

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR 4TH AACTA AWARDS, CONFIRMING STRONG COMPETITION FOR AUSTRALIA'S FINEST FILM AND TELEVISION OF 2014

SYDNEY – The countdown to Australia's top screen awards is on, following today's announcement of nominations for the 4th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards.

The nominations announcement was held at The Star Event Centre, Sydney, hosted by award-winning actor, writer, producer, **Rob Carlton**. Nominees were announced by AFI-Award winning actress, **Susie Porter**, and actor **Dan Wyllie**, who today received a nomination for **Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama** for his performance in **RAKE SERIES 3**.

FEATURE FILM NOMINEES

A total of 14 feature film Awards will be presented at the 4th AACTA Awards.

Competition is fierce, with just two nominations separating the top three most nominated feature films. Sci-Fi thriller **PREDESTINATION** by the Spierig brothers leads the race with nine nominations, followed by Russell Crowe's World War I epic **THE WATER DIVINER** with eight nominations and David Michôd's dystopian thriller **THE ROVER** with seven nominations.

A total of 12 feature films received nominations out of the 25 competing. The six feature films nominated for the **AACTA Award for Best Film** are: **THE BABADOOK**; **CHARLIE'S COUNTRY**; **PREDESTINATION**; **THE RAILWAY MAN**; **THE WATER DIVINER**; and **TRACKS**.

Competition within the category of **Best Lead Actor** is strong. Past AFI Award winners **Russell Crowe** (**THE WATER DIVINER**) and **David Gulpilil** (**CHARLIE'S COUNTRY**) compete with **Guy Pearce** (**THE ROVER**), marking his sixth nomination from the AFI and AACTA since 2005, and **Damon Herriman** (**THE LITTLE DEATH**), who received a nomination at the 2nd AACTA Awards for his performance in **LAID SERIES 2**.

Three of the four **Best Lead Actress** nominees are also past AFI or AACTA Award winners - **Mia Wasikowska** (**TRACKS**), **Essie Davis** (**THE BABADOOK**) and **Sarah Snook** (**PREDESTINATION**) - whilst the 4th AACTA Awards mark a nomination debut for **Kate Box** (**THE LITTLE DEATH**).

THE BABADOOK received six nominations (including a Best Direction presented by Hyundai Genesis nomination for debut Director **Jennifer Kent**, who was also nominated for Best Original Screenplay), as did **THE LITTLE DEATH** (which was nominated in every acting category) and **THE RAILWAY MAN** (nominated for six awards, including a Best Costume Design nomination for past AFI Award winner **Lizzy Gardiner**).

Rolf de Heer received two nominations - **Best Direction presented by Hyundai Genesis** and **Best Original Screenplay** - for **CHARLIE'S COUNTRY** (which received a total of five nominations), adding to his illustrious career which includes six AFI Awards.

Matt Villa ASE also received two nominations for Best Editing (**PREDESTINATION** and **THE WATER DIVINER**), competing against **Bryan Mason (52 TUESDAYS)** and **Simon Njoo (THE BABADOOK)**.

TELEVISION NOMINEES

A total of 20 television awards will be presented at the 4th AACTA Awards.

Leading the television nominations count is **THE CODE** (ABC) with 10 nominations, followed by **PLEASE LIKE ME** (ABC 2) with six nominations, and **THE BROKEN SHORE**, **CARLOTTA**, and **RAKE SERIES 3**, with each of these ABC productions earning five nominations.

A nomination for **AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series** sees industry acclaim continue for **PUBERTY BLUES SEASON 2** (Network Ten) by John Edwards and Imogen Banks, following a win for the drama's debut series at the 2nd AACTA Awards. Today's nomination marks six AFI or AACTA joint nominations for Edwards and Banks since 2007, and a total of 16 nominations for Edwards (who has won one AACTA Award and five AFI Awards) over the past 14 years. Two new dramas - **THE CODE** and **JANET KING** (both ABC) - were also nominated for Best Television Drama Series along with the returning **RAKE SERIES 3** (ABC), marking a nomination in this category for every series of RAKE.

RAKE's **Richard Roxburgh** was awarded **Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama Series** at the 2nd AACTA Awards; a nod he is chasing again having been nominated in this category for the 4th AACTA Awards. This category sees a first-time nomination for **Luke Arnold** (INXS – NEVER TEAR US APART, Seven Network), and two nominations for performances in THE CODE (**Ashley Zukerman**, a first time-nominee, and **Dan Spielman**, who was twice nominated for AFI Awards).

The AFI and AACTA Award-winning **Kat Stewart** has been nominated for the **AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama** for OFFSPRING SEASON 5 (Network Ten), alongside **Ashleigh Cummings** (PUBERTY BLUES SEASON 2), marking Cummings' second time nominated in this category. Also nominated were **Danielle Cormack** (WENTWORTH SERIES 2 *Episode 11: Into The Night* – Foxtel – Showcase) and **Marta Dusseldorp** (JANET KING), marking debut nominations for both actresses.

Competition for the **AACTA Award for Best Television Comedy Series** is particularly strong, with multi-AFI and AACTA Award-winning credentials behind and in front of the camera across all nominees: **UTOPIA** (ABC); **THE MOODYS** (ABC); **PLEASE LIKE ME** (ABC2); **SHAUN MICALLEF'S MAD AS HELL, SERIES 3** (ABC); and **IT'S A DATE SERIES 2** (ABC).

