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Australian Academy Announces Feature Length Documentary Nominees for 4th AACTA Awards

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced feature length documentary nominees for the 4th AACTA Awards, marking Australia's finest documentaries of the last year.

In an exceptional year for Australian documentary, this year's nominees have captured audiences and critics at home and abroad with gripping storytelling, subjects and subject matter. 'The Outsiders' feature alongside the 'glitterati,' with sex, drugs, rock n' roll, jailed subjects, jailed filmmakers, murder and a feminist uprising confidently competing alongside scenes from the deepest reach of the sea.

NOMINEES FOR BEST FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

- ***All This Mayhem***. George Pank, Eddie Martin, James Gay-Rees
- ***DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D***. Andrew Wight, Brett Popplewell
- ***The Last Impresario***. Nicole O'Donohue
- ***Ukraine Is Not A Brothel***. Kitty Green, Jonathan auf der Heide, Michael Latham

The Best Feature Length Documentary nominees will screen along with all Feature Films In Competition and all Short Film nominees at the AACTA Awards Screenings in Sydney and Melbourne during October, and online via AACTA TV. Screenings and AACTA TV are accessible to members of AACTA (accredited screen professionals) and AFI members (members of the public).

The Best Feature Length Documentary winner will be announced at the 4th AACTA Awards, Australia's preeminent film and television Awards, in Sydney, home of the AACTA Awards, in January 2015.

ABOUT THE BEST FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY NOMINEES

All This Mayhem captures the fractured lives of two former champion pro skaters, brothers Tas and Ben Pappas, whose technical skill took the skating world by storm, but whose personal lives tragically spiralled into a dangerous world of drugs, jail, murder, depression and death. Featuring rough handy-cam footage shot by friends and family in the '90s alongside archival US television footage of pro skate events and present-day interviews, ***All This Mayhem*** comes with strong documentary team credentials, with Producer James Gay-Rees and Editor Chris King having worked together on the BAFTA Awarded ***Senna*** and the Oscar and BAFTA nominated ***Exit Through The Giftshop***.

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Following its world premiere at the 2013 Adelaide Film Festival, *All This Mayhem* screened in Documentary competition at this year's Sydney Film Festival, and premiered internationally at the British Film Institute (London), followed by a Special Jury Award slot at Sheffield Doc/Fest in June 2014.

A series of world firsts add to the technical feat of *DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D* which chronicles the world's first solo dive to the deepest known point on the planet, Challenger Deep. Led by multi-award winning filmmaker James Cameron, whose films include *Avatar* and *Titanic*, *DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D* marks a record-setting dive of 10,908 metres (35,787 ft) piloted by Cameron himself in a submersible which he designed along with a team of visionary engineers. Nine years in the making, the achievements marked by *DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D* were made all the more poignant by the tragic death of producer and director Andrew Wight during the making of the documentary.

The Last Impresario marks an impressive documentary directorial debut by 27-year-old Gracie Otto. This intimate and entertaining documentary captures the life of notorious London theatre and film impresario, playboy, gambler and bon vivant Michael White. Today celebrated as a septuagenarian who shows no signs of slowing down, Michael White is billed as 'the most famous person you've never heard of'; a bill set to change following featured interviews with 50 of White's closest friends including Kate Moss, Anna Wintour, John Cleese, Yoko Ono, Naomi Watts, John Waters, Richard O'Brien and Barry Humphries, as well as interviews with the man himself.

Following its world premiere at the 57th Annual BFI London Film Festival in 2013, *The Last Impresario* has played at a number of international and Australian film festivals, including the 10th Dubai International Film Festival in 2013 and the Sydney Film Festival in 2014, where it competed in the Documentary Australia Foundation Award official competition.

Ukraine Is Not A Brothel tells the true story of FEMEN, an antiestablishment feminist movement reclaiming the rights of women and challenging patriarchy via topless protest. However, as the FEMEN movement gains traction across Europe in protest against women being used as brides for sale or commodities of sex tourism and trafficking, the perverse and contradictory forces that power the feminist organisation come to light, as captured in 14 months of filming which resulted in the arrests and detainment of the documentary's filmmakers.

Ukraine Is Not A Brothel marks the directorial debut of Kitty Green, and competes in the 4th AACTA Awards following numerous international festival screenings, including the Venice Film Festival 2013, at which Green was awarded a special mention.

The Best Feature Length Documentary nominees were determined by a jury of respected industry professionals, representing a diverse selection of Australian screen crafts.

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AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehella said:

“Competition for this year’s feature length documentary category is made all the more compelling by the fact that we see two debut directors competing alongside multi award-winning documentary makers and pitted against a documentary starring veteran filmmaker, James Cameron, who holds more than 100 Award nominations and wins across film and television.

“With captivating and compelling stories and subjects, it’s easy to see that Australian documentaries are particularly strong for the 4th AACTA Awards. We wish all nominees the best of luck, and encourage the public and those working in the screen industry to join us as members in order to watch these great documentaries at the AACTA Awards Screenings and online on AACTA TV in October,” Trehella said.

Trehella also said that the Academy is pleased to have worked with the Australian Guild of Screen Composers (AGSC) to introduce a new Documentary Craft Award to be presented at the 4th AACTA Awards - Best Original Music Score in a Documentary. In past years, composition was judged together with sound for the Best Sound in a Documentary Award.

Guy Gross, AGSC President, said:

“The Australian Guild of Screen Composers is very pleased to see excellence in original music composition recognised separately to sound in documentary for the 4th AACTA Awards. Recognising Australia’s best talent in these two very different crafts will have a great impact on the careers of those receiving AACTA Awards, and we are delighted to have worked with the Academy to achieve this important distinction. We congratulate today’s feature length documentary nominees and encourage our members to vote in the AACTA Awards to help determine the winners.”

COUNT DOWN TO COMPETITION AND NOMINEE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE 4TH AACTA AWARDS

Feature Films In Competition will be announced later in September 2014. All remaining Documentary nominees and all Feature Film and Television nominees will be announced in Sydney later in 2014.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND ACCESS EXCLUSIVE AACTA AWARDS SCREENINGS

Documentaries nominated for Best Feature Length Documentary will be shown for AFI and AACTA members at the AACTA Awards Screenings in Sydney and Melbourne in October, and will be hosted online via AACTA TV, accessible to all AFI and AACTA members. AFI membership is open to and encouraged for all. AACTA membership is granted to screen professionals only through an accreditation process. Best Feature Length Documentary winners will be determined by AACTA members via voting.

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COUNTDOWN TO THE AACTA AWARDS | SYDNEY 2015

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 and are a key creative industries event on the NSW Events Calendar.

The 4th AACTA Awards follow three highly successful Awards seasons since the launch of AACTA by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) in 2011.

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