



**Media Release**

Strictly embargoed until Wednesday 6 December, 2017 at 12:01am AEDT

## Director Phillip Noyce to be honoured with Australia's top screen award



Acclaimed Australian director **Phillip Noyce** was today announced as the recipient of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts' (AACTA) Longford Lyell Award – Australia's highest screen accolade.

The Award will be presented to Phillip at the 7th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Foxtel on Wednesday 6 December at The Star Event Centre in Sydney, telecast at 8:30pm on Channel 7.

First presented in 1968, the Longford Lyell Award is a tribute to Australian film pioneer Raymond Longford and his partner in filmmaking and life, Lottie Lyell. The Award is the highest honour the Australian Academy can bestow and recognises an individual who has made a truly outstanding contribution to the enrichment of Australia's screen environment and culture.

Phillip started his career making self-funded short films in the late 1960s. For three years he managed the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op, which screened the short films of Australia's fledgling filmmakers in a makeshift cinema in downtown Sydney. In 1973 he was one of the inaugural students of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, studying alongside the likes of **Gillian Armstrong** and **Chris Noonan**. After working on a number of shorts and feature films, his breakthrough came in 1978 with the critically acclaimed **NEWSFRONT**. The film swept the 1978 AFI Awards, winning eight Awards including two Awards for Noyce: Best Director and Best Original Screenplay (shared with **Anne Brooksbank** and **Bob Ellis**).

Ten years later, Hollywood came calling following the release of Noyce's psychological thriller **DEAD CALM**. The film kick-started Noyce's international career, along with those of his leading actors, **Nicole Kidman** and **Sam Neill**.

Noyce has gone on to work with some of the world's leading actors, including: **Harrison Ford** and **James Earl Jones** in **CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER** (1994); **Denzel Washington** and **Angelina Jolie** in **THE BONE COLLECTOR** (1999); **Sir Michael Caine** in **THE QUIET AMERICAN** (2002); **Hilary Swank** in **MARY AND MARTHA** (2013); and **Meryl Streep** and **Jeff Bridges** in **THE GIVER** (2014).

Noyce's eclectic career has seen him direct a diverse range of genres across film and television, from blockbuster action films to Oscar®-nominated dramas, as well as some of Australia's most culturally significant films. From his first feature film **BACKROADS** (1977) to the multiple AFI Award-winning **RABBIT PROOF FENCE** (2002), Noyce has continued to challenge audiences with films that highlight cultural issues such as racism, Indigenous culture, apartheid and terrorism.

Noyce joins an illustrious group of Australian directors to have received the accolade, including **Peter Weir**, **Fred Schepisi**, **Charles Chauvel**, **Dr George Miller** and **Ken G. Hall**, the first Australian to win an Oscar®.

"I'm humbled to receive an award that bears the names of two of Australia's greatest filmmakers," said **Noyce**. "And I'm humbled to join the ranks of those previously honoured with this award, particularly Barry Jones and Philip Adams, who were so prominent in reviving our film industry in the late 1960's, my friend and directing mentor Ken G. Hall, and Dr George Miller, who has taught us all so much with his cinema magic."

"With an ongoing career spanning 48 years, more than 55 credits to his name and three AFI Awards among his long list of accolades, Phillip Noyce is truly one of Australia's greatest directors," said **AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella**. "On behalf of the Academy, it is our pleasure to recognise Phil for his role as a director and as a key contributor to the reputation and quality of Australian cinema."

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

– ENDS –

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