



2020 AACTA AWARDS RULE BOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The AACTA Awards are a continuum of the proud tradition of celebrating Australia's screen excellence and heritage established by the Australian Film Institute's (AFI) Awards. The AFI Awards became known as the AACTA Awards when the AFI launched AACTA – Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts – on 18th August 2011. More information on AACTA can be found at **www.aacta.org**.

In addition to awarding screen excellence, AACTA also functions as the industry engagement arm of the AFI, and operates as the peak industry body for Australia's screen professionals.

A not-for-profit, membership based organisation, AACTA comprises practitioners from a cross-section of the screen industry including production, distribution, exhibition and television networks, as well as from each of the crafts. AACTA aims to attract a diverse range of members, spanning various age groups, levels of experience and cultural backgrounds.

The AFI also continues its important remit of connecting the screen loving public with Australian content, and membership is open to anyone with an interest in Australian film and television.

PART ONE

Rule 1 – Common Definitions

AACTA means the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts.

AACTA Member means a member of AACTA that has paid AACTA's membership fee and has met AACTA's criteria for membership (as published on the AACTA Website) and has been registered as such by AACTA.

Additional Supporting Materials means the materials required to be provided to the AFI following Nomination for an Award in accordance with Rule 2.10 as set out on the AACTA Website and the Form from time to time.

AFI means the Australian Film Institute (ACN 006 725 266).

Award Candidate means an individual listed on a Form as eligible to receive an Award.

Award Category means each of:

- (a) Film;
- (b) Documentary;
- (c) Short Form and Online;
- (d) Television Program;
- (e) Visual Effects or Animation; and
- (f) Additional Awards,

each as defined in Part 2.

Awards means the annual awards established by the AFI and now continued by AACTA to recognise and honour outstanding achievement in the Australian film and television industry and **Award** means each award within the Award Categories.

Awards Ceremony means any event at which the winners of the Awards are announced and may consist of more than one ceremony or event to be held at the discretion of the AFI and AACTA.

Awards Nominations Announcement means the event that, or means by which the nominees for the Awards are announced.

Board means the board of directors of the AFI elected in accordance with the Articles of Association of the AFI.

Branch means a pool of sufficiently and relevantly accredited AACTA Voting Members who will judge the entries in a particular category, and determine the nominees and winner for that category.

Closing Date for Entry means the last day by which a Form must be delivered to the AFI. The specific date and address details will be published on the AACTA Website and on the Form for each Award Category. These details may vary from year to year.

Closing Date for Materials means the last day by which any Supporting Materials relevant to a particular Award Category must be delivered to the AFI. The specific date and address details will be published on the AACTA Website and on the Form for each Award Category. These details may vary from year to year.

Entrant means the person(s) entering a Production into the Awards.

Form means the online form, which the Entrant completes to submit a Production for consideration for the Awards. Each Award Category will have a separate and distinct Form.

Fee means the sum of money in Australian dollars inclusive of Goods and Services Tax payable by the Entrant at the time of submitting a Form to the AFI. The fees payable in relation to each Award Category will be stated on the AACTA Website and the Form relevant to the Award Category and may change from year to year.

International Award means any of the Awards presented at the AACTA International Awards Ceremony and **International Awards** means all of those Awards.

Nomination/Nominee/Nominate means the selection of a Production or an Award Candidate considered eligible to receive an Award.

Part One means the section of this Rule Book titled 'Part One' comprising Rules Rule 1 through Rule 3.

Part Two means the section of this Rule Book titled 'Part Two' comprising Rules 4 through Rule 8.

Production means a film or television program falling within one of the Award Categories.

Rule Book means the rules appearing in this document as supplemented by any information posted on the AACTA Website and/or Forms clarifying the process to enter a Production into the Awards.

Scrutineer means the independent agency or body appointed by the AFI from time to time to ensure the voting process is conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

Supporting Materials means the materials required to be provided to the AFI at the time of submitting an entry, to support the entry of a Production, as set out on the AACTA Website and the Form from time to time.

Voting Members means, in relation to each Award Category, the AACTA Members whose terms of membership give that member relevant voting rights.

