



## **Cinematic Alchemist and Diversity Catalyst Donna Gigliotti Graces SCREEN FOREVER as SPECIAL GUEST KEYNOTE**

### **MEDIA RELEASE 3 NOVEMBER 2017:**

Screen Producers Australia is proud to announce Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA award winning producer, Donna Gigliotti as the very special guest Keynote at SCREEN FOREVER 2017.

Gigliotti is one of only nine women to win an Academy Award for Best Picture and her career has traversed a rich and masterful scope of productions. Beginning her career in the screen industry as an assistant to Martin Scorsese on *Raging Bull*, her trajectory has been bold and unstoppable with her most recent triumph in the Oscar nominated film, *Hidden Figures*. The film, the untold story of the African American women behind the technological revolution at NASA, grossed \$230 million worldwide and inspired a global conversation about women, STEM and representation in film.

The hallmark of Gigliotti's career has been her rare and innate ability to retrieve stories that have resonance and cultural impact punctuated by commercial and artistic success.

Securing the 1998 best-picture Oscar for *Shakespeare in Love*, the film also earned the 1999 Golden Globe for Best Picture/Comedy and the 1999 British Academy Award (BAFTA). In 2009, Gigliotti was nominated again for Best Picture for producing *The Reader* which was nominated for a total of five Academy Awards. In 2013, she received a Best Picture/Academy Award nomination for *Silver Linings Playbook*.

"Donna Gigliotti's exceptional career as an award-winning producer of iconic films that have changed that conversation on and off screen has given her the much-deserved position of role model the industry. She is a visionary, collaborative producer and champion of female voices in screen, with an extraordinary eye for talent and story that is contributing to the changing cultural narrative. Screen Producers Australia welcomes Donna and her outstanding influence on the entertainment industry at SCREEN FOREVER," said Screen Producers Australia CEO, Matt Deaner.

Gigliotti's career began as an executive in 1982 as vice president/acquisitions at United Artists Classics. Throughout her career, she has held various executive positions including President of Production for Barry Diller's USA Films and Executive Vice President at Miramax Films. Since 2001 Gigliotti has worked principally as an independent producer for her own production company Tempesta Films, based in New York. Her recent credits include Cary Fukunaga's *Beasts of No Nation* and *The Fundamentals of Caring* starring Paul Rudd.

In 1985, Gigliotti became the youngest woman knighted to the rank of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Republic. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, the European Film Academy and the Producers Guild of America, of which she is a member of the National Board of Representatives.

Donna Gigliotti will feature at the Screen Forever conference in a very special In Conversation Keynote session with leading Australian film and media journalist Sandy George on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



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**About SCREEN FOREVER**

Uniting the pillars of entertainment, media and technology, SCREEN FOREVER is one of the largest congregations of screen industry professionals in the Southern Hemisphere. It is attended by the leading Australian and international industry practitioners involved in all aspects of producing, creating, writing, directing, distributing and financing screen content across film, television, games, interactive and online.

**About Screen Producers Australia**

Screen Producers Australia was formed by the screen industry to represent large and small enterprises across a diverse production slate of feature film, television and interactive content. Our members employ hundreds of producers, thousands of related practitioners and drive more than \$1.7 billion worth of annual production activity from the independent sector. On behalf of these businesses we are focused on delivering a healthy commercial environment through ongoing engagement with elements of the labour force, including directors, writers, actors and crew, as well as with broadcasters, distributors and government in all its various forms. This coordinated dialogue ensures that our industry is successful, employment levels are strong and the community's expectations of access to high quality Australian content have been met.