



MEDIA RELEASE

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Isla Fisher to receive AACTA Trailblazer Award in Sydney

More top talent announced for the 6th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel

Today the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announced Australian actress **Isla Fisher** as this year's recipient of the **AACTA Trailblazer Award**.

First awarded to Rose Byrne at the 4th AACTA Awards in 2014, the AACTA Trailblazer Award highlights the achievements, abilities and successes of an Australian screen practitioner who inspires others with their portfolio of work.

The Award recognises the multi-disciplinary achievements of talented individuals, acknowledging their valuable contribution to promoting Australian screen excellence, both here and abroad. The AACTA Trailblazer Award is a discretionary award and is determined by the Board and President of AFI | AACTA.

The Trailblazer Award will be presented to Isla Fisher at the **6th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel** in Sydney, televised on Channel 7 at 8.30pm, on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

An AACTA Award and Logie nominated performer, Isla Fisher's career spans film, television and stage around the globe. The self-described 'comic-actress', who is a strong advocate for comedic roles for women in Hollywood, is also an acclaimed dramatic actress and a successful author.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella said:

"Isla Fisher's reputation in the international screen industry has added to Australia's reputation for producing outstanding screen talent, and the Australian Academy is delighted to honour her at home in Sydney at the 6th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

"From her breakout roles in *Home and Away* and the international comedy *Wedding Crashers* to her critically acclaimed dramatic performances in *The Great Gatsby* and *Nocturnal Animals*, Isla has carved a diverse career we hope serves as an inspiration to other Australian performers.

"We also recognise Isla's influential role as a champion for female comic actresses – a cause she has advocated for over a decade and which marries with one of AACTA's most important aims – to foster talented Australian screen practitioners who serve to mentor and inspire the next generation of Australians to pursue their craft to its full potential."

Isla Fisher said:

"I'm so honoured to be recognised by the Australian Academy and my Australian peers as a trailblazer in film and television. That I am considered among those Australians who are inspiring the next generation of talent is a true honour. I'm looking forward to coming back to Sydney to accept the AACTA Trailblazer Award."

Joining Isla and husband **Sacha Baron Cohen** at the Ceremony will be presenters **Jessica Marais, Michael Caton, Marta Dusseldorp, Shane Jacobson, and Stephen Curry** alongside guests **Josh Thomas and Greta Scacchi**.

The 6th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Foxtel will be held at The Star Event Centre in Sydney on Wednesday 7 December, televised on Channel 7 at 8.30pm with an encore screening on Foxtel.

Tickets to the Ceremony are on sale now from \$99 and available from www.aacta.org.

– ENDS –

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

ABOUT ISLA FISHER

Following roles in Australian TV series' **BAY COVE** and **PARADISE BEACH**, Isla's breakout role came in 1994 when she joined the cast of **HOME AND AWAY** as Shannon Reed. The role earned her a Silver Logie nomination for Most Popular Actress, and saw her appear alongside other up-and-coming Australian actors at the time including **Melissa George, Heath Ledger, Kate Ritchie** and **Rachael Blake**.

After leaving **HOME AND AWAY** in 1997, Isla went to study clown, mime and commedia dell'arte at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. She went on to appear in a number of stage productions, including the London Theatre production of *Così* and the musical *Summer Holiday*, alongside Darren Day.

Following roles in **SCOOBY DOO** (2002) and **I HEART HUCKABEES** (2004), her breakout Hollywood role came in American romantic comedy, **WEDDING CRASHERS** (2005) – for which she won the MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Performance.

Isla went on to become a leading comedy actress in Hollywood, with international comedy hits including **HOT ROD** (2007), **DEFINITELY, MAYBE** (2008), **CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC** (2009), **RANGO** (2011), **BACHELORETTE** (2012), **ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT** (2013) and **THE BROTHERS GRIMSBY** (2016), alongside her husband **Sasha Baron Cohen**.

Though predominately known for her comedy roles, Isla is also an acclaimed dramatic actress. She received an AACTA nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her role in **THE GREAT GATSBY** (2013), and was praised by critics for her performances in **NOW YOU SEE ME** (2013) and Tom Ford thriller **NOCTURNAL ANIMALS** (2016), which won the Jury Grand Prize at this year's Venice Film Festival.

Isla is also an accomplished author, having published two teen novels with her mother at just 18: *Bewitched* and *Seduced by Fame*. She has co-written two scripts with **Amy Poehler** and her first children's book, *Marge in Charge*, was released earlier this year.

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