



Media Release

For immediate release

Australian Academy announces Best Asian Film nominees and Grand Jury members for 2018

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) has today revealed the films nominated for this year's AACTA Award for Best Asian Film presented by Eureka International Group (EIG).

In the last 12 months, Asian films have contributed \$36 million AUD to the Australian box office, signalling the immense popularity of Asian cinema in Australia as the region's film industries continue to boom and produce high-quality, internationally lauded titles. The AACTA Award for Best Asian Film presented by EIG recognises the exceptional calibre of films from the Asian region as well as their growing popularity, not just with audiences domestically within Australasia but also globally.

This year's Best Asian Film nominees form a unique snapshot of the finest Asian films from the past year, from box-office hits and international film festival favourites to a Palme d'Or winner and multiple Best Foreign Language Film Oscar® entries.

The nominees are:

- **1987 WHEN THE DAY COMES** (Dir. Joon-Hwan Jang)
- **THE BOLD, THE CORRUPT AND THE BEAUTIFUL** (Dir. Ya-Che Yang)
- **DYING TO SURVIVE** (Dir. Muye Wen)
- **GALI GULEIYAN** (Dir. Dipesh Jain)
- **NEWTON** (Dir. Amit Marsurkar)
- **SANJU** (Dir. Rajkumar Hirani)
- **SHOPLIFTERS** (Dir. Hirokazu Koreeda)
- **TOMBIRUO** (Dir. Seth Larney)
- **YOUTH** (Dir. Feng Xiaogang)

The winner of the Best Asian Film Award will be determined by the 2018 Best Asian Film Grand Jury, led by Oscar® and multiple AFI and AACTA Award-winning actor **Russell Crowe**, who returns as President.

Also returning as jurors are: prolific Indian actor **Anupam Kher** (SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, A WEDNESDAY!); five-time National Film Award of India Best Actress winner **Shabana Azmi** (NEERJA, THE BLACK PRINCE, ARTH); and Australian film critic, producer and presenter **Margaret Pomeranz AM** (THE MOVIE SHOW, AT THE MOVIES).

They will be joined by new Grand Jury members: Chinese screenwriter **Liu Yi**, whose film **WOLF WARRIOR II** is the most commercially successful Asian film in history, grossing \$1 billion AUD in China in 14 days; AACTA Award-winning Australian director and producer **Paul Currie** (HACKSAW RIDGE, BLEEDING STEEL, THE LONGEST SHOT); Finnish director, producer and screenwriter **Renny Harlin** (DIE HARD 2, THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT, SKIPTRACE); Award-winning South Korean director and cartoonist **Woo-seok Yang** (THE ATTORNEY, STEEL RAIN); and Japanese actress, director, producer and writer **Kiki Sugino** (YUKI ONNA, YOKUDÔ, HOSPITALITÉ).

ABOUT THE NOMINEES

Directed by Directors Guild of America Student Award-winner **Dipesh Jain**, **GAL GULEIYAN** has become an international festival favourite, being recognised with numerous nominations and awards including the Jury Grand Prize for the Mumbai Film Festival's Asian Gold competition.

Chosen as India's Best Foreign Language Film entry for the 90th Oscars®, **NEWTON** has won numerous awards, including the CICA Art Cinema Award in Berlinale's 2017 Forum section and Best Film at both the Filmfare and National Film Awards.

Recently winning four awards at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in August, **SANJU** is the latest film from fifteen-time Filmfare Award-winning director **Raj Kumar Hirani**. The film has also been a box office hit, becoming the highest-grossing Indian film of 2018 and one of the top ten highest-grossing Indian films of all time.

Nominated from Japan is **Hirokazu Kore-eda's** Palme d'Or-winning **SHOPLIFTERS**. The film has seen incredible critical and commercial success, recently being announced as Japan's entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 91st Oscars® and currently holding the record as the fourth highest grossing Japanese film of 2018.

