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## **AFI | AACTA CELEBRATE SCREEN ARTS COMMERCE AND CULTURE WITH AN EXCITING, EXPANDED MEMBERS' EVENTS PROGRAM**

In response to enthusiasm from industry members, special guests, emerging practitioners and members of the general public who converged at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards in Sydney last January, AFI | AACTA has launched an expanded Members' Events Program.

The exclusive, year-round, program of regular industry events in Sydney and Melbourne features presentations from talented Australian screen producers, performers and practitioners.

This week the AFI | AACTA, in partnership with Animal Logic, Roadshow Films and Event Cinemas, will present a pre-release screening of THE LEGO<sup>®</sup> MOVIE.

Inspired by the iconic children's toy, the fast-paced, animated feature was brought to life by hundreds of talented Australian film makers from Sydney's Animal Logic (THE MATRIX, HAPPY FEET, IRON MAN 3, THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE). The highly anticipated film has made over \$400million at the box office to date, is releasing in over 50 countries, and will be seen by billions of people across the globe.

This week's special presentation will also feature an in-depth industry discussion with the talented team from Animal Logic, hosted by film journalist Giles Hardie. Panelists include Animal Logic founder, CEO and Executive Producer Zareh Nalbandian; Head of Animation at Animal Logic Rob Coleman; Associate Producer, Amber Naismith; CG Supervisor, Aidan Sarsfield and Co-Editor David Burrows. The event commences at 5.30pm with complimentary canapés at Event Cinema's very own AACTA Bar, where discounted drinks are also available to AFI | AACTA Members.

Over the past month AFI | AACTA Members' Events have included presentations from directors Greg Mclean (WOLF CREEK 2), Stuart Beattie (I, FRANKENSTEIN), John Curran (TRACKS), and other talented practitioners including VFX Artists from Method Studios who engaged with crowds on topics spanning production methods, film financing and creativity in Australia.

These events have been hosted by Rob Carlton, Chris Murray and most recently Renée Brack who introduced TRACKS to Sydney members; in tandem with rising-star, actress Jessica Tovey. Upcoming events include NOAH (starring Russell Crowe); new Australian indie festival favorite 52 TUESDAYS, with a Q&A with producer/director Sophie Hyde; David Michod's THE ROVER and Joel Edgerton's FELONY. AFI | AACTA is also very excited to announce that in May a special program showcasing the 2014 Oscar nominated live action and animated shorts films will be presented exclusively to members on the big screen.

The dynamic range of events in the 2014 program are complimentary to all AFI | AACTA Members. AFI membership is open to all screen enthusiasts, including the general public, students and those starting out in the industry. AACTA membership is offered exclusively to film and television professionals working within the Australian screen industry via an accreditation process.

Membership provides many exclusive benefits, including the privilege to vote in the AACTA Awards and recognise the country's best screen productions, performers and practitioners in film and television. It also offers access to year-round complimentary preview screenings and events, giveaways and cinema discounts.

Crucially membership plays a vital role in supporting AFI | AACTA as a not-for-profit organization, and allows the small and specialised team to build on January's world-class events and unite the screen industry through educational discourse, celebrating Australian screen stories, and industries achievements throughout the year.

To become a member of the AFI or AACTA please visit [aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org) and to learn more about the 2014 Members' Events Program or to RSVP to the upcoming THE LEGO® MOVIE event please visit <http://www.aacta.org/events.aspx>

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### **Notes on AFI | AACTA**

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) is a screen arts property created and owned by the Australian Film Institute (AFI). Founded in 1958 the AFI is a not for profit screen arts organization committed to recognising, promoting and celebrating screen excellence through promotion of the Australian screen community, screen culture and screen enterprise. AFI | AACTA Award winners include: Nicole Kidman, Cate Blanchett (AFI|AACTA Ambassador), Naomi Watts, Hugo Weaving, Eric Bana, Russell Crowe, Toni Collette, George Miller (AFI|AACTA Patron), Bruce Beresford, Jacki Weaver and Geoffrey Rush (AACTA President).

AFI | AACTA celebrates screen excellence throughout the year culminating in three major events during January. The AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe and the AACTA Awards Ceremony and Official After Party are held in Sydney and are proudly supported by the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW. AFI | AACTA also recognises screen excellence, regardless of geography, through the AACTA International Awards, held each January in Los Angeles.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards – Social Media Notes**

- Official hashtag: #AACTAs
- Facebook: /AACTAawards
- Twitter: @aacta
- Instagram: @aacta

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

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