



PRESS RELEASE: AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS

- Strictly embargoed until Thursday 20 September 2012 -

Australia's best films of the year on show at the AACTA Awards Screenings

The best of Australian film from the last year will be on show at the AACTA Awards Screenings throughout October – a key component of the Australian screen awards season.

The AACTA Awards Screenings bring Australia's leading screen professionals and screen enthusiasts together to discuss and judge each of the films in competition for Australia's highest screen accolade – an Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Award.

The AACTA Awards Screenings will show the 23 Feature Films each vying for an AACTA Award.

A further 12 Non Feature Film Nominees competing for Best Short Fiction Film, Best Short Animation, and Best Feature Length Documentary Awards will also screen.

The AACTA Awards Screenings will be held in Sydney and Melbourne from 8 - 31 October 2012, and are offered exclusively and complimentary to members of AACTA and the Australian Film Institute (AFI - AACTA's public arm). Those wishing to attend the screenings and to vote must join AFI | AACTA by 28 September 2012.

AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trewhella believes the range of genres and calibre of this year's Feature Films in Competition and Non Feature Film Nominees point to a landmark year for the industry.

"The goal for a healthy Australian film industry has always been to combine festival and critical acclaim with audience appeal and cultural relevance. The films competing this year, and which will show at the AACTA Awards Screenings, suggest that we are well on the way to achieving this mix.

"Our Feature Length Documentary nominees - ***A Common Purpose, The Curse Of The Gothic Symphony, Dr Sarmast's Music School, and Storm Surfers 3D*** - capture real life drama and passion, within Australia and beyond. These stories entertain and elicit empathy, and from music, to murder, to raging waves, they're sure to strike a chord with varying audiences.

"This year's Short Animation nominees - ***The Hunter, LEGO® Star Wars®: The Padawan Menace™, The Maker, and Sleight of Hand*** - exemplify this painstaking craft and showcase the talent of highly accomplished Australian animators. With Academy Award winners competing alongside AFI Award recipients, anticipation abounds to see who will win an AACTA Award.

"This year's Best Short Fiction Film nominees - ***B I N O, Dumpy Goes To The Big Smoke, Julian and Transmission*** - arrive in competition bearing multiple awards and accolades - from Berlin, to Sydney, St Kilda and Flickerfest.

"Our 23 Feature Films in Competition are also outstanding, and given their many successes thus far – whether critical praise, audience uptake, extended seasons, box office success, or a combination of all – competition at this year's AACTA Awards will be extremely high.

"We encourage members of the public and of the screen industry to join us as members in order to see Australian filmmaking at its best at the AACTA Awards Screenings and to vote and have their say in awarding Australia's best screen content."

The 2nd AACTA Awards winners will be announced in Sydney in January 2013. The AACTA Awards are supported by the NSW Government, through Destination NSW, and are a key creative industries event on the NSW Events Calendar.



AACTA Awards Screenings Programs

AACTA Awards Screenings will be held in Sydney (8-31 October) at Hoyts Cinema Paris and AFTRS, and in Melbourne (10-30 October) at Cinema Nova.

Feature Films in Competition – Showing at the AACTA Awards Screenings

- ***33 Postcards***
- ***A Few Best Men***
- ***Any Questions For Ben?***
- ***Bait 3D***
- ***Burning Man***
- ***Careless Love***
- ***Hail***
- ***Housos vs Authority***
- ***Iron Sky***
- ***Kath & Kimderella***
- ***Killer Elite***
- ***The King Is Dead!***
- ***Last Dance***
- ***Lore***
- ***Mental***
- ***Not Suitable For Children***
- ***Santa's Apprentice***
- ***The Sapphires***
- ***Swerve***
- ***Toomelah***
- ***The Wedding Party***
- ***Wish You Were Here***
- ***X***

Non Feature Film Nominees – Showing at the AACTA Awards Screenings

Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Feature Length Documentary:

- ***A Common Purpose.*** Mitzi Goldman
- ***The Curse Of The Gothic Symphony.*** Veronica Fury
- ***Dr Sarmast's Music School.*** Beth Frey
- ***Storm Surfers 3D.*** Ellenor Cox, Marcus Gillezeau

Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Short Animation:

- ***The Hunter.*** Marieka Walsh
- ***LEGO® Star Wars®: The Padawan Menace™*** David Scott, Mark Thorley, Amber Naismith
- ***The Maker.*** Christopher Kezelos, Christine Kezelos
- ***Sleight of Hand.*** Michael Cusack, Richard Chataway ACS

Nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Short Fiction Film:

- **B I N O.** Billie Pleffer, Rita Walsh
- **Dumpy Goes To The Big Smoke.** Mirrah Foulkes, David Michôd, Michael Cody
- **Julian.** Robert Jago, Matthew Moore
- **Transmission.** Zak Hilditch, Liz Kearney

For more information and for schedules, see the [AFI | AACTA website](#) from 10am Thursday 20 September.

Notes regarding Non Feature Nominees

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

Notes regarding remaining Non Feature Film Categories

The Documentary and Short Film nominations yet to be announced later in 2012 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.

Notes regarding Feature Films in Competition

These are the Feature Films deemed eligible to compete, either automatically (having achieved a five capital city cinema release), or through jury pre-selection (two to four capital city release). To be eligible for competition in the 2nd AACTA Awards, these films need to have had a theatrical release in Australia for the first time between 3 November 2011 and 7 November 2012.

Members of AACTA will vote under a two-step voting model to determine the nominees and winners in the various Feature Film categories. For more information on voting, please visit the AACTA website.

Please note that on Wednesday 29 August 2012, the day that AACTA first announced the Feature Films in Competition for the 2nd AACTA Awards, 23 Feature Films in Competition were announced. Since then, the scheduled release of *The Wedding Party* changed to five capital cities, meaning that it was also eligible to enter the 2nd AACTA Awards, and the release dates for *Dead Europe* changed, meaning it will no longer be in competition for the 2nd AACTA Awards. Therefore, there are currently 23 Feature Films in Competition for the 2nd AACTA Awards

Notes regarding voting

In the 2nd year of the AACTA Awards, to be held in January 2013, AFI members (film and television enthusiast members of the public) have the opportunity to vote within the categories of Best Short Animation and Best Short Fiction Film, and AACTA members (accredited screen professionals) can vote across all Award categories. For more information about voting, [click here](#).

Notes regarding nominees and winners announcements

Nominees in the Feature Film, Television and remaining Non Feature Film categories (as listed earlier) will be announced later in 2012. Winners for the 2nd AACTA Awards will be announced in Sydney in early 2013.



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