

# The Boomerang

September 2007



## From the President

What an outstanding month for Australians in Film! We are screening a record number of truly diverse films, showcasing the best of Australian filmmaking talents.

Already this month we co-hosted the Los Angeles premiere of *December Boys* with Warner Independent Pictures and screened *Death Sentence* followed by a Q & A with director James Wan, our 2006 Breakthrough Award recipient.

We screened *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* followed by a Q & A with stars AiF ambassador Geoffrey Rush & Abbie Cornish, *Eastern Promises* starring Naomi Watts and coming

up this Friday, *The Assassination of Jesse James*, starring Brad Pitt plus a Q & A with director Andrew Dominik.

Looking ahead we already have special events and screenings scheduled through December, (see Diary Dates on page 5) so 2007 promises to be our best year yet, as we strive to expand our programs for our members.

I'm excited to announce AiF will be debuting our new discussion series "Australians in Film...Success Stories," in November with a panel comprising of three of our brilliant board of advisors; Stuart Beattie, Greg Coote and Bruce Davey. Watch for an email and the next newsletter for full details.

We're also working over the next few months on a massive overhaul of our website which we hope will provide a platform for our members, sponsors and supporters to effectively build an integrated online community.

Of course none of these things would be possible without the tireless support of all our fantastic volunteers, Kaat, the board of directors, program committee, studio liaisons, publicists, board of advisors and ambassadors who work so hard on our behalf to secure and support all our initiatives.

I would especially like to acknowledge our amazing sponsors and encourage members and friends to support their businesses. They are all listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Cheers,  
Susie  
[Susie@sdgpr.com](mailto:Susie@sdgpr.com)

Inside this issue:	
From the President	1
Death Sentence screening	2
December boys screening	3
Elizabeth: the Golden Age screening	4
Eastern Promise Screening	4
Diary Dates	5
Member News	5
Industry News	5
Sponsor News	6



# Death Sentence Screening



Director James Wan at the Q&A

Australians in Film was delighted to present a screening of James Wan's latest film, revenge thriller *Death Sentence* starring Kevin Bacon and Kelly Preston.

The screening was held Thursday August 31, at Harmony Gold.

Director and 2006 AiF Break-through Award recipient, James Wan, (*SAW* & *DEAD SILENCE*) entertained the audience after the screening with an inspiring Q&A moderated by AiF Vice President, Paula Paizes. Also in attendance was up coming actor Jordan Garrett who plays Luke in the film.

The film is being released by Twentieth Century Fox on 2000 screens, nationwide.

A special thanks to AiF sponsor Stacey Testro for helping with organizing the screening and to Rosemount Estate for the wines served both prior to and after the screening.

Caterer Steve Geary provided the delicious appetizers and photography was by John Ziomek.

Images from all events are available from the AiF website [www.australiansinfilm.org](http://www.australiansinfilm.org).



(l-r) AiF President Susie Dobson, Director James Wan, actor Jordan Garrett, AiF Chair Rob Marsala



Caterer Steve Geary proud of his delicious appetizers



(l-r) Senior Vice President of Qantas, Wally & Barbara Mariani, Sue Anne & Pascal Brochier, President Global Retail of Vivendi Games.



(l-r) Susie Dobson, Paula Paizes, AiF sponsor Stacey Testro

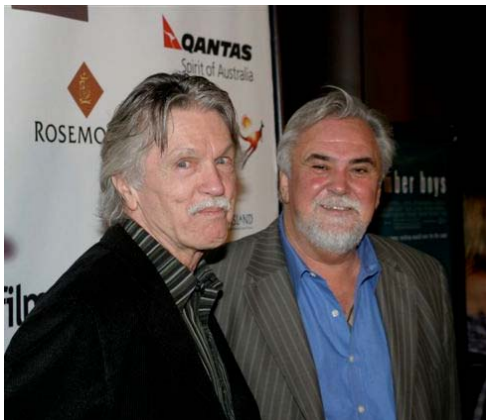
# Screening- December Boys

Australians in Film and Warner Independent Pictures were proud to present the Los Angeles premiere of *December Boys*, Thursday, September 6, 2007 at the Directors Guild of America.

