

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2012

BAFTA Award winners join Australian Academy in sparking Oscar speculation

The UK's BAFTA Awards, announced today, have followed suit with the Australian Academy across four of five Award categories, increasing speculation regarding who will go on to win an Oscar.

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announced its first AACTA International Awards recipients in Los Angles just two weeks ago, awarding film excellence regardless of geography to the following productions and performers, each of which were also announced as BAFTA Award recipients:

Best Direction - *The Artist*Best Actress - Meryl Streep, *The Iron Lady*Best Actor - Jean Dujardin, *The Artist*Best Film - *The Artist*

This year marked the first International Awards of this kind for AACTA, which presented recipients, including Meryl Streep and Jean Dujardin, with their awards at the AACTA International Awards Ceremony in LA on 27 January.

According to AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trewhella, that BAFTA Awards recipients mirrored those awarded by the Australian Academy further confirms that AACTA is part of the international screen Awards conversation, and increases speculation regarding who will be awarded at the upcoming Oscars.

"The AACTA International Awards are designed to provide the Australian industry with an opportunity to recognise international film excellence, just as we recognise screen excellence within Australia.

"Ours is a global industry, in which Australia is a key player, and the AACTA International Awards provide a platform for the Australian Academy to become part of the global awards conversation.

"By announcing and presenting our first ever AACTA International Awards in Los Angeles in January, we have created greater recognition for our Awards, and our talented award recipients, both here and abroad.

"The Australian Academy congratulates all joint AACTA/BAFTA Award recipients, and wishes each of these recipients every success for the Oscars," Trewhella said.

The only category in which the BAFTAs and AACTA International Awards differed was the Best Screenplay Award, with AACTA announcing joint winners *The Ides of March* and *Margin Call* as recipients of this Award, whilst BAFTA announced *The Artist* as the recipient of its Best Original Screenplay Award and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* as its Best Adapted Screenplay Award recipient.

Note to Editors – AACTA International Awards Ceremony

The AACTA International Awards recognise film excellence regardless of geography, as determined by a jury of eminent Australian screen practitioners from a cross-section of crafts, and with a wealth of local and international experience.

The AACTA International Awards Ceremony was attended by 250 of Australia's and the world's finest filmmakers, performers, writers, directors and industry executives in LA. Geoffrey Rush, AACTA President, led a line-up of outstanding Australians presenting Awards at the Ceremony: Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Phillip Noyce, Liam Hemsworth and Bella Heathcote.



MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

The Lantern Group

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



THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR



STRATEGIC PARTNERS





MAJOR GOVERNMENT SPONSOR





BROADCAST PARTNER



MAJOR SPONSORS









OFFICIAL PARTNERS





















Houston.



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PARTNER



PRINT MEDIA PARTNER