The **AACTA Award for Best Light Entertainment Television Series** sees Network Ten's **THE PROJECT** receive its first AACTA nomination. It will compete with **PADDOCK TO PLATE, SERIES 1** (Foxtel – Lifestyle), **THE CHECKOUT** (ABC) and **HAMISH & ANDY'S GAP YEAR SOUTH AMERICA** (Nine Network).

MASTERCHEF: THE PROFESSIONALS won the 3rd **AACTA Award for Best Reality Television Series**, and this year again sees **MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA – SERIES 6** (Network Ten) competing with **THE X FACTOR** (Seven Network), but with two new nominees rounding out the category, **THE VOICE AUSTRALIA** and **THE VOICE KIDS** (both Nine Network).

DOCUMENTARY NOMINEES

The **AACTA Award for Best Documentary Television Program presented by Foxtel Movies** sees the Oscar-winning Eva Orner nominated for her SBS television documentary **THE NETWORK**, alongside **TENDER** (ABC) and the series **BRILLIANT CREATURES: GERMAINE, CLIVE, BARRY & BOB** (ABC) and **TAKING ON THE CHOCOLATE FROG** (Foxtel – STUDIO).

A number of the previously announced nominees for **Best Feature Length Documentary** received craft award nominations today, with **UKRAINE IS NOT A BROTHEL** up for six AACTA Awards, and **ALL THIS MAYHEM** and **DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D** receiving four nominations each.

Australian music icons Nick Cave and Warren Ellis are among the nominees for the new **AACTA Award for Best Original Music Score in a Documentary presented by APRA AMCOS** for **TENDER** (ABC). Jed Kurzel (**ALL THIS MAYHEM**), Jed Palmer and Zoë Barry (**UKRAINE IS NOT A BROTHEL**) and Ricky Edwards, Brett Aplin and Amy Bastow (**DEEPSEA CHALLENGE 3D**) round out the nominees in this category.

The Australian Academy congratulates all nominees for the 4th AACTA Awards.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said:

“This year has been a great year for the Academy, and a strong year for competition in our screen industry.

“The Academy has seen a five year high in the total number of entries (combined across all categories) for the 4th AACTA Awards, and we’ve achieved record high voting for the 4th AACTAs. The industry is engaged with the Academy and the Awards, and we know from research that AACTA Award wins and nominations create tangible results for the industry.

“This record engagement has been driven by our commitment to work with the guilds and the industry broadly to ensure Award categories are relevant to and reflective of industry trends. With industry support, and with increased partnerships, we’ve expanded Award categories, including our Awards for sound and original music score; a huge coup for the industry which lobbied for this, and which helped secure APRA AMCOS as a partner to make this happen.

“On the nominations front, Feature Film nominations are separated out across 12 feature films, with just two nominations separating the top three most nominated films (**PREDESTINATION, THE WATER DIVINER** and **THE ROVER**). First time directors (such as **Jennifer Kent, THE BABADOOK**), are competing with multi-AFI Award-winning directors (**Rolf de Heer, CHARLIE’S COUNTRY**), and international talent (**Robert Pattinson** and **Yilmaz Erdogan**) are pitted against local talent (**Patrick Brammall** and **TJ Power**), making for very interesting competition.

“Australian television production has been prolific this year, with more than 50 productions entering the Awards, and 35 television productions receiving nominations, representing healthy competition. It’s great to see such strong results for new television drama, with **THE CODE** receiving an impressive 10 nominations, as well as for returning dramas, such as **RAKE SERIES 3**, which today received five nominations.

“The 4th AACTA Awards are set to be our biggest and best yet, comprising two days of new ‘Meet the Makers’ forums in addition to our two major Awards events, including our televised red carpet and AACTA Awards Ceremony. I encourage the industry and screen fans to come along to Sydney for a huge week of screen celebrations and forums,” Trehwella said.

NSW Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism and Major Events and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said, “The AACTAs are a prestigious event on the Australian film and television industry calendar and the NSW Government is proud to have secured the event for Sydney, the creative and major events capital of Australia.

“NSW is the hub of the nation’s film and television production, generating \$607 million in the past financial year and accounting for 81% of all film and television drama production in Australia.

“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. Congratulations to all of today’s nominees.”

The AACTAs are proudly supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

The 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony will be broadcast on Network Ten, Thursday 29 January 2015.

MEDIA RESOURCES: LISTS OF NOMINEES, IMAGES & VIDEO CLIPS

A full list of all 4th AACTA Awards nominees, as well as breakdowns of nominees by production and by network, images of nominees, and select clips of nominated film and television productions can be accessed now via dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8g1wks6bfaz8nj/AAASseKJpwiC8C1omPoA5KUla?dl=0>

NOTES ON VOTING

AACTA Award nominations announced today were determined by AACTA members - accredited industry practitioners, performers and professionals - via voting, and via juries comprising industry professionals. For notes on voting, see the AACTA website: <http://aacta.org/the-awards/voting.aspx>

Round two feature film voting for AACTA members opens today at 5.00pm and closes 11:59pm Monday 5 January, 2015.

4TH AACTA AWARDS | SYDNEY, JANUARY 2015

All winners will be revealed at two major events in Sydney in January: the **4th AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe on Tuesday 27 January**; and the **4th AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party on Thursday 29 January**.

Tickets for both 4th AACTA Awards events can be purchased [here](#) on the AFI | AACTA website.

For more information about both Awards events, see the AFI | AACTA website: www.aacta.org

New for 2015 will be a series of ‘**Meet the Makers**’ events, held on Monday 26 January and Wednesday 28 January. Tickets for the ‘Meet the Makers’ events will be available for AACTA members and screen guild members next week.

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

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