Rule 2 – Entry Process and General Rules of Entry

- 2.1 All entries must be completed via the AACTA Awards Online entry portal which can be accessed by logging in to <https://aacta.org> and then clicking the “Enter Now” button on the relevant entry page.
PLEASE NOTE: We have relocated our entry portal this year so should you have any questions about the new portal, please contact us.
- 2.2 Your entry should be completed by the Producer or a representative of the Production Company or Distributor/Broadcaster.
- 2.3 In order for a Production to be deemed eligible for entry (other than in relation to the International Awards), the Production must:
- contain “significant Australian content” for the purposes of section 376-65(2)(a)(i) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 regardless of whether the Production satisfies the thresholds for “qualifying Australian production expenditure” as set out in section 376-65(6) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997; **OR**
 - have at least 51% financing from Australian investors; **OR**
 - have been made under an arrangement entered into between the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth and a foreign country or an authority of the foreign country for the purposes of section 376-65(2)(a)(ii) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997; **OR**
 - in relation to a Children’s Program which is an animation, Feature Film which is an animation or Short Animation, be an “Australian program” as defined by Part 3 of the Broadcasting Services (Australian Content) Standard 2005; **OR**
 - otherwise satisfy the AFI and AACTA, in their sole and absolute discretion, that the Production is an Australian Production.
- (b) A Program, Film, Episode or Season which has been previously entered into the Awards is ineligible for entry into the current or any future Awards.
- (c) The Entrant agrees that in order to make a valid entry to the Awards, the Entrant must:
- comply with all the rules in:
 - A Part One of the Rule Book; and
 - B Part Two of the Rule Book in respect of the relevant Award Category;
 - Select on the Entry Form the most appropriate Award Category (if the Production satisfies the eligibility criteria for more than one Award Category). A Production may only be entered into one Award Category.
 - submit a fully completed Form (including all Supporting Materials) and Fee by the Closing Date for Entry;
 - submit a Production for viewing in the format required by Part Two of the Rule Book;

- pay all transport and freight costs associated with shipping any materials for an entry to the Awards.
- (d) The Entrant is responsible for ensuring that all eligible Award Candidates are listed on the Form. Only persons named in the credits of a Production may be Award Candidates.
- (e) If more than one person is credited in a particular position (e.g. writer), the Entrant may list up to four Award Candidates (except in the categories of Visual Effects and Animation and Hair and Makeup) to be eligible to receive the Award.
- (f) By submitting Award Candidates, the Entrant enters the Production for only Awards where a candidate is listed. If the Entrant has not submitted a candidate in a particular category, then the Production will not be considered for that Award.
- 2.4 The entrant warrants that it has the unrestricted authority to grant the rights specified in this Rule Book whether in the Entrant's own right or on behalf of any third party directly or indirectly associated with the Production.
- 2.5 Entrants must have obtained the consent of each individual member of the cast and crew to:
- (a) the Entrant making disclosure to the AFI of that individual's contact details (including telephone number, email address and street address, in each case whether work or personal); and
 - (b) the AFI making contact with any individual member of the cast or crew by using the personal information provided by the Entrant to AFI and AACTA.
- 2.6 The Entrant confirms the accuracy of any written or verbal declaration made or information provided to AFI in connection with the Awards and that the Production, including a series or part of a series, has not previously been entered into the Awards.
- 2.7 The Entrant agrees to grant to AFI a non-exclusive, non-transferable, royalty-free licence:
- (a) to publicise the Production by any means, which the AFI considers appropriate;
 - (b) to use any or all of the Supporting Materials and Additional Supporting Materials submitted with or in support of an entry;
 - (c) to use all or any part (selected in the AFI's sole and absolute discretion) of a Production for the purposes of general member viewing (including by digital distribution to all AACTA members), Awards consideration (including by digital distribution to all AACTA members), Awards Screenings (including by digital distribution to all jurors/Branch Members or Members eligible to vote in respect to the Entrant's entry and by or in association with any of the AFI's opposed or appointed sponsors or supporters of any of those events), the Awards Nominations Announcement, the Awards Ceremony, and the television broadcast of the Awards Ceremony, or the publicity and promotion of AACTA and its activities through any medium whatsoever including by digital distribution; and
 - (d) to screen any Production.
- 2.8 The Entrant agrees to indemnify the AFI for any loss or damage arising from any inaccurate, misleading or false declarations made or information provided.

2.9 The Entrant agrees that, where any Award includes a cash prize or prize other than a trophy, the Award recipient will comply with any terms and conditions attached to that prize as a condition of accepting that prize. Terms and Conditions of any prize will be notified to an Award recipient before such prize is presented to that Award recipient.

2.10 Regarding Supporting Materials:

- (a) The Entrant shall ensure any portable hard drives are correctly formatted and clearly labelled; and
- (b) any other required materials are supplied in the format specified on the AACTA Website and/or on the Form appropriate for the Award Category.
- (c) In the case of a Feature Film or Television Program, a copy of the final draft script will be lodged with the AFI Research Collection at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.
- (d) The balance of materials submitted to AFI | AACTA in connection with an entry (including portable hard drives, Digital Betacam tapes and film prints) will be returned to the Entrant after the Awards Ceremony.
- (e) Neither the AFI nor AACTA shall be responsible for any loss or damage to any materials submitted with or in support of an entry (including but not limited to Supporting Materials and Additional Supporting Materials), whether in the possession of the AFI, AACTA or any other person (including any screening facility or cinema).
- (f) During the judging process, the AFI will retain possession of the Supporting Materials and Additional Supporting Materials; and
- (g) none of the Entrant, Producer, Distributor or any other person associated with the Production may access the Supporting Materials.

