

THE BYRON KENNEDY AWARD

The **BYRON KENNEDY AWARD** is awarded for outstanding creative enterprise within the film and television industries. This award is given to an individual, usually early in their career, whose work embodies the qualities of Byron Kennedy: innovation, vision and the relentless pursuit of excellence. The award is presented by Kennedy Miller, in association with the AFI, and includes a cash prize of \$10,000.

- 1984 **Roger Savage** for his innovative and pioneering work in film and television sound.
- 1985 **Andrew Pike** for his unorthodox and comprehensive contribution to the film industry.
- 1986 **Nadia Tass** and **David Parker** for their fiercely independent approach to filmmaking.
- 1987 **Martha Ansara** for her uncompromising use of film as a vehicle for consciousness-raising and her consistent help to filmmakers at the beginning of their careers.
- 1988 **George Ogilvie** for the profound wisdom of his work in theatre, film, television and ballet, and his highly influential workshops on ensemble performance.
- 1989 **Jane Campion** for her innovative, highly individual and uncompromising work in writing, producing and directing a body of outstanding films and television programmes which have gained recognition both in Australia and overseas.
- 1990 **Dennis O'Rourke** for his consistent innovation as an artist in the field of documentary.
- 1991 **John Duigan** for an impressive and original body of work both as writer and director, and through that work, his discovery and encouragement of new talent.
- 1992 **Robin Anderson & Bob Connolly** whose films are not only fine documentaries - they are great human dramas. They will allow no obstacle to divert their single-minded pursuit of excellence.
- 1993 **Adrian Martin**, a writer, teacher and critic, and a brilliant enthusiast who can inspire even the most jaded audiences.
Matt Butler, a pioneer of computer assisted cinematography and a world leader in specialist experimental film techniques.
Evonne Chesson, a wonderful animal trainer who has worked on everything from BREAKER MORANT to THE SILVER BRUMBY, and who has contributed extraordinarily to the Australian film Industry.
Gary Warner, an administrator, curator and champion of the new electronic arts technologies, who keeps Australian media and artists in touch with the newest and best the world has to offer.
- 1994 **John Hargreaves**, not only for the brilliance and daring of his acting, but for his ability to inspire. When Hargreaves is around, everybody gives their best.
- 1995 **Jill Bilcock**. Jill's stylish and effervescent approach to life, determination to excel and creativity shine through. Many have owed their start in this business to her generous sharing of some of the great mysteries of film.
- 1996 **Laura Jones** for her consistent and passionate pursuit of excellence as a screenwriter. Her rigour and integrity serve to inspire all those who work with her.
- 1997 **John Polson** for his founding of the remarkable and charismatic Tropicana Short Film Festival. From its very humble beginnings in 1993 Tropfest has become the leading event of its kind in the world.

THE BYRON KENNEDY AWARD (cont.)

- 1998 **Alison Barrett**, one of Australia's foremost casting agents.
Arthur Cambridge, colour grader of at least 300 Australian feature films, which is more than half of the Australian industry's output since the early 1970s.
- 1999 **Baz Luhrmann** and **Catherine Martin** for their process of 'Total Filmmaking'. Never conventional, they immerse the whole team, from actor to editor, in experimentation and previsualisation. In this way, they evolve a comprehensive aesthetic which informs everything, from the concept to poster, with flair. The results, always groundbreaking, speak for themselves.
- 2000 **Popcorn Taxi** founded by **Matt Wheeldon** and **Gary Doust** and **Independent Filmmakers Magazine** founded by **Stephen Jenner** and **David Barda**. Two spirited, GRASSROOTS enterprises fuelled by nothing but reckless enthusiasm and love of cinema. POPCORN TAXI and IF MAGAZINE are the antidote to the beancounters who forgot to ask where ideas and innovation come from if you strangle film culture.
- 2001 **Ian David** is a truth teller...No matter what the cost. His screenplays for BLUE MURDER flag the high water mark of Australian television drama. Beyond that, he is a selfless campaigner for artist's rights. The truth at any cost...These days, his is a rare voice. It is to be cherished.
- 2002 **Rachel Perkins** for her vast amount and breadth of her work as writer, director, producer, executive producer and instigator across drama, documentary and television; for her dynamism and creativity; for her outstanding ability to inspire others and work collaboratively; and for her passionate championing of indigenous filmmaking and filmmakers.
- 2003 **Dion Beebe** for his unique and daring eye used through a wide range of styles from the documentary ETERNITY to the films of Jane Campion, (HOLY SMOKE and IN THE CUT), and Gillian Armstrong (CHARLOTTE GRAY) to the 2002's Academy Award winner, CHICAGO.
- 2004 **John Clarke** for his works of sustained excellence and for the inspiration he presents to all of us in his roles as poet, playwright, actor, author, director and producer.
- 2005 **Chris Kennedy**. Production designer Chris Kennedy represents the best qualities of Australian film crews. Too often working with low budgets, he tackles each film with wit, love and late nights. Inspired in his resourcefulness he will always push beyond the superficial and ordinary. His work has enhanced our cinema for the last two decades...from DEATH IN BRUNSWICK, through ANGEL BABY to THE PROPOSITION.
- 2006 **Rolf de Heer** for his unflagging artistic courage across an astonishing body of work from BAD BOY BUBBY to TEN CANOES. Rolf de Heer is a fearless explorer of cinema and humanity. He has achieved what no other filmmaker has done; taken Australian culture globally while being recognised as one of world cinema's most daring and unique artists.
- 2007 **Curtis Levy** for his dedication to the art of documentary over the past twenty-five years and his continued questioning of the status quo. A modest and courageous man who has directed and produced films of great relevance, technical skill and humanity; from his award-winning films THE PRESIDENT VERSUS DAVID HICKS and HEPHZIBAH to SONS OF NAMATJIRA.

THE BYRON KENNEDY AWARD (cont.)

- 2008 **Chris Lilley** for his unique, multidimensional skills as an actor, writer and producer. His groundbreaking series 'WE CAN BE HEROES and SUMMER HEIGHTS HIGH, at once poignant and hilarious, mark him as an incisive observer of our national culture and a potent artist relentlessly in search of excellence and truth.
- 2009 **Ray Brown.** Legendary grip, gentleman, statesman and unsung hero. For his superb, solution-orientated management skills, his spirited advocacy of the industry and for his full-hearted mentorship and support of movies great and small. For those who strive for excellence...Brownie is the exemplar.