

Media Release – Strictly embargoed until 4pm Monday 28 January 2013

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES FIRST GROUP OF WINNERS - 2ND AACTA AWARDS

The **2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Deluxe** was held today at Sydney's The Star Event Centre, where the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announced the first group of winners for the **2nd AACTA Awards**.

2nd AACTA Awards Presenters

Presenters at the event included television favourites **Diana Glenn, Jane Harber** and **Jimi Bani** as well as acclaimed actors **Damon Herriman, Daniel Henshall** and **Felicity Price**. Also taking to the stage were *The Sapphires* stars **Miranda Tapsell** and **Shari Sebbens**. The event was hosted by the always-entertaining and irreverent Oscar® and AFI Awarded **Adam Elliot**.

Special Presentation of the AACTA Raymond Longford Award – Al Clark

A special highlight of the **2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe** was the presentation of the prestigious **AACTA Raymond Longford Award**, the nation's highest screen accolade, to one of Australia's most revered producers, **Al Clark**. The presentation was accompanied by moving and insightful tributes from **Ana Kokkinos, David Stratton** and **Alan Finney**.

With a filmmaking career spanning three decades, Al Clark has produced or executive produced 19 feature films including some of Australia's most iconic, celebrated and internationally significant cinema, with credits including *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Chopper*, *Razzle Dazzle*, *Blessed*, *Red Hill* and the upcoming musical *Goddess*. In addition to his achievements as an extraordinary and tenacious producer, Clark is also noted by a cross section of the industry as a mentor and educator whom many credit with helping to launch their careers. A number of these people provided moving and entertaining video tributes interspersed throughout the Luncheon, including Guy Pearce, Joel Edgerton, Deborra-Lee Furness, Miranda Otto, Lizzy Gardiner, Tim Chappel, Jodi Matterson and Patrick Hughes.

2nd AACTA Awards Winners Announced

The **2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Deluxe** also recognised the talent and innovation of artists and craftspeople working across television, documentary, short fiction film, short animation and feature film categories.

Australian feature film winners were dominated by *The Sapphires*, which won five of a possible six AACTA Awards: **Best Cinematography (Warwick Thornton)**, **Best Editing (Dany Cooper ASE)**, **Best Production Design (Melinda Doring** – who also won this Award last year for *The Eye of the Storm*), **Best Costume Design (Tess Schofield)** and **Best Sound (Andrew Plain, Bry Jones, Pete Smith, Ben Osmo, John Simpson)**.

The biological clock comedy starring Ryan Kwanten and Sarah Snook, *Not Suitable For Children*, won the AACTA Award for **Best Original Music Score (Matteo Zingales, Jono Ma)** – the second AACTA Award in two years for the composer Zingales, who won last year for his score for *The Hunter*.

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Awe-inspiring waves and the thrill-seekers who surf them were a winning theme in a number of the documentary Awards. ***Storm Surfers 3D*** (Ellenor Cox, Marcus Gillezeau) won the AACTA Award for **Best Feature Length Documentary**, while ***Fighting Fear***, the documentary from ***Bra Boys*** director Macario De Souza, won **Best Direction in a Documentary** (Macario De Souza) as well as **Best Cinematography in a Documentary** (Tim Bonython, Chris Bryan, Macario De Souza, Lee Kelly).

Then The Wind Changed (Jeni McMahon, Celeste Geer) a personal story about the small Strathewen community's struggle to rebuild in the years following the devastating 2009 Victorian bushfires, won **Best Documentary Under One Hour**. ***Dr Sarmast's Music School***, about a Melbourne-based musicologist travelling back to his homeland in Afghanistan to reopen a Kabul music school shut down by the Taliban, won **Best Sound In A Documentary** (Dale Cornelius, Livia Ruzic, Keith Thomas).

Skillfully meeting the multicultural broadcaster's charter, two SBS documentary series were awarded for their examinations of the issues and debates surrounding immigration. ***Go Back To Where You Came From*** (Rick McPhee, Ivan O'Mahoney) won **Best Documentary Series**; while ***Once Upon A Time In Cabramatta*** won **Best Editing In A Documentary** (Sam Wilson).

In the short film categories, ***Julian*** – a sly story about a day in the life of a fearless nine-year-old schoolboy, has won **Best Short Fiction Film** (Robert Jago, Matthew Moore), while ***Transmission***, a tense father-daughter thriller set in a post-apocalyptic West Australian landscape, has won **Best Screenplay In A Short Film** (Zak Hilditch). The haunting and painstakingly hand-crafted sand animation ***The Hunter*** (Marieka Walsh) has won the AACTA Award for **Best Short Animation**.

The winners of a number of **television categories** were also announced today – all for the ABC, confirming the public broadcaster's strengths in comedy, light entertainment and children's programming. Tabloid newspaper satire ***Lowdown – Season 2*** won **Best Television Comedy Series** (Nicole Minchin, Amanda Brotchie, Adam Zwar) and Zwar and Minchin won again for their work on ***Agony Aunts***, which picked up **Best Light Entertainment Television Series**.

