



PRESS RELEASE: AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS

- Strictly embargoed until Wednesday 31 August 2011 -

First Nominees revealed for inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards

Nominees for Best Feature Length Documentary, Best Short Animation and Best Short Fiction Film are the first to be announced for the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards.

Following the launch of the new Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), the Academy is proud to reveal its very first nominees, in the lead up to the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards to be held in January 2012.

The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards, which have been awarding screen excellence in Australia since 1958.

Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Feature Length Documentary are:

- ***Life In Movement*** Sophie Hyde, Bryan Mason
- ***Mrs Carey's Concert*** Bob Connolly, Helen Panckhurst, Sophie Raymond
- ***Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure*** Sophie Hyde, Matthew Bate
- ***The Tall Man*** Darren Dale

Producers Sophie Hyde and Bryan Mason's ***Life in Movement*** is a beautiful, heartbreaking insight into the charismatic Tanja Liedtke leading up to her untimely death, just prior to taking up the reigns of the Sydney Dance Company. Sophie Hyde is a double nominee, with her film ***Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure*** also in contention, with co-producer Matthew Bate, exploring one of the world's first 'viral' pop-culture sensations.

Mrs Carey's Concert from producers Bob Connolly, Helen Panckhurst and Sophie Raymond follows the rollercoaster journey of Karen Carey, music director at a Sydney girls' school, as she prepares her students for the ultimate classical music concert at the Sydney Opera House, with all the trials and rewards of dealing with teenage girls revealed. Producer Darren Dale is the final nominee with his politically charged documentary ***The Tall Man***, which goes deep inside the courtrooms, Indigenous communities, and police stations where the complexities of Australia's racial politics are focused.

Damian Trehwella, AFI/AACTA CEO, said the calibre of this year's entrants was exceptional.

"Each year it is a pleasure to see the quality and diversity of all of our nominees, but it is especially gratifying to be able to shine a light onto the huge talent in the sometimes less well-recognised, Non Feature categories, especially in our inaugural year of the Samsung AACTA Awards."

"It's fantastic to see Australian feature documentaries finding enthusiastic audiences, not just at film festivals but also in theatrical release. For example, Bob Connolly, Helen Panckhurst and Sophie Raymond's record-breaking ***Mrs Carey's Concert*** was in cinemas for more than 14 weeks and took more than \$1 million at the local box office.

"***Life in Movement*** has proved incredibly popular at Australian film festivals, as has ***Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure***, which premiered at Sundance earlier this year. Also reaching international audiences is ***The Tall Man***, which will screen at the Toronto International Film Festival in September."



Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Short Animation are:

- **Forget Me Not** Emily Dean
- **The Missing Key** Garth Nix, Anna McFarlane, Jonathan Nix
- **The Moment** Justin Wight, Kristian Moliere, Troy Bellchambers, Shane McNeil
- **Nullarbor** Alister Lockhart, Patrick Sarell, Katrina Mathers, Merrin Jensen, Daryl Munton

Australian animators are among the best in the world, with recent highlights including Shaun Tan being awarded the 2010 AFI Award for Best Short Animation for **The Lost Thing**, then going on to win an Oscar. This year's nominees are no less exceptional.

Forget Me Not is a beautiful silhouette-style fairytale, while **The Missing Key** describes a richly detailed world of 1920s Venice. **The Moment** captures astonishing photo-realism, while black Aussie humour and our iconic landscape are celebrated in the road movie **Nullarbor**.

Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Short Fiction Film are:

- **Adam's Tallit** Justin Olstein, Marie Maroun
- **Cropped** Bettina Hamilton, Dave Wade
- **The Palace** Kate Croser, Anthony Maras, Andros Achilleos
- **The Telegram Man** James F. Khehtie, Victoria Wharfe McIntyre

This year's impressive nominees range from the macabre horror of the drought-stricken **Cropped**, to the wartime tragedies of **The Palace** (set in 1974 Cyprus) and **The Telegram Man** (set in World War II era country Australia). On a lighter note, **Adam's Tallit** is a sweet tale of a Jewish grandmother forced to leave her grief behind as she babysits her rambunctious grandson.