2.11 Once Entries Have Closed:

- (a) The AFI reserves the right to charge an administrative fee on any changes to a Form or entry made after the Closing Date for Entry.
- (b) An entry may only be withdrawn in exceptional circumstances and where an entry is withdrawn:
 - at any time prior to the Closing Date for Entry for the particular Award Category, the AFI will refund the full amount of the Fee; or
 - at any time between the Closing Date for Entry and the Awards Nominations Announcement, the AFI may at its discretion refund up to one half of the Fee.
- (c) An entry may not be withdrawn or changed after the Awards Nominations Announcement by the AFI.
- (d) The Entrant must take all reasonable actions to ensure that the Production is able to be viewed by members at the Awards Screenings and on AACTA TV (AACTA's secure Member's only online screening portal) should this be necessary. The Entrant will take steps to ensure the distributor of the Production liaises with the AFI and AACTA for the specific arrangements.

2.12 In Case of Nomination:

- (a) The Entrant must supply all relevant Additional Supporting Materials to the AFI within 14 days, unless otherwise communicated, of the Awards Nominations Announcement.
- (b) The Entrant will:
 - Ensure AACTA members are provided with access to sufficient theatrical screenings should they be available; and
 - make the production available for online streaming through AACTA's secure online viewing portal to AACTA members for the purposes of Awards consideration.

Rule 3 – The Role of the AFI

3.1 Powers of the AFI

- (a) The AFI reserves the right:
- to rely solely on the information and materials submitted with or in support of an entry without any obligation or expectation on the AFI to make further inquiries or communications with the Entrant or any other third party;
 - to determine whether an entry is validly made in accordance with the Rule Book;
 - to reject an entry not validly made in accordance with the Rule Book;
 - to determine what process, if any, it may adopt to resolve the validity of any entry;
 - to determine the appropriate Award Category for any Production and override the selection of the Award Category made by the Entrant;
 - to select any excerpt from a Production for screening at the Awards Nominations Announcement or the Awards Ceremony;
 - to determine the eligibility of an entry for an Award by reference to the credits either as they appear on the screen or as certified by the Entrant on the Form;
 - to select the membership of a jury or branch, and where appropriate, to determine a jury's/branch's processes and whether a jury/branch may make a Nomination or determine a winner of an Award;
 - to exercise a casting vote if a particular jury/branch is unable to decide the winner of an Award;
 - to vary any of the rules in the Rule Book at any time prior to the Closing Date for Entry. The AFI will endeavour to publicise any such variations on the AFI and AACTA website;
 - to allow or refuse an Entrant to make an amendment to the Form after the Closing Date for Entry or to the Supporting Materials after the Closing Date for Materials;
 - to decline to give an Award in any given year, or to merge two or more Awards, where in the absolute discretion of the AFI and AACTA, the quantity or quality of entries do not warrant the giving of an Award (provided that where Awards are merged, Award Candidates for the affected Awards will be automatically entered into the merged Award);
 - to delegate any power, right or discretion to the Board or its delegate(s); and
 - to consult as required with the Scrutineer about any aspect of the application of the Rule Book.

- (b) The AFI may, at its discretion, waive compliance with any Rule contained in Part Two in relation to 'Release Periods', 'Completion Periods' or 'Broadcast Periods' (as those terms are defined in Part Two) if it is satisfied that an Entrant is genuinely unable to comply with the Closing Date for Materials or meet any of the other eligibility criteria in the appropriate year having regard to its release, broadcast or completion date(s).
- (c) Neither the AFI nor AACTA will enter into any dispute between Producers or any Producer and a third party in relation to the entry of a Production into the Awards or any other matter.
- (d) The AFI will only consider a Form the submission of which has been agreed to by all of the Producers of a Production.
- (e) The decisions of the AFI and AACTA, including the decision of any Branch or Jury, shall be final.
- (f) The AFI and AACTA retain a general right of discretion in relation to all matters relating to the Awards, notwithstanding any other provision of the Rule Book.

3.2 **Licence of AFI and AACTA Logo**

A Production that receives a Nomination in respect of any Award may apply to the AFI and AACTA for permission to use an approved Awards logo on the Production's promotional material subject to any terms and conditions imposed by the AFI and AACTA in respect of the use of that logo.

3.3 **Ownership of AACTA Award statuettes**

- (a) The AFI and AACTA will present one statuette to the winner of each Award within each Award Category. If there is more than one winner, the AFI and AACTA may arrange at their discretion the purchase of any additional statuettes (at the expense of the Entrant).
- (b) Awards will only be presented to the individuals named as winners of the Award. Awards will not be presented to corporate entities that produce the Production.
- (c) The Award statuette remains the property of the AFI. Possession of the statuette is to remain with the Award winner to whom it is presented and that person's heirs and descendants. Should the Award leave the care of the Award winner or his or her heirs and descendants, the AFI reserves the right to repurchase the Award statuette for a fee of \$1.00. Under no circumstances are Award statuettes permitted to be sold to third parties, but the AFI will consider applications to transfer possession of an Award statuette to an appropriate museum, gallery or other not-for-profit institution.

