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## AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY LAUNCHES NEW INTERNATIONAL AWARDS IN LOS ANGELES

### ***We Need To Talk About Kevin* and *Melancholia* Lead with Four Nominations Each**

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) today launched five new award categories recognising international achievements in film as follows: Best Film, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Actress.

Nominees for the **AACTA International Awards** were announced by internationally acclaimed actress **Jacki Weaver** at the glamorous **G'Day USA Black Tie Gala in Los Angeles**, with the segment beamed into the **Samsung AACTA Awards Luncheon, presented by Digital Pictures**, held concurrently in Sydney.

The **AACTA International Awards** recognise film excellence regardless of geography, as determined by a jury of eminent Australian screen practitioners from a cross-section of crafts and with a wealth of local and international experience. Nominees include international screen luminaries such as **George Clooney** and **Meryl Streep** through to **Woody Allen** and **Lars von Trier**.

Of the ten films competing for the **AACTA International Award for Best Film**, ***We Need To Talk About Kevin*** and ***Melancholia*** lead with four nominations each across the five categories. Six other films - ***Margin Call***, ***Midnight In Paris***, ***Moneyball***, ***The Artist***, ***The Descendants*** and ***The Ides Of March*** - follow closely behind with three nominations each. **Martin Scorsese's *Hugo*** and **Terrence Malick's *The Tree Of Life*** have two nominations each, in the categories for **Best Film** and **Best Direction**.

Winners of the **AACTA International Awards** will be announced at a special event in Hollywood on January 27, at which **AACTA President, Geoffrey Rush**, will be in attendance.

Speaking of the **AACTA International Awards**, **Geoffrey Rush** said:

"The Australian Academy's newly launched International Awards are dedicated to identifying and awarding the pinnacle of screen excellence and success regardless of geography.

"Some 70 years since our American friends first awarded Australians with an Oscar, and with Australians since awarded more than 60 Oscars and BAFTAs, it's great that the Australian industry now has the opportunity to formally recognise the outstanding work of our international colleagues through the AACTA International Awards.

"As our industry becomes a truly global entity, with screen performers and practitioners crossing borders to bring us the best of the big and small screens, it is fitting that the new Australian Academy recognises the industry's best, both at home and abroad."

This year marks the first Awards of the Australian Academy, which was established in August 2011 by the Australian Film Institute (AFI). The AFI has been recognising screen excellence in Australia since 1958; former AFI Award winners include industry luminaries such as **Nicole Kidman**, **Cate Blanchett (AFI Ambassador)**, **Naomi Watts**, **Eric Bana**, **Russell Crowe**, **Toni Collette**, **George Miller (AFI Patron)**, **Bruce Beresford** and **Geoffrey Rush**.



AFI | AACTA CEO, Damian Trehwella, said:

“Australia has produced some of the best screen professionals and productions in the world, and an important part of the Australian Academy’s role is to recognise and promote this. One of the key vehicles for this is the annual AACTA Awards – Australia’s highest screen accolades, and the Australian equivalent of the BAFTAs and Oscars.

“We’re delighted to launch our AACTA International Awards in LA, the epicentre of international film, and look forward to making history when we announce the Australian Academy’s first ever International Award winners in LA in just two weeks’ time.”

The **AACTA International Awards winners’ announcement event** will be filmed, and shown at the inaugural **Samsung AACTA Awards Ceremony** at the Sydney Opera House on 31 January 2012, which will be broadcast throughout Australia on the Nine Network.

To see a video clip of **AACTA President, Geoffrey Rush**, speaking of the AACTA International Awards, [click here](#).

## AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS NOMINEES

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

- **The Artist.** Michel Hazanavicius
- **The Descendants.** Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, Jim Rash
- **The Ides Of March.** George Clooney, Grant Heslov, Beau Willimon
- **Margin Call** J.C. Chandor
- **Melancholia.** Lars von Trier
- **Midnight In Paris.** Woody Allen
- **Moneyball.** Steven Zaillian, Aaron Sorkin, Stan Chervin
- **We Need To Talk About Kevin.** Lynne Ramsay, Rory Kinnear

### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION

- **The Artist.** Michel Hazanavicius
- **Drive.** Nicolas Winding Refn
- **Hugo.** Martin Scorsese
- **Margin Call.** J.C. Chandor
- **Melancholia.** Lars von Trier
- **Midnight In Paris.** Woody Allen
- **The Tree Of Life.** Terrence Malick
- **We Need To Talk About Kevin.** Lynne Ramsay



#### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST ACTOR

- **George Clooney.** The Descendants
- **Leonardo DiCaprio.** J. Edgar
- **Jean Dujardin.** The Artist
- **Michael Fassbender.** Shame
- **Ryan Gosling.** The Ides Of March
- **Brad Pitt.** Moneyball

#### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST ACTRESS

- **Glenn Close.** Albert Nobbs
- **Kirsten Dunst.** Melancholia
- **Meryl Streep.** The Iron Lady
- **Tilda Swinton.** We Need To Talk About Kevin
- **Mia Wasikowska.** Jane Eyre
- **Michelle Williams.** My Week With Marilyn

#### AACTA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM

- **The Artist**
- **The Descendants**
- **Hugo**
- **The Ides Of March**
- **Margin Call**
- **Melancholia**
- **Midnight In Paris**
- **Moneyball**
- **The Tree Of Life**
- **We Need To Talk About Kevin**

For more information about the Australian Academy, visit: [www.aacta.org](http://www.aacta.org)

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