

The Boomerang

May 2007



Breakthrough Awards 2007

Australians in Film (AiF), its ambassadors and supporters were delighted to celebrate and recognize the talent and achievements of Isla Fisher (*Wedding Crashers*) Emilie de Ravin (*Lost*) and Greg McLean (*Wolf Creek*) at the Breakthrough Awards 2007, on May 3.

Rob Marsala introduced the multi-talented, writer, actor and producer, Leigh Whannell who emceed the evening. Leigh, last year's Breakthrough honouree, introduced Abigail Breslin, Bryan Burk and Radha Mitchell who in their turn presented the honourees with their yellow boomerangs. Abigail Breslin presented Isla Fisher with her award. Bryan Burk presented Emilie de Ravin with her award and Radha Mitchell presented Greg McLean with his boomerang.

It was a star studded evening with sponsors, VIPs, guests and supporters including Sasha Baron Cohen, Michael Vartan, Jesse Spencer, and Laura Harring, seen sipping cocktails poolside watching the acrobatic entertainers at the Avalon Hotel.



(l-r) Isla Fisher, Greg McLean and Emilie de Ravin with their awards



(l-r) Leigh Whannell, Kick Curry & Damon Gameau

Australians in Film thanks its major sponsors: Bombora, Yellowglen, Rosemount and Penfolds for their wonderful support in providing the Bombora Vodka, Yellowglen Pink, Rosemount Diamond Riesling and Penfolds Thomas Hyland Shiraz which complemented the appetizers.

Thanks also go to our sponsors who provided the gifts on the night: Tourism Australia, Benefit Cosmetics, Frank Studio, Jurlique, Austrade, Soaptopia, Hollywood Life, and Napoleon Perdis.

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John Ziomek was responsible for the photography which can be viewed on our website www.australiansinfilm.org

The Boomerang Award was created by the successful Australian design company Dinosaur Designs.



Yellowglen Pink

Lucky You Screening

Australians in Film and Warner Independent were delighted to present a screening of *Lucky You*, May 2, 2007 at the Harmony Gold Theatre.

Lucky You, directed by Curtis Hanson (*L.A. Confidential*, *Wonder Boys*, and *8 Mile*) is a story of human relationships set in Las Vegas. This romantic drama stars Eric Bana (*Munich*, *Chopper*, *Black Hawk Down*), Drew Barrymore (*Music and Lyrics*, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*), and Robert Duvall (*Thank you for Smoking*, *The Godfather*).



(l-r) Volunteer Greg Cook and friends

The screenplay is by Eric Roth & Curtis Hanson, from a story by Eric Roth.

We thank our sponsor Rosemount Estate for the wonderful Australian wine served after the screening. Event photography by John Ziomek. Additional images are available from our website, www.australiansinfilm.org.

From the President

Recently we celebrated our Breakthrough Awards for 2007. I was delighted to introduce former Breakthrough Honouree, Leigh Whannell as emcee for the evening. Leigh handled the role with wit and charm, contributing hugely to the success of the evening.



Emilie de Ravin accepting her award.



Abigail Breslin with Isla Fisher at the Breakthrough Awards 2007

We were honoured to have Abigail Breslin, Bryan Burk and Radha Mitchell present our three honourees with their golden boomerangs. Now in its third year, the Breakthrough Awards are receiving strong industry recognition as a touchstone of

Australian talent. This year's event was mentioned in a number of media outlets including variety.com, instyle.com, people.com, smh.com.au and thewest.com. This list does not include the many comments logged on private and industry blog pages. The evening would not have been the success it was without the wonderful support of our major sponsors Bombora, Yellowglen, Rosemount and Penfolds. On behalf of Australians in Film, I thank everyone involved in making the night a huge success. Events such as these involve an enormous amount of work and preparation and I thank the Board especially Susie Dobson who spearheaded the efforts to make this event the overwhelming success it was.

As summer approaches, AIF is pleased to be offering screenings of blockbusters including *Pirates 3* and *Fantastic Four 2*. We will also co-host the US premiere of the hit Australian Sundance feature *Introducing The Dwrights* (formerly known as CLUBLAND) with Warner Independent in late June. The film is truly wonderful and stars Brenda Blythen, Richard Wilson, Emma Booth and Khan Chittenden. Watch your emails for information about this very special event.

Rob Marsala
President



Gift bag items from our sponsors

Future Screening

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

Australians in Film are pleased to announce our upcoming screening of *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, Wednesday May 30th, at Harmony Gold.

Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Gore Verbinski from a screenplay written by Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, this action packed adventure stars Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom, and Keira Knightley.

