

## STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING AN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY

In order to gauge support for, and guide the direction of, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), the Australian Film Institute (AFI) conducted a year-long review (from mid-2010, to July 2011) which included substantial industry consultations. The following are statements from screen guilds and other key industry professionals in support of the establishment of an Australian Academy.

*Dr George Miller*  
*AFI Patron*

Since the 1970's renaissance the Australian screen community has grown exponentially and its potential is undoubtedly immense. More than ever it's critical that a national and international Australian screen community is nurtured. With a long and rich tradition, the AFI Professional Membership is well placed to be developed into a more universally recognizable and understood model, an 'Australian Academy'. The establishment of an 'Australian Academy' is not just overdue, but eminently possible and extremely useful.

*Greg Coote*  
*AFI Advisor*

The AFI and the AFI Awards are an important part of the Australian film industry, providing support in connecting films with audiences and in recognising their achievements. We support their initiative to review and evolve the AFI into a more inclusive professional structure. I encourage all interested members of the industry to participate in this valuable consultation process.

*Ruth Harley*  
*CEO*  
*Screen Australia*

SPAA endorses the proposed 'Australian Academy' and its draft constitution and will assist in the further development of this important initiative.

*Geoff Brown*  
*Executive Director*  
*Screen Producers Association of Australia*

The ADG supports the initiatives and new directions proposed by the AFI. In particular we commend the AFI's commitment to raise the public profile of our screen industry with the Australian public and to honour and celebrate our rich cinema and television history. We look forward to working collectively with our industry colleagues towards the goals the AFI are proposing.

*Ray Argall*  
*President*  
*Australian Directors Guild*

The Australian Writers' Guild is pleased to support the Australian Film Institute's new initiatives, in particular the great potential of their proposal for an 'Australian Academy' to harness the collective talent and experience of screen practitioners in celebration of their craft.

**Jacqueline Woodman**  
*Executive Director*  
*Australian Writers' Guild*

For more than seven decades Actors Equity Australia has been committed to ensuring the excellence that abounds in Australia's arts and entertainment industries is adequately recognised and rewarded. As such, we support the Australian Film Institute's (AFI) efforts to encourage diversity, creativity and quality in the screen industry via a new and more professionally-focused structure, such as the AFI's proposed 'Australian Academy'.

We welcome the AFI's attempts to raise the profile of our industry and the performers who play such a pivotal role in it.

**Simon Whipp**  
*Director - Actors Equity Australia*  
*Assistant Federal Secretary - Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance*

It is with great delight that on behalf of the National Executive of the Australian Cinematographers Society, I endorse in principle, the proposed changes the AFI are suggesting as part of their internal structural review. The objective to establish an Australian Academy, for us all to share in, is a challenging one indeed, but one the ACS would be in support of. Any organisation that has the collective capacity to unite us all, for the right reasons, has to be a good thing. We at the ACS look forward to further collaboration with all concerned.

**Ron Johanson ACS**  
*National President*  
*Australian Cinematographers Society*

The ASE wholeheartedly supports the AFI's endeavours to formulate an Industry Council. Not only will this help to bring the craft Guilds together, it will offer more relevance and therefore appreciation from our local audiences.

**Jason Ballantine ASE**  
*President*  
*Australian Screen Editors Guild*

The Australian Screen Sound Guild is greatly in support of the AFI's intent to establish an 'Australian Academy'. An excellent idea to bring all the Guilds and others together with the formation of an HONARARY COUNCIL and the ASSG will be the first to offer member names for consideration.

**Trevor Harrison**  
*President*  
*Australian Screen Sound Guild*

The AFI plays a pivotal role in the Australian film industry by acknowledging excellence and those who contribute to making Australian film and television.

**Clive Harrison**  
*President*  
*Australian Guild of Screen Composers*

The Australian Production Design Guild welcomes the changes proposed by the AFI. They constitute a viable way to bring various guilds and industry professionals together and they reinforce the idea of a film and TV community dedicated to excellence. We hope the establishment of an 'Australian Academy' will help raise the public profile of the local industry and bring a greater audience for locally made productions. The APDG is happy to be a participant in this important endeavour.

*George Liddle*  
*Director*  
*Australian Production Designers Guild*