

Media Release – Strictly embargoed until 9am Sunday 11 January 2015

Australian Academy announces Cate Blanchett and Deborah Mailman as hosts of the 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced Cate Blanchett and Deborah Mailman as the hosts of the 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony, which will be held in Sydney at The Star Event Centre and broadcast on Network Ten on Thursday 29 January 2015.

Both performers have long-standing connections with the AACTA Awards and the AFI Awards which preceded the AACTAs.

In addition to her role as AFI | AACTA Ambassador, which she has held since 2001, Cate Blanchett holds four AFI Awards, and an AACTA International Award for her role in *Blue Jasmine*, for which she also received a BAFTA and an Oscar earlier this year (marking her second Oscar). Blanchett has also presented at many AFI and AACTA Awards Ceremonies, including at the 2nd AACTA Awards where she co-presented the AACTA Award for Best Film in a moving tribute with fellow AFI and Oscar winners, AACTA President Geoffrey Rush, and Russell Crowe, who hosted the 2nd AACTA Awards.

Deborah Mailman has won four Awards from the AFI and AACTA for her performances across film and television, including for her role in the highly popular and industry acclaimed *Offspring*. The 2nd AACTA Awards saw Mailman receive a nomination for *Mental*, and an AACTA Award win for her lead role in *The Sapphires*. Mailman has also regularly attended and presented at the AFI and AACTA Awards, and her performance with the cast and original Sapphires at the 2nd AACTA Awards was a highlight of the broadcast.

AACTA President Geoffrey Rush said: "I've had the privilege of working with both these outstanding performers. The AACTA Awards celebrate Australia's finest, and who better to headline this annual bash than two fabulous women who have blazed like comets across our screens at home and abroad. I encourage everyone to tune in to see these performers at play."

Cate Blanchett said: "It's an honor to host the 4th AACTA Awards with Deb, a shining light of Australian film and television. The AACTAs celebrate our nation's creativity and our talents as storytellers, and I'm proud to be part of this national celebration."

Deborah Mailman said: "I am thrilled to co-host the AACTA Awards with Cate. It will be a fabulous night and the culmination of a week-long celebration of excellence in film and television over the past year. These awards take pride in the effort and hard work of all who are part of our Australian film and television industry."

One of Australia's most glamorous events, the AACTA Awards Ceremony also attracts hundreds of film and television fans to the red carpet and filming of the televised show, which is also a highlight on the fashion calendar.

Adam Zwar to Host 4th AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Deluxe

AACTA also announced a new host of the 4th AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe (Tuesday 27 February) – a highlight annual industry event which celebrates excellence across screen crafts and provides an opportunity to discuss collaborations for the year ahead.

Writer/actor/producer/director **Adam Zwar**, whose AACTA and AFI awarded productions include ***Agony Aunts***, ***Lowdown*** and ***Wilfred***, is today announced as replacing **Angus Sampson** as host of the Luncheon due to Angus joining the cast of series two of ***Fargo***.

Adam Zwar said: “I’m honoured to be hosting the AACTA Awards Luncheon. My role is to make sure the right Awards get handed to the right people and everyone gets to the after-party on time. Now all I need to do is lose 5 kilos so I can fit into my tux.”

The 4th AACTA Awards will see more than 2,500 screen industry professionals meet in Sydney for an extended program with the introduction of ScreenWeek. ScreenWeek (Monday 26 – Thursday 29 January 2015) comprises two days of new ‘Meet the Makers’ events held with screen guilds and industry leaders to provide insights into nominated productions, complementing AACTA’s two major Awards events; the 4th AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe (Tuesday 27 January) and the 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony and After Party (Thursday 29 January).

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

NOTES TO EDITORS

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**.

The 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony will be broadcast at 8:30pm on Network Ten on Thursday 29 January 2015.

Tickets for both 4th AACTA Awards events can be purchased on the AFI | AACTA website: <http://aacta.org/events>

Tickets for the ‘Meet the Makers’ events are now available for members of the AFI (open to all) and AACTA (open to screen professionals) as well as screen guild members. For information on membership and these events visit: www.aacta.org

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