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**AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR  
5<sup>TH</sup> AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

**CAROL leads the way followed by THE BIG SHORT,  
MAD MAX: FURY ROAD and THE REVENANT**

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced that 17 films have received nominations for the 5th AACTA International Awards, recognising excellence across seven categories - Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

Capturing lesbian love in 1950s New York, Todd Haynes' *CAROL* leads the nominations with five nods. Nominated for Best Film, Best Direction and Best Screenplay, *CAROL* also sees Rooney Mara nominated for Best Supporting Actress, and Cate Blanchett nominated for Best Lead Actress, following SAG and Golden Globe award nods for both performers. *CAROL* marks the second collaboration between Haynes and Blanchett, with Blanchett receiving an Oscar nomination in 2008 for her role in Haynes' unconventional journey into the life and times of Bob Dylan, *I'M NOT THERE*.

*THE BIG SHORT* - the story of four outsiders tackling the big banks in the wake of the mid-2000s housing bubble collapse - follows with four nominations, including Best Film and Best Direction for Adam McKay.

Also competing alongside *CAROL* and *THE BIG SHORT* for Best Film and Best Direction are George Miller's dystopian Road War *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD* (hot off the back of its wins in both categories at AACTA's domestic Awards in Sydney last month), and Alejandro González Iñárritu's 1820s quest for survival on a fur trade expedition, *THE REVENANT*. Iñárritu won in both categories at the 4th AACTA International Awards for *BIRDMAN*.

*MAD MAX: FURY ROAD* and *THE REVENANT* received three nominations each, as did *STEVE JOBS* and *THE MARTIAN*, which rounds out the nominees for Best Direction with a nod for Ridley Scott.

*SPOTLIGHT*, the true story of *The Boston Globe's* role in uncovering the massive scandal of child abuse and cover up by the Catholic Church, rounds out the five Best Film nominees, and is also nominated for Best Screenplay alongside *CAROL*, *EX MACHINA*, *THE MARTIAN* and *STEVE JOBS*.

The remaining nine films nominated for the 5th AACTA International Awards all received nominations in acting categories.



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Competition in the Best Lead Actor category is fierce, with all five nominees - Steve Carell (*THE BIG SHORT*), Matt Damon (*THE MARTIAN*), Leonardo DiCaprio (*THE REVENANT*), Michael Fassbender (*STEVE JOBS*) and Eddie Redmayne (*THE DANISH GIRL*) - also having been nominated for Golden Globes for these performances. Whilst today marks the first nomination from the Australian Academy for Damon, Carell and Redmayne are past nominees, and Fassbender and DiCaprio are past winners for their performances in *12 YEARS A SLAVE* and *THE GREAT GATSBY* respectively.

Competition for Best Lead Actress is also strong, with Cate Blanchett (*CAROL*), Brie Larson (*ROOM*) and Saoirse Ronan (*BROOKLYN*) each also competing for SAG and Golden Globe awards for these performances. They compete alongside Emily Blunt for her performance in *SICARIO*, and Charlize Theron for her performance as Imperator Furiosa in *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD*. Blanchett holds six past AFI or AACTA Awards, including an AACTA International Award for her performance in *BLUE JASMINE*.

Fellow Australian and AACTA Award winner Joel Edgerton received a nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *BLACK MASS*. He competes alongside Christian Bale (*THE BIG SHORT*) and Mark Rylance (*BRIDGE OF SPIES*), whose performances also received SAG and Golden Globe nods. Paul Dano, nominated for his performance as Beach Boys leader Brian Wilson in *LOVE AND MERCY*, and Benicio del Toro (*SICARIO*) round out the five nominees for Best Supporting Actor.

Following accolades at the 5th AACTA Awards in Sydney last month for their performances in Australian dramedy *THE DRESSMAKER*, Judy Davis and Kate Winslet - who both hold BAFTA, EMMY and Golden Globe wins - were today announced as nominees for the AACTA International Award for Best Supporting Actress. Davis is again nominated for her role as Winslet's eccentric on-screen mother in *THE DRESSMAKER*, Molly Dunnage, whilst Winslet today received a nod for her role as the fierce and feisty Joanna Hoffman in *STEVE JOBS*. Also nominated in this category are Alicia Vikander (*THE DANISH GIRL*), Jennifer Jason Leigh (*THE HATEFUL EIGHT*) and the aforementioned Rooney Mara (*CAROL*).

