

Media Release – Strictly embargoed until 6am Sunday 25 January 2015

Rose Byrne announced as recipient of inaugural AACTA Trailblazer Award

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced performer Rose Byrne as the recipient of its newly created award - the AACTA Trailblazer Award. Byrne will accept the accolade at the 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony on Thursday 29 January 2015 at The Star Event Centre in Sydney, broadcast on Network Ten.

The AACTA Trailblazer Award has been created to highlight an individual's achievements, abilities and successes as an inspiration to all invested in screen culture and excellence. It captures the exceptional achievement of Australians working in a global film and television industry.

From acting to animation, the AACTA Trailblazer Award is recognition of the multi-disciplinary achievements of talented Australian screen practitioners who inspire others with their portfolio of work, acknowledging their valuable contribution to promoting Australian screen culture and excellence, both here and abroad. The AACTA Trailblazer Award is a discretionary award and is determined by the Board and President of AFI | AACTA.

An AACTA Award winning performer, Rose Byrne also holds Golden Globe and Prime Time Emmy Award nominations for her breakthrough role opposite Glenn Close in the US television drama series **Damages**. Byrne's career spans Australian and US film and television, masterfully moving across genres, including drama and comedy.

AACTA President, Geoffrey Rush, said:

"Rose Byrne's transcendent reputation in the public eye in combination with her success on the big and small screen marries with one of the Australian Academy's most important aims – to foster a collegiate of highly talented Australians whose achievements will serve to motivate and mentor the next generation of Australians, enabling them to maximise their full potential.

"Rose's breakout performance in **Two Hands** clearly heralded the beginning of a rising talent, whose career trajectory we hope serves as an inspiration to other young Australian performers. Rose's success in the States adds to Australia's international reputation for continuously producing outstanding screen talent, and the Australian Academy is delighted to honour her at home in Sydney at the 4th AACTA Awards with this new Award."

Rose Byrne said: "I'm so honored to receive the inaugural AACTA Trailblazer Award. To be recognized by my Australian peers for my work thus far is humbling and I'm so thrilled to be here to receive it."

To see Rose Byrne receive the inaugural AACTA Trailblazer Award, tune into the 4th AACTA Awards Ceremony on Thursday 29 January on Network Ten at 8.30pm AEST.

The AACTA Awards are proudly supported by the New South Wales Government through its tourism

ABOUT ROSE BYRNE

Nominated for Golden Globes and Primetime Emmy Awards, Rose Byrne also holds nominations for numerous critic awards around the globe. Byrne holds two awards from the Australian Film Institute | Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. She was awarded an AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress for her performance in **The Turning** (2013), and an Australian Film Institute International Award for Best Actress for **Damages** (2007).

As a girl from the Sydney suburb of Balmain, Rose Byrne's exceptional career trajectory began from her first film at the age of 15 years old in **Dallas Doll** and included early peer recognition at the Venice Film Festival - winning the award for best actress for her performance in **The Goddess of 1967**. Byrne's early breakout performance saw her star alongside Heath Ledger in **Two Hands**, and since then, her career has diversified over a number of different genres from the local to the international stage.

She is now an in-demand actor in both the US film and television industries. Her role opposite Glenn Close in the US television drama series **Damages** saw Byrne nominated for two Golden Globes and two Emmy Awards. Byrne is in demand on the big screen for her comedy prowess which kicked off co-starring with the outlandish Russell Brand in **Get Him to the Greek**.

Her international comedy hits include, **Bridesmaids**, **The Internship**, and **Bad Neighbors**. She continues to delight and entertain audiences of every age - singing and dancing her way through **Annie** and as a secret agent in the upcoming **Spy**. The success and the popularity of her character portrayals on the big and small screen have garnered her millions of fans around the globe.

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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