



Media Release – Strictly embargoed until 8:45pm Wednesday 9 December 2015

## AACTA Award Winners Announced in Sydney as Australia's top Film and TV stars shine on Seven

Watch the show on Channel Seven, 8:30pm tonight

Australia's top film and television talent came together tonight to honour Australia's best screen achievements of 2015 at the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto, held at The Star Event Centre in Sydney.

Broadcast on Channel Seven at 8:30pm tonight, show presenters include **Patrick Brammall, Mel Gibson, Radha Mitchell, Daniel MacPherson, Stephen Peacocke, Erik Thomson** and **Megan Gale**, along with **HOME AND AWAY's** **Georgie Parker** and **Bonnie Sveen**, to name just a few.

The red carpet sizzled, with guests and nominees attending including **George Miller, Anthony LaPaglia, Hugo Weaving, Rachael Griffiths, Ryan Corr, Margaret Pomeranz, Marta Dusseldorp, Alexandra Schepisi, Natalie Bassingthwaite, Samantha Harris** and **Bindi Irwin**, along with a number of **HOME AND AWAY** cast members.

Among the show highlights was the presentation of Australia's highest screen accolade, the **AACTA Longford Lyell Award**, to performer **Cate Blanchett**, who received tributes from some of the world's biggest names in film, including **Martin Scorsese, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Robert Redford, Ridley Scott** and **Ron Howard**.

The show's musical acts were outstanding, with **Justice Crew** featuring in the show opener, and performances by **Birds of Tokyo, Rudimental** and this year's winner of **THE X FACTOR, Cyrus**.

Tune in to see all the glamour of the red carpet, and to watch Australia's top performers, practitioners and productions honoured at 8:30pm tonight on Channel Seven. An encore screening will follow on Foxtel Movies Masterpiece channel on Friday 11 December at 10.15pm.

### FILM AWARDS

In a record-breaking year for Australian films at the local box office, taking more than \$85 million to date, anticipation was great regarding which films would take Australia's top screen accolades at the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto in Sydney.

**MAD MAX: FURY ROAD** tonight continued its impressive run in the 5th AACTA Awards season. Following six wins at last week's Industry Dinner, tonight it received two Awards: the **AACTA Award for Best Direction presented by Hyundai Genesis** went to **George Miller**; and the **AACTA Award for Best Film presented by Presto** was awarded to **Miller** along with **Doug Mitchell** and **PJ Voeten**.

Following its win for **Best Costume Design** at the Industry Dinner, comedic revenge drama **THE DRESSMAKER** scooped three Awards for performance tonight, as well as the **AACTA People's Choice Award for Favourite Australian Film**, totaling five wins for the 5th AACTA Awards season.

**Kate Winslet** was awarded the **AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress** for her performance as Tilly Dunnage in **THE DRESSMAKER**, **Hugo Weaving** received the **AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor** and **Judy Davis** received the **AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actress**.

**Michael Caton** received the **AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor** for his moving performance in **LAST TO CAB DARWIN**, marking a first-time AFI or AACTA Award win for the seasoned performer, whose last AFI Award nomination was for his performance as Darryl Kerrigan in **THE CASTLE**, which cemented Caton as one of Australia's most popular and much-loved performers.

## TELEVISION AWARDS

Following its outstanding success with audiences, attracting more than one million viewers across two nights in September, the Seven Network's **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** has also confirmed its success on the screen craft front. It received all five of the Awards for which it was competing tonight, making **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** the most awarded television production of the 5th AACTA Awards season, bringing its total number of Awards to seven, following two Awards at last week's Industry Dinner.

Tonight **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** took home the **AACTA Award for Best Telefeature or Mini Series** for **Kerrie Mainwaring** and **Rory Callaghan**, whilst **Michael Miller** received the **AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television** for his work on *Episode 2*.

Despite a year of tight competition in the television performance categories - with **THE SECRET RIVER** (ABC), **REDFERN NOW – PROMISE ME** (also ABC) and **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** (Seven Network) having each received three performance nominations - **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** was the clear winner.

With three past AFI nominations in a stellar career spanning three decades, **Sigrid Thornton** tonight received the **AACTA Award for Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama** for her outstanding performance as **Judy Garland** in **PETER ALLEN – NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** *Episode 1*.