PART TWO

Rule 4 – Special Rules for Short Form and Online

4.1 Awards presented in this category:

- (a) AACTA Award for Best Short Film;
- (b) AACTA Award for Best Short Animation;
- (c) AACTA Award for Best Online Drama or Comedy; and
- (d) AACTA Award for Best Online Entertainment

4.2 Definitions relevant to this Rule:

- (a) **Short Film** is a self-contained and continuous fiction or experimental film, recorded primarily in live action, of less than 40 minutes in duration.
- (b) **Short Animation** is a self-contained, continuous and primarily animated film of less than 40 minutes in duration.
- (c) **Online Video** means any content that debuts via the internet and is intended primarily for online release and consumption via a video sharing site or unique URL and can include a **Standalone video** of up to 60 minutes in duration; or a **Series** that consists of potentially unlimited number of episodes but not less than two; or a **Channel** that collates content/uploads
- (d) **Completion Period** means the period during which a Production must be completed in order to be eligible for the Short Animation or Short Film Award Categories as specified on the AACTA Website and the Form.
- (e) **Broadcast Period** means the period during which an Online Video or the first episode of a Series must be made publicly available via the internet in Australia in order to be eligible for the Online Video Award Categories (which consist of Best Online Drama or Comedy and Best Online Entertainment). This information can be found on the AACTA Website and the Form for these Award Categories.
- (f) **Drama** - a Program comprising either:
 - a series of self-contained stories, which can be screened in any order; or
 - a number of interweaving and overlapping plots continuing from one episode to the next; or
 - a single, self-contained and continuous drama made for online that is no more than one hour in length.
- (g) **Comedy** – a Program comprising either:
 - self-contained stories or a continuing story with an ongoing plot and characters (**Narrative or Situation Comedy**); or
 - a series of unrelated sketches (**Sketch Comedy**).

- a single, self-contained and continuous comedy made for online that is no more than one hour in length.
- (h) **Entertainment – a Program that** can cover such topics as (but is not limited to):
- **How To** – Channels or videos that provide step by step details of how to accomplish or undertake a task. These may include tutorials, before & afters, renovation instructional videos and ‘hacks’ accompanied with instructions.
 - **Beauty/Fashion/Style** – Channels or videos that specialise in clothing, style, makeup, hair and accessories. This may include wardrobe edits, fashion critiques, red carpet reviews, product reviews and fashion interviews.
 - **Education/Science/Technology** – Channels or videos that are informational and provide knowledge/facts/answers on specific or diverse topics, and may be geared toward children/school students as well as adults.
 - **Sports and Wellness** – Channels or videos that focus on health, fitness and wellbeing such as workout routines, diet tips, meditation, sporting games, sporting interviews, sports blunders and sports highlights.
 - **Kids and Family** – Channels or videos aimed at children and family viewing. This can include unboxing, playing with/road-testing toys, songs/singalongs, family vlogs.
 - **Entertainment** – Channels or videos that can include panel, quiz, game show, chat show, variety, competition, reality, food, wine, house, garden, travel, leisure.
 - **Gaming** - Channels or videos with a focus on video and computer games. These may be walkthroughs, let’s plays, reviews, game hacks, game set up, game mods and character creation.
 - **Music** - Channels or videos with a focus on music and the music industry. This may include live performances, song covers, album reviews, music listicles (top 10) and artist interviews.
 - **News and Culture** – Channels or videos that focus on news and culture.

4.3 Eligibility to enter a Short Film or Short Animation

- (a) In order to be eligible, a minimum of two Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members. In the event that fewer than two Award Candidates are listed on the Form, then the sole Award Candidate listed on the Form must be a current AACTA member.
- (b) A Production must be completed during the Completion Period in order to be eligible to enter in the Short Film and Short Animation Award Categories. Whether a Production is complete is to be determined by the Entrant.

4.4 **Eligibility to enter Online**

- (a) A Production must be an Online Video (please refer to 4.2(c) for definition) in order to be eligible for the Online Comedy or Drama or Online Entertainment Award Categories.
- (b) In order to be eligible, a minimum of two Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members. In the event that fewer than two Award Candidates are listed on the Form, then the sole Award Candidate listed on the Form must be a current AACTA member.
- (c) Where an Online Video consists of a single program, that Production must be made available via the internet for the first time in Australia during the Broadcast Period in order to be eligible.
- (d) Where an Online Video consists of a series of programs, the first program in that series of programs must be made available via the internet for the first time in Australia during the Broadcast Period in order to be eligible.
- (e) The entered Online Video will be considered in the form that it appears online during the Broadcast Period and must remain posted online and available for review, via a video sharing site or unique URL, until the end of the Broadcast Period.
- (f) An Online Video may be broadcast on television or screened theatrically, however it must debut Online, via a video sharing site or Unique URL and be intended primarily for online release and consumption via a video sharing site or unique URL.

