

MEDIA RELEASE:

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SCREEN PRODUCERS AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT NATALIE MILLER AO AND BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALISTS FOR 2015

Screen Producers Australia has announced the recipient of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** honouring visionary arthouse cinema distributor **Natalie Miller**, and the finalists for the 2015 Screen Producers Australia Business Awards, recognising screen production companies in two categories: **Breakthrough Business of the Year** and **Media Super Production Business of the Year**.

The recipient of the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, **Natalie Miller AO**, has been a pioneer of Australian arthouse cinema for over half a century. A visionary distributor, Miller is best known for being the first independent woman distributor in Australia as the Executive Director of Sharmill Films, which she established in 1967, as well as the successful co-founder of the iconic **Cinema Nova** in Melbourne, of which she is currently Co-Managing Partner. Previously, Miller was Executive Director of the Longford cinema for 17 years.

Passionate about cinema and the business of film, Miller holds Board positions with NACO and the VCA School of Film and TV, she is a member of AIDA (the Australian Independent Distributors Association) and is a former Board Member of Film Victoria, ACMI, and current member of **Screen Producers Australia**. Miller is a recipient of the Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Government in March 2003 for her services to the promotion of French culture in Australia. The Natalie Miller Fellowship, named in Natalie's honour, was established in 2011 by a Melbourne committee of women to provide an annual grant to potential talent, to encourage leadership and to help profile women in the corporate film industry. In 2013, Natalie was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Australia Day Honours List for services to the Film Industry and was recognised for distinguished service to the film industry through the promotion of screen culture, as a mentor to emerging filmmakers, particularly women, and contributions to advisory and professional organisations.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** will be presented to Miller by **Film Victoria Chief Executive Officer, Jenni Tosi**. Miller will receive her honour, together with the winners of the **Breakthrough Business of the Year** and **Media Super Production Business of the Year**, at the prestigious Screen Producers Australia Awards, taking place at the Palladium at Crown in Melbourne, on Thursday, 19 November 2015 as part of the 30th **SCREEN FOREVER** Conference. Hosted by television and radio presenter **James Mathison**, the Awards are the primary litmus test of industry excellence, and the only awards voted by production businesses working in the industry.

Screen Producers Australia CEO Matthew Deaner said, "We're thrilled that Natalie has agreed to accept the Lifetime Achievement Award that recognises her outstanding contribution to the Australian film industry."

Deaner added, "The Screen Producers Australia Awards aim to increase awareness of the role producers play in creating Australian screen stories. They celebrate great Australian screen businesses who create and support high quality and outstanding screen content."

The full list of finalists in the Business Awards is as follows:

Breakthrough Business of the Year:

Brindle Films
Ludo Studio
Media Stockade
Mint Pictures

Media Super Production Business of the Year:

Endemol Shine Australia
FremandleMedia Australia
Hedone Productions
Hoodlum
Matchbox Pictures.

The **Breakthrough Business of the Year** is awarded to a production business that has demonstrated a significant breakthrough in the screen industry in the past 12 months. The 2014 winner was Brisbane's Carbon Media, an Indigenous advertising agency and full-service media company.

The **Media Super Production Business of the Year** is awarded to a production business that has produced an outstanding project or body of work, which has contributed to the advancement of the screen industry. The 2014 winner was television production company Playmaker Media, recognising their production of consistently original and entertaining contemporary drama for audiences, both locally and internationally. In 2014, these included the political thriller *The Code* for ABC Television, and the award-winning drama series *House Husbands* and period drama series *Love Child* for the Nine Network.

To view trailers of the finalists in the 15th annual Screen Producers Australia Awards, visit:
www.youtube.com/user/ScreenProducersAust

SCREEN PRODUCERS AUSTRALIA AWARDS

19 November 2015, Palladium, Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne Australia.

SCREEN FOREVER

17-19 November 2015, Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne Australia.

Registrations **now open** at www.screenforever.org.au.

Media Super Production Business of the Year Brought to You By Media Super



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