December Boys, directed by Australian Rod Hardy and starring Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) portrays what it is like for four teenage orphans who find their friendship tested when they encounter a couple who would make the perfect parents.

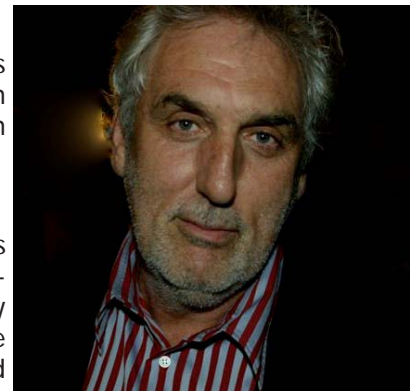


Actor Daniel Radcliffe and director Rod Hardy discussing the film



Actor Tom Skerritt and December Boys' director Rod Hardy

Daniel Radcliffe signed autographs for the enthusiastic crowd, before, he and director Rod Hardy introduced the film to the full house. In attendance at the premiere were additional cast members Theresa Palmer and Victoria Hill plus Tom Skerritt, Topher Grace, Saskia Burmeister, Norman Lear, Phil Noyce and Warner Bros president Alan Horn.

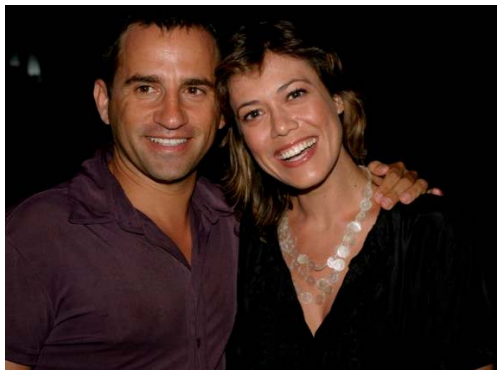


The film opens September 14, in limited release in the US.

AiF also thanks Lucky Beer, Penfolds and G'day Imports for the beer, wine and Cooranbong vodka served on the evening.

Australian film maker Philip Noyce

Photography was by John Ziomek. Images from all events are available from the AiF website [www.australiansin film.org](http://www.australiansin film.org).



AiF Chair Rob Marsala and actress Kimberly Joseph

A special thanks to James Lewis (publicist), Kimberly Blythe and Afahn Khan (events coordinators) with Warner Independent Pictures who helped put the evening together.



The enthusiastic audience

## September Screenings

### Elizabeth: the Golden Age

Australians in Film and Universal Pictures were proud to present *ELIZABETH: The Golden Age*, Saturday September 15, at the Harmony Gold Theater.

The film stars Oscar winners and Australians in Film Ambassadors Cate Blanchett (Queen Elizabeth I) and Geoffrey Rush (Sir Francis Walsingham).



AiF was delighted to receive this note from Cate Blanchett and is pleased to pass it on to all members.

*I'm sorry I can't be with you to celebrate the Australian invasion of British Cinema. Who would have thought - 20 years ago that a film about Elizabeth I would have 3 of its 4 leads from Antipodean shores. I hope you enjoy the film - it was a strange, surprising and ultimately wonderful experience revisiting the life of such a remarkable monarch.*

*Abbie and Geoffrey will give you all the goss.*

*Cate*

Australians in Film gives special thanks to Bo Morrison and Katherine Sherrer of the Angelotti Company and Jennifer Shoucair and Jessica Jacobowitz of Stan Rosenfield & Associates for making the evening a great success.

Geoffrey Rush and Australian actress Abbie Cornish held an entertaining Q & A after the screening. Australians in Film thanks Lucky Beer, Penfolds and Michele Freyder at G'day Imports for the beer, wine and Cooranbong vodka served at the post-screening reception.

Images from all events are available from the AiF website [www.australiansinfilm.org](http://www.australiansinfilm.org).

