



MEDIA RELEASE STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 3pm FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 (AEST)

ADG AWARDS 2021 WINNERS ANNOUNCED SHANNON MURPHY TAKES HOME TWO TOP PRIZES

Shannon Murphy has led the charge for female directors in Australia winning two 2021 ADG Awards - for Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget \$1M or over) for her acclaimed debut feature film *Babyteeth* and for Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Series episode for her work on the international series *Killing Eve* (Series 3, Episode 5).

The Australian Director's Guild announced the annual ADG Award winners at a ceremony today in Sydney, which was also live streamed internationally and around the country for those unable to cross borders.

The Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget under \$1M) was awarded to up-and-coming director Thomas Wilson-White for his film *The Greenhouse*. Both Shannon Murphy and Thomas Wilson-White are graduates of the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

The Award for Best Direction in a Documentary Feature went to co-directors Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin for *Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra* and Christiaan Van Vuuren received the Best Direction in a Movie Made for TV or SVOD Award for the film *A Sunburnt Christmas*.

One of Australia's most successful television exports, *Bluey*, added to its accolades with Richard Jeffrey winning The Esben Storm Award for Best Direction in a Children's TV or SVOD Drama Program Episode for his work on the Sleepytime episode.

The ADG has worked hard over the past few years to support diverse and emerging Australian directors and this year sees Cloudy Rhodes win the ADG Award for Best Direction in a Short Film for the film *Beautiful They* and AFTRS student Andréas Giannopoulos win the ADG Award for Best Direction in a Student Film for *Friends of Mine*.

As well as the ADG Award to Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin, directors of documentaries and factual programs acknowledged this year include Laurence Billiet, winner of Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Documentary Series Episode or Documentary One-Off (TV one-hour) for *Freeman* and Jaina Kalifa and Amelia Paxman, co-directors of *Lost Contact*, who won the ADG Award for Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject (Under 45 mins).

David Gould took out the Award for Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Serial episode for *Home and Away* episode 7591. David has won multiple awards in this category over the years.

The Award for Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Miniseries Episode went to Claire McCarthy for *The Luminaries*, episode 2, and Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Comedy Program episode was awarded to Max Miller for *Aunty Donna's Big Ol' House of Fun* (series 1, episode 1).

The ADG Award for Best Direction in a Web/Online Drama Series Episode was awarded to Hannah Lehmann for *Two Sides* (series 2, episode 8) and Henry Stone won Best Direction in a Web/Online Comedy Series Episode for *A Life in Questions: Wisdom School with Aaron Chen*.

Jake Duczynski received the ADG Award for Best Direction in an Animation Project for *Cooked*, Stef Smith won the Best Direction in Commercial Content award for *Shower Talk with Celeste Barber*, Sanjay De Silva won the award for Best Direction in a Commercial Advertisement for *Flybuys: Give a Flybuys*, Chloe de Brito won Best Direction in a Music Video for 'Keep It Up' by Sonny Grin, and Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Title was awarded to Aaron Wilson for *IOPU*.

A special 1ST AD Award was presented posthumously to the brilliant and much-loved 1st AD 'JC' John Clabburn who passed away earlier this year. JC's wife Melissa accepted the Award and their two sons Josh and Lewis also attended the Awards.

"After the difficulties of the past two years, the opportunity to celebrate in person with our nominated and award-winning directors, while also welcoming international and interstate guests via live streaming on-line and in-cinema, was warmly welcomed by Australia's screen community. My congratulations to all the directors whose work has been acknowledged today," said ADG Executive Director Alaric McAusland.

The ADG Awards gala luncheon ceremony, held at the Actors Centre, Sydney, were hosted by Greta Lee Jackson and Nina Oyama with presenters including Australian director Gillian Armstrong, actor Hunter Page-Lochard (*Cleverman*), actor Remy Hii (*Crazy Rich Asian*), director Unjoo Moon (*I Am Woman*), actor Zoe Terakes (*Nine Perfect Strangers*), comedic duo Freudian Nip, director Jen Peedom (*River*), director Jasmin Tarasin (*The Story of Lee Ping*), director and actor Stef Smith (*Way Out Assistance*) and actor Gerard O'Dwyer (*Little Monsters*).

The ADG Awards welcomes and thanks its sponsors and partners for 2021 - **Principal Awards Partner** ASDACS, **Major Awards Partner** Media Super and the **Gold Awards Venue Partner** Actors Centre Australia, with Gold Partners, the ABC, AFTRS, ACTF, Animal Logic, Dockland Studios Melbourne, Panavision, Screenrights and The Post Lounge.

The ADG Awards recognise excellence in the craft and art of directing, as well as honouring individual contributions by Australian screen directors to the screen industry. The Awards are the only opportunity for Australian directors and their work to be acknowledged by their directing peers. The Awards cover the breadth of screen directing with categories across feature film, documentary, television, subscription video on demand, commercial, short film, animation, online, music video and interactive media.

Winner photographs here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2pyoxojeqkzn380/AAAY2SFPqp2zTP2T5eABdN87a?dl=0>

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LIST OF WINNERS – ADG AWARDS 2021

Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget \$1M)

- Shannon Murphy - Babyteeth

Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget under \$1M)

- Thomas Wilson-White - The Greenhouse

Best Direction in a Short Film

- Cloudy Rhodes - Beautiful They

Best Direction in a Student Film

- Andréas Giannopoulos - Friends of Mine

Best Direction in a Documentary Feature

- Wayne Blair & Nel Minchin - Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Documentary Series Episode or Documentary One-Off (TV one-hour)

- Laurence Billiet - Freeman

Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject (Under 45 mins)

- Jaina Kalifa and Amelia Paxman - Lost Contact

Best Direction in a Movie Made for TV or SVOD

- Christiaan Van Vuuren - A Sunburnt Christmas

The Esben Storm Award for Best Direction in a Children's TV or SVOD Drama Program Episode

- Richard Jeffery - Bluey – Sleepytime

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Series episode

- Shannon Murphy - Killing Eve, Series 3 Episode 5

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Serial episode

- David Gould - Home and Away - E7591

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Miniseries Episode

- Claire McCarthy - The Luminaries - E2

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Comedy Program episode

- Max Miller - Aunty Donna's Big Ol' House of Fun – S1 E1

Best Direction in a Web/Online Drama Series Episode

- Hannah Lehmann - Two Sides - S2 E8

Best Direction in a Web/Online Comedy Series Episode

- Henry Stone - A Life in Questions: Wisdom School with Aaron Chen

16. Best Direction in an Animation Project

- Jake Duczynski - Cooked

17. Best Direction in Commercial Content

- **Stef Smith - Shower Talk with Celeste Barber**

18. Best Direction in a Commercial Advertisement

- **Sanjay De Silva - Flybuys: Give a Flybuys**

19. Best Direction in a Music Video

- **Chloe de Brito - 'Keep It Up' by Sonny Grin**

20. Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Title

- **Aaron Wilson - IOPU**