Please note the earlier start time of 7:00 pm. There will be pre-screening drinks from 6:30 pm, and after the film there will be a post-screening reception serving complimentary Aussie wine, beer and food.

RSVP by 12pm, Wednesday May 30th to: rsvp@australiansinfilm.org (Places available subject to availability.)

Casting News

- Australian actor Luke Ford has been cast as Brandan Fraser's son in *MUMMY 3* in a move that potentially sets the opportunity for his character to carry the future films for the franchise.
 - Radha Mitchell has joined the cast of the Lakeshore feature *Henry Poole is here* opposite Luke Wilson and recent Oscar nominee Adrianna Barraza. The film will be directed by Mark Pellington.
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Industry News

David Lyle

Australian executive David Lyle has been named President of Fox Reality Channel as the cable network heads towards its second birthday. He had previously served as COO and General Manager since the channel's launch.



Photograph of David Lyle accessed from www.calgarysun.com, May 14, 2007

Gregor Jordan

Australian helmer Gregor Jordan will direct a film adaptation of the Bret Easton Ellis novel *The Informers*.

Shooting will commence in Los Angeles in August.

Emma Booth

Australian actress Emma Booth (*Introducing The Dwights*) will star in *Hippie Hippie Shake* for Universal Pictures and Working Title.

Beeban Kidron will direct the film, which begins lensing in fall.

The film will be produced by Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner. Lee Hall wrote the script based on *Hippie Hippie Shake: The Dreams, the Trips, the Trials, the Love-ins, the Screw Ups: The Sixties*, a memoir by Richard Neville (to be played by Murphy). The film will use a famous obscenity trial involving the Australian satirical magazine *Oz* as a metaphor for a journey through the swinging '60s in London.

Australians in Film - Breakthrough Awards 2007

(continued)



(l-r) Michelle Gysberts, Rachel Crowley, Frank Galasso, Katie Vagg, and Carly Ellson



(l-r) Greg McLean being presented his award by Radha Mitchell



Left (l-r)
Kick Gurry &
Jesse Spencer

Right -
Michael Vartan



Film and Television News

The Pacific

Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks will produce the ten-part mini-series *The Pacific* in Australia. A companion piece to the World War II saga *Band of Brothers*, *The Pacific* tracks the intertwined odysseys of three U.S. Marines across the Pacific, from the first clash with the Japanese to the triumphant return home after V-Day.

The team behind *The Pacific* will cost approximately US\$200 million, making it the most expensive mini-series ever made. Cast are expected to include Australian and American actors and will shoot in Melbourne and Northern Queensland.

Starter Wife

USA Networks TV series, *Starter Wife* premieres May 31, 2007. Starring Judy Davis and Miranda Otto *Starter Wife* is a sexy, savvy and wickedly funny tour de force about life after divorce and a woman's quest to redefine herself following years of marriage to a Hollywood studio head.

Based on *Gigi*, Levangie Grazer's New York Times best seller of the same name, *The Starter Wife* also stars Joe Mantegna, and Anika Noni Rose.

December Boys

Warner Independent is partnering with Village Roadshow to distribute the Australian feature *December Boys* in the US. The film was directed by Rod Hardy and is based on the novel of the same name. *December Boys* stars Daniel Radcliffe, Teresa Palmer and Jack Thompson and will be released in the US, September 14, 2007.

Sponsor News

Gold sponsors



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Australian Trade Commission

Bronze Sponsors



Australians in Film

Gold Sponsor QANTAS

QANTAS Opportunity...Win a Round Trip Economy Class Flights to Sydney

There is still time to buy that winning ticket to Sydney.

Tickets will be awarded at the screening of *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, on May 30, 2007.

Buy your tickets **NOW** for this wonderful opportunity and soon you may be flying across the Pacific to Australia!

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 tickets for \$100. Go to the Australians in Film website www.australiansinfilm.org to download the entry form and rules and regulations.

QANTAS a Gold Sponsor of Australians in Film

Film and Television News

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The following pilots were officially picked up to series that feature Australian talent:

- *Cashmere Mafia* at ABC stars AIF Ambassadors Frances O'Connor and Miranda Otto.
- *Viva Laughlin* at CBS from executive producer Hugh Jackman
- *Chuck* at NBC starring Australian newcomer Yvonne Strzechowski
- Australian actor Alex O'Laughlin will star in the CBS pilot *Moonlight*

New Members

Jordan Barrow
Leah Curtis
Olivier French

Australians in Film welcomes news about the activities and successes of our members.

Please send your information to administrator@australiansinfilm.org

Breakthrough Awards

2007 (from page 1)



Laura Harring at the Breakthrough Awards 2007

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