---

### Eastern Promises

Australians in Film and Focus Features were proud to present *EASTERN PROMISES* Monday September 17, at the Harmony Gold Theater.

This dramatic thriller is directed by David Cronenberg (eXistenZ, Spider, A History of Violence), from a screenplay written by Steven Knight. The film stars Australians in Film Ambassador Naomi Watts (21 Grams, King Kong, Inland Empire, The Painted Veil), and Viggo Mortensen (28 days, The Lord of the Rings trilogy, A History of Violence).

The film won the **AUDIENCE AWARD** at the Toronto International Film Festival. It will be released on September 21.

A special thanks to Alison Katz of Focus Features for making the evening such a success. Australians in Film also thanks Lucky Beer, Penfolds and Michele Freyder at G'day Imports for the beer, wine and Cooranbong vodka served at the post-screening reception.

Images from all events are available from the AiF website [www.australiansinfilm.org](http://www.australiansinfilm.org).



## Emmy winner—Judy Davis

Australians in Film congratulates Australian actress Judy Davis on being awarded an Emmy for her supporting actress role in the mini-series, *The Starter Wife*, which was shot on Queensland's Gold Coast and starred American actress Debra Messing. It was Davis' second Emmy and her seventh nomination since 1982.

The category was a tussle between Australian actresses, with Davis competing with Australians Toni Collette and Greta Scacchi.



Judy Davis, Debra Messing and AiF ambassador Miranda Otto.

© USA Networks

## Diary Dates

Friday September 21

Screening of *THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES*

Written for the screen and directed by Australian director **Andrew Dominik** (Chopper), the film is based on the novel by Ron Hansen. This western drama stars **Brad Pitt** and **Casey Affleck** (both team up again after all three "Oceans" films), **Sam Rockwell** (Confessions of a Dangerous Mind, Joshua) and **Sam Shepard** (The Notebook, Black Hawk Dawn).

Brad Pitt, who also co-produced the film, took away the BEST ACTOR award for his performance as Jesse James at the recent Venice Film Festival.

There will be a Q&A with director and screen writer Andrew Dominik (Chopper).

November

**AUSTRALIANS IN FILM...SUCCESS STORIES**

The Australians in Film Board Advisors, **Stuart Beattie** (screenwriter-Pirates of The Caribbean, Collateral), **Greg Coote**, President Coote/Hayes Productions, and **Bruce Davey**, President Icon Productions will share their stories of what it took and how they did what they did to get where they are today.

November 7

Screening of *MARGOT AT THE WEDDING*

*Margot at the Wedding*, starring Australians in Film Ambassador **Nicole Kidman**. Due for limited US release November 16 2007.

December 5

Screening of *GOLDEN COMPASS*

*Golden Compass*, starring Australians in Film Ambassador **Nicole Kidman** and **Daniel Craig**. Due for US release December 7 2007.

Wednesday December 12

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

Australians in Film Holiday Party at the residence of the Australian Consul-General Mr Innes Willox and Ms Jennifer Conley.

## Member News

Australians in Film welcomes the following new members:

- Kate Ayrton: Australian - writer/producer, commercials
- Amelia Barrett, Australian, writer/actress (West from North goes South, Tall Trees)
- James Howarth, Australian, filmmaker/actor (At Home with the Braithwaites)
- Kat Kramer, American, producer/director
- Carl Baker, American, entertainment lawyer (Inferno Distribution)
- Tim Hudson, Australian, Director of Photography (My Sister, The Farmhouse)
- Caitlin Brewer, Australian, (Australian) Vice Consul, Los Angeles

---

### Corporate Membership

If you have a team of enthusiastic film buffs and believe in supporting Australians in all areas of the film industry then a Corporate Membership might be the right choice for your company. Corporate Members can bring up to five additional guests to each screening. This is terrific value; for example in 2007 there were an estimated 20 screenings which works out to \$6.25 per screening per person. By placing your name in our Corporate Member's list you are telling the world that you support the Australian Film industry.

Membership is only \$625 annually.

