



Australian
Directors' Guild

Suite 28 / 330 Wattle Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
P: (02) 9555 7045
www.adg.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

16.11.23

For immediate release

NOMINEES ANNOUNCEMENT 2023 AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORS' GUILD AWARDS

First Nations director Warwick Thornton, whose feature films *Samson and Delilah* and *Sweet Country* won international acclaim, is among a slew of Indigenous Australians nominated in the prestigious 2023 Australian Directors' Guild Awards.

Thornton's direction of *The New Boy*, about an orphaned Aboriginal boy sent to live in an outback monastery, sets the scene for a strong focus on First Nations storytelling among this year's awards nominees.

The full list of nominations for the 2023 Australian Directors' Guild Awards, which recognise Australia's top directing talent, has been announced today.

Australian Directors' Guild Executive Director Sophie Harper said the awards would be a celebration of the very best in Australian directing across all genres and platforms.

"The Australian Directors' Guild Awards are the only awards in Australia where directors are judged by their peers, many of whom are world-renowned for their own achievements," Ms Harper said.

Vying with Thornton for Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget \$1m or over) is an eclectic mix of talent. Tehran-born Australian director Noora Niasari has been nominated for her debut feature *Shayda*; horror film siblings Colin and Cameron Cairnes have been recognised for *Late Night with the Devil*; Gracie Otto has been nominated for her debut narrative feature film *Seriously Red* and former actor and director Jeffrey Walker is in the running for fantasy adventure *The Portable Door*.

Niasari's *Shayda*, about a young Iranian mother who finds refuge with her daughter in an Australian women's shelter, has been named Australia's official entry for the Best International Feature category at next year's Oscars.

Otto, daughter of Australian acting royalty Barry and sister of Miranda, has been recognised in two additional categories – Best Direction of Commercial Content for *Zimmermann Fall 22 – Stargazer*; and two nominations for Best Direction in a TV or Subscription Video On Demand (SVOD) Drama Series Episode for *Heartbreak High* and *Deadloch*. Walker received a second nomination in the TV or SVOD Mini-Series category for *The Clearing*.

In an all-female line-up, Otto's fellow nominees in the TV or SVOD Drama Series Episode category include Emma Freeman (*The Newsreader*), Jennifer Leacey (*The Secrets She Keeps*) and Sian Davies (*Black Snow*).



Emma Sullivan's depiction of the story of journalist Kim Wall who was murdered after boarding Danish inventor Peter Madsen's submarine in *Into the Deep*, and Selina Miles' direction of *Harley and Katya*, the tragic story of an Australian figure skating duo, have each earned a nomination for Best Direction in a Documentary Feature.

They're joined by Laurence Billiet and Rachael Antony for *The Giants*, about the life of politician-turned-environmentalist Bob Brown, and Poppy Stockell for her direction of *John Farnham – Finding the Voice*.

Indigenous director Allan Clarke's *The Dark Emu Story*, charting the impact of Bruce Pascoe's book, and Wodi Wodi woman Gillian Moody's *Kindred*, about her connection back to her bloodlines after being adopted into a white family, have also earned them a nomination in the documentary feature category.

Torres Strait Islander John Harvey has been nominated in the Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Documentary Series Episode or Documentary One-Off category for *Still We Rise*, documenting the Aboriginal Tent Embassy opposite Old Parliament House in the year of its 50th anniversary. Also nominated in the category are Kriv Stenders (*The Black Hand - E1*); Nick Robinson (*Australia's Wild Odyssey E1 – Arteries and Veins*); Patrick Abboud (*Kids Raising Kids*) and Stamatia Maroupas (*Queerstralia E1 – The Law*).

First Nations director Jub Clerc's *Sweet As*, about an Australian teen who discovers her love for photography at a youth camp in Western Australia, has earned her a nomination for Best Direction in a Debut Feature Film. Brenda Matthews and Nathaniel Schmidt have also been nominated in the category for *The Last Daughter*, charting Matthews' search for the white foster family with whom she had lost all contact.

Other debut feature film nominees include Gabriel Gasparinatos (*OneFour – Against All Odds*); Mark Leonard Winter (*The Rooster*); Matt Vesely (*Monolith*) and Thomas Hyland (*This is Going to Be Big*).