4.5 **Special Rules for Candidates**

- (a) Up to four candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the production are the nominees for the Best Short Film, Best Short Animation, Best Online Drama or Comedy and Best Online Entertainment Awards, the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant. AACTA generally observes these roles can include the Producer, Director and Screenwriter, however, the submitted Candidates are at the discretion of the Entrant.

4.6 **Special Rules for Judging and Voting**

- (a) Nominations are decided by all AACTA voting Members.
- (b) Winners are decided by all AACTA Voting Members.

Rule 5 – Special Rules for Film

5.1 Awards presented in this category:

- (a) AACTA Award for Best Film;
- (b) AACTA Award for Best Indie Film;
- (c) AACTA Award for Best Direction;
- (d) AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor;
- (e) AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress;
- (f) AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor;
- (g) AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actress;
- (h) AACTA Award for Best Original Screenplay;
- (i) AACTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay;
- (j) AACTA Award for Best Cinematography;
- (k) AACTA Award for Best Editing;
- (l) AACTA Award for Best Sound;
- (m) AACTA Award for Best Original Score;
- (n) AACTA Award for Best Production Design;
- (o) AACTA Award for Best Costume Design;
- (p) AACTA Award for Best Hair and Makeup; and
- (q) AACTA Award for Best Casting.

5.2 Definitions relevant to this Rule:

- (a) **Release Period** means the period during which a Film is first released, or intended for release, in order to qualify for the Feature Film Award Category as specified on the AACTA Website and in the Form for this Award Category.
- (b) **Film** is a film consisting of a dramatised story of at least 70 minutes' duration.
- (c) **Qualifying Australian Film Festival** include the following festivals:
 - Adelaide Film Festival
 - Cinefest Oz Film Festival
 - For Films Sake
 - Gold Coast Film Festival
 - Mardi Gras Film Festival
 - Melbourne International Film Festival
 - Monster Fest
 - Revelation Film Festival
 - Sydney Film Festival

- (d) **Qualifying VOD/SVOD Platform** includes the following platforms:
- Amazon Prime Video
 - Bigpond Movies
 - Binge
 - Disney+
 - Fetch TV
 - Foxtel Now
 - GooglePlay
 - iTunes
 - Netflix
 - Stan
 - YouTube Premium

5.3 Eligibility to enter a Film

- (a) Along with adhering to Rule 5.3(b), a minimum of five Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members. In the event that fewer than five Award Candidates are listed on the Form, then all Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members.
- (b) A Film must have been completed with the intention of being **publicly** exhibited during the Release Period for paid admission at –
- A commercial cinema, in a minimum of two Australian capital cities including Sydney or Melbourne, for a run of at least seven consecutive days; or
 - An approved Qualifying Australian Film Festival along with a minimum of four separate screenings (paid admission) at a commercial cinema) across a minimum of two Australian Capital cities with one city being Melbourne or Sydney; or
 - An approved Qualifying Australian Film Festival along with a release on at least one approved Qualifying VOD/SVOD platforms (as specified on the AACTA Website).
 - An approved Qualifying VOD/SVOD platform along with a minimum of four separate screenings (paid admission) at a commercial cinema across a minimum of two Australian Capital cities with one city being Melbourne or Sydney;
- (c) The Entrant must take all reasonable actions to ensure that the Production is able to be viewed by voting AACTA Members (In-season, WOM, special screenings) for the purposes of judging. This also includes making the Production available via AACTA TV (AACTA's secure member-only viewing platform) during voting. The Entrant will take steps to ensure the distributor of the Production liaises with the AFI and AACTA for the specific arrangements.

5.4 Special Rules for Best Film

- (a) Up to four producers most responsible for the undertaking of the production are the nominees for the Best Film Award, the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant.

5.5 Special Rule for Best Indie Film

- (a) Films with a budget of less than \$2million (AU) are automatically eligible for the Best Indie Film Award.
- (b) Up to four candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the production are the nominees for Best Indie Film, the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant. AACTA generally observes these roles can include the Producer/s, Director and Screenwriter, however, the submitted Candidates are at the discretion of the Entrant.

5.6 **Special Rules for Screenplays**

- (a) Only scripts that are wholly original and written for the screen can be considered for the AACTA Award for Best Original Screenplay. This includes scripts that are based on real-life events, only if it has **not** drawn from pre-existing narrative source material, in which case it would be adapted.
- (b) Only scripts that are based on pre-existing narrative source material can be considered for the AACTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. This includes screenplays based on pre-existing stories and feature film adaptations of novels, plays, television programs and short films.
- (c) In the event that there are insufficient entries to warrant two Screenplay Award categories then all screenplay Award entries will be considered in the combined category of Best Screenplay.

