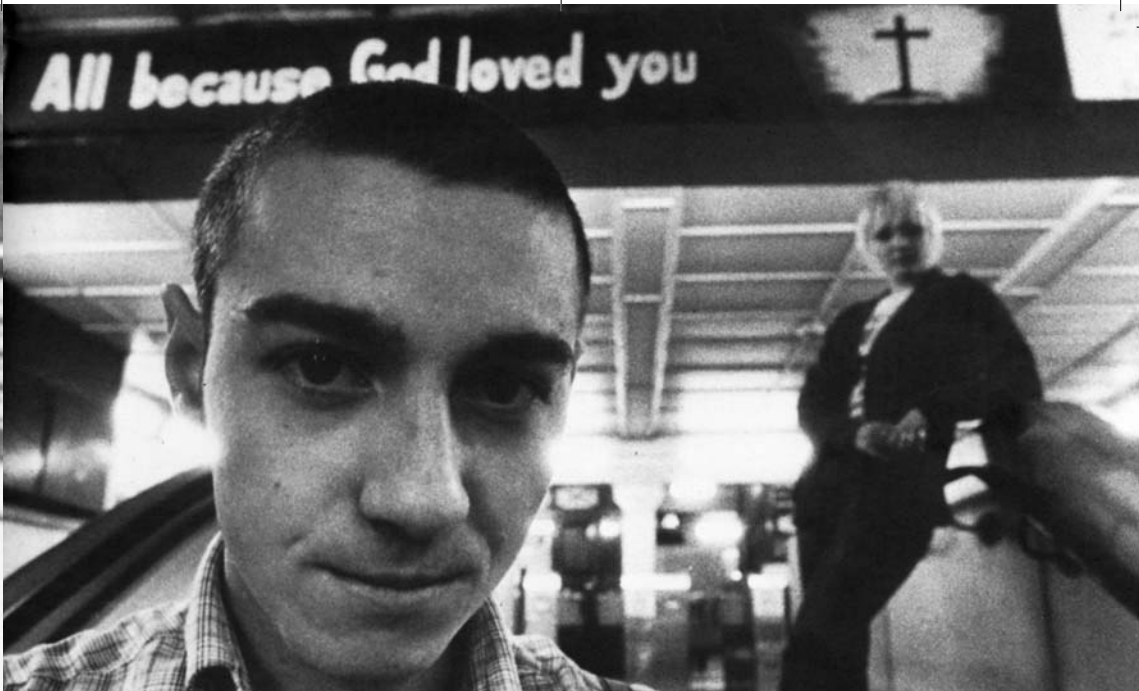




PHOTOS SOURCED FROM SKINHEAD BY NICK KNIGHT

**DIRECTED BY SHANE MEADOWS**  
(Dead Man's Shoes, Once Upon A Time In The Midlands,  
A Room For Romeo Brass, 24/7)

Credits not contractual



## SYNOPSIS

**1983 WAS A TIME BEFORE MTV, BEFORE GAMEBOY, AND BEFORE 2.4 CHILDREN. UNLIKE OUR CURRENT COUCH POTATO CULTURE, IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TO KEEP THE DISENCHANTED YOUTH ANESTHETISED INDOORS, SO AS UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ROSE AND THE YTS SCHEMES FELL, THE KIDS REFUSED TO TOE THE FACTORY LINE AND SPILLED OUT ONTO THE STREETS. THE STAGE WAS SET FOR A REVOLUTION.**

Rockers, New Romantics, Mods, Punks, Casuals, Smoothies, Ska kids and Skinheads stood shoulder to shoulder, hissing and spitting in the discos, precincts and subways of the working class towns across the nation.

Oi! This is England tells the story of SHAUN, an 11-year-old kid growing up without a father in the north of England. Set during the summer holidays of 1983, we chart his rites of passage from a shaggy haired ruffian grieving the loss of his father into a shaven headed thug whose anger and pain are embraced by the local skinhead fraternity and ultimately the National Front.

With a shell of a mother and no father to guide him, Shaun seems set for certain destruction. But against all social expectations, he prevails.





