ASTRA Subscription Television Australia

10th ASTRA AWARDS

Friday 13 April 2012

FINALISTS FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL ASTRA AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA) has announced the finalists for the 10th Annual ASTRA Awards today, with 95 entries selected across 21 categories including the five Subscribers' Choice award categories selected by consumer vote. The finalists reflect the diversity of talent in Subscription TV, both on and off screen, with a combination of familiar names and newcomers.

Popular showcase mini-series *Tim Winton's cloudstreet*, joins TV1's *Killing Time* and W Channel's *Spirited* as a finalist for Most Outstanding Drama. c*loudstreet* cast members Essie Davis and Kerry Fox and *Spirited* star Claudia Karvan plus *Killing Time's* Diana Glenn are included in the Most Outstanding Performance By An Actor – Female category; c*loudstreet's* Geoff Morrell and Hugh Johnstone-Burt, *Killing Time* star David Wenham and Steve Le Marquand from Movie Extra's *Small Time Gangster* are finalists in the Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Male category. Johnstone-Burt is also a finalist in the Best New Talent category where he joins c*loudstreet* cast mate Lara Robinson, and Nat Geo Wild's Ben Britton.

The Most Outstanding Lifestyle Program category features new shows including LifeStyle FOOD's *Planet Cake* and The LifeStyle Channel's *Donna Hay – Fast, Fresh Simple.* The Most Outstanding Light Entertainment Program includes new productions such as The Comedy Channel's *Balls of Steel Australia* and FOX8's *ROVE LA* while host Rove McManus joins hosts including Andrew Winter of The LifeStyle Channel's *Selling Houses Australia Extreme* and Sarah Murdoch, of FOX8's *Australia's Next Top Model,* in the category of Most Outstanding Performance by a Presenter. Rove is also a finalist in the Favourite Personality – Male category, joining Channel [V]'s Danny Clayton and *Australia's Next Top Model*'s Alex Perry among others.

Recognising the increasing popularity of drama programs with subscription TV audiences the category of Favourite Program – International Drama has this year been introduced in addition to Favourite Program – International. Finalists in the new category are some of the most talked about programs of recent years, including showcase's *Game of Thrones*, *Boardwalk Empire* and *True Blood*, UKTV's *Torchwood: Miracle Day*, 13th Street's *Haven* and FOX8's *Falling Skies.* Finalists for Favourite Program – International include LifeStyle YOU's *Big Fat Gypsy Weddings*, Discovery Channel's *Man Vs. Wild*, *Deadliest Catch* and *Gold Rush: Alaska*, The LifeStyle Channel's *Grand Designs*, long-running British soap UKTV's *EastEnders* and the world's most widely watched event of last year, UKTV's *The British Royal Wedding 2011*.

A reflection of subscription TV's commitment to providing in depth news and current affairs programming, the Most Outstanding News Program or Coverage category includes some of Australia's most defining moments in 2011. Finalists include The Weather Channel's *Tropical Cyclone Yasi Coverage* and SKY NEWS' broadcasts *Qantas Grounded* and *Gillard V Rudd*. In the category of Most Outstanding Performance by a Broadcast Journalist, SKY NEWS presenters David Speers and Kieran Gilbert, both winners in years past, join presenter and 2011 winner, Ashleigh Gillon.

Voting for the Subscribers' Choice categories will run from May 1st to 31st with audiences encouraged to vote for their favourite programs and personalities online at astraawards.com, via SMS, at Channel 333 on FOXTEL or AUSTAR, and for the first time this year, through the ASTRA Awards Facebook page.

The 10th Annual ASTRA Awards will be held at Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay on Thursday 21st June.

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CHANNEL OF THE YEAR

The LifeStyle Channel
showcase
FOX SPORTS
SKY NEWS

SUBSCRIBERS' CHOICE

Favourite Program - Australian

Foo Fighters: Wasting Light On The Harbour	Channel [V] & MAX
Wife Swap Australia	LifeStyle YOU
Selling Houses Australia Extreme	The LifeStyle Channel
Spirited Season 2	W Channel
Australia's Next Top Model Series 7	FOX8
Project Runway Australia Series 3	Arena
Kalgoorlie Cops	Crime & Investigation Network
On The Couch	FOX SPORTS

Favourite Program – International

Grand Designs Series 9	The LifeStyle Channel
Deadliest Catch	Discovery Channel
Big Fat Gypsy Weddings	LifeStyle YOU
The British Royal Wedding 2011	UKTV
Gold Rush: Alaska	Discovery Channel
EastEnders	UKTV
Man Vs. Wild	Discovery Channel
American Idol Series 11	FOX8