5.7 **Special Rules for Acting Awards**

- (a) The Entrant must select the most appropriate Award for a particular Award Candidate (e.g. Lead or Supporting Actor).
- (b) Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actor and Best Lead Actress Awards cannot also be Award Candidates for the Best Supporting Actor or Best Supporting Actress Awards in the same year for the same Production.
- (c) Subject to Rule 5.7(d):
 - Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actor and Best Supporting Actor Awards must be human and male.
 - Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actress and Best Supporting Actress Awards must be human and female.
- (d) Award Candidates identifying as transgender, gender queer, gender non-conforming or similar can elect to enter either the Actor or Actress category.

5.8 **Special Rules for Best Hair and Makeup**

- (a) The entrant may submit up to three candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the Hair and Makeup effects as the nominees for Best Hair and Makeup, the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant.

5.9 **Special Rules for Voting and Judging**

- (a) Nominees and winners are decided by AACTA voting members.

Rule 6– Special Rules for Documentary

6.1 Awards presented in this category:

- (a) AACTA Award for Best Documentary;
- (b) AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in a Documentary;
- (c) AACTA Award for Best Editing in a Documentary;
- (d) AACTA Award for Best Sound in a Documentary; and
- (e) AACTA Award for Best Original Score in a Documentary.

6.2 Definitions relevant to this Rule:

- (a) **Documentary** is a single self-contained non-fiction film longer than 50 minutes in duration, that is a creative treatment of actuality intended primarily for cinema release. Documentaries intended primarily for television broadcast should enter the Documentary or Factual Program category.
- (b) **Release Period** means the period during which a Documentary is first released, or intended for release, in order to qualify for the Documentary Category as specified on the AACTA Website and in the Form for this Award Category.

6.3 Eligibility to enter a Documentary

- (a) Along with adhering to Rule 6.3(b), a minimum of four Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members. In the event that fewer than four Award Candidates are listed on the Form, then all Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members.
- (b) A Documentary must have been completed with the intention of being made publicly exhibited during the Release Period.
- (c) The Entrant must take all reasonable actions to ensure that the Production is able to be viewed by voting AACTA Members (In-season, WOM, special screenings) for the purposes of judging. This also includes making the Production available via AACTA TV (AACTA's secure member-only viewing platform). The Entrant will take steps to ensure the distributor of the Production liaises with the AFI and AACTA for the specific arrangements.

6.4 Special Rules for Best Documentary

- (a) Up to four candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the production are the nominees for the Best Documentary Award, one of which must be the Director, and the remaining combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant.

6.5 Special Rules for Voting and Judging

- (a) Nominees and winners are decided by AACTA voting members.

Rule 7 – Special Conditions for Television Programs

7.1 Awards presented in this category:

- (a) AACTA Award for Best Drama Series;
- (b) AACTA Award for Best Telefeature or Mini Series;
- (c) AACTA Award for Best Comedy Program;
- (d) AACTA Award for Best Entertainment Program;
- (e) AACTA Award for Best Factual Entertainment Program;
- (f) AACTA Award for Best Documentary or Factual Program;
- (g) AACTA Award for Best Lifestyle Program;
- (h) AACTA Award for Best Reality Program;
- (i) AACTA Award for Best Children’s Program;
- (j) AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama;
- (k) AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama;
- (l) AACTA Award for Best Performance in a Television Comedy;
- (m) AACTA Award for Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama;
- (n) AACTA Award for Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama;
- (o) AACTA Award for Best Direction in a Television Drama or Comedy;
- (p) AACTA Award for Best Direction in Nonfiction Television;
- (q) AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television;
- (r) AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in Television;
- (s) AACTA Award for Best Editing in Television;
- (t) AACTA Award for Best Sound in Television;
- (u) AACTA Award for Best Original Score in Television;
- (v) AACTA Award for Best Production Design in Television;
- (w) AACTA Award for Best Costume Design in Television;
- (x) AACTA Award for Best Hair and Makeup; and
- (y) AACTA Award for Best Casting.

7.2 Definitions relevant to this Rule:

- (a) **Broadcast Period** means the period during which a Television Program (or the first episode of a series of programs) must be broadcast or be first made available on

VOD or SVOD in Australia in order to be eligible for the Television Program Award Category as specified on the AACTA website and the Form for this Award Category.

