

Strictly embargoed until 12pm Wednesday 9 October 2013

Sydney to roll out the red carpet this summer in January

The Australian Academy announces dates, venue and telecast for the 3rd AACTA Awards.

AACTA President Geoffrey Rush and NSW Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, today launched the 3rd AACTA Awards season by announcing the 2014 Awards will be held over two major events this summer in Sydney.

The AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe will be held on Tuesday 28 January 2014 followed by the AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party, which will be held two days later on Thursday 30 January 2014.

Geoffrey Rush and Minister Souris also announced Network Ten as the Awards telecast partner. The positive reception and expanded audience for the broadcast of the 2nd AACTA Awards sees the national broadcast of the 3rd AACTA Awards set to air at the earlier time slot of 8.30pm Thursday 30 January 2014.

Geoffrey Rush said, "I am delighted to launch the 3rd AACTA Awards season, which coincides with the commencement of the AACTA Awards Screenings program. The reception and ongoing support of AACTA and the AACTA Awards activities both here and abroad over the past two years has been magnificent. I look forward to the continued opportunity to elevate and celebrate Australian screen achievements with colleagues and the public over the coming weeks at the AACTA Awards Screenings, at the AACTA Awards Nominations Announcement later this year and at the 3rd AACTA Awards ceremonies this summer in Sydney."

Minister Souris, who joined Mr. Rush in Sydney today, said, "The NSW Government, through our tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, is pleased to support the AACTA Awards in 2014. It is proudly produced and hosted in Sydney, NSW, the hub of film and television production in Australia, with 56 per cent of national screen businesses and 40 per cent of Australia's creative industries workforce based here. More than 170,000 people across the State are directly employed in this sector in the areas of film, music, design and fashion. Sydney's AACTA Awards shine a spotlight on the best of Australia's film and television industry and consolidates our State's position as a powerhouse of screen talent. Our investment in the 2014 AACTA Awards and the staging of them in Sydney re-affirms the NSW Government's commitment to the NSW screen and creative industries, and further strengthens Sydney's position as the creative and major events capital of Australia."

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AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella said, “The AACTA Awards are Australia’s highest peer-assessed screen acknowledgements and in concert with the support of our immensely talented industry and committed partners continue to go from strength to strength. We salute the ongoing support of the NSW Government via Destination NSW and also welcome back our valued partners, Network Ten and The Star.”

Network Ten Chief Programming Officer, Beverley McGarvey said, “Network Ten is proud to be associated with the 3rd AACTA Awards. Broadcast on TEN, we look forward to sharing with viewers Australia’s highest film and television Awards, and showcasing all the individuals and production companies that contribute in such an extraordinary way to the Australian film, television, documentary and short film production industries.”

Both AACTA Awards Ceremonies will be hosted from The Star Event Centre, Sydney, and represent the second year of partnership with Sydney’s premier entertainment venue.

Managing Director of The Star, Frederic Luvisutto, said, “As a premier event destination we are thrilled to host an event such as the AACTA Awards. This is the second year we’re hosting this event, following a hugely successful debut in 2013 with the likes of Cate Blanchett, Nicole Kidman and Geoffrey Rush in attendance. It is the film and televisions industry’s time to celebrate in style and the Star Event Centre is designed to host such occasions.”

Today also sees the commencement of the AACTA Awards Screenings program in Sydney and Melbourne. The program will screen the 14 Feature Films in Competition, the four Short Animation nominees and four Short Fiction Film nominees, all vying for a 2014 AACTA Award. The program is complimentary and exclusive to members of AACTA and the AFI ahead of round one voting which opens on Wednesday 30 October.

AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella said. “In addition to our returning partners I would like to welcome Event Cinemas as a new partner in 2013. In celebration of this partnership and the AACTA Awards Screenings, invited guests will tonight attend an Opening Night which will showcase the eight nominees for Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation.”

“Tonight guests will be the first to enjoy a drink in the newly named ‘AACTA Bar’ at EVENT CINEMAS BONDI – open to all, we hope that the bar will become a ‘hub’ and meeting point for AFI | AACTA members, which over time shall be supported with regular screenings and interesting programs of Australian screen cultural events.” said Ian Sutherland, General Manager Alternate Content, Amalgamated Holdings Limited and AFI Director.

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On Sale Now!

AACTA Awards Tickets and Travel Packages

Today's announcement for the 3rd AACTA Awards also sees tickets go on sale for those wishing to attend the AACTA Awards season of events.

In a first for AACTA, members of the public are invited to be part of the excitement of the AACTA Awards Ceremony and the red carpet Arrivals.

A limited number of general admission AACTA Awards tickets are available to purchase from today – simply visit www.lastminute.com.au for further information and to book your ticket.

For those working within the film & television industry who wish to purchase a ticket to the AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe, or the AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party, please visit www.aacta.org for further information.

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NOTES REGARDING THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS

Launched by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) on 18 August 2011, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) is a professional membership body formed to identify, encourage, promote and award excellence in Australian screen productions. The AACTA Awards are held in Sydney in January each year. The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the AFI Awards, which have proudly celebrated Australia's screen excellence and heritage since 1958.

This year marks the third AACTA Awards season of the Australian Academy.

For further information on the AACTA Awards Screenings and to join AFI | AACTA, please visit www.aacta.org

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