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**Media Release – Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts  
Strictly embargoed until 4.30pm Tuesday 3 December 2013**

## **Australian Academy announces 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards Nominees, renewed partnerships with Destination NSW and The Star, and new partners Foxtel and Audi**

Today the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announced the names of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards nominees, across 39 Award categories, spanning 50 productions and encompassing feature film, television and documentary projects.

The exciting announcement was made at 3.30pm at The Star Event Centre in Sydney and hosted by award winning actor/writer Rob Carlton featuring a nomination read by actor Rodger Corser and actor/director Gracie Otto.

Leading the way with a total of 14 nominations is Baz Luhrmann's film adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel THE GREAT GATSBY, closely followed by THE ROCKET with 12 nominations. This independent film production has been winning hearts across the globe, as well as the Best First Feature Award at the Berlinale and Best Narrative Feature Award at Tribeca. TOP OF THE LAKE, Jane Campion's mysterious and textural television miniseries, shot on location in New Zealand, received a total of 10 nominations.

Other nominees revealed today include television productions: OFFSPRING, REDFERN NOW, SERANGOON ROAD, WENTWORTH, and AN ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER and Feature Film nominees: DEAD EUROPE, MYSTERY ROAD, THE ROCKET, SATELLITE BOY and THE TURNING.

On-screen talent nominated today include: Rose Byrne, Naomi Watts, Ernie Dingo, Ewen Leslie, Lachy Hulme, Joel Edgerton, Elizabeth Debicki, Isla Fisher, Robyn Nevin, and Sitthiphon Disamoe, to name just a few.

Off-screen nominees include directors, Kim Mordaunt, Ivan Sen and the ensemble directorial team from THE TURNING; and cinematographers Adam Arkapaw (TOP OF THE LAKE) and Germain McMicking (AN ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER). More information on the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards nominees can be found at the end of this release.

Today's announcement consolidates the best in Australian screen talent as selected by industry peers, with nominees now contending for Australia's highest screen accolade, an Australian Academy Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Award. The Awards will be presented across the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Award Ceremony & Official After Party on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, both to be hosted from The Star Event Centre, Sydney.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said: "The AACTA Awards are now in their 3<sup>rd</sup> season and as a continuum of the AFI Awards have been recognising and celebrating screen excellence for over five decades, since 1958.

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“Our annual AACTA Awards Nominations Announcement is a highlight in our Awards season, a day where we can celebrate and recognise the Australian screen industry as a whole.

“The film and television productions that have been acknowledged this year are so incredibly diverse and as an ensemble illustrate our breadth of screen talent operating across the nation.

“Nominated work includes feature length projects shot on the east coast of Australia (ADORATION), the west coast of Australia (DRIFT), the outback (MYSTERY ROAD) and in Tasmania (GODDESS). Stories filmed on international locations are also prevalent, including THE ROCKET, DEAD EUROPE, MRS BIGGS, TOP OF THE LAKE, RED OBSESSION and I AM A GIRL. Seen alongside magical urban tales such as THE GREAT GATSBY and OFFSPRING, this year’s nominated work spans genres from drama, to musical, art house to thriller, romance and Australian westerns.

“Today’s nominated work also showcases our industry’s ability to create quality productions across multiple genres, from reality programming (MASTERCHEF: THE PROFESSIONALS), indigenous drama (REDFERN NOW) and historical drama (AN ACCIDENTAL SOLIDER) to comedy (UPPER MIDDLE BOGAN) and light entertainment (GRUEN NATION). Once again, through the diversity of productions we are given a window into the variety of Australian life and Australian’s appetite for screen engagement,” said Mr. Trehwella.

Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, congratulated the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards nominees, saying it was wonderful to see so many talented film and industry professionals from NSW in the running for an AACTA Award. “I congratulate all AACTA Award nominees and wish them the best of luck.”

### **Sydney secures top screen Awards for a further three years**

The Minister also announced today that NSW has renewed its agreement to host the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards.

Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards in January 2014, which concludes the current three year partnership agreement, the preeminent Awards event will continue to be staged in Sydney for a further three years, from 2015 through to 2017.

“The NSW Government is proud to support the AACTA Awards through our tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. NSW is a powerhouse of screen talent, with more than half of Australia’s screen businesses and nearly 60 per cent of all Australians employed in the screen production industry based here.

“NSW also houses the country’s most extensive screen infrastructure. Last year, NSW film and television businesses generated \$570 million, or 81 per cent, of all film and television drama production in Australia, which highlight the strong economic benefits of our thriving screen industry.”

Damian Trehwella, AFI | AACTA CEO, said: “The success of the inaugural and 2<sup>nd</sup> AACTA Awards created a new era for Australia’s screen industry, and Sydney is now firmly established as the home of Australia’s most prestigious screen Awards. We thank the NSW Government and their tourism and major events agency Destination NSW for their significant and unwavering support which has elevated the AACTA Awards, our

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talented industry which it supports and provides an arena to share our great Australian stories, both nationally and on the global stage.”

Frederic Luvisutto, Managing Director of The Star, today also announced that The Star has renewed its agreement to host the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards for a further four years until January 2017.

