



Media Release
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AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY CALLS FOR AACTA AWARDS ENTRANTS AND ANNOUNCES A NEW SHORT FILM INITIATIVE

Last night the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) celebrated excellence in short filmmaking at an exclusive 2014 Oscar Shorts event in Sydney where it announced, to over 200 members and guests, news of an exciting new short film initiative and that entries for the 4th AACTA Award Short Film and Feature Film categories are now open.

AFI | AACTA EXCELLENCE IN SHORTS PROGRAM

AFI | AACTA has a long and proud history of recognising the achievements of emerging filmmakers and celebrating their creative, professional journeys via our Short Film Awards categories. Starting in 1970, the AFI and now AACTA have acknowledged a roll-call of now well established Australian screen practitioners like Peter Weir, Jane Campion, Ivan Sen, Rachel Ward, Rachel Griffiths and David Michôd for achievements in short form screen craft.

This year the Australian Academy is pleased to extend both support and opportunities for all short form makers through a reduction of short film entry fees and via the launch an important new initiative named Social Shorts.

SOCIAL SHORTS

The new AFI | AACTA Social Shorts program will expand the reach and scope of the current AACTA Awards program, by providing AACTA Award entrants an additional opportunity to have their work seen and discussed via AFI | AACTA online channels.

All short film entrants of the 4th AACTA Awards whose work is not nominated by the jury for an AACTA Award will be eligible for the Social Shorts program and associated acknowledgements.

The Social Shorts program will be curated into comedy, drama and independent (self-funded) categories for exhibition and additional acknowledgements, and certifications of excellence will be awarded by the general public and AFI | AACTA members.

Damian Trehwella, AFI | AACTA CEO said, "The revitalisation of the AFI | AACTA Excellence in Short Filmmaking program is designed to identify and shine the spotlight on Australia's next generation of talented filmmakers who create content in the short form. We are committed to creating new opportunities to extend professional ambitions and progress successful Australian screen careers, acknowledging the unwavering public thirst for content in this phase of the screen era, we are pleased to announce the launch of Social Shorts."

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Short Film Entry – a reduction in fees

In addition to an extended exhibition platform for all short film entrants to the 4th AACTA Awards, the Academy is pleased to announce a significant reduction in the Short Film entry fees (down to \$100 from either \$240 or \$396 the year before), make entering the Awards more accessible to wider cross section of filmmakers.

Feature Film Pre-Selection Entry – an extension of eligibility

In keeping with the Australian Academy's aims of recognising and responding to developments in the screen sector, the eligibility criteria for the Feature Film Pre-Selection category has been broadened to include Feature Films that may not have had a traditional cinema release.

Feature Films that have been released on a range of VOD platforms, for public retail sale on DVD and had at least one festival or event screening in at least three Australian states are also eligible to enter the Pre-Selection stream, alongside films which have had a 2-4 Capital City Release.

Entrants/members eligibility

In a change to previous years, membership will be a requirement for entry into the 4th AACTA Awards. Many AACTA Award entrants are already members, and by requesting membership for a defined number of core creatives attached to any submission our membership will continue to remain diverse and ensure that voting is weighted fairly across all crafts and categories.

***Reminder Call for Jurors**

Last week the call for jurors was announced. If you are an [AACTA member](#) and are interested in being a juror for the 4th AACTA Awards, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#), then email your current CV or details of your professional screen guild accreditation to Chloe Boulton, AACTA Awards Manager at awards@afi.org.au by 5pm Friday 13 June 2014.

The 4th AACTA Awards will be held in January 2015 in Sydney and are proudly supported by the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

The Australian Academy will call for entries in the Documentary and Television categories in the coming months.

Information on entry details and eligibility can be accessed on the AACTA website: www.aacta.org.

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Notes on AFI | AACTA

The Australian Film Institute (AFI) and the Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), has been recognising and celebrating screen excellence for over five decades. The AFI held Australia's first ever screen excellence Awards, the AFI Awards, in 1958.

AACTA was launched in 2011 by the AFI to align the organisation and Awards with an internationally established screen Academy Awards model.

The primary role of the Australian Academy is to recognise, and celebrate film and television excellence in Australia through promoting the work of the screen sector via the AACTA Awards, the nation's highest screen accolades and the Australian equivalent of the Oscars and the BAFTAs.

The Australian Academy 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.

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