

MEDIA RELEASE – AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS IN LOS ANGELES

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL:

- **LOS ANGELES: 2:30pm Saturday 26 January 2013 PST**
- **SYDNEY: 9:30am Sunday 27 January 2013 AEDT**

Images from the 2nd AACTA International Awards Ceremony are available for media use:

http://mm.gettyimages.com/mm/nicePath/qyipa_public?nav=pr181120726

Broadcast media in Australia will be sent a link to download a media clip package at approximately 4pm Sunday 27 January 2013 AEDT.

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced the winners of the **2nd AACTA International Awards**, recognising international excellence across five categories, as determined by a jury of eminent Australian screen practitioners working in the U.S. and Australia from a cross-section of crafts: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Actress.

Also announced were two AACTA International Awards as determined by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) | AACTA Board of Governors. These discretionary Awards were presented for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

Winners were announced at the **2nd AACTA International Awards Ceremony** in Los Angeles, with Oscar, BAFTA, Golden Globe and Australian Film Institute Award winning actor **Russell Crowe** leading fellow Australians presenting at the Ceremony, **Jacki Weaver** and **Scott Hicks**.

Funny, brave and humane, ***Silver Linings Playbook*** was the big winner at the AACTA International Awards, winning **Best Film** for producers **Donna Gigliotti, Bruce Cohen and Jonathan Gordon**; Best Direction for **David O. Russell**; and Best Lead Actress for **Jennifer Lawrence**.

The offbeat comic drama sees Lawrence playing a reckless young widow who befriends a bipolar schoolteacher (**Bradley Cooper**) who is obsessing about his ex-wife. Rounding out the film's stellar cast are **Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver** and **Chris Tucker**.

The AACTA International Award for **Best Lead Actor** went to **Daniel Day-Lewis** for his virtuosic performance as Abraham Lincoln in **Steven Spielberg's** historical drama. Set in 1865, ***Lincoln*** centres on the final four months in the life of the 16th President of the United States, in which he battled for constitutional reform to abolish slavery.

Hot on the heels of his Golden Globe win for Best Screenplay for ***Django Unchained***, writer and director **Quentin Tarantino** today won the AACTA International Award for **Best Screenplay** for his scripting of the fast-paced and talkative epic western. Set in America's Deep South, ***Django Unchained*** follows a freed slave (**Jamie Foxx**) and a bounty hunter (**Christoph Waltz**) as they go on a quest to free his wife (**Kerry Washington**) from the grips of a cruel plantation owner (**Leonardo DiCaprio**).

The two discretionary AACTA International Awards went to **Robert De Niro** for his role as an obsessive compulsive football-crazed father in ***Silver Linings Playbook***, and to **Jacki Weaver**, for her role as De Niro's tolerant and forgiving wife in the film.

AACTA President, Geoffrey Rush, said:

“The AACTA International Awards are Australia’s international stamp of screen success. They recognise our international counterparts, add an Australian voice to international Academy discussion, and celebrate our fellow Australians working internationally. I’m delighted that this, our second Awards season in the U.S. through the new Australian Academy, has continued the success of our launch a year ago, and I thank our American peers for embracing Australia’s AACTA Awards so enthusiastically.

“I congratulate this year’s AACTA International Award recipients, and look forward with anticipation to seeing if our international peers have concurred with Australian jurors in this exciting Awards season,” Rush said.

The AACTA International Awards recognise film excellence regardless of geography, as determined by a jury of eminent Australian screen practitioners working in the U.S. and Australia from a cross-section of crafts, and with a wealth of local and international experience.

Australia’s New South Wales Premier Barry O’Farrell congratulated the winners of the AACTA International Awards, saying New South Wales continued to produce world-class screen talent including Award nominees Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman and Naomi Watts.

“New South Wales is home to some of the biggest names in film today and I am delighted that this outstanding creative talent continues to shine both overseas and in Australia. The New South Wales Government is proud to support our State’s screen industry, ensuring New South Wales, the home of Australia’s creative industries, remains the number one State for film and television production,” Mr O’Farrell said.

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS NOMINEES AND WINNERS

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

- **Argo.** Chris Terrio
- **Django Unchained.** Quentin Tarantino - **WINNER**
- **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 - **WINNER**
- **Zero Dark Thirty.** Kathryn Bigelow

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST ACTOR

- **Bradley Cooper.** Silver Linings Playbook
- **Daniel Day-Lewis.** Lincoln - **WINNER**
- **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 - WINNER**
- **Emmanuelle Riva.** Amour
- **Naomi Watts.** The Impossible

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM

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

DISCRETIONARY AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- **Robert De Niro. Silver Linings Playbook - WINNER**

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- **Jacki Weaver. Silver Linings Playbook - WINNER**

The 2nd AACTA International Awards were presented in L.A. in association with **Australians in Film**, and with Major Partner and Official Airline Partner of the AACTA Awards, **Qantas**.

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)**.

Australians in Film is a Los Angeles based non-profit organization made up largely of Australians who work in the film and television industry. Australians in Film Ambassadors include Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Naomi Watts and Mel Gibson. For more, visit: <http://australiansinfilm.org/home.html>

AACTA International Awards – L.A., U.S.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 were announced in Los Angeles on 26 January 2013.

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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 this week:

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

For further information about AFI | AACTA, visit: www.aacta.org

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