Winners of the 5th AACTA International Awards will be announced at an exclusive event in Los Angeles on 29 January 2016.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said:

"Now in our fifth year, the AACTA International Awards add a unique Australian voice to the international discussion of screen excellence. On the one hand, our young Academy's Awards have become a reliable early forecaster of which performers, practitioners and productions will be recognised by our international peers via the Oscars and the BAFTAs. On the other hand, as our Chapter members are almost all Australians, they add a uniquely Australian perspective to the conversation, clearly evident this year, with a number of nominations for outstanding Australians who have excelled on the international stage, who we are very proud to count among our nominees.



“We're delighted to celebrate international excellence in LA each year at the AACTA International Awards Ceremony, which has quickly become a respected annual industry meet-up; a place to do business, as well as an opportunity to connect with colleagues and peers in celebration of excellence.

“We congratulate all nominees, and wish them every success during this dynamic Awards season.”

The AACTA International Awards will be telecast in Australia exclusively on Foxtel. The full show will be telecast on Sunday 31 January at 7:30pm on Foxtel Arts, and at 9:30pm on Arena.

Brian Walsh, Foxtel Executive Director of Television, said:

“Foxtel’s exclusive broadcast of the AACTA International Awards outlines our on-going commitment to supporting the Australian film and television industry on a global scale. Our sponsorship further extends our support of the domestic AACTA Awards and the governing body of the Academy.”

#### **5TH AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS NOMINEES**

##### **AACTA International Award for Best Film**

THE BIG SHORT  
CAROL  
MAD MAX: FURY ROAD  
THE REVENANT  
SPOTLIGHT

##### **AACTA International Award for Best Direction**

THE BIG SHORT - Adam McKay  
CAROL - Todd Haynes  
MAD MAX: FURY ROAD - George Miller  
THE MARTIAN - Ridley Scott  
THE REVENANT - Alejandro González Iñárritu

##### **AACTA International Award for Best Screenplay**

CAROL - Phyllis Nagy  
EX MACHINA - Alex Garland  
THE MARTIAN - Drew Goddard  
SPOTLIGHT - Tom McCarthy & Josh Singer  
STEVE JOBS - Aaron Sorkin



#### **AACTA International Award for Best Lead Actor**

Steve Carell - THE BIG SHORT  
Matt Damon - THE MARTIAN  
Leonardo DiCaprio - THE REVENANT  
Michael Fassbender - STEVE JOBS  
Eddie Redmayne - THE DANISH GIRL

#### **AACTA International Award for Best Lead Actress**

Cate Blanchett - CAROL  
Emily Blunt - SICARIO  
Brie Larson - ROOM  
Saoirse Ronan - BROOKLYN  
Charlize Theron - MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

#### **AACTA International Award for Best Supporting Actor**

Christian Bale - THE BIG SHORT  
Paul Dano - LOVE AND MERCY  
Benicio del Toro - SICARIO  
Joel Edgerton - BLACK MASS  
Mark Rylance - BRIDGE OF SPIES

#### **AACTA International Award for Best Supporting Actress**

Judy Davis - THE DRESSMAKER  
Jennifer Jason Leigh - THE HATEFUL EIGHT  
Rooney Mara - CAROL  
Alicia Vikander - THE DANISH GIRL  
Kate Winslet - STEVE JOBS

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **ABOUT AFI | AACTA**

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. Former AFI Award recipients include Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Eric Bana, Toni Collette, Dr. George Miller (AFI | AACTA Patron), Cate Blanchett (AFI | AACTA Ambassador) and Geoffrey Rush (AACTA President).

AFI | AACTA holds a year-round program of events showcasing and promoting Australian screen productions and screen culture. The program culminates in two annual Awards events in Sydney each December; the AACTA Awards presented by Presto | Industry Dinner presented by Blue Post, and the AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Presto.



## ABOUT THE AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The AACTA International Awards recognise film excellence regardless of geography. These Awards are determined by the invitation only AACTA International Chapter which comprises of 150 Australian screen professionals with distinguished international credentials, many of whom are also members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

Winners will be announced in Los Angeles at the 5th AACTA International Awards on Friday 29 January PST (Saturday 30 January AEDT).

For more information on the AACTA International Awards, [click here](#).

For more information on AFI | AACTA, [click here](#).

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

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