Marking a young performer to watch, 14-year-old Ky Baldwin tonight received his first AACTA Award, receiving **Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama** for his performance as the young Peter Allen in *Episode 1*.

**Joel Jackson's** captivating performance as Peter Allen earned him the **AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama**, firmly cementing Jackson as an Australian actor on the rise, following two AACTA Award nominations this year from just three on-screen acting credits at this, the beginning of his career.

The **AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama** went to **Pamela Rabe** for her chilling performance as Joan 'The Freak' Ferguson on **WENTWORTH SERIES 3** (FOXTEL - SoHo).

The ABC's debut supernatural drama, **GLITCH**, received the **AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series** for multi-AFI and AACTA Award winner, **Tony Ayres**, along with first-time winners, **Louise Fox** and **Ewan Burnett**.

From its third consecutive nomination, **SHAUN MICALLEF'S MAD AS HELL** (ABC) earned its first **AACTA Award for Best Television Comedy Series** tonight, awarded to **Shaun Micallef** (who was previously awarded for **Best Performance in a Television Comedy** for his role in this production) and executive producer **Peter Beck**.

The **AACTA Award for Best Reality Television Series** was hotly contested this year. Tonight Network Ten's **MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA** took home the Award for the second time in four years, staving off strong competition from the Nine Network's **THE VOICE AUSTRALIA** (4th AACTA Award winner), Network Seven's **MY KITCHEN RULES 6** and **THE X FACTOR** (both past nominees), and first-time nominee in this category **REAL HOUSEWIVES OF MELBOURNE SEASON 2** (FOXTEL - Arena). The Award went to **MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA's Margaret Bashfield, Marty Benson, Tim Toni and Rob Wallace**.

Following its recently announced partnership with the Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA), which will see AACTA extend its subscription television Awards as of next year, AACTA tonight announced the winner of its special one-off **AACTA Subscription Television 20th Anniversary Award for Best Drama**, as judged by a select group of television writers and critics. Perennial favourite **LOVE MY WAY** took the Award over other past AFI and AACTA Award winners and nominees, **DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND, TOP OF THE LAKE** and **WENTWORTH**.

## **OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

### **AACTA Longford Lyell Award**

A highlight of the show was the presentation of Australia's highest screen accolade, the AACTA Longford Lyell Award, this year presented to five-time AFI or AACTA Award winner, **Cate Blanchett**.

Among Blanchett's many screen awards, which total more than 130 accolades from around the world, her Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Globe award-winning work includes performances in **BLUE JASMINE** and **THE AVIATOR**.

Tonight's Ceremony saw **Richard Roxburgh** and **Hugo Weaving**, both of whom have performed with Blanchett on screen and stage, present Blanchett with her Award, with a touching tribute from **Gillian Armstrong**, who directed Blanchett at the beginning of her career in **OSCAR AND LUCINDA**.

Attesting to Blanchett's brilliance as one of the world's leading and most in-demand performers, filmed tributes were received from screen luminaries including **Martin Scorsese, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Robert Redford, Bruce Beresford, Ron Howard, Todd Haynes, Sam Raimi** and **Ridley Scott**.

### **Byron Kennedy Award**

Cinematographer **Adam Arkapaw** was tonight announced as the recipient of the **Byron Kennedy Award**, which includes a \$10,000 prize, for outstanding creative enterprise within the film and television industries.

The Byron Kennedy Award is determined by a jury annually and is given to an individual or organisation whose work embodies innovation and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

**Arkapaw** has received acclaim and accolades across short films, commercials, television and feature films. His body of work includes hard-hitting local feature films **ANIMAL KINGDOM, SNOWTOWN** and

**LORE**, as well as the haunting television mystery series **TOP OF THE LAKE** and **TRUE DETECTIVE**, which earned him two Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Cinematography.

Most recently, Arkapaw re-teamed with **SNOWTOWN** director Justin Kurzel to shoot **MACBETH**, and the pair is currently working together on the feature film adaptation of the video game **ASSASSIN'S CREED**.

The Byron Kennedy Award jury said: "We have chosen Adam Arkapaw for his pursuit of excellence in cinematography. His work, already acknowledged as virtuosic and innovative, is always in the service of the story."

**AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella** said:

"Tonight's Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of practitioners and performers whose skill, passion and commitment continues to put Australia on the world map for film and television excellence.

"The AACTA Awards play an important role in promoting this talent to our international industry peers as well as audiences here and at home, and tonight's results will drive sales for awarded productions and see exciting new chapters in the careers of Award recipients. Especially the young performers awarded tonight, whose recognition will open new doors internationally as we have seen so many times over the years.

"Of course some of Australia's biggest names in film were also awarded tonight, and in particular, on behalf of the Australian Academy, I congratulate Cate Blanchett on receiving our nation's highest screen accolade, as her success and achievements continue to amass around the world.

"Screen is such a powerful medium for sharing Australian stories and creativity, and once again we are delighted to see a diverse slate of Australian stories, people and performances awarded across all genres including reality TV and documentaries through to dramas, comedies and feature films throughout this season of the 5th AACTA Awards presented by Presto in Sydney."

**NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts, Troy Grant** said, "As the hub for screen production in Australia, the NSW Government is proud to have secured Sydney as the home of the AACTA Awards and to support this important cultural industry. The exceptional talent and success of the Australian film and television industry was on show in Sydney this evening and I congratulate each of the winners recognised at the 5<sup>th</sup> AACTA Awards."

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

#### **FULL WINNERS LIST - CEREMONY**

A full winners list from the 5th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto can be found overleaf.

#### **PRESS KIT**

For lists of all winners for the 5th AACTA Awards presented by Presto, including by production and by network, and for select production stills and clips access our dropbox here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eluuv08jspv2y0s/AADs3ODJxRwgmDsJf1iGE7Ca?dl=0>

## NOTES

This year marks the fifth Awards of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), which was established by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) in 2011. The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the AFI Awards, which commenced in Australia in 1958. The AACTA Awards are determined by member and jury voting. Feature Film voting is via a two-step preferential voting system, as is standard across internationally recognised screen academies.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION & STAY CONNECTED

Official hashtag: #AACTAs

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### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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For further information about AFI | AACTA visit: [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org)

Thanks to the generous support of our partners and sponsors overleaf.

## 5TH AACTA AWARDS CEREMONY PRESENTED BY PRESTO

### NOMINEES & WINNERS

#### AACTA LONGFORD LYELL AWARD

- Cate Blanchett

#### BYRON KENNEDY AWARD

- Adam Arkapaw

### TELEVISION

#### AACTA AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION COMEDY SERIES

- **DANGER 5 SERIES 2** Kate Croser, Dario Russo – SBS
- **SAMMY J & RANDY IN RICKETTS LANE** Donna Andrews, Stu Connolly – ABC
- **SHAUN MICALLEF'S MAD AS HELL** Shaun Micallef, Peter Beck – ABC
- **UTOPIA** Michael Hirsh, Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Rob Sitch – ABC

#### AACTA AWARD FOR BEST REALITY TELEVISION SERIES

- **MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA** Margaret Bashfield, Marty Benson, Tim Toni, Rob Wallace - Network Ten
- **MY KITCHEN RULES 6** Rikkie Proost, Evan Wilkes, Matt Apps – Seven Network
- **REAL HOUSEWIVES OF MELBOURNE SEASON 2** Kylie Washington, Lisa Potasz, Virginia Hodgson - FOXTEL - Arena
- **THE VOICE AUSTRALIA** Richard Rietveld – Nine Network
- **THE X FACTOR** Digby Mitchell – Seven Network

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION DRAMA SERIES**

- **GLITCH** Tony Ayres, Louise Fox, Ewan Burnett – ABC
- **LOVE CHILD SERIES 2** Tom Hoffie – Nine Network
- **MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES SERIES 3** Fiona Egger, Deb Cox – ABC
- **WENTWORTH SERIES 3** Jo Porter, Amanda Crittenden – FOXTEL - SoHo

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST TELEFEATURE OR MINI SERIES**

- **BANISHED** Sita Williams, Emile Sherman, Iain Canning, Jamie Laurenson, Brett Popplewell - FOXTEL - BBC First
- **PETER ALLEN - NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR** Kerrie Mainwaring, Rory Callaghan – Seven Network
- **THE PRINCIPAL** Ian Collie – SBS
- **THE SECRET RIVER** Stephen Luby – ABC

