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G’DAY USA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS (AACTA)

Part of Australia’s annual economic diplomacy program: 20 events in 9 US cities in 2014/15

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA Tuesday December 9 2014, 10:30am (LOS ANGELES, CA Monday December 8, 2014, 3:30pm): G’Day USA, the annual program that fosters deeper economic ties and promotes Australian capabilities in the US, today announced its full 2014/2015 program.

G’Day USA also announced a new partnership with the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA). The AACTA International Awards will be presented as the centerpiece of G’Day USA’s LA Gala event on 31 January 2015.

The G’Day USA Gala, featuring the AACTA International Awards, will be presented by Qantas and will take place at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles on 31 January 2015. The Awards add a new dimension to the Gala, which has been completely re-imagined for 2015.

The AACTA International Awards honour the world’s leading screen performers and practitioners, in seven categories: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress. Nominees for the 4th AACTA International Awards will be announced early January 2015. Past recipients include Meryl Streep, Quentin Tarantino, Michael Fassbender, David O. Russell, Alfonso Cuarón, Cate Blanchett and Jacki Weaver.

The Hon. Kim Beazley AC, Australian Ambassador to the United States said, “G’Day USA remains Australia’s foremost program of public diplomacy promoting Australian capabilities in the United States. We are thrilled this year to join forces with AACTA to celebrate innovation and the business of film in Los Angeles.”

Geoffrey Rush, AACTA President, said, “Our national AACTA Awards are heading into their 4th year next January with a tremendous momentum. They shall continue to reflect our homegrown creative output. The AACTA International Awards are Australia’s international stamp of screen success. They recognise our international screen peers, add an Australian voice to the International Awards season alongside the BAFTAs and the Oscars, and celebrate our fellow Australians working in screen internationally.

“The new G’Day USA/AACTA partnership provides the perfect platform for celebrating the strength of and synergies between the Australian and global screen industries in the epicentre of film, Los Angeles. By partnering with G’Day USA, we will raise the profile of the Australian screen industry, which determines the AACTA International Awards, and will celebrate the role that Australian screen plays in relation to G’Day USA’s core promotional pillars, particularly Australian culture.”
ABOUT G’DAY USA

Presented by Qantas, the G’Day USA Gala will feature Australian premium food by culinary curator’s - Australian chef Neil Perry and US chef Tom Colicchio. Held annually since 2004, G’Day USA is designed to realize new business opportunities and demonstrate Australian strengths in business, innovation, tourism, culture, food/wine and public policy G’Day USA is produced by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Qantas Airways, Tourism Australia and Austrade.

The 2014/15 program kicked off in July 2014 and there have been three events to date covering defence industries, music and drought solutions. The core G’Day USA program kicks off in Washington DC with a Foreign Policy Dialogue on 21 January with the United States Studies Centre and the Brookings Institute.

New York will host two G’Day USA 2015 events on January 23: The Australian Economic Outlook Luncheon and the American Australian Association Gala Dinner.

Chicago will host its G’Day USA Australia Day Gala Ball on January 24 and San Francisco will be the location on January 27 of Digital Security in Australia and the U.S.

In Los Angeles the third annual Australia Tourism Summit will take place on January 29-30, bringing together industry leaders to discuss growing Australia business opportunities for US tourism companies and promote Australia as a premium destination.

Two business/policy events are also part of the LA program. A speech at the LA World Affairs Council will focus on the US and Australian economic relationship. A second event will explore the US-Australia alliance and the importance of the trade and investment relationship; the US-Australian Dialogue: Trade and Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The core program concludes in Houston with the 7th Annual Australian American Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference, attended by energy companies such as Chevron, BHP Billiton and Apache, on February 5-6, followed by a Black Tie Gala on February 7.

There will be further events in 2014/2015 including satellite events at the Palm Springs Film Festival and Newport Beach Film Festival, an Australian Biomedical Innovation Dialogue and a Defence Industries event. For further information on all G’Day USA 2015 events, including location and ticketing details, plus a complete list of partners, sponsors and participants, visit www.gdayusa.org.

ABOUT AACTA and the AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts was established by the Australian Film Institute (AFI) in 2011. AACTA holds a year-round program of events showcasing and promoting Australian screen productions and screen culture. The program culminates in two annual Awards events in Sydney.

The AACTA International Awards are held annually in Los Angeles and recognise film excellence regardless of geography. The Awards are determined by AACTA's International Chapter, which comprises more than 140 of Australia’s most recognised filmmakers and executives.

The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the AFI Awards, which commenced in Australia in 1958. Former AFI Award recipients include Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Eric Bana, Toni Collette, Dr. George Miller (AFI | AACTA Patron), Cate Blanchett (AFI | AACTA Ambassador) and Geoffrey Rush (AACTA President).
For more information on the AACTA International Awards, click here.

For more information on AFI | AACTA, click here.

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

AACTA PR
Niki White (Australia Contact)
NikStar +61 (0) 403 176 988
niki@nikstar.com.au

Chet Mehta (USA Contact)
PR Dept. (323) 556-3100
chet@pr-dept.com

G’DAY USA
David Stamper
G’Day USA
(818) 728-1274
media@gdayusa.org

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