



Media Release

Wednesday 1 May, 2019

AACTA announces new Short Documentary Award and reduced entry fees for low-budget feature films and documentaries

Feature Film, Feature Documentary, and Short Documentary Entries Now Open

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced a new AACTA Award for Best Short Documentary, as well as announcing reduced entry fees for low-budget feature films and feature documentaries.

Introduced following industry consultation and in line with the Oscars® Best Documentary (Short Subject) category, the **AACTA Award for Best Short Documentary** will recognise the growing community of Australian documentary filmmakers who are tackling important and unique subjects using short form.

The rise of YouTube, streaming networks and social media has seen a surge in short form documentary and factual storytelling as filmmakers find new platforms to share their voices and tell their stories and the stories of others. These 'micro-docs' are not only reaching a wider audience, who are increasingly searching out non-fiction content, but are also seeing greater levels of engagement and social impact as a result of online distribution, social media marketing and audience interest in easily shareable content.

"As we see the popularity of short form factual content continue to rise, we are proud to recognise the exciting new Australian voices working in this space via the AACTA Award for Best Short Documentary," said AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella. "In recent years we have seen Australian short documentary filmmakers receiving critical acclaim. Earlier this year, **BE YOU T. FOOL** became the first documentary short to win Tropfest in 23 years, and last week, **Stefan Bugryn's** follow-up to his 2017 award-winning short documentary **WAR MOTHERS, WAR MOTHERS: UBREAKABLE** premiered at Tribeca Film Festival. The AACTA Awards can generate huge exposure for Australian filmmakers, and this Award will not only see these filmmakers share in these outcomes, but will also shine a light on this exciting area of growth within our industry."

Following the more inclusive feature film eligibility criteria introduced in 2017 and the introduction of the AACTA Award for Best Indie Film in 2018, AACTA has introduced reduced entry fees for low-budget feature films and feature documentaries. Films and documentaries with budgets under \$500,000 will now have a lower entry fees of \$780 and \$500, respectively.

The reduced fees further build on AACTA's commitment to inclusivity, continuing to open the pathway for a broader diversity of films and filmmakers to enter the AACTA Awards.

AACTA also today **called for entries across feature film, feature documentary and short documentary categories**, with the 2019 AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel set to present over 50 peer-assessed awards in Sydney this December.

– ENDS –

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

AACTA AWARD FOR BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY

The nominees of the category will be determined by the AACTA Documentary Branch, with the winner to be determined by AFI and AACTA member voting.

FEATURE FILM AND FEATURE DOCUMENTARY 2019 AACTA AWARD ENTRY FEES

Feature Film:

- \$780 for feature films with a budget under \$500,000
- \$1,350 for feature films with a budget between \$500,000 and \$2 million
- \$2,016 for feature films with a budget over \$2 million

Feature Documentary:

- \$500 for feature documentaries with a budget under \$500,000
- \$630 for feature documentaries with a budget between \$500,000 and \$1 million
- \$780 for feature documentaries with a budget over \$1 million

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries across feature film, feature documentary and short documentary categories open at 9am Wednesday 1 May 2019.

Entry eligibility and closing dates vary. All dates and information regarding how to enter the 2019 AACTA Awards can be found at <https://www.aacta.org/aacta-awards/entries/>.

Key Entry Dates:

- Online Video or Series, 4 April-16 May 2019
- Feature Film, 1 May-1 July 2019
- Feature Documentary, 1 May-27 May 2019
- Short Documentary, 1 May-27 May 2019
- Television, 21 May-22 July
- Subscription Television (Presenters and New Talent), 21 May-16 August 2019
- Subscription Television (Live Event and Sports Presentation), 21 May-1 October 2019
- Visual Effects and Animation, 18 June-30 August 2019

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

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

AFI | AACTA | Michelle Filipenko | P: +61 (03) 9695 7222 | E: mfilipenko@afi.org.au

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