

Media Release - Strictly embargoed until Wednesday 1 October, 2014

Stars Set to Sizzle in Sydney this Summer

Australian Academy announces 4th AACTA Awards Events and new 'ScreenWeek' Program

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced the details of the 4th AACTA Awards, which will see Australia's top film and television performers and practitioners come together with screen fans for a week of events in Sydney in January 2015.

The AACTA Awards are Australia's biggest celebration of screen, attracting more than 2,000 screen professionals and enthusiasts to Sydney each year, and seeing Australia's outstanding screen talent head home from Hollywood to honour their peers.

AACTA today announced that its two major awards events - the AACTA Awards Luncheon and the AACTA Awards Ceremony - will be complemented with a new suite of 'Meet the Makers' events for the 4th AACTA Awards, forming a week of screen events and celebrations. **AFI | AACTA ScreenWeek**, 26 - 29 January 2015, aims to connect screen craft practitioners, professionals and screen enthusiasts for insights into productions nominated for the 4th AACTA Awards, and discussion around industry trends and topics.

The 4th AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe will be held at The Star on Tuesday 27 January 2015. This event is dedicated to spotlighting Australian screen craft excellence, and has quickly become one of the Australian industry's favourite annual events.

The 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony - AACTA's flagship event - will be held at The Star on Thursday 29 January 2015. The Ceremony will be telecast at the primetime of 8:30pm on Network Ten, connecting more than 1 million viewers with Australia's best performers, practitioners and productions. It will also have an encore screening on Foxtel's Arena channel.

The 4th AACTA Awards follow three highly successful AACTA Awards seasons in Sydney, and mark the first year of renewed long term partnerships (2015 – 2017) with both the New South Wales Government, through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, and The Star.

Tickets for the 4th AACTA Awards will go on sale in November 2014.

The AFI | AACTA ScreenWeek program will be announced later in 2014.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said:

“The 4th AACTA Awards cement our highly popular format of bringing Australia’s top film and television performers, practitioners and professionals to Sydney for two outstanding, must-attend events.

“These events are capped by primetime coverage of the AACTA Awards Ceremony on Network Ten, encouraging all Australians to join in our national celebration of our outstanding film and television productions and the talented people who make them.

“Our new ScreenWeek program, which includes ‘Meet the Makers’ events, will provide a great opportunity for the industry to form new collaborations within and across crafts, and to showcase their work to highly engaged audiences.

“With renewed partnerships attesting to the incredible support of our outstanding partners Destination NSW, The Star and Network Ten, I invite the industry and the public to join us at the 4th AACTA Awards in Sydney in celebration of our nation’s great stories as told on the big and small screens, and of our talented industry.”

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Major Events Andrew Stoner said: “Sydney is the creative and major events capital of Australia, making it the perfect location to host the AACTA Awards.

“Securing the AACTA Awards for Sydney through to 2017 reaffirms the NSW Government’s commitment to the State’s screen and creative industries.

“NSW is home to 40% of the Nation’s creative industries workforce, with almost 148,000 people directly employed in this sector, so we are proud to be a Strategic Partner of the AACTA Awards, through our tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW and look forward to celebrating this important industry in January.”

Managing Director of The Star, Greg Hawkins, said: “The Star is delighted to be hosting the Australian AACTA Awards for the third year running. We are proud to be the home of this very important event where Australia’s leading film and television talent is honoured and recognised by their peers. The Star Event Centre is a purpose-built live entertainment venue offering state-of-the-art technology along with expansive views across the Sydney skyline. The Star’s first-class accommodation, luxury spa, award-winning restaurants and world-class gaming facilities make it the perfect location for Australia’s most prestigious screen Awards.”

Network Ten Chief Programming Officer, Beverley McGarvey, said: “Network Ten is proud to be associated with the 4th AACTA Awards.

We look forward to sharing with viewers Australia’s premium film and television Awards. It provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase and celebrate all the individuals and production companies that contribute in such an extraordinary way to the Australian film, television, documentary and short film production industries.”

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

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JOIN AFI | AACTA

Now is the perfect time to become a member of the Australian Film Institute (open to all) or the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (open to screen practitioners). Members have complimentary, exclusive access to productions competing in the upcoming AACTA Awards via the 4th AACTA Awards Screenings (6 – 23 October 2014), and will then have the privilege of voting in the 4th AACTA Awards. For more information, visit: www.aacta.org

COUNTDOWN TO THE AACTA AWARDS | SYDNEY 2015

Feature Film nominees will be announced with all Television nominees and remaining Documentary nominees in Sydney later in 2014. Winners will be announced at the 4th AACTA Awards in Sydney in January 2015.

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

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