



**Media Release**

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## **Australian Academy announces Best Documentary nominees to screen at AACTA Docs Fest**



The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today announced the nominees for **Best Documentary**, marking the first announcement of productions competing for this year's AACTA Awards – Australia's highest screen accolade.

Reinforcing a strong year for Australian documentary, the five nominees include: **THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM, THE EULOGY, THE FINAL QUARTER, IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS** and **MYSTIFY MICHAEL HUTCHENCE**.

From the offering of unique insights into the lives and legacies of Australia's most prominent musicians and sporting figures, to the exploration of indigenous identity and resilience, the films nominated for the **2019 AACTA Award for Best Documentary** are a diverse collection of personal stories that examine the Australian identity.

This year sees a number of nominees previously recognised by AFI | AACTA for their work across documentary and narrative film including: **Larissa Behrendt** (IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS, AFTER THE APOLOGY), **Maya Newell** (IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS, GAYBY BABY), **Nick Batzias** (THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM, THAT SUGAR FILM), **Richard Lowenstein** (MYSTIFY MICHAEL HUTCHENCE, HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL IN HIS HAND) and **Sophie Hyde** (IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS, 52 TUESDAYS). The nominees also include **Ian Darling AO** (THE FINAL QUARTER, THE OASIS), who continues to impact the Australian documentary landscape with his endeavors after receiving the Byron Kennedy Award at last year's AACTA Awards.

"We are delighted to announce our first AACTA Award nominees for the year to our members and the Australian public, drawing attention to the world-class quality of Australian documentaries and the great filmmakers behind them," said **AFI | AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella**. "It's a highly competitive year for Australian documentaries with the nominees presenting a wide range of deeply moving stories that are sure to engage and inspire audiences."

The Best Documentary nominees were determined by the AACTA Documentary Branch, which is made up of past AFI and AACTA documentary award winners and nominees as well as other highly esteemed members of the Australian documentary industry.

All nominees will be screened at AACTA Docs Fest which is exclusive and complimentary to AFI | AACTA members and their guests. Screenings will commence from Monday 16 September to Wednesday 18 September in Sydney and Brisbane at **Event Cinemas** and from Tuesday 17 September to Thursday 19 September in Melbourne at **Cinema Nova**. The full program is available on [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org).

In addition to AACTA Docs Fest in-cinema screenings, the five competing feature documentaries will be available for AFI and AACTA members to view online via [AACTA TV](http://AACTA TV) from 16 September.

All AACTA members can vote to determine the Best Documentary winners during Round Two voting from 22 October to 3 November. More information on voting, including information on Film and TV voting, can be found at <https://www.aacta.org/aacta-awards/voting/>.

– ENDS –

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

#### **MEDIA KIT**

A media kit including publicity stills and synopses for the 2019 AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel for the Best Documentary nominees, as well as the AACTA Docs Fest Guide have been attached.

#### **NOTES ON AACTA DOCS FEST**

Exclusive and Complimentary to AFI | AACTA Members and their guests, AACTA Docs Fest provides the opportunity to watch, discuss and judge the nominees for the AACTA Award for Best Documentary, which will be presented at the 2019 AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

**To become a member, visit [www.aacta.org/membership/](http://www.aacta.org/membership/) or call 1300 139 697.**

#### **NOMINATIONS AND THE 2019 AACTA AWARDS PRESENTED BY FOXTEL**

Remaining nominees across all other AACTA Award categories will be announced in October 2019. Winners will be announced across two major 2019 AACTA Awards events in Sydney, home of the AACTA Awards: The **Industry Luncheon** on Monday 2 December, followed by the **Ceremony & Official After Party** on Wednesday 4 December, televised on Channel Seven with encore screenings on Foxtel. **Tickets for both events will go on sale in early October 2019.**

#### **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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