For Best Direction in a Short Film, Yankunytjatjara man Derik Lynch and Matthew Thorne have been nominated for *Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped in Black)*, alongside Alies Sluiter (*Myth*); David Ma (*The Dancing Girl and the Balloon Man*); David Robinson-Smith (*We Used to Own Houses*); Neer Shelter (*Perspectives*) and Robin Summons (*Victim*).

The winners of the 20 categories in the 2023 Australian Directors' Guild Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony at The Grand Electric in Sydney's Surry Hills on Tuesday, December 5.

ADG President Rowan Woods said: "The awards recognise outstanding directing in everything from mobile-first online series and children's TV drama to best music video, animation or feature film, and we're delighted to see more nominations than ever this year.

"Judges have been blown away by the quality of entrants and have been particularly impressed by the calibre of up-and-coming talent. A win for any one of these newcomers could be the launch pad for an enduring and impactful career and we're excited to see who takes out the awards on December 5."

Ms Harper urged those with a passion for Australian filmmaking to come along to the awards ceremony, which is open to the public as well as industry members.



Australian
Directors' Guild

Suite 28 / 330 Wattle Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
P: (02) 9555 7045
www.adg.org.au

“Whether you’re an emerging director wanting to network with the best of the best in the field or a film buff who wants an inside run on the hottest new Australian directors, get in quickly and grab your tickets,” Ms Harper said.

The ADG Awards is supported by sponsors including Principal Partner ASDACS and Major Partner Netflix Australia. Limited tickets are available. Book now at www.strutfret.com/grand-electric

Media inquiries

Michelle Rowe
michelle@pitchperfectmedia.com.au
0400 003 852

FULL LIST OF NOMINEES

Best Direction in a Mobile-First Online Series Episode

Joel Ludemann	<i>Tales From 88</i>
Erin Good	<i>Krystal Clairvoyant (E22) – Season Finale</i>

Best Direction in a Children's TV or SVOD Drama Series Episode

Elissa Down	<i>Ivy + Bean: Doomed to Dance</i>
Guy Edmonds	<i>Spooky Files (S1 E9) – The Mist of Misery</i>
Imogen McCluskey	<i>Soundtrack To Our Teenage Zombie Apocalypse (S1 E10)</i>
Julie Kalceff	<i>The PM's Daughter (S2 E2) – Be Relentless</i>
Nicholas Verso	<i>Crazy Fun Park (S1 E1) – I Don't Want To Grow Up</i>
Tenika Smith	<i>Turn Up The Volume (E6)</i>

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Documentary Series Episode or Documentary One-Off

John Harvey	<i>Still We Rise</i>
Kriv Stenders	<i>The Black Hand (E1)</i>
Nick Robinson	<i>Australia's Wild Odyssey (E1) – Arteries and Veins</i>
Patrick Abboud	<i>Kids Raising Kids</i>
Stamatia Maroupas	<i>Queerstralia (E1) – The Law</i>



Australian
Directors' Guild

Suite 28 / 330 Wattle Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
P: (02) 9555 7045
www.adg.org.au

Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject

Hailey Bartholomew
Madeleine Mytkowski
Sofya Gollan
Tilly Robba & Steph Jowett
Tom Chapman

Ageless
Salt Dreams
Imagined Touch
Lesbians on the Loose
Eden Alone Surpasses Thee

Best Direction in Commercial Content

Craig Melville
Gavin Banks
Gracie Otto
Henry Stone
James Dive
Selina Miles

Dead Island 2 – Another Day in HELL.A
Sione's Story – Corrective Services NSW
Zimmermann Fall 22 – Stargazer
Square Mo-gal Webin-ya!
Don't You Forget About Me
Ovaries. Talk About Them.

Best Direction in a Commercial Advertisement

Michael Spiccia
Michael Spiccia
Nash Edgerton
Sanjay De Silva
Tom Noakes
Yianni Warnock

Amazon Prime – Separation
Enchanté – Smell the Roses
Tag Heuer – The Chase for Carrera
IKEA – Show Off Your Savvy
Amazon Books – That Reading Feeling Awaits
Meat & Livestock Australia – Infinite Cultural Exile

Best Direction in an Online Drama Series Episode

Bonnie Cee
Tam Sainsbury

Casino Beach – Pilot
Time & Place

Best Direction in an Online Comedy Series Episode

Madeleine Gottlieb
Madeleine Gottlieb
Max Miller
Neil Sharma
Neil Sharma
Renée Mao