Frederic Luvisutto said: “As Sydney’s leading entertainment precinct, The Star is very proud to be hosting the Australian Academy of Cinema Television and Arts (AACTA) Awards for the second year running.”

“Following on from this very successful partnership, I’m proud to announce today that The Star and the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts have signed a four year Destination Partnership agreement, making The Star the official partner and host venue for the AACTA Awards for another four years.”

“The Star Event Centre offers state-of-the-art technology coupled with stunning views across the Sydney skyline along with first class accommodation facilities and award-winning restaurants - making it the perfect setting for Australia’s most prestigious screen Awards,” continued Mr Luvisutto.

“With both The Star and AACTA bringing some of Australia’s and the world’s most celebrated screen icons to Sydney, we are very happy to continue working with AACTA as a major partner for this event.”

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said: “Without the critical support of our valued partners, the AACTA Awards would not be possible. I’d like to formally acknowledge the NSW Government and Destination NSW, The Star, Network Ten, Screen Australia and our returning industry partners particularly the extraordinary talents of the team at Deluxe.”

### **New Partners join to support the AACTA Awards**

“We are also very pleased to be announcing some new partnerships today. We are delighted to announce a major new partnership with Foxtel that’ll extend over the next three years. It will initially entail encore rights to the AACTA Awards broadcast and will also include a range of other collaborations across the next three years. Foxtel are a tremendous supporter of the Australian screen industry and we look forward to this partnership with them. I’d like to thank in particular Foxtel’s Executive Director of Television Brian Walsh for his support in making this partnership possible.”

Foxtel Executive Director of Television, Brian Walsh said: “Foxtel is proud of the great achievements of our accomplished film and television industry and we are delighted to have secured the subscription telecast rights to the AACTA Awards for the next three years. Our partnership will include interviews with AACTA Award winners and the broadcast of the AACTA International Awards from Los Angeles. We look forward to working with the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts towards our shared aims of celebrating and encouraging screen excellence”.

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AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, continued: “I would also like to announce Audi as our new official vehicle partner which we are thrilled about, the Audi brand is a wonderful match for our Awards.

“Another refreshing new partnership is with craft beer brewers, Burleigh Beers. And last but certainly not least APRA have joined with us to present two AACTA Awards, which acknowledge the craft of music composition.

“Welcome to all of our new partners, we look forward to working with you on what is shaping up to be an outstanding AACTA Awards season.”

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END

#### NOTES TO MEDIA

Nominations, as announced in today’s event: The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama are:

**Kris McQuade** WENTWORTH - SERIES 1 Episode 10: *Checkmate* - FOXTEL – SoHo  
**Heather Mitchell** POWER GAMES: THE PACKER-MURDOCH STORY Part 1 - Nine Network  
**Robyn Nevin** TOP OF THE LAKE Episode 4: *A Rainbow Above Us* - FOXTEL – UKTV  
**Kat Stewart** OFFSPRING - SEASON 4 Episode 9 - Network Ten

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama are:

**Ernie Dingo** REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2 Episode 6: *Dogs of War* - ABC1  
**Remy Hii** BETTER MAN – SBS  
**Lachy Hulme** POWER GAMES: THE PACKER-MURDOCH STORY - Nine Network  
**Meyne Wyatt** REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2 Episode 3: *Babe in Arms* - ABC1

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama are:

**Marie Bunel** AN ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER - ABC1  
**Claudia Karvan** THE TIME OF OUR LIVES - ABC1  
**Asher Keddie** OFFSPRING - SEASON 4 - Network Ten  
**Sheridan Smith** MRS BIGGS - Seven Network

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in Television are:

**Germain McMicking** AN ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER - ABC1  
**Fabian Wagner** MRS BIGGS Episode 3 – Seven Network  
**Jules O'Loughlin** ACS REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2 Episode 6 - ABC1  
**Adam Arkapaw** TOP OF THE LAKE Episode 5 – FOXTEL - UKTV

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The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Editing in Television are:

**Ben Lester and Mark Atkin ASE** MRS BIGGS Episode 3 - Seven Network  
**Mark Perry** POWER GAMES: THE PACKER-MURDOCH STORY Part 1- Nine Network  
**Dany Cooper ASE** REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2 Episode 6 – ABC 1  
**Scott Gray ASE** TOP OF THE LAKE Episode 5 - FOXTEL - UKTV

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Original Music Score in Television presented by APRA are:

**Bryony Marks** MRS BIGGS Episode 3 – Seven Network  
**Cornel Wilczek** NOWHERE BOYS Episode 1 – ABC3  
**Antony Partos** REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2 Episode 3 – ABC1  
**Mark Bradshaw** TOP OF THE LAKE Episode 5 – FOXTEL - UKTV

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Feature Length Documentary are:

**I AM A GIRL** Rebecca Barry  
**ONCE MY MOTHER** Rod Freedman  
**RED OBSESSION** Warwick Ross  
**SHADOW OF DOUBT** Eve Ash

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor are:

