



Media Release – Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

Australian Academy announces Russell Crowe as new host of AACTA Awards

Strictly embargoed until Wednesday 23 January 2013

Russell Crowe will host Australia's top film and television awards next Wednesday night on Network Ten.

The **Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards Ceremony**, now in its second year, will see Crowe headline a star-studded line up of presenters, including fellow Oscar winners, **Geoffrey Rush (AACTA President)** and **Cate Blanchett (AFI | AACTA Ambassador)**.

More than 1,000 Australian film and television performers and practitioners will come together in Sydney at The Star Event Centre for the 2nd AACTA Awards - the biggest night on the industry's calendar.

Many of Australia's favourites of the big and small screens will be attending, including **Hugo Weaving, Rove McManus, Rebecca Gibney, Deborah Mailman, Lachy Hulme, Matt Le Nevez** and **Shane Jacobson**, to name a few.

Crowe was announced as new host for the 2nd AACTA Awards following a conflicting L.A. schedule for **Hugh Sheridan**, who was originally announced as the host.

In addition to the AACTA Awards in Sydney, Crowe will also host the AACTA International Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday, which Sheridan will now also attend.

AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said that Crowe has long been a champion of the Australian film industry and of the Australian Film Institute (AFI), having previously hosted the AFI Awards in 2005.

Trehwella said Crowe has also shown his commitment to the Australian Academy since its launch 18 months ago, and was a presenter at the inaugural AACTA International Awards in L.A. in January 2012.

"Russell Crowe is a formidable talent whose work has been recognised through peer assessed awards the world over, including through the Oscars, BAFTAs and AFI Awards.

"That Russell is hosting two events for the Australian Academy in L.A. and Sydney within the space of a week attests to both his support of the Australian screen industry, and his leadership with AACTA as we promote a voice for the Australian industry in the U.S.. We are incredibly pleased to have Russell on board for what is going to be an amazing show."

Russell Crowe said:

"The Australian Academy is making its mark in the States, and I'm equally as honoured to represent the Australian industry in L.A. as host of AACTA's International Awards, as I am to return home to celebrate the success of my peers at the 2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony in Sydney.

"The show format for the Ceremony will be entertaining and fast paced, whilst rightfully honouring the fantastic film and television our nation is producing," Crowe said.

Network Ten Chief Programming Officer, Beverly McGarvey said: "We are delighted Russell will be returning to Sydney especially to host the AACTA Awards. We have no doubt he will captivate both his audience in the room and those watching on television."



Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, said it was good that a home-grown talent such as Russell Crowe would be hosting the AACTA Awards, to celebrate Australia's best film and television performers, practitioners and productions.

"This is our version of the Oscars or the Golden Globes and it is only fitting that a world-renowned actor is involved and that the Awards are held in NSW, the home of the Australian film and television industry."

Further announcements regarding entertainment for the show, as well as Australian and international talent attending, are imminent.

The 2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony will be broadcast on Network Ten 9:30pm, Wednesday 30 January 2013.

NOTES TO EDITORS

This year marks the second Awards season of the Australian Academy, which was established in August 2011 by the Australian Film Institute (AFI).

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

The 2nd 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 2013:

- **2nd AACTA Awards Luncheon presented by Deluxe – Monday 28 January 2013**
- **2nd AACTA Awards Ceremony – Wednesday 30 January 2013 – Broadcast on Network Ten**

Tickets to these events are available to purchase now. For more information about these events, which are open to the public and the industry, [click here](#).

AACTA also recognises screen excellence regardless of geography through the **AACTA International Awards**. The 2nd AACTA International Awards will be presented in L.A. on Saturday 26 January 2013 PST/Sunday 27 January AEST.

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

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