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## INAUGURAL SAMSUNG AACTA AWARDS CEREMONY ATTRACTS STAR POWER TO PRESENT

Australia's most highly acclaimed acting and entertainment celebrities are confirmed to attend the inaugural Samsung AACTA Awards Ceremony on January 31st at the iconic Sydney Opera House, to present the awards recognising our finest achievements in acting, directing, producing and screenwriting across film and television in 2011.

Leading the star-studded array of presenters is AACTA President (or Prez as he prefers) Geoffrey Rush and such international luminaries as Cate Blanchett, Jonathon and Anthony LaPaglia and Rachael Taylor.

Local favourites joining them will include Xavier Samuel, Rob Carlton, Lincoln Lewis, Alex Dimitriades, Todd Lasance, Shane Bourne, Gigi Edgley, Blake Davis, Richard Wilkins, Callan McAuliffe, Judy Morris, Samara Weaving and Adam Elliot.

The event will be held at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall and broadcast that night on the Nine Network. Audiences will be regaled with Australia's own sweet heart Olivia Newton-John as she takes to the stage to perform for the first time a medley from the soundtrack of her new film *A Few Best Men*. She will bring her special touch to the classic 1960s track 'Daydream Believer' made famous by the Monkeys, and her brand new song 'Weightless', for which she revisited her award-winning partnership with songwriter and producer John Farrar, who created such timeless classics as 'You're the One That I Want', 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' and 'Magic' amongst many.

The opening of the AACTA Awards Ceremony and Olivia Newton-John's performance will be choreographed by Australia's very own Broadway Choreographer and Director Jason Gilkison.

The event will also feature coverage from the AACTA International Awards Ceremony, hosted by Geoffrey Rush, which will see the first AACTA International Award winners announced in Los Angeles on Friday 27th January. The AACTA International Awards recognise Best Direction, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay and Best Film, regardless of geography, as determined by an Australian jury. These awards precede the BAFTAs and Oscars, bringing Australia into the mix of the international screen awards conversation.

In addition to presenters, guests confirmed to attend on the night include: Diana Glenn, Aden Young, Damien Walshe-Howling, Conrad Coleby, Daniel Henshall, Danielle Cormack, Cheree Cassidy, Bruce Beresford, Emma Booth, Gillian Armstrong, Hugh Sheridan, Indiana Evans, Ryan Corr, Justine Clark, Kerry Fox, Maeve Dermody, Marta Dusseldorp, Nadia Tass, Rachel Perkins, Alexandra Schepisi, Rodger Corser, Sacha Horler, Susie Porter, Michael Caton and Julia Zemiro to name a few.

A second round of presenters and updates to guests will be announced closer to the event, so stay tuned.

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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