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AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR 5TH AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD and CAROL lead the way, with two AACTA International Awards each

Some of the world's biggest names in film joined their Australian peers in Hollywood tonight to honour big-screen excellence from the last year at the 5th AACTA International Awards.

Rachel Griffiths and Daniel MacPherson opened the show, which will broadcast exclusively in Australia on Foxtel tomorrow night. Abbie Cornish, Miranda Otto, Angus Sampson, Jonathan LaPaglia, Radha Mitchell, Luke Bracey, Anna Torv and Phillip Noyce were among those who presented at the star-studded event, held at the historic Avalon Hollywood.

George Miller's dystopian Road War MAD MAX: FURY ROAD stepped up its Oscars campaign, taking home two AACTA International Awards - Best Film and Best Direction. Competition was strong, with THE BIG SHORT and CAROL also competing in both categories, alongside last year's Best Film and Best Direction recipient, Alejandro González Iñárritu (BIRDMAN), who was this year nominated for THE REVENANT.

These wins follow an outstanding run for MAD MAX: FURY ROAD at AACTA's domestic Awards in Sydney last month, where the film received a total of eight Awards, including Best Film and Best Direction.

Set in sumptuous 1950s New York, CAROL also received two AACTA International Awards tonight, with Rooney Mara awarded for Best Supporting Actress, and Cate Blanchett awarded for Best Lead Actress; performances which see both nominated for tomorrow night's SAG Awards, and next month's BAFTAs and Oscars. This marks Blanchett's seventh AFI or AACTA Award over the past 19 years, including an AACTA International Award for her performance in BLUE JASMINE.

BRIDGE OF SPIES, THE REVENANT and SPOTLIGHT received one award each tonight, seeing a total of five films awarded across seven categories - Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.



Competition in the Best Lead Actor category was fierce, with Leonardo DiCaprio (*THE REVENANT*) taking home the award over Matt Damon (*THE MARTIAN*), past AACTA International Award nominees Steve Carell (*THE BIG SHORT*) and Eddie Redmayne (*THE DANISH GIRL*), and past winner Michael Fassbender (*STEVE JOBS*).

The win marks Leonardo DiCaprio's second award from the Australian Academy, following a Best Lead Actor Award for *The GREAT GATSBY* in 2014, and adds to an outstanding awards season for the powerhouse performer, including a Golden Globe Award, as well as Oscar, BAFTA and SAG Award nominations.

The AACTA International Award for Best Supporting Actor went to Mark Rylance for his portrayal of Soviet spy Rudolf Abel in Steven Spielberg's Cold War thriller *BRIDGE OF SPIES*; a performance which also sees Rylance nominated for an Oscar, BAFTA and SAG Award.

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, won the AACTA International Award for Best Screenplay, following strong competition from *CAROL*, *EX MACHINA*, *THE MARTIAN* and *STEVE JOBS*.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said:

"The fifth year of the AACTA International Awards has again seen a dynamic mix of international and Australian achievement honoured, celebrating some of the world's biggest names in film, behind and in front of the camera.

"This year marks the first time we've seen an Australian film, *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD*, win at our domestic Awards in Sydney and then again at our International Awards in LA, and we're delighted to see our U.S. and British counterparts also recognise this excellence with Oscar and BAFTA nominations.

"Over the past five years we've seen AACTA International Award winners go on to win 16 BAFTAs and 14 Oscars, and we look forward with great anticipation to seeing if this trend again continues this year. We congratulate all winners, and wish them every success as we head towards the pointy end of this competitive 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, after which time the show will also be available on Australian online streaming service, Presto, until 29 February.

Guests of the 5th AACTA International Awards enjoyed PIPER-HEIDSIECK's red label Cuvée Brut to celebrate the evening's winners. Founded in 1785, PIPER-HEIDSIECK is one of France's oldest Champagne houses and has been a long-time supporter of cinema, since the early 1930s. In addition to its official partnership with AACTA's domestic Awards, held in Sydney, PIPER-HEIDSIECK has also been the official champagne of the International Cannes Film Festival for more than 20 years and of the Academy Awards since 2015.



Benoit Collard, Executive Global Director PIPER-HEIDSIECK said, “As an international Champagne house we are pleased to celebrate the 5th AACTA International Awards, by acknowledging the talents, art and craft of cinema and television around the world. Through its association with the AACTA Awards both in Australia and internationally, PIPER-HEIDSIECK will continue to celebrate the grand moments of emotion only cinema can bring.”

5th AACTA International Awards Nominees and Winners

Winners are highlighted below.

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

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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, home of the AACTA Awards, 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 performers, practitioners and 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.

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

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

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