

## Media Release – Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

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### AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR 2ND AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

***Silver Linings Playbook* Leads with Five Nominations, Closely Followed by *Lincoln* and *Zero Dark Thirty* with Four Nominations Each**

#### **Australian Performers and Practitioners Excelling Abroad with Four Nominations**

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced the nominees in the five AACTA International Award categories, recognising international achievements in film as follows: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Actress.

The **2nd AACTA International Awards** recognise film excellence regardless of geography, as determined by a jury of eminent Australian screen practitioners from a cross-section of crafts and with a wealth of local and international experience. Nominees include international screen luminaries such as **Daniel Day-Lewis**, **Denzel Washington** and **Marion Cotillard**, through to **Quentin Tarantino**, **Steven Spielberg** and **Ang Lee**.

Australian actors **Hugh Jackman** (*Les Misérables*), **Naomi Watts** (*The Impossible*) and **Nicole Kidman** (*The Paperboy*) have also been nominated, and Australian writer-director **Ben Lewin** has been nominated for Best Direction for *The Sessions*.

Of the six films competing for the **2nd AACTA International Award for Best Film**, ***Silver Linings Playbook*** leads with five nominations across each of the five categories. ***Lincoln*** and ***Zero Dark Thirty*** each received four nominations, while ***Argo*** has been recognised with three nominations. ***Les Misérables*** and ***Life of Pi*** each have two nominations.

Winners of the **2nd AACTA International Awards** will be announced at a special event in Los Angeles in late January 2013.

Speaking of the **2nd AACTA International Awards**, **AACTA President Geoffrey Rush** said:

“In this, the second year of the AACTA International Awards, we’re delighted to build on the huge success of our inaugural event held in L.A. in January 2012. This year’s nominees include actors, directors and screenwriters who truly represent international excellence – from French actresses Marion Cotillard and Emmanuelle Riva, to Taiwanese director Ang Lee, and from British actor Daniel Day-Lewis, to US icons Joaquin Phoenix, Steven Spielberg and Quentin Tarantino.

“As the Australian Academy engages in the international Awards conversation, it’s brilliant to see Australian performers and practitioners nominated alongside international talent for the 2nd AACTA International Awards. Indeed, the talents of Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Naomi Watts and Ben Lewin stand on their own and will no doubt be honoured by our international screen peers.

“We look forward with great anticipation to the announcement of the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AACTA International Awards in late January in L.A., the epicentre of international film.”

Damian Trehwella, CEO of AACTA and its public engagement body, the Australian Film Institute, said that it was also gratifying to see the talents of so many Australian performers in the nominated international productions – **Russell Crowe** in *Les Misérables*, **Jacki Weaver** in *Silver Linings Playbook*, and **Joel Edgerton** in *Zero Dark Thirty*.

Trehwella said that with a burgeoning industry and with Australian performers and practitioners consistently acknowledged as among the world’s best by other international screen organisations such as AMPAS and

BAFTA, it was important that the Australian screen industry could equally recognise the talents of their international peers through the Australian Academy's International Awards.

"The Australian Academy's International Awards are dedicated to identifying and awarding the pinnacle of screen excellence and success regardless of geography. Last year's inaugural AACTA International Awards presaged the huge Academy Awards success of *The Artist* as well as Meryl Streep's win for her performance in *The Iron Lady*, and we wait with anticipation to see if there are such synergies between Australian jurors and their international counterparts in this year's Awards season."

The **2nd AACTA International Awards** winners' announcement event will be held in L.A., late January 2013.

## 2nd AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS NOMINEES

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

- **Argo.** Chris Terrio
- **Django Unchained.** Quentin Tarantino
- **Lincoln.** Tony Kushner
- **The Master.** Paul Thomas Anderson
- **Silver Linings Playbook.** David O. Russell
- **Zero Dark Thirty.** Mark Boal

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION

- **Argo.** Ben Affleck
- **Life Of Pi.** Ang Lee
- **Lincoln.** Steven Spielberg
- **The Sessions.** Ben Lewin
- **Silver Linings Playbook.** David O. Russell
- **Zero Dark Thirty.** Kathryn Bigelow

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST ACTOR

- **Bradley Cooper.** Silver Linings Playbook
- **Daniel Day-Lewis.** Lincoln
- **John Hawkes.** The Sessions
- **Hugh Jackman.** Les Misérables
- **Joaquin Phoenix.** The Master
- **Denzel Washington.** Flight

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST ACTRESS

- **Jessica Chastain.** Zero Dark Thirty
- **Marion Cotillard.** Rust and Bone
- **Nicole Kidman.** The Paperboy
- **Jennifer Lawrence.** Silver Linings Playbook
- **Emmanuelle Riva.** Amour
- **Naomi Watts.** The Impossible

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM

- **Argo.** Ben Affleck, George Clooney, Grant Heslov
- **Les Misérables.** Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Debra Hayward, Cameron Mackintosh
- **Life of Pi.** Ang Lee, Gil Netter, David Womark
- **Lincoln.** Kathleen Kennedy, Steven Spielberg
- **Silver Linings Playbook.** Bruce Cohen, Donna Gigliotti, Jonathan Gordon
- **Zero Dark Thirty.** Kathryn Bigelow, Mark Boal, Megan Ellison

## NOTES TO EDITORS

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) was established by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) in August 2011 following a year-long review and industry consultation, with the inaugural AACTA Awards held in Sydney in January 2012. The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the AFI Awards which have recognised screen excellence in Australia since 1958. The AACTA Awards are proudly supported by the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination New South Wales (Destination NSW).

### **AACTA International Awards – L.A.**

In addition to recognising screen excellence in Australia through 40 AACTA Awards, AACTA also recognises screen excellence regardless of geography through five AACTA International Awards. The inaugural AACTA International Awards were announced in L.A. in January 2012. Winners of the 2nd AACTA International Awards will be announced in Los Angeles in late January 2013.

### **AACTA Awards – Sydney, Australia**

The 2nd AACTA Awards will be held at two major events in Sydney, the home of the Australian screen industry, at The Star Event Centre in January 2013:

- **2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe – Monday 28 January 2013**
- **2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony – Wednesday 30 January 2013 – Broadcast on Network Ten**

Tickets are available to purchase now. For more information about these events, which are open to the public and the industry, [click here](#).

For further information about AFI | AACTA, visit: [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org)

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