



5 May 2017

GARTH DAVIS AND MATTHEW SAVILLE AMONGST THE WINNERS AT THE 2017 ADG AWARDS

The Australian Director's Guild (ADG) has just revealed the winners of the 2017 Awards at a black tie event in Melbourne. Best Direction in a Feature Film went to Garth Davis for *Lion*, a film that was nominated for 6 Academy Awards and has made close to \$30 million at the Australian Box Office. Acclaimed director Peter Weir presented the award to Garth Davis for his feature film debut.

Best Direction in a Documentary Feature Film was presented to Dan Jackson, for his work on *In the Shadow of the Hill*, set in the largest favela in Brazil. In the same category, Pete Gleeson received High Commendation for his work in *Hotel Coolgardie* from the jury, who noted that the Documentary Feature category had a particularly high quality of submissions, at a time when it is difficult to raise money for feature length documentaries in Australia. After winning Best Direction in a Feature Film for *Tanna* in 2016, Bentley Dean and Martin Butler have won an ADG Award for the second year in a row, this year with their co-director Liz Jackson for Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject for *A Sense of Self*. Best Direction in a Documentary Series went to Sally Aitken for *Streets of Your Town*.

In the television categories, the recent success of *Molly* continued with Kevin Carlin winning Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Mini Series. Emma Freeman won Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Series for *Secret City – The Watchers* (Series 1, Episode 2) and the award for Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Comedy Program went to Matthew Saville for *Please Like Me - Burrito Bowl* (Series 4, Episode 5). Gary Conway won Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Serial for *Neighbours* (Episode 7509).

The recipients of a number of special awards had already been announced and were presented this evening. Courtney Gibson was presented with the prestigious Cecil Holmes Award, which is given from time to time to honour those who have promoted the art and craft of directing, and advocated for the role of the director. Director Daina Reid received the Michael Carson Award, which recognises excellence in the craft of television drama direction for her work on acclaimed series such as *The Wrong Girl*, *Offspring*, *Hunters*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and *The Secret River*. The 2017 ADG Innovation Award was presented to Girl Geek Academy, a global movement encouraging women to learn technology, create startups and build more content for the internet.

The ADG Awards took place at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins in and were hosted by comedian Cal Wilson. The Awards are the only opportunity for Australian directors and their work to be acknowledged by their directing peers. The Awards recognise excellence in the craft and art of directing, as well as acknowledging individual contributions by Australian Screen Directors to film, television, documentary, animation and interactive media.



The Australian Directors Guild is a registered union and industry association representing the interests of film, television and digital media directors, documentary makers and animators throughout Australia. The ADG works to promote excellence in screen direction, encourage communication and collaboration between directors and others in the industry, and provide professional support for its members.

COMPLETE LIST OF THE 2017 ADG WINNERS:

BEST DIRECTION IN A FEATURE FILM

Garth Davis for *Lion*

BEST DIRECTION IN A SHORT FILM

Luci Schroder for *Slapper*

BEST DIRECTION IN A STUDENT FILM

Meaghan Palmer for *Tasty*

Morgan Healy for *Disabused*

BEST DIRECTION IN A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM

Dan Jackson for *In the Shadow of the Hill*

BEST DIRECTION IN A DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Sally Aitken for *Streets of Your Town*

BEST DIRECTION IN A DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT

Bentley Dean, Martin Butler and Liz Jackson for *A Sense of Self*

ESBEN STORM AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION IN A CHILDREN'S TV OR SVOD DRAMA

Robyn Butler for *Little Lunch Special: The Nightmare Before Graduation*

BEST DIRECTION IN A TV OR SVOD DRAMA SERIES

Emma Freeman for *Secret City – The Watchers (Series 1, Episode 2)*

BEST DIRECTION IN A TV OR SVOD DRAMA SERIAL

Gary Conway for *Neighbours Block 1458 Ep 7509*

BEST DIRECTION IN A TV OR SVOD MINI SERIES

Kevin Carlin for *Molly*



BEST DIRECTION IN A TV OR SVOD COMEDY PROGRAM

Matthew Saville for *Please Like Me – Burrito Bowl (Series 4, Episode 5)*

BEST DIRECTION IN AN ONLINE COMEDY PROJECT

Damien Cassar for *Lowering Awareness*

BEST DIRECTION IN AN ONLINE DRAMA PROJECT

Christopher Benz for *ReWriteYourStory - CONNOR*

BEST DIRECTION IN COMMERCIAL CONTENT

Craig Melville for *Air New Zealand - Summer Wonderland*

BEST DIRECTION IN A MUSIC VIDEO

Matthew Chuang for *Made of Fire Artist: Fire to the Stars*

THE MICHAEL CARSON AWARD

Daina Reid

THE CECIL HOLMES AWARD

Courtney Gibson

THE ADG INNOVATION AWARD

Girl Geek Academy

To view all the clips of the winning projects, please visit Showreelfinder website here:

<http://www.showreelfinder.com/ADG2017/>

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