



## Media Release

For immediate release

# AACTA Announces China | Australia Film Forum

Tickets have today gone on sale for the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA)'s **China | Australia Film Forum**, to be held on Tuesday 4 December at Doltone House in Sydney.

The latest event to be held as part of AACTA's Asia International Engagement Program, the Forum aims to further encourage collaboration between filmmakers in Australia and those of our close neighbour, China.

As the Chinese film industry continues to grow at pace, so does the Australian film industry's relationship with it. Earlier this year, two of the biggest China-Australia co-productions yet were announced, **THE WHISTLEBLOWER** and **LEGEND OF SUN AND MOON**. The two films follow in the footsteps of other recent co-productions such as **AT LAST** (2018), **THE LONGEST SHOT** (2018), **GUARDIANS OF THE TOMB** (2018), **THE DRAGON PEARL** (2011) and AFI and AACTA nominated films **33 POSTCARDS** (2011) and **CHILDREN OF THE SILK ROAD** (2008).

The past few years has also seen a growing number of Chinese filmmakers choosing to film in Australia, including **BLEEDING STEEL** (2017) starring **Jackie Chan** and web series **OLD BOY** (2018), which has received over 230 million views online and debuted in the number one spot on Hunan Television.

AACTA's China | Australia Film Forum will bring together some of the most important figures working in the Chinese film industry today, including:

- China-based director and member of AACTA's 2018 Best Asian Film Grand Jury **Renny Harlin** (**THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT**, **SKIPTRACE**, **THE LEGEND OF THE ANCIENT SWORD**, **DIE HARD 2** and the upcoming **BODIES AT REST**);
- Chinese screenwriter and AACTA Best Asian Film Grand Juror **Liu Yi**, whose film **WOLF WARRIOR II** is the highest grossing film in Chinese history, earning AUD \$1.2 billion at the box office worldwide;
- China-based producer **Ellen Eliasoph** (**SHADOW**, **MOUNTAIN CRY**). In her role as President and CEO of Perfect Village Entertainment, leads the company in its business of identifying, developing, financing, producing, marketing and distributing feature films;
- Australia-based producer and 2018 AACTA Best Asian Film Grand Juror **Paul Currie** (**HACKSAW RIDGE**, **BLEEDING STEEL**, **THE LONGEST SHOT**); and
- China-based producer and post production supervisor **Geng Ling** (**MAO'S LAST DANCER**).

Moderated by **Max Yang** from the Shanghai International Film Festival, the panel will share valuable insights into the current state of the industry, including:

- A comprehensive overview of Chinese markets and trends;
- New opportunities and challenges; and
- The status of a number of current co-productions and collaborations.

Following the Film Forum, an exclusive VIP Cocktail Party will be held on Jones Bay Wharf. This cocktail party gives guests an exclusive opportunity to meet and network with the panellists and other leading figures from the Australian and Chinese film industries, while enjoying the beautiful sunset on Sydney Harbour.

"This is an exciting time of growth for the neighbouring film industries of China and Australia, with exciting new opportunities for creative collaborations between Australian and Chinese filmmakers," said **AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella**. "We are thrilled to be presenting this Film Forum, which will give the Australian industry an incredible opportunity to hear first-hand insights into the booming Chinese film industry and what opportunities lie ahead for collaboration between our neighbouring industries."

**NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin** said, “Collaboration with international performers and productions is essential to the growth of our nation’s film industry, broadening our creative spectrum and bringing a striking array of new personalities and perspectives to our shores. I have no doubt that the addition of this Forum will help strengthen our State’s status as a serious contender on the world stage, adding greater depth and colour to its already rich arts and cultural landscape.”

## **EVENT DETAILS – TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Date: Tuesday 4 December 2018, 5pm-6:30pm

Venue: Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf North Pier, Pyrmont, Sydney

Tickets go on sale at 9am AEST on Monday 5 November 2018 from [www.aacta.org/whats-on](http://www.aacta.org/whats-on). Please note, limited tickets are available.

- **Film Forum Panel Discussion** | \$60 (\$40 for AFI | AACTA members)
- **Film Forum Panel Discussion & Cocktail Party** | \$100 (\$85 for AFI | AACTA members)

– ENDS –

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

Images and headshots of the speakers can be downloaded [here](#).

## **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Official hashtag: #AACTAs | Facebook: /AACTAawards | Twitter: @aacta | Instagram: @aacta

For further information about AFI | AACTA visit: [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org)

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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