## Reel Alerts

### 20th Anniversary of Dattner Dispoto and Associates.

Dattner Dispoto and Associates (DDA), one of the world's most dynamic talent agencies, was founded by Fay Dattner (AiF member). Los Angeles based, it boasts an elite, international group of innovative and creative cinematographers, producers and production designers. Originally known as Dattner and Associates, the company changed its name in 2002 when Fay partnered with long-time Dattner agent, Bill Dispoto. [www.dattnerdispoto.com](http://www.dattnerdispoto.com).

See the Hollywood Reporter for a special anniversary issue on September 25

**THE CASTING** (Australian short film) screened as part of the Los Angeles Shorts Festival on Sunday, September 16. The film was directed by Sebastien Guy.

Australian Director Peter Scarf invites AiF members and friends to the Los Angeles premiere, Thursday September 27, of his debut feature **FORTUNE** starring Scott Cohen, Keir Dullea & Jason Shaw at the Cinema City International Film Festival, Universal City.

For complimentary tickets email [peterscarf@fortune-movie.com](mailto:peterscarf@fortune-movie.com). [www.fortune-movie.com](http://www.fortune-movie.com).

**Free acting class** - on Camera with Australian Institute of Dramatic Arts (AIDA) USA. Thursday September 27, 2007 in Los Angeles. Join two internationally acclaimed teachers: Paul J Parker (AiF member) & Antoinette Byron.

Two classes will be held, 6:00pm and 8:30pm, each 2.5 hours duration. For details and to sign up visit [www.aidaacting.com](http://www.aidaacting.com).

### Drop Dead Gorgeous

Australian Philip Alderton (AiF member) is making a SAG Ultra Low Budget Mockumentary, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, which will shoot in Los Angeles from mid November 2007. The team includes a top casting director, a DP with 43 feature credits, and an Australian sound team. The Executive Producer has 30 years experience in distribution and is a consultant to a major indie.

Philip is seeking parties who can assist with contributions including: locations, office space, equipment, an outrageous fashion line, PR, and product placement. As an Ultra low budget film SAG and Non SAG actors can submit. Those without a work permit can intern for a US credit. For full details visit [ddgthemovie.com](http://ddgthemovie.com).

# SPONSOR NEWS

## Jurlique

Jurlique is proud to be a sponsor of Australians in Film in Los Angeles.

Using biodynamic farming methods, Jurlique was founded in Australia in 1983 and has expanded into over 15 countries with products available both in retail outlets and concept stores. The company believes in investing in the future and practices sustainable business practices.



The range of skin care products combine the natural purity and unique benefits of herbs and plant extracts with state-of-the-art technology and research. The company's understanding that maintaining a sustainable business is a constant process of progress versus perfection reflects the rigour behind the success of the Australian film industry.

Jurlique is proud of its Australian heritage and is delighted to be able to support Australians in the film industry in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Mention you are a member of AiF and you also receive a 20% discount on products and services when you visit the Beverly Hills and Santa Monica stores. [www.jurlique.com](http://www.jurlique.com).

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsor



### AiF Opportunities Volunteer Now

#### Transportation expert

AiF needs someone to assist with the transport of beverages and catering supplies from the AiF offices to the venues on event days and to return them the day after the screenings.

#### Web wizard

Someone local to help with the website who has experience in website management for frequent and timely updates of items on the site. Tasks include maintain the website as we expand it's user-friendly nature, uploading photos and calendar items and posting accounts of events.

#### We want to hear about YOU!

Australians in Film welcomes news about the activities and successes of our members so send your information to [administrator@australiansin film.org](mailto:administrator@australiansin film.org) and let us tell the world about your successes.

To become a member of Australians in Film visit our website for an application form. <http://www.australiansin film.org/membership.html>

Australians in Film  
c/o Tourism Queensland  
6100 Center Drive, Suite 1150  
Los Angeles CA 90045  
Tel: 310 695 3256  
Fax: 323 446 8724  
[www.australiansin film.org](http://www.australiansin film.org)  
[administrator@australiansin film.org](mailto:administrator@australiansin film.org)

Newsletter Editor: Susie Craig