The film loving general public as well as AACTA/AFI members alike will be invited to view nominated Non Feature Films, as well as the 23 Feature Films in Competition, on the big screen at the **Samsung AFI I AACTA Festival of Film**, to be held in Sydney and Melbourne from 6 October until 14 November.

The Festival provides an opportunity for all Australians to get involved with the excitement of the very first Samsung AACTA Awards, and experience Australian filmmaking at its best.

Nominees in the Feature Film, Television and remaining Non Feature Film categories* will be announced at the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards Nominations Announcement in November.

Says Trehwella, "From the concert hall to the Outback, and spanning decades, countries and genres, nominees announced today demonstrate the breadth and depth of Australian filmmaking talent. We look forward to recognising Australia's best and brightest screen practitioners at the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards in January, building on the proud, 53-year-old tradition of celebrating screen excellence in Australia established by the AFI."

A list of Non Feature Film production notes can be found [here](#).

*The non-feature nominations (Documentary, Short Fiction Film and Short Animation) yet to be announced are: the AACTA Award for Best Documentary Under One Hour; the AACTA Award for Best Documentary Series; the AACTA Award for Best Direction in a Documentary; the AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in a Documentary; the AACTA Award for Best Editing in a Documentary; the AACTA Award for Best Sound in a Documentary; and the AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in a Short Film.



FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION FOR THE INAUGURAL SAMSUNG AACTA AWARDS

As announced at the launch of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, the 23 Feature Films in Competition for the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards are:

- **A HEARTBEAT AWAY**
- **BIG MAMMA'S BOY**
- **BLAME**
- **BURNING MAN**
- **CAUGHT INSIDE**
- **FACE TO FACE**
- **GRIFF THE INVISIBLE**
- **HERE I AM**
- **LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE**
- **MAD BASTARDS**
- **ORANGES AND SUNSHINE**
- **RED DOG**
- **RED HILL**
- **SANCTUM**
- **SLEEPING BEAUTY**
- **SNOWTOWN**
- **SUMMER CODA**
- **THE CUP**
- **THE DRAGON PEARL**
- **THE EYE OF THE STORM**
- **THE HUNTER**
- **THE LOVED ONES**
- **WASTED ON THE YOUNG**

Visit www.aacta.org to see a compilation trailer of the Feature Films in Competition.

Notes on Non Feature Film Nominees:

Juries of respected industry professionals, representing a diverse selection of Australian screen crafts, decided the nominees in these categories. Members of the AFI and AACTA will vote to decide the winners after screenings at the Samsung AFI | AACTA Festival of Film.

Notes on Feature Films in Competition:

Members of AACTA (screen professionals granted membership of AACTA through an accreditation process) voting under a new two-step voting model will decide the nominees and winners in the various Feature Film categories. For more information on voting, please visit the [AACTA website](http://www.aacta.org).

Notes on the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts:

Launched by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) on 18 August 2011, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) is a new professional membership body formed to identify, encourage, promote and award excellence in Australian screen productions. The inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards are a continuum of the AFI Awards, which have proudly celebrated Australia's screen excellence and heritage since 1958. For more information visit: www.aacta.org. To view video clips from the launch of AACTA, including speeches from AFI Patron Dr George Miller and AACTA Founding President Geoffrey Rush, see the [AACTA Launch](#) section of the AACTA website.



MEDIA ENQUIRIES

The Lantern Group

Victoria Buchan T: +61 2 9383 4033 E: victoria@lanterngroup.com.au

Susan Hoerlein T: +61 2 9383 4029 E: susan@lanterngroup.com.au

AFI/AACTA

Brooke Daly T: +61 (0) 4499 00466 E: bdaly@afi.org.au

NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



MAJOR GOVERNMENT SPONSOR