- (b) **Children's Program** means a Television Program that is made predominantly for viewing by children, either created using animation or recorded in live action, consisting of a potentially unlimited number of episodes, comprising either:
- a series of self-contained stories, which can be screened in any order; or
 - a number of interweaving and overlapping plots continuing from one episode to the next.
- (c) **Comedy Program** means a Television Program that primarily contains comedic content and can include situation comedy or sketch series, panel, quiz, personality hosted/chat, or stand up.
- (d) **Documentary or Factual Program** means a Television Program that is either:
- a single, self-contained and continuous documentary; or
 - a documentary series of a potentially unlimited number of episodes but not less than two episodes;
- that is a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine or infotainment program, Lifestyle Program, Factual Entertainment Program, Entertainment Program or Reality Program and where the primary objective is to report, inform, and educate rather than to entertain. This definition includes in-depth and investigational programs (standalone, series or episode) told with, or without, fictional elements or produced non-fiction content. This definition also includes arts, history, natural history and science, observational documentary/fly on the wall.
- (e) **Drama Series** means a Television Program that is a drama of a potentially unlimited number of episodes but no fewer than five episodes of no less than one half television hour in length per episode, comprising either:
- a series of self-contained stories, which can be screened in any order; or
 - a number of interweaving and overlapping plots continuing from one episode to the next, and
- specifically excludes a Telefeature or Mini Series.
- (f) **Entertainment Program** means a Television Program that is a variety style, competition, or game show, which comprises at least four episodes of no less than one-half television hour in length. This definition excludes traditional news and current affairs programs (where the primary objective is to report rather than to entertain), Factual Entertainment, Reality, Lifestyle and Documentary or Factual Programs.
- (g) **Factual Entertainment Program** means a Television Program that documents actual people and events, and where the primary objective is to entertain rather than to report. This can include panel, interview, personality hosted/chat, quiz, informational and other substantially non-scripted programs that consist of the Producers setting up

a premise or initial situation that is then observed with minimal further intervention by the Producers. This definition excludes traditional news and current affairs programs (where the primary objective is to inform and report rather than to entertain), Entertainment, Reality, Lifestyle and Documentary or Factual Programs.

- (h) **Lifestyle Program** means a Television Program that relates to contemporary recreational and domestic pursuits such as food and wine, home and garden, real estate and home improvements, health and wellbeing, travel and leisure, beauty and shopping. This definition excludes traditional news and current affairs programs (where the primary objective is to report rather than to entertain), Factual Entertainment, Entertainment, Reality and Documentary or Factual Program.
- (i) **Mini Series** means a Television Program that is less than 10 hours in total aggregate length, which consists of a complete, self-contained, dramatised story with a major continuous plot for which there is an expectation of an ending resolving the major plot tensions. For the avoidance of doubt:
- only 'one-off' series are eligible for this category; and
 - a production:
 - A which has had previous seasons; or
 - B which is reasonably expected by the Producers to return for further seasons; and
 - C in which substantially the same characters and/or narrative setting will appear,is not eligible.
- (j) **Reality Program** means a substantially non-scripted Television Program which:
- involves participants being placed in an environment or format in which the premise, circumstances or situations they encounter are structured, and manipulated in an ongoing manner, for the purposes of creating the program; and can contain an element of competition and prizes; and
 - consists of no less than four episodes, each of which is no less than one half television hour in length; and
- specifically excludes news and current affairs programs, Factual Entertainment, Lifestyle, Entertainment and Documentary or Factual Programs.
- (k) **Telefeature** means a Television Program that is a single, self-contained and continuous drama that is no less than one television hour in length or, in the case of predominantly animated programs, not less than one half television hour in length.
- (l) **Television Program** means a Production broadcast in Australia produced specifically for television broadcast on free to air or subscription television, or available on VOD or SVOD platforms, but excluding broadcasts made on community television networks.

7.3 Eligibility to enter a Television Program

- (a) A Production must take the form of one of the Television Categories listed in Rule 7.2(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) or (k) and be made for television, VOD or SVOD in order to be eligible for the Television Program Award Category.
- (b) Further to Rule 7.3(a), a production is only eligible in **one** of these categories and the Entrant must choose the Award Category that best fits the program for entry. If you are unsure of which Award Category suits your program, please contact the AACTA Awards Department.
- (c) In order to be eligible, a minimum of four Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members. In the event that less than four Award Candidates are listed on the Form, then all Award Candidates listed on the Form must be current AACTA members.
- (d) Where a Production consists of a single program, that Production must be broadcast for the first time in Australia during the Broadcast Period in order to be eligible for the Television Program Award Categories. The Broadcast Period is displayed on the Television Entries Page of the AACTA Website.
- (e) Where a Production consists of a series of programs, the first program in that series of programs must be broadcast for the first time in Australia during the Broadcast Period in order to be eligible for the Television Program Award Categories. The Broadcast Period is displayed on the Television Entries Page of the AACTA Website.