Chinese black comedy **DYING TO SURVIVE's** nomination follows incredible commercial success. The second highest-grossing film across the world on its opening weekend and the third highest-grossing film at the Chinese box office in 2018, **DYING TO SURVIVE** is the first Chinese-language film in 16 years to score 9 out of 10 on the Douban rating site (China's version of Rotten Tomatoes).

Other Chinese-language films nominated are multi-award winning coming-of-age drama **YOUTH** – also the sixth highest-grossing domestic film of 2017 in China – and Golden Horse Award-winning female-powered crime drama **THE BOLD, THE CORRUPT AND THE BEAUTIFUL**.

Based on the real-life events that led up to the June Democratic Uprising in Korea, **1987 WHEN THE DAY COMES** adds an AACTA nomination to an already long list of accolades. The South Korean political thriller won four awards at the Baeksang Arts Awards in May (Korea's version of the Golden Globes), received four nominations for the Chunsa Film Art Awards, and is nominated for seven awards at the upcoming Buil Film Awards.

Directed by Australian and past AACTA Award winner **Seth Larney**, Malaysian action-adventure **TOMBIRUO** is based on **Ramlee Awang Murshid's** bestselling 1998 novel of the same name. With two sequels already announced, the film was a box office success, becoming the second highest grossing Malaysian film of 2017.

"We are thrilled to see another incredible line-up of nominees for the Best Asian Film Award," said **AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella**. "Not only have these nine films seen incredible success in their home countries, but they have also been critical and commercial hits here in Australia and abroad. We are proud to honour these world-class films and recognise the incredible work of our neighbouring Asian film industries."

"We are excited to see such a wonderful slate of films nominated, representing regions from all around Asia," said **EIG Chairman Kelvin Dong**. "As the presenting partner for the Best Asian Film Award, we are proud to join AACTA in recognising film excellence in Asia and congratulate the nominated films."

The winner of the Award will be announced in Sydney at the 8th AACTA Awards Ceremony presented by Foxtel on Wednesday 5 December 2018.

– ENDS –

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

MEDIA KIT

A media kit including publicity stills and synopses of the nominated films can be downloaded [here](#).

NOTES ON BEST ASIAN FILM NOMINATIONS

The long list of films in competition was reviewed and judged by three Pre-Selection Committees of esteemed industry figures. Each of the committees assessed a specific region – Chinese speaking territories, India and another committee that encompassed South Korea, Japan and other Asian

territories. In accordance with their knowledge and experience, each of the committees determined three clear nominees from their allocated regions.

8TH AACTA AWARDS PRESENTED BY FOXTEL

Winners will be announced during the two major 8th AACTA Awards events in Sydney, home of the AACTA Awards: The **Industry Luncheon** on Monday 3 December, followed by the **AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party** on Wednesday 5 December, televised on Channel Seven with encore screenings on Foxtel. **Tickets for both events will go on sale in early October 2018.**

EUREKA INTERNATIONAL GROUP (EIG)

EIG is a global company with over 20 years' experience in international business and relationships. With major head offices located in Melbourne, Beijing and Shanghai, EIG specialises in business across the globe, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Dubai, USA and various regions across Europe.

EIG is built on strong business values – transparency, honesty and openness. The multifaceted business provides services and products including: property development; project financing; fund management; immigration and education services; high-end tourism; agriculture and horticultural farming; international trade; retail franchise (food and beverage); and software development.

A strategic leader in the marketplace, EIG has an in-depth knowledge of all aspects of modern business, marketing and international trade. EIG's companies are constantly growing and evolving, allowing them to be innovative, strengthen their international business relationships and help guide other companies to successfully expose their products and services globally.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Official hashtag: #AACTAs | Facebook: /AACTAawards | Twitter: @aacta | Instagram: @aacta

For further information about AFI | AACTA visit: www.aacta.org

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

NIXCo | P: 02 8399 0626 | E: info@nixco.com.au

AFI | AACTA | Michelle Berg | P: +61 (03) 9695 7222 | E: mberg@afi.org.au

Thanks to the generous support of our partners and sponsors:



sydney.com

**IT'S ON!
IN SYDNEY**

THE  STAR

