

**Media Release – Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts
Strictly embargoed until Friday 13 December 2013**

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR 3RD AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

AMERICAN HUSTLE and 12 YEARS A SLAVE lead the way, orbited by GRAVITY, CAPTAIN PHILLIPS and BLUE JASMINE

Today the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announced the names of 35 nominees in the 3rd AACTA International Awards' seven categories: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

Of the 15 films recognised, AMERICAN HUSTLE dominated as the only production to receive a nomination in every category, with 12 YEARS A SLAVE running a close second; receiving nominations in each Award category bar one. CAPTAIN PHILLIPS and GRAVITY each received three nominations, including both Best Film and Best Direction. BLUE JASMINE also received three nominations, with THE GREAT GATSBY, DALLAS BUYERS CLUB and AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY accruing two nominations each.

Damian Trehwella, AACTA CEO, said of the announcement, "Australian performers and practitioners are consistently acknowledged as among the world's best screen talent by international screen organisations such as AMPAS and BAFTA. It is vital that the Australian screen industry participates in this global conversation and has an opportunity to recognise the talents of both local and international peers through the Australian Academy's International Awards.

"Each year our AACTA International Chapter votes to award the season's most accomplished performers and practitioners and, as always, it's fascinating to observe the consensus and the distinction amongst the perspectives of the Australian screen industry and that of their international counterparts," said Mr Trehwella.

This year's AACTA International Awards Best Actress nominees include awards season favourite Cate Blanchett for her much lauded performance as Jasmine in BLUE JASMINE. In the Best Supporting Actor category Geoffrey Rush has been nominated for his performance as Hans Hubermann in THE BOOK THIEF, as has Joel Edgerton for his modern portrayal of Tom Buchanan in Baz Luhrmann's THE GREAT GATSBY. Other Australian nominees include Baz Luhrmann for Best Direction (THE GREAT GATSBY) and Sue Smith for Best Screenplay (SAVING MR. BANKS).

Alongside nominated Australian talent are noted performances by Leonardo DiCaprio as Jordan Belfort in the THE WOLF OF WALL STREET and Matthew McConaughey as Ron Woodroof in DALLAS BUYERS CLUB, both nominated in the Best Lead Actor category.

Judi Dench (PHILOMENA) and Sandra Bullock (GRAVITY) both received nominations in the Best Lead Actress category and Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts were both acknowledged for their work in AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY.

The AACTA International Awards are held annually in Los Angeles and recognise film excellence regardless of geography. The Awards are determined by the AACTA International Chapter, which is comprised of over 80 of Australia's most recognised filmmakers and executives who vote across seven categories: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress.

The winners of the 3rd AACTA International Awards will be announced at an invite only event in Los Angeles, in association with Australians in Film, on Friday January 10th, 2014. The event will be televised on Foxtel's Arena on Sunday January 12th, 2014 in Australia.

The 3rd AACTA International Awards Nominees are:

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM

12 YEARS A SLAVE
AMERICAN HUSTLE
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS
GRAVITY
RUSH

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION

12 YEARS A SLAVE – Steve McQueen
AMERICAN HUSTLE – David O. Russell
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS – Paul Greengrass
GRAVITY – Alfonso Cuarón
THE GREAT GATSBY – Baz Luhrmann

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

12 YEARS A SLAVE – John Ridley
AMERICAN HUSTLE – Eric Warren Singer, David O. Russell
BLUE JASMINE – Woody Allen
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS – Joel Coen, Ethan Coen
SAVING MR. BANKS – Kelly Marcel, Sue Smith

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTOR

Christian Bale – AMERICAN HUSTLE
Leonardo DiCaprio – THE WOLF OF WALL STREET
Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 YEARS A SLAVE
Tom Hanks – CAPTAIN PHILLIPS
Matthew McConaughey – DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTRESS

Amy Adams – AMERICAN HUSTLE
Cate Blanchett – BLUE JASMINE
Sandra Bullock – GRAVITY
Judi Dench – PHILOMENA
Meryl Streep – AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Bradley Cooper – AMERICAN HUSTLE
Joel Edgerton – THE GREAT GATSBY
Michael Fassbender – 12 YEARS A SLAVE
Jared Leto – DALLAS BUYERS CLUB
Geoffrey Rush – THE BOOK THIEF

AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Sally Hawkins – BLUE JASMINE
Jennifer Lawrence – AMERICAN HUSTLE
Lupita Nyong'o - 12 YEARS A SLAVE
Julia Roberts – AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY
Octavia Spencer – FRUITVALE STATION

Notes to Editors

Selected images of nominated projects and performers can be downloaded via Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ubklak0bgljt1/AeJlDBKSQs>

This year marks the third Awards of the Australian Academy, which was established in August 2011 by the Australian Film Institute (AFI). The AFI has been recognising screen excellence in Australia since 1958; former AFI Award winners include: Nicole Kidman, Cate Blanchett (AFI/ AACTA Ambassador), Naomi Watts, Hugo Weaving, Eric Bana, Russell Crowe, Toni Collette, George Miller (AFI/AACTA Patron), Bruce Beresford and Geoffrey Rush (AACTA President).

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

Australians in Film is a Los Angeles based non-profit organization made up largely of Australians who work in the film and television industry. Australians in Film Ambassadors include Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Naomi Watts and Mel Gibson. For more, visit: <http://australiansinfilm.org/>

3rd AACTA Awards – Sydney, Australia

The 3rd AACTA Awards will be held at two major events in Sydney, the home of the Australian screen industry, at The Star Event Centre in January 2014:

- 3rd AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe – Tuesday 28th January, 2014
- 3rd AACTA Awards Ceremony – Thursday 30th January, 2014 – Broadcast on Network Ten

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

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