

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **AACTA LAUNCHES AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS TO CELEBRATE A DECADE OF SUCCESS AND EXCELLENCE**

The Australian Academy of Cinema Arts (AACTA) is excited to introduce the AACTA Audience Choice Awards in to 2020's suite of celebrations. The AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel, has responded to COVID-19 restrictions that have placed limits on this year's Awards with an initiative that will for the first time provide audiences the opportunity to cast their vote on Australian screen and artist achievements that have engaged audiences locally and abroad across the decade.

Voting for the AACTA Audience Choice Awards opens today and will close Sunday 11 October. Voting will run online and the top five nominees in each category will be announced in late November ahead of AACTA's reimagined broadcast on Channel 7, Wednesday 2 December. Winners of the Audience Choice Awards will be announced alongside highlights from the 2020 AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

**AACTA CEO Damian Trehwella**, said "AACTA is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year and with COVID-19 restrictions to navigate 2020 has presented us with an opportune time to take a look back on all we have achieved locally and overseas across the last decade. Our homegrown stars have prolific careers and entertain billions across the globe. Our local screen industry grows from strength to strength with Australian stories across multiple genres entertaining and informing millions at home every week. The AACTA Audience Choice Awards is the perfect initiative to engage with those watching so they can have their say on what they think the highlights of the last 10 years are."

## **AACTA AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS CATEGORIES AND SHORTLISTS**

### **FAVOURITE GLOBAL STAR OF THE DECADE**

- Cate Blanchett
- Rose Byrne
- Russell Crowe
- Joel Edgerton
- Chris Hemsworth
- Hugh Jackman
- Nicole Kidman
- Ben Mendelsohn
- Margot Robbie
- Jacki Weaver

### **FAVOURITE TV CONTESTANT OF THE DECADE**

- Poh Ling Yeow, MasterChef, 10
- Dami Im, The X Factor, Channel Seven, Dancing with the Stars, 10, Eurovision, SBS
- Sam Frost, The Bachelor, 10
- Steve Flood and Will Stewart, MKR, Channel 7
- Chrissie Swan, I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!, 10
- Sophie Monk, The Bachelorette, 10
- Olivia Vivian, Ninja Warrior, Nine Network
- Jules and Cam, MAFS, Nine Network
- Josh and Elise, The Block, Nine Network
- Angela Clancy, Big Brother, Channel 7

### **FAVOURITE COMEDY PERFORMER OF THE DECADE**

- Hamish Blake and Andy Lee
- Tom Gleeson
- Wil Anderson
- Hannah Gadsby
- Nazeem Hussain
- Steven Oliver
- Dave Hughes
- Julia Morris
- Celia Pacquola
- Celeste Barber

### **FAVOURITE TV ACTOR OF THE DECADE**

- Sarah Snook
- Asher Keddie
- Bryan Brown
- Claudia Karvan
- Rodger Corser
- Aaron Pederson
- Deborah Mailman
- Marta Dusseldorp
- Damon Herriman
- Essie Davis

### **FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN FILM OF THE DECADE**

- Peter Rabbit
- Red Dog
- The Sapphires
- The Great Gatsby
- The Babadook
- The Water Diviner
- The Dressmaker
- Lion
- Ride Like a Girl
- Mad Max: Fury Road

### **FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN TV DRAMA OF THE DECADE**

- Offspring, 10
- Neighbours, 10
- Mystery Road, ABC TV
- Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, ABC TV
- Top of the Lake, Foxtel
- Wentworth, Foxtel
- Molly, Channel 7

- Love Child, Nine Network
- Doctor Doctor, Nine Network
- Home and Away, Channel 7

## **FAVOURITE TV MOMENT OF THE DECADE**

### **Scripted**

- Offspring, Patrick Dying, 2013, 10
- Wentworth, "The Freak Buried Alive", 2018, Foxtel
- Please Like Me, Josh Finding His Mother Dead, 2017, ABC TV

### **News**

- Thailand Cave Rescue, 2018
- The Prime Minister Tony Abbott Eating An Onion, 2015

### **Reality**

- The Honey Badger Not Choosing A Partner, The Bachelor, 2018, 10
- Dan and Steph Win, MKR, 2013, Channel 7
- Ines and Sam Affair, MAFS, 2019, Nine Network

### **Sport**

- Mick Fanning Punching a Shark, 2015
- Adam Goodes War Cry Dance, 2015

Information on how to vote in the AACTA Audience Choice Awards is available via [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org). The final five nominees in each category will be announced Sunday 29 November. Further announcements will be made on nominees in the below categories on the dates below:

### **5 October:**

- Nominees announced for Best Short Film and Best Online Drama or Comedy

### **1 November:**

- Nominees announced for Best Television Program Award categories for Entertainment, Reality, Lifestyle, Drama Series, Comedy, Factual Entertainment, Children's, Miniseries or Telefeature, Documentary or Factual
- Nominees announced for Best Online Entertainment
- Nominees announced across Film and Documentary categories
- Acting nominees announced across all television and film categories

### **11 November:**

- Nominees announced across all TV Craft, Documentary Craft, Casting and VFX

**– ENDS –**

**The AACTA Awards are supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.**

### **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

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