**Marton Csokas** DEAD EUROPE  
**Joel Edgerton** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Thep Phongam** THE ROCKET  
**Angus Sampson** 100 BLOODY ACRES

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actress are:

**Elizabeth Debicki** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Isla Fisher** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Mirrah Foulkes** THE TURNING  
**Alice Keohavong** THE ROCKET

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Original Screenplay are:

**Colin Cairnes and Cameron Cairnes** 100 BLOODY ACRES  
**Morgan O'Neill and Tim Duffy** DRIFT  
**Ivan Sen** MYSTERY ROAD  
**Kim Mordaunt** THE ROCKET

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The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Direction are:

**Baz Luhrmann** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Ivan Sen** MYSTERY ROAD  
**Kim Mordaunt** THE ROCKET  
**The Turning Ensemble** THE TURNING

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor are:

**Leonardo DiCaprio** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Sitthiphon Disamoe** THE ROCKET  
**Ewen Leslie** DEAD EUROPE  
**Hugo Weaving** THE TURNING

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress are:

**Rose Byrne** THE TURNING  
**Carey Mulligan** THE GREAT GATSBY  
**Tasma Walton** MYSTERY ROAD  
**Naomi Watts** ADORATION

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series are:

**OFFSPRING - SEASON 4** John Edwards and Imogen Banks - Network Ten  
**REDFERN NOW - SERIES 2** Darren Dale and Miranda Dear - ABC1  
**SERANGOON ROAD** Paul Barron and Nick North - ABC1  
**WENTWORTH - SERIES 1** - Jo Porter and Amanda Crittenden - FOXTEL - SoHo

The nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Telefeature or Mini Series are:

**AN ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER** Kylie du Fresne and Sue Taylor - ABC1  
**MRS BIGGS** Kwadjo Dajan and Tony Wright - Seven Network  
**POWER GAMES: THE PACKER-MURDOCH STORY** John Edwards and Jodi Matterson - Nine Network  
**TOP OF THE LAKE** Emile Sherman, Iain Canning, Jane Campion and Philippa Campbell – FOXTEL - UKTV

The six nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Film are:

**DEAD EUROPE** Emile Sherman, Iain Canning and Liz Watts  
**THE GREAT GATSBY** Baz Luhrmann, Catherine Martin, Douglas Wick, Lucy Fisher and Catherine Knapman  
**MYSTERY ROAD** David Jowsey  
**THE ROCKET** Sylvia Wilczynski  
**SATELLITE BOY** David Jowsey, Julie Ryan and Catriona McKenzie  
**THE TURNING** Robert Connolly, Maggie Miles and The Turning Ensemble

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### To see all AACTA Awards Nominees:

A full list of all 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards nominees, as well as breakdowns of nominees by production and by network, images of nominees, and select clips of nominated film and television productions can be accessed now via Dropbox.

Direct URL is: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fuww8mhqnx5nnw/QpjsOjdyjn>

Lists of nominees will also be available in the media room on the AACTA website from 4.30pm Tuesday 3 December: <http://www.aacta.org/news/media-room.aspx>

### Key Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards Season

All winners will be revealed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards season in January 2014, comprising the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe on Tuesday 28 January; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> AACTA Awards Ceremony & Official After Party on Thursday 30 January.

For more information about both Awards events, see the AFI | AACTA website: <http://www.aacta.org>

**Tickets** for both AACTA Awards events are available now and can be purchased via the AFI | AACTA website. See clip featuring Geoffrey Rush inviting both the industry and the general public to attend the AACTA Awards: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5Z8w19\\_crk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5Z8w19_crk)

### Voting

Round Two Voting is now open (5.00pm Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December) and closes 11.59pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

### Short Film Voting:

The nominees for the Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation Awards were determined by a jury of industry professionals. During round one voting, AACTA and AFI members voted to determine the winners for the Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation Awards. The winners in these categories will be announced in January 2014.

### Feature Film Voting:

AACTA has instituted a two-round voting model for Feature Film voting.

In **round one** of Feature Film voting, each of AACTA's 15 chapters (each representing areas of professional specialisation within the Australian screen industry) voted to determine the nominees in the categories specific to their specialisation. For example, the Cinematographers Chapter voted for the nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Cinematography. Candidates who received the most votes in round one formed a shortlist of nominees, which will now be voted on in **round two** by all AACTA members to determine the winner. Round two Feature Film voting opens at 5pm EDST Tuesday 3 December, and runs until 11:59pm EDST Tuesday 17 December, 2013.

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### Television and Documentary Voting:

Juries of industry professionals determine the nominees and winners for the Television and Documentary AACTA Awards.

For further information, please see the voting section of the AACTA website: <http://www.aacta.org/the-awards/voting.aspx>

### About AACTA

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) was established in August 2011. With Geoffrey Rush as President, AACTA is a membership body comprising accredited screen professionals. The AACTA Awards recognise Australia's best performers, practitioners and productions.

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

**Nikstar**

**Niki White**

**M: +61 (0) 403 176 988**

**E: [niki@nikstar.com.au](mailto:niki@nikstar.com.au)**

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