



Media Release

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AACTA reveals first nominees for the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel

Eight short film nominees to screen in new stand-alone AACTA Shorts Fest

The first nominees for the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel have been revealed today, with the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) announcing the nominees for **Best Short Fiction Film** and **Best Short Animation**.

AACTA also today announced the split of its former Festival of Australian Film into three new Festivals, **AACTA Shorts Fest**, **AACTA Docs Fest** and **AACTA Film Fest**, to shine a dedicated spotlight on each of the respective areas of filmmaking. Each Festival will feature a tailored program of events that will include exclusive screenings, masterclass events, learning and networking opportunities.

Exploring a fascinating range of themes – including relationships between parents and children, self-sacrifice and courage in the face of tragedy – the nominees for **Best Short Fiction Film** are:

- **Charles Williams'** Palme D'Or-winning **ALL THESE CREATURES**;
- **JUDAS COLLAR**, which had its world premiere earlier this year at Sydney Film Festival;
- Sydney Film Festival 2018 Rouben Mamoulian Best Director Award-winning **NURSERY RHYMES**, starring past AACTA Award nominee **Sara West** and **Toby Wallace**; and
- Berlinale 2018 and SXSW 2018 Award nominated **TANGLES AND KNOTS**, starring AACTA Award winner **Odessa Young** and **Leeanna Walsmann**.

Ranging from hand-drawn and zine-inspired animation to stop motion and claymation, this year's **Best Short Animation** nominees mark first-time AACTA nominations for all nine competing directors and producers. The nominees are:

- Former AACTA #SocialShorts winner **Radheya Jegatheva's iRONY**, which has won 66 Awards and been selected for 156 film festivals worldwide;
- Sydney Film Festival's 2018 Yoram Gross Animation Award-winning **LOST AND FOUND**;
- Clay animation **MONSTER'S PLAYGROUND**, narrated by seven-time AFI and AACTA Award winner **Claudia Karvan**; and
- University of Technology Sydney students **Haein Kim** and **Paul Rhodes' PEEPIN'**.

Shorts Fest will take place in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth from Monday 20 August – launching in all cities with AACTA's Oscars® Short Film Program. Presented in collaboration with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the exclusive showcase will screen the 2018 Oscar®-nominated Animated and Live Action Short Films.

New in 2018, **AACTA PITCH** will also take place as part of the Shorts Fest Program in Sydney on Wednesday 22 August at Event Cinemas Bondi Junction. Announced earlier this year, AACTA PITCH is a national pitching competition that aims to discover Australia's next world-class scripted series for television or web. The event will see the shortlisted finalists pitch their series in front of a live audience, including a judging panel of esteemed industry figures, with the winner announced following judges' deliberations.

In Melbourne, AACTA's successful **Masterclass in Web Series Creation** will be held at Cinema Nova on Wednesday 22 August. Held in Sydney earlier this year as part of Vivid Sydney, the masterclass will bring together some of Australia's most successful web content creators and developers to share their experiences creating and commissioning scripted content for online audiences worldwide.

Shorts Fest will culminate with in-cinema screenings of this year's AACTA-nominated Short Animation and Short Fiction films. AACTA Shorts Fest is exclusive and complimentary to AFI | AACTA members, with guests permitted to attend selected events. The full Program for each state is available on www.aacta.org.

The **AACTA Film Fest** will screen the feature films in competition for the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel throughout September in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The **AACTA Docs Fest** program will screen the Best Feature Length Documentary nominees in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth in October.

"We are thrilled to see so many first-time nominees in the short film categories this year, many of whom have seen great success both here and internationally, highlighting the incredible talent within Australian short films," said **AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehella**. "We look forward to bringing these great short films and their filmmakers to centre stage during Shorts Fest this year, as well as Australia's outstanding documentaries and feature films during Docs Fest and Film Fest respectively."

- ENDS -

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

NOTES ON SHORT FILM NOMINEES

[Click here](#) for synopses and images of the nominated Short Fiction Film and Short Animation productions.

AACTA's Short Film members branch (accredited industry members with experience in short film) determined the nominees in these categories. AFI and AACTA members will vote to determine the winners of each category during Round One voting (1 October to 11 October 2018).

Further nominees will be announced later this year, with winners across all categories to be announced at the two major **8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel** events in Sydney this December: The **Industry Luncheon** on Monday 3 December and the **Ceremony & Official After Party** on Wednesday 5 December.

NOTES ON AACTA'S FESTIVALS

AACTA's Festivals, which are complimentary and exclusive to members, provide the opportunity to watch, discuss and judge the nominated short films, feature length documentaries and the feature films in competition for the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel. **To become a member, visit www.aacta.org/membership/ or call 1300 139 697.**

Each of the three Festivals will screen in Sydney at Event Cinemas Bondi Junction and Event Cinemas George Street; in Melbourne at Cinema Nova; and in Brisbane at Event Cinemas Brisbane City Myer Centre. Shorts Fest and Docs Fest will also screen in Perth at Event Cinemas Innaloo.

The Shorts Fest Programs for each State are now available on www.aacta.org. Programs for Film Fest and Docs Fest will be made available a few weeks ahead of each Festival's opening night.

In addition to screening in cinemas, during the Festival period members can also view the nominated short films (available from August 22), feature length documentaries (available from October) and the majority of feature films in competition (available from September) on [AACTA TV](#), AACTA's online viewing platform.

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