

**PRESS RELEASE**14<sup>th</sup> March 2016**7 WONDER TRACES THE EVOLUTION OF SKINHEAD WITH DON LETTS FOR BBC FOUR**

**7 Wonder**, one of the UK's fastest growing independent production companies, has landed its second commission for **BBC Four** to produce a 60 minute special – ***Skinhead***, featuring one of Britain's most admired cultural figures, Don Letts.

The film offers a first hand account by Don, as he embarks on a personal journey through the evolution of one of Britain's most notorious subcultures – Skinhead. Delving into his cultural past, Don explores the social impact the Skinhead movement has had across music, style and culture, meeting people along the way, including those who adopted the Skinhead uniform and others who represent the polar opposite of everything he believes in.

Filled with nostalgia, the film revisits the era when it all began – the 1960's, a period in which Don first became acquainted with Skinhead, when they shared a love of Jamaican music and style. As he fondly looks back at the birth of the SKA sound and scene, he recalls this time as a period of genuine togetherness, dictated by stylish prizing rare records, cool dance moves and classy clothes.

The film will depict the shift in the Skinhead movement; from a harmonious subgroup to that of a threatening and bigoted subculture in the 1970's and 1980's, steeped in far right politics and violence. The film then brings viewers back to the modern day, exploring the legacy and stigma associated with Skinheads today. From Moscow homophobes and American white power prisoners, to Italian fascists revivalists, German neo Nazis– all of which have appropriated the symbols and style of Skinhead.

**Don Letts says:** "As a teenager I spent a part of my youth as a skinhead – we're talking about the fashion version and not the fascist version that would appear much later. We were part of the UK's first real multicultural movement united by a love of music and style – well that's how it started anyway. Over the years the original idea of what skinhead is about has been lost and without shying away from the mess it became, I look forward to telling the story of what skinhead meant to me and many of my mates. It's a story that says much about British life – about our music, our fashion, our multicultural society and our politics. I want to get under the skin of skinhead and try to understand a movement that was essentially born of white working class disillusionment."

**Steve Condie, Executive Producer at 7 Wonder says:** "This film is a chance to have one of the countries most original cultural voices, Don Letts, take on a remarkable British cultural phenomenon – Skinhead. We will look at the surprising story of how a movement born in multicultural harmony became a symbol of intolerance and the street brawling muscle of fascist and racist political groups. Despite the fact that he has spent much of life at the opposite end of the cultural spectrum to Skinhead we believe Don will bring a fresh and frank voice to a rich and controversial story.

Skinhead was commissioned by Cassian Harrison and Jan Young husband for BBC Four. Steve Condie is Executive Producer for 7 Wonder. Don Letts currently presents a weekly show on BBC Radio 6 Music, between 10 pm and midnight.

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#### **About 7 Wonder:**

Launched in the Spring of 2014, 7 Wonder is committed to collaborating with the best talent, on and off-screen, to deliver quality, bespoke and beautifully executed content across all non-scripted genres. The joint venture underlines the Seven Network's commitment to increasing its international presence in the production of television programmes and new formats. 7Wonder focuses on the creation of new television programmes and formats, initially for the United Kingdom television market, and is a joint venture between Seven, Alexandra Fraser, Liza Abbott and Simon Ellse. The formation of 7 Wonder builds on Seven's leadership in the creation and production of highly successful programming, including Home and Away, My Kitchen Rules, Border Security, A Place To Call Home, House Rules, Packed to the Rafters. Seven's original formats and produced programmes are sold into more than 130 markets around the world.

#### **About Seven Network:**

Seven is Australia's most-watched broadcast television platform. The network is expanding its presence in media, driving its leadership in the creation of content and delivering that content anywhere, anytime to the biggest audiences. The company is expanding its presence in the further delivery of its video and publishing content beyond its four digital broadcast channels and across an array of platforms. Seven is also expanding into SVOD with Presto, a joint venture with Foxtel in Australia. Seven is now creating more content than at any time in its history and is expanding its presence in international content production with the formation of two new international production companies: 7Wonder and 7Beyond. These two new businesses underline a key part of its strategy for today and in the future: the expansion of our leadership in the production of content.