7.4 Special Rules for a Telefeature or Mini Series

- (a) A Telefeature or Mini Series is not eligible for entry if it is a continuation of, and/or features a substantially reprised cast, characters and/or narrative setting as, a Telefeature or Mini Series that has been previously released and broadcast. This does not disqualify a Telefeature or Mini Series from entering as a Drama Series.
- (b) In the case of Telefeature, the Entrant must submit the entire production for judging.
- (c) In the case of Mini Series, the Entrant must submit **all episodes** to be judged as a single entry for the Best Telefeature or Mini Series Award.
- (d) In the case of Mini Series, each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
 - Best Direction in a Television Drama or Comedy;
 - Best Screenplay in Television;
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;
 - Best Original Score in Television;
 - Best Production Design in Television;

- Best Costume Design in Television;
- Best Hair and Makeup;
- Best Casting;
- Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama;
- Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama;
- Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama;
- Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama;

7.5 Special Rules for a Drama Series

- (a) The Entrant may submit up to two episodes to be judged as a single entry for the Best Drama Series Award.
- (b) Each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
 - Best Direction in a Television Drama or Comedy;
 - Best Screenplay in Television;
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;
 - Best Original Score in Television;
 - Best Production Design in Television;
 - Best Costume Design in Television;
 - Best Hair and Makeup;
 - Best Casting;
 - Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama;
 - Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama;
 - Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama;
 - Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama

7.6 Special Rules for Children's Program

- (a) The Entrant may submit up to two episodes to be judged as a single entry for the Best Children's Program Award.

- (b) Each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
- Best Direction in a Television Drama or Comedy;
 - Best Screenplay in Television;
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;
 - Best Original Score in Television;
 - Best Production Design in Television;
 - Best Costume Design in Television;
 - Best Hair and Makeup;
 - Best Casting;
 - Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama;
 - Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama;
 - Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama;
 - Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama;

7.7 Special Rules for Comedy Program

- (a) In the case of a Comedy Program series, the Entrant may submit up to two episodes of the Production to be judged as a single entry for the Best Comedy Program Award.
- (b) In the case of a single, standalone Comedy Program, the Entrant must submit the entire production for judging.
- (c) Each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
- Best Direction in a Television Drama or Comedy (*Narrative or Situation Comedy entries only*);
 - Best Direction in Nonfiction Television (*all other Comedy*);
 - Best Screenplay in Television (*Narrative or Situation Comedy entries only*);
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;

- Best Original Score in Television;
- Best Production Design in Television;
- Best Costume Design in Television;
- Best Hair and Makeup;
- Best Casting (*Narrative or Situation Comedy entries only*);
- Best Performance in a Comedy;

7.8 Special Rules for Documentary or Factual, Entertainment, Factual Entertainment or Lifestyle Program

- (a) In the case of a single, standalone Program, the Entrant must submit the entire production for judging
- (b) In the case of a-series, the Entrant may submit up to two episodes of the Production to be judged as a single entry for the respective Award.
- (c) Each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
 - Best Direction in Nonfiction Television
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;
 - Best Original Score in Television;
 - Best Production Design in Television;
 - Best Costume Design in Television;

7.9 Special Rules for Reality Program

- (a) The Entrant may submit up to two episodes of the Production to be judged as a single entry for the Best Reality Program Award.
- (b) Each of the submitted episodes will be judged individually for the following Awards (provided a candidate/s has been entered):
 - Best Direction in Nonfiction Television ;
 - Best Cinematography in Television;
 - Best Editing in Television;
 - Best Sound in Television;
 - Best Original Score in Television;

- Best Production Design in Television;
- Best Costume Design in Television; ;

7.10 **Special Rules for Acting Awards**

(a) In order to be eligible for the following Awards:

- Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama;
- Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama;
- Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama; and
- Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama,

the Award Candidate must have performed in a:

- Drama Series;
- Mini Series;
- Telefeature; or
- Children's Program.

(b) Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama and Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama Awards cannot also be Award Candidates for the Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama or Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama Awards in the same year for the same production.

(c) Subject to Rule 7.10(d):

- Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama or Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama Awards must be human and male.
- Award Candidates for the Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama or Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama Awards must be human and female.

(d) Award Candidates identifying as transgender, gender queer, gender non-conforming or similar can elect to enter either the Actor or Actress category.

7.11 **Special Rules for Best Television Production categories**

(a) Up to four candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the production are the nominees for the respective Best Television Production Award category (ie Best Drama, Best Comedy, Best Reality Program, Best Lifestyle Program etc), the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant.

7.12 **Special Rules for Best Hair and Makeup**

- (a) The entrant may submit up to three candidates most responsible for the undertaking of the Hair and Makeup effects as the nominees for Best Hair and Makeup, the combination of which is at the discretion of the entrant.

7.13 Special Rules for Judging and Voting

- (a) Shortlists for each production Award category are determined by all AACTA voting members.
- (b) Nominees and winners are determined by the respective Branch.

Rule 8 – Special Conditions for Visual Effects or Animation

Visual Effects or Animation rules will be made available when AACTA calls for entry in this category in the near future. An updated rulebook will be made available then.