Latecomers (E4) – Wet
Latecomers (E6) – Coming Good
Finding Yeezus (S1 E1)
Appetite (E1) – Dead Head
Appetite (E2) – Pho Ken What?
A Beginner's Guide To Grief (E1)



Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Project

Kerinne Jenkins & Nicole Hutton
Peter Hegedüs
Stuart McDonald

In Our Own Right – Black Australian Nurses' Stories
Sorella's Story
Choose Love

Best Direction in a Short Film

Alies Sluiter
David Ma
David Robinson-Smith
Matthew Thorne & Derik Lynch
Neer Shelter
Robin Summons

Myth
The Dancing Girl and The Balloon Man
We Used to Own Houses
Marungka Tjalatjunu – Dipped in Black
Perspectives
Victim

Best Direction in a Student Film

Gabriel Murphy
Gilbert Kemp Attrill
Guillem Davenport
Karen Liebau McPherson
Stephen Di Gravio
Vee Shi

Enemy Alien
Reunion
Pitch Black
Laugh With Me
Anna
Jia

Best Direction in Animation

Christian Barkel
Ricard Cussó

Lego Monkie Kid (S4)
Scarygirl

Best Direction in a Music Video

Bill Bleakley
Jesse Samos Leaman
Kaius Potter
Lucy Knox
Sanjay De Silva
Toby Morris

The Teskey Brothers – True Life Trilogy
Didirri – Often Broken
Bad//Dreems – See You Tomorrow
DMAS – Forever
Jerome Farah – Concrete Jungle Fever
Middle Kids – Bootleg Firecracker



Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Comedy Series Episode

Robyn Butler & Wayne Hope	<i>Summer Love, (S1 E1 – Jules and Tom and Jonah and Steph</i>
Bjorn Stewart	<i>Gold Diggers (S1 E5) – Man Ban</i>
Helena Brooks	<i>Gold Diggers (S1 E3) – I'm with the Bandits</i>
Matthew Moore	<i>Colin From Accounts – (S1 E6) – The Good Room</i>
Max Miller	<i>Aunty Donna's Coffee Café (S1 E2)</i>
Shaun Wilson	<i>Romantic Getaway</i>

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Series Episode

Emma Freeman	<i>The Newsreader (S2)</i>
Gracie Otto	<i>Heartbreak High (S1 E8)</i>
Gracie Otto	<i>Deadloch (S1 E6)</i>
Jennifer Leacey	<i>The Secrets She Keeps (S2 E3)</i>
Sian Davies	<i>Black Snow (E1)</i>

Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Mini- Series Episode

Peter Andrikidis & Katrina Irawati Graham	<i>Bali 2002 (E1) – Island of the Gods</i>
Jeffrey Walker	<i>The Clearing (E1) – The Season of Unfoldment</i>
Corrie Chen	<i>Bad Behaviour (E1) – Moth to a Flame</i>
Peter Andrikidis & Katrina Irawati Graham	<i>Bali 2002 (E2) – From the Ashes</i>
Stevie Cruz-Martin	<i>Safe Home (E1)</i>
Tony Krawitz	<i>Significant Others (E1)</i>

Best Direction in a Documentary Feature

Allan Clarke	<i>The Dark Emu Story</i>
Emma Sullivan	<i>Into the Deep</i>
Gillian Moody	<i>Kindred</i>
Laurence Billiet & Rachael Antony	<i>The Giants</i>
Poppy Stockell	<i>John Farnham – Finding the Voice</i>
Selina Miles	<i>Harley & Katya</i>



Australian
Directors' Guild

Suite 28 / 330 Wattle Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
P: (02) 9555 7045
www.adg.org.au

Best Direction in a Debut Feature Film

Brenda Matthews & Nathaniel Schmidt
Gabriel Gasparinatos
Jub Clerc
Mark Leonard Winter
Matt Vesely
Thomas Hyland

The Last Daughter
OneFour – Against All Odds
Sweet As
The Rooster
Monolith
This Is Going to Be Big

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

Amin Palangi
Claire Pasvolsky
James Vinson
Molly Haddon
Scott Major

Tennessine
Three Chords and the Truth
Slant
The Longest Weekend
Darklands

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

Colin & Cameron Cairnes
Gracie Otto
Jeffrey Walker
Noora Niasari
Warwick Thornton

Late Night With The Devil
Seriously Red
The Portable Door
Shayda
The New Boy