



Tuesday October 30, 2018

ABC tops AACTA Award nominations as new report shows it leads the way in backing Australian drama

The ABC has scored an unrivalled 57 AACTA Award nominations across 23 categories, more than any other broadcaster, with *Mystery Road* and *Riot* both in line to win 11 of Australia's top screen prizes.

The ABC's landmark *Mystery Road* (Best Drama) and *Riot* (Best Telefeature or Mini Series) received more nominations than any other television program, including Best Lead Actor, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Editing and Best Original Music Score.

Michael Carrington, ABC Acting Director Entertainment & Specialist, said: "Congratulations to our many finalists across multiple genres in this year's AACTA Awards.

"Telling remarkable and relevant Australian stories is at the heart of our role as the nation's leading public broadcaster. Thank you to everyone within the ABC and our external partners for their dedication towards delivering the best content to all Australians every day."

ABC's Head of Drama, Comedy and Indigenous, Sally Riley, said: "It's so exciting for the ABC to have this amazing number of nominations for this year's AACTA awards. They range across all categories, but as Head of Drama, Comedy and Indigenous I am especially proud of the fact that both *Mystery Road* and *Riot* have both garnered an astonishing eleven nominations each."

The nominations came as [Screen Australia's annual Drama Report](#) revealed the ABC is the nation's leading broadcaster when it comes to supporting home-grown stories. The report into the health of Australia's screen industry found the largest contribution from a single broadcaster in 2017-18 was from the ABC, which provided finance for 23 titles.

For the first time, the combined budgets for content produced for first release on the ABC (\$144 million) was higher than the combined figure for the commercial free-to-air networks.

Friday on My Mind received six nominations, including Best Telefeature or Miniseries, while Series 5 of *Rake* received four nominations including Best Drama Series.

Nominated for Best Lead Actor or Actress in a Drama Series or Telemovie are: Damon Herriman (*Riot*), Richard Roxburgh (*Rake*), Aaron Pedersen (*Mystery Road*), Judy Davis (*Mystery Road*), Kate Box (*Riot*); and nominated for Guest or Supporting Roles in a drama are Caroline Brazier (*Rake*), Deborah Mailman (*Mystery Road*), Tasma Walton (*Mystery Road*), Wayne Blair (*Mystery Road*), Damien Garvey (*Rake*), Xavier Samuel (*Riot*) and Ashley Zukerman (*Friday On My Mind*).



Rosehaven, *The Letdown* and *Black Comedy* are amongst the finalists for Best Comedy Program, with Alison Bell (*The Letdown*) and Celia Pacquola (*Rosehaven*) up for Best Performance in a Television Comedy, along with *Back in Very Small Business's* Wayne Hope and Robyn Nevin. *Hard Quiz*, *Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery* and *The Weekly with Charlie Pickering* are all nominated for Best Entertainment Program, while *The Checkout* received a nod for Best Lifestyle Program.

Best Children's Program nominations include *Guess How Much I Love You*, *My Year 7 Life*, *Grace Beside Me* and *The New Legends of Monkey*. Best Documentary or Factual include: *Employable Me*, *Hawke: The Larrikin and the Leader*, and *You Can't Ask That*.

Nominations for Best Direction in Drama, Comedy or Non-Fiction include: Rachel Perkins for *Mystery Road*, Jeffrey Walker for *Riot*, David Batty for *Black As*, Bruce Permezel for Episode 1 of *Hawke: The Larrikin and the Leader* and Aaron Smith and Kirk Docker for Episode 1 of *You Can't Ask That*.

Mystery Road is also in the mix for Best Cinematography. *Friday on My Mind* also scored nominations for Best Sound and Production Design and Best Editing. *Riot* was also nominated for Best Production Design and Casting. *Riot* and *New Legends of Monkey* were nominated for Costume Design in Television.

The ABC's nominees for Best Documentary or Factual Program are *Employable Me*, *You Can't Ask That* and *Hawke: The Larrikin and the Leader*.

Deadlock and *Kiki and Kitty* were both nominated for Best Online Video or Series.

For further information contact:

Peri Wilson, Marketing and Communications Lead
02 8333 2263 | 0409 888 866 | wilson.peri@abc.net.au