Favourite Program – International Drama

Game of Thrones Season 1	showcase
Haven	13th Street
Boardwalk Empire Season 1	showcase
Torchwood: Miracle Day	UKTV
Breaking Bad Season 4	showcase
Falling Skies	FOX8
True Blood Season 4	showcase

Favourite Personality - Female

Jane Gazzo	Channel [V]
Charlotte Dawson	FOX8
Donna Hay	The LifeStyle Channel
Sarah Murdoch	FOX8
Megan Gale	Arena
Lee Furlong	FOX8

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Favourite Personality - Male

Danny Clayton	Channel [V]
Andrew Winter	The LifeStyle Channel
Jason Dunstall	FOX SPORTS
Andrew 'ET' Ettingshausen	Discovery Channel
Rove McManus	FOX8
Billy Russell	Channel [V]
Alex Perry	FOX8
Phil Kearns	FOX SPORTS

PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION

Most Outstanding Children's Program or Event

The Amazing World of Gumball	Cartoon Network
Move It Mob Style®	NITV
Camp Orange: Wrong Town	Nickelodeon

Most Outstanding Music Program or Coverage

Foo Fighters: Wasting Light On The Harbour	Channel [V] & MAX
Smoke & Mirrors	STUDIO
The Riff	Channel [V]

Most Outstanding Sports Program or Coverage

Rugby World Cup 2011	FOX SPORTS
Aussies Abroad: 2011 World Ironman Championship	ESPN
KFC T20 Big Bash League	FOX SPORTS
The Code - Life With The Waratahs	FOX SPORTS

Most Outstanding Documentary

Forecast for Disaster: La Nina Strikes	The Weather Channel
Tony Robinson Explores Australia	The History Channel
Australia's Great Flood	National Geographic Channel
Kalgoorlie Cops	Crime & Investigation Network
The Bombing of Darwin: An Awkward Truth	The History Channel

Most Outstanding News Program or Coverage

Qantas Grounded	SKY NEWS
Tropical Cyclone Yasi Coverage	The Weather Channel
Gillard V Rudd	SKY NEWS

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Most Outstanding Reality Program

Cricket Superstar	FOX8
Project Runway Australia Series 3	Arena
Australia's Next Top Model Series 7	FOX8
Kalgoorlie Cops	Crime & Investigation Network

Most Outstanding Lifestyle Program

Selling Houses Australia Extreme	The LifeStyle Channel
B430 Season 3	Channel [V]
Donna Hay - Fast, Fresh, Simple	The LifeStyle Channel
Planet Cake	LifeStyle FOOD

Most Outstanding Light Entertainment Program

The Riff	Channel [V]
Balls of Steel Australia	The Comedy Channel
ROVE LA	FOX8

Most Outstanding Drama

Spirited Season 2	W Channel
Killing Time	TV1
Tim Winton's cloudstreet	showcase

Most Outstanding Use of Innovation in Programming

FOX FIELD	FOX SPORTS
WTF!	Channel [V]
SLiDE	FOX8
THIRD EYE	FOX SPORTS

TALENT

Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor - Male

David Wenham	TV1
Hugo Johnstone-Burt	showcase
Steve Le Marquand	Movie Extra
Geoff Morrell	showcase

Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor - Female

Essie Davis	showcase
Diana Glenn	TV1
Kerry Fox	showcase
Claudia Karvan	W Channel

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Most Outstanding Performance by a Presenter

Sarah Murdoch	FOX8
Andrew Winter	The LifeStyle Channel
Rove McManus	FOX8
Luke & Wyatt	Nickelodeon

Most Outstanding Performance by a Broadcast Journalist

Ashleigh Gillon	SKY NEWS
Kieran Gilbert	SKY NEWS
Josh Holt	The Weather Channel
David Speers	SKY NEWS

Best New Talent

Lara Robinson	showcase
Ben Britton	Nat Geo Wild
Hugo Johnstone-Burt	showcase

About ASTRA

ASTRA is the peak industry body for subscription TV (STV) in Australia. The STV industry is the undisputed leader of digital broadcasting with 200 channels (including HD and Plus2) broadcast on the FOXTEL and AUSTAR platforms, and channel packages offered through Telstra T-Box and Xbox360. STV platforms and channels directly employ over 7,400 people and in 2010 invested $578.4 million into Australian content. The direct economic contribution of STV to the Australian economy is estimated to be over $5 billion since its inception. Received by 34% of Australians through their homes and over a million more through hotels, clubs and other entertainment and business venues, STV provides 24 hour news, sport and entertainment. www.astra.org.au

For further information on the 10th ASTRA Awards, please contact 6dc:

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