



Media Release – Saturday 28 November 2015

New AACTA Award Celebrates 20 Years of Subscription Television in Australia

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced the nominees for this year's special one-off AACTA Subscription Television 20th Anniversary Award for Best Drama: **DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND**, **LOVE MY WAY**, **TOP OF THE LAKE** and **WENTWORTH**.

Each of these productions has been recognised by the AFI or AACTA Awards previously. **DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND** and **TOP OF THE LAKE** won the Awards for the Best Telefeature or Mini Series at the 4th and 3rd AACTA Awards respectively. Series 3 of **WENTWORTH** is nominated for Best Television Drama Series at the upcoming 5th AACTA Awards presented to Presto, while **LOVE MY WAY** won eight AFI Awards, and was nominated for ten others, between 2005 and 2007.

The AACTA Subscription Television 20th Anniversary Award for Best Drama was judged by a select group of television critics and writers, and the recipient will be announced at the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto on 9 December, 2015 in Sydney.

The introduction of this Award has been timed to coincide with the subscription television industry's twentieth birthday in 2015, and the new partnership between AACTA and the Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA) announced earlier this week.

As of 2016, the partnership will see subscription channels continue to enter a range of existing AACTA Awards categories, as well as some newly created AACTA television Awards, specifically acknowledging subscription television productions and performers. These Awards will be presented in Sydney at the 6th AACTA Awards presented by Presto.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said: "The calibre of nominees announced today for our special Award celebrating 20 years of subscription television in Australia is simply outstanding. Each a past AFI or AACTA Award nominee or winner, the nominees for this Award attest to the exceptional content produced by subscription television in this country. These nominees have not only resonated with our industry which has recognised their excellence via our past Awards, but also remain dear to the hearts of significant audiences around Australia and abroad. We look forward with anticipation to seeing which production wins this exciting Award at the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto."

ASTRA CEO, Andrew Maiden, said: "Over the last twenty years subscription television has delivered Australians a rich and diverse range of local drama series, many of which have won praise with overseas as well as local audiences. The subscription television industry is delighted this award will highlight the wonderful shows made possible by our investment of up to \$800 million every year in Australian content."

The 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto will be held on Wednesday 9 December 2015, and broadcast on Channel 7, with an encore on Foxtel Movies Masterpiece channel on Friday 11 December at 10.15pm.

General public and industry tickets are available now: www.aacta.org

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

ENDS

Media contacts:

Andrew Maiden, ASTRA (0458 487 754)

Niki White, Nikstar PR representing AFI | AACTA, (0403 176 988)

About ASTRA: The Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA) is the peak body representing the subscription media industry in Australia. Members include television operators, independent content companies, technology companies and the industries that support them. ASTRA members produce content seen by nearly nine million Australians. In 2014/15 members invested \$796 in local production, generating 253,000 hours of Australian content and creating jobs for 8370 Australians.

About AFI | AACTA: The AACTA Awards (a continuum of the AFI Awards) are the Australian screen industry's "stamp of success" – the Australian equivalent of the Oscars and the BAFTAs. The AACTA Awards, held annually in Sydney, recognise excellence across film, television, documentary and short film in more than 40 categories. In addition to the AACTA Awards, AFI | AACTA's core remit is to promote Australian screen culture. AFI | AACTA fulfils this remit by delivering a year-round Screen Culture and Industry Development program for members – connecting screen fans and enthusiasts with screen professionals, and the fantastic screen content that Australia produces. AFI membership is open to all. AACTA membership is open to accredited screen professionals.

5th AACTA Awards Presented by Presto | Sydney: All 5th AACTA Awards presented by Presto winners will be revealed at two major events at The Star Event Centre in Sydney: the 5th AACTA Awards presented by Presto | Industry Dinner presented by Blue Post on Monday 30 November 2015; and the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party presented by Presto on Wednesday 9 December 2015. Tickets for both events can be purchased via the AFI | AACTA website. For more information about both Awards events, see the AFI | AACTA website: www.aacta.org

PRESENTING PARTNER



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



DESTINATION PARTNER



TELECAST PARTNER



MAJOR GOVERNMENT SPONSOR



MAJOR PARTNERS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



INDUSTRY PARTNERS



EVENT AND PRODUCTION PARTNERS