## **DIRECTOR'S VISION**

**SHAUN WILL REPRESENT THE WAYWARD, INSECURE CHILD IN ALL OF US, SEARCHING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES. EVEN WHEN HE'S ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE NATIONAL FRONT, HE WILL BE SEEN A LOST, LOVEABLE CHILD WHO MAKES TERRIBLE DECISIONS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDONE, BUT EASY TO COMPREHEND.**

The 1980s was a time when people wore their identity on their sleeves. On any council estate in England you would see boys dressed up as Boy George and Adam Ant; girls wore doodle boppers and alternating pink and green slosh socks. Even amongst that crazy patchwork quilt that was 1983, Skinheads still stood head and shoulders above all others in the queue for attention. Because the Skinheads are so inextricably linked with that time period, the only way to convey the story effectively is to set the film in the early 80s, with precise attention to historical detail. Therefore, "Oi! This is England" will be my first period film.



Tackling the issue of racism head on will make this my most directly political film to date. The political message woven into the film is still globally applicable in today's society, and my intention is that this film will reach a wide audience outside the UK. By illuminating the events surrounding the birth of racism in the 1980s, I hope to focus some light on the problems that still exist in contemporary Britain.

Additionally, the film will highlight the ultimate irony that the entire skinhead movement was born out of black reggae music, which contradicts the image of the modern skinhead, internationally renown for racist affiliations.

The story will be structured around a six-week period during the summer holidays of 1983. My aim is to shoot the film in the summer holidays of this year (2005).

The inspiration for this project comes from my own experience as a young skinhead growing up in the period in which the film is set. The pulsating music and the skin-tight fashion, the 'fuck the state' attitude and the primal violence left an enormous emotional imprint on me. I believe this period of my life is the reason I became a filmmaker.

**DON'T MISTAKE OI! THIS IS ENGLAND AS JUST ANOTHER FILM GLORIFYING THUGGERY AND RACIALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE.**

Whether falling in love for the first time or rebelling against the state, every single one of us has experienced a summer where our world has changed forever.

**OI! THIS IS ENGLAND IS NOT A FILM THAT SHOULD BE MADE; IT WILL BE MADE. OI!**





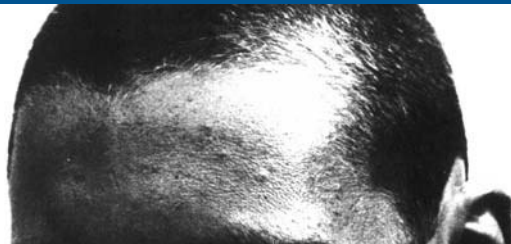
**FILMFOUR** 4



MARK HERBERT is the MD of **WARP FILMS**, and tipped by Variety Magazine in 2004 as one of '10 Producers to watch'. Warp Films has rapidly established itself as a home for creative talent such as Shane Meadows, Chris Cunningham, Chris Morris and Lynne Ramsey amongst others. The partner company is Warp Records, a successful left field music brand that has been a pioneering force in UK independent music and an admired cutting edge label in the European music industry. Mark recently produced Warp's acclaimed and award winning debut feature *Dead Man's Shoes*, directed by Shane Meadows. He also produced the BAFTA winning Chris Morris's "My Wrongs 8245-8249 and 117" in 2003 and Exec Produced Chris Cunningham's experimental film "Rubber Johnny."

**FILMFOUR** is the film arm of Channel 4 Television, dedicated to the production of smart, distinctive and contemporary feature films with an emphasis on strong directorial vision. It builds on a twenty-year history of ground-breaking films such as *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Trainspotting*, *East Is East*, *Sexy Beast* and most recently *Touching The Void*, which have consistently had their finger on the pulse of modern Britain to produce dynamic, engaging cinema with international appeal. Higher budget productions include quality mainstream cinema with an intelligent twist, such as *Enduring Love*. At lower budget levels sit edgy, authentic and passionate films which make an impact, such as Shane Meadows' genre-bending revenge thriller *Dead Man's Shoes*.

Established in May 1999, **OPTIMUM RELEASING** is now enjoying its sixth successful year in film and DVD distribution. The company has established a reputation for an innovative approach to distribution and has enjoyed success with a varied mix of film titles across all genres. A passion for film and commitment to creativity is central to all of Optimum's activity. 2004 was the company's most important year to date for several key reasons: the establishment of Optimum Home Entertainment, the company's stand alone DVD division already releasing over 200 titles a year; executive producing the award-winning Shane Meadow's film *Dead Man's Shoes*; and Optimum Releasing's biggest theatrical box office hit to date with *Fahrenheit 9/11* grossing £6.7million in the UK.





**O!**

**THIS IS ENGLAND**

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