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY IN TELEVISION**

- **DEADLINE GALLIPOLI Part 1** Jacquelin Perske, Shaun Grant – FOXTEL - Showcase
- **PETER ALLEN - NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR Episode 2** Michael Miller – Seven Network
- **THE PRINCIPAL Episode 1** Kristen Dunphy – SBS
- **UTOPIA Episode 1 - A Fresh Start** Santo Cilaurio, Tom Gleisner, Rob Sitch – ABC

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTOR IN A TELEVISION DRAMA**

- **Wayne Blair** REDFERN NOW - PROMISE ME – ABC
- **Joel Jackson** DEADLINE GALLIPOLI – FOXTEL - Showcase
- **Joel Jackson** PETER ALLEN - NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR – Seven Network
- **Oliver Jackson-Cohen** THE SECRET RIVER – ABC

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTRESS IN A TELEVISION DRAMA**

- **Deborah Mailman** REDFERN NOW - PROMISE ME – ABC
- **Pamela Rabe** WENTWORTH SERIES 3 – FOXTEL - SoHo
- **Peta Sergeant** HOUSE OF HANCOCK – Nine Network
- **Sarah Snook** THE SECRET RIVER – ABC

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST GUEST OR SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A TELEVISION DRAMA**

- **John Bach** GALLIPOLI *Episode 6 - If Only ...* – Nine Network
- **Ky Baldwin** PETER ALLEN - NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR *Episode 1* – Seven Network
- **Lachy Hulme** THE SECRET RIVER *Part 1* – ABC
- **Rahel Romahn** THE PRINCIPAL *Episode 2* – SBS

#### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST GUEST OR SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A TELEVISION DRAMA**

- **Harriet Dyer** LOVE CHILD SERIES 2 *Episode 3* – Nine Network
- **Rarriwuy Hick** REDFERN NOW - PROMISE ME – ABC
- **Hannah Monson** GLITCH *Episode 4* – ABC
- **Sigrid Thornton** PETER ALLEN - NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR *Episode 1* – Seven Network

## **AACTA SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION 20TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD FOR BEST DRAMA**

- **DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND**
- **LOVE MY WAY**
- **TOP OF THE LAKE**
- **WENTWORTH**

## **FEATURE FILM**

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST FILM PRESENTED BY PRESTO**

- **THE DRESSMAKER** Sue Maslin
- **HOLDING THE MAN** Kylie du Fresne
- **LAST CAB TO DARWIN** Greg Duffy, Lisa Duff, Jeremy Sims
- **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD** Doug Mitchell, PJ Voeten, George Miller
- **PAPER PLANES** Robert Connolly, Maggie Miles, Liz Kearney

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION PRESENTED BY HYUNDAI GENESIS**

- **THE DRESSMAKER** Jocelyn Moorhouse
- **HOLDING THE MAN** Neil Armfield
- **LAST CAB TO DARWIN** Jeremy Sims
- **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD** George Miller

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTOR**

- **Patrick Brammall** RUBEN GUTHRIE
- **Michael Caton** LAST CAB TO DARWIN
- **Ryan Corr** HOLDING THE MAN
- **Sullivan Stapleton** CUT SNAKE

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTRESS**

- **Robyn Butler** NOW ADD HONEY
- **Ningali Lawford-Wolf** LAST CAB TO DARWIN
- **Charlize Theron** MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
- **Kate Winslet** THE DRESSMAKER

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

- **Mark Coles Smith** LAST CAB TO DARWIN
- **Alex Dimitriadis** RUBEN GUTHRIE
- **Anthony LaPaglia** HOLDING THE MAN
- **Hugo Weaving** THE DRESSMAKER

### **AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

- **Judy Davis** THE DRESSMAKER
- **Emma Hamilton** LAST CAB TO DARWIN
- **Deborah Mailman** PAPER PLANES
- **Sarah Snook** THE DRESSMAKER

**AACTA PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN FILM**

- **THE DRESSMAKER**
- **LAST CAB TO DARWIN**
- **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD**
- **ODDBALL**
- **PAPER PLANES**



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