Patrick Brammall won **Best Performance in a Television Comedy** for his depiction of the ne'er-do-well failed entrepreneur Sean Moody in ABC1's comedy series ***A Moody Christmas***.

ABC3's animated children's series about a boy suffering an alphabet of phobias, ***The Adventures of Figaro Pho*** (Dan Fill, Frank Verheggen, David Webster) won **Best Children's Television Series**.

Speaking of today's Awards, **AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella**, said:

"The Australian Academy is proud to have built on the spectacular success of the inaugural AACTA Awards last year. Today we announced the first of the winners of the 2nd AACTA Awards in Sydney, highlighting the exceptional work of our craftspeople during 2012, and I congratulate all on behalf of the Australian Academy.

"We encourage all Australians to support our local screen industry by watching the 2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony on Network Ten on Wednesday night to see which films and television productions are awarded our nation's best."

NSW Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, **George Souris**, congratulated winners at the AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Deluxe.

“Australia produces world-class creative talent who appear both in front of and behind the camera, and they are recognised and highly sought after by the leading film and television businesses around the world. NSW is the centre of film and television production in Australia, with 56 per cent of national screen businesses and 37 per cent of all Australian creative industries based here,” Mr Souris said.

“The NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, is pleased to support the AACTA Awards, proudly produced and hosted in Sydney, the creative capital of Australia.”

The remaining AACTA Awards across film and television, including the **AACTA Award for Best Film, Best Television Drama Series**, and the remaining acting, screenplay and direction awards, will be announced at the stunning **2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony at The Star Event Centre in Sydney** on Wednesday 30 January, and broadcast that night on **Network Ten**.

Complete list of winners announced at the 2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Deluxe:

AACTA RAYMOND LONGFORD AWARD

Al Clark

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Iron Sky. Samuli Torssonen, Jussi Lehtiniemi, Juuso Kaari, Kelly Myers.

TELEVISION

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION SERIES

Agony Aunts. Adam Zwar, Nicole Minchin. *ABC1*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION COMEDY SERIES

Lowdown – Season 2. Nicole Minchin, Amanda Brotchie, Adam Zwar. *ABC1*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMANCE IN A TELEVISION COMEDY

Patrick Brammall. *A Moody Christmas*. *ABC1*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SERIES

The Adventures Of Figaro Pho. Dan Fill, Frank Verheggen, David Webster. *ABC3*

DOCUMENTARY

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

Storm Surfers 3D. Ellenor Cox, Marcus Gillezeau.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY UNDER ONE HOUR

Then The Wind Changed. Jeni McMahon, Celeste Geer. *ABC1*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Go Back To Where You Came From. Rick McPhee, Ivan O'Mahoney. *SBS*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION IN A DOCUMENTARY

Fighting Fear. Macario De Souza. *FOXTEL - Movie Network*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A DOCUMENTARY

Fighting Fear. Tim Bonython, Chris Bryan, Macario De Souza, Lee Kelly. *FOXTEL – Movie Network*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST EDITING IN A DOCUMENTARY

Once Upon A Time In Cabramatta – Episode 1. Sam Wilson. *SBS*

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SOUND IN A DOCUMENTARY

Dr Sarmast's Music School. Dale Cornelius, Livia Ruzic, Keith Thomas. *ABC1*

SHORT FILM

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ANIMATION

The Hunter. Marieka Walsh

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FICTION FILM

Julian. Robert Jago, Matthew Moore.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY IN A SHORT FILM

Transmission. Zak Hilditch.

FEATURE FILM

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

The Sapphires. Warwick Thornton.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST EDITING

The Sapphires. Dany Cooper ASE.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SOUND

The Sapphires. Andrew Plain, Bry Jones, Pete Smith, Ben Osmo, John Simpson.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE

Not Suitable For Children. Matteo Zingales, Jono Ma.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

The Sapphires. Melinda Doring.

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST COSTUME DESIGN

The Sapphires. Tess Schofield.

MEDIA RESOURCES: LISTS OF WINNERS, IMAGES & VIDEO CLIPS

The following can accessed by clicking on the below dropbox link: full list of winners announced today; breakdown by production; breakdown by network; images of awarded productions; and select clips of awarded film and television productions: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/904ta0gtu8l1ei/JmYU0ETYP5>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

This year marks the second Awards season of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, which was established in August 2011 by the Australian Film Institute (AFI).

The AACTA Awards are proudly supported by the **NSW Government**, through its tourism and major events agency **Destination NSW**.

The 2nd AACTA Awards are held at two major events in Sydney, the home of the Australian screen industry, at The Star Event Centre as follows:

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

AACTA also recognises screen excellence regardless of geography through the AACTA International Awards. The **2nd AACTA International Awards** were presented in L.A. on Saturday 26 January 2013 PST/Sunday 27 January AEDT.

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

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