



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2013

NEXT STOP LA FOR TROPFEST AUSTRALIA WINNER THANKS TO MPA

Matt Hardie wins film course for first place film "Bamboozled"

SYDNEY/SINGAPORE: On December 8, the Motion Picture Association (MPA) continued their long-standing support of emerging Australian filmmakers at Tropfest Australia, the world's largest short film festival, by awarding first place filmmaker Matt Hardie with a prize to participate in a five-day film immersion course in Los Angeles.

Matt Hardie's film *Bamboozled*, a romantic comedy with a twist, managed to take top prize from a highly competitive line up of finalist short films. Hardie was presented with his prize by Tropfest judge, director Robert Luketic (*Legally Blonde*, *Monster-in-Law*), in front of a live audience numbering approximately 100,000 film lovers at Centennial Park, Sydney, Australia.

On winning first place, Matt Hardie said, "I'm so incredibly excited to have this opportunity. To go to LA, thanks to the Motion Picture Association, is going to open so many doors for my career."

Tropfest director John Polson said, "Tropfest was always designed as an enjoyable and social way for filmmakers to share their work with a large audience. In the last twenty-one years it's grown in size and influence beyond my wildest expectations, and there is still so much more we can do. One of the most satisfying developments of Tropfest is to see filmmakers with talent recognized and rewarded for their filmmaking, and many have gone on to establish careers in the film industry all over the world. These outcomes are only possible with the partnership and generosity of organizations like the MPA who feels as we do that those with aptitude ought to be given a helping hand along the way. The MPA's support of our filmmakers, introducing them to the world of film and television in Los Angeles, is a valuable and special addition to what we are able to offer filmmakers. Our winner Matt Hardie has a wonderful experience ahead of him."

Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director Asia Pacific, MPA said, "Tropfest does an extremely clever thing and that is managing to find exactly the right balance between filmmakers and their audience. These events work like a dream because the short films really do connect with hundreds of thousands of people. Tropfest generates excitement and passion for filmmaking and keeps the spotlight on the filmmakers themselves, consistently unearthing wonderfully talented individuals with stories to tell and unique ways of telling them on the screen. We're tremendously pleased to continue our close association with Tropfest around the world, and we are delighted to help support filmmakers at the early stages of their careers. Congratulations to Matt Hardie and all of the finalists."

Originally from WA, filmmaker Matt Hardie moved to Sydney in 2006 to attend an acting course at National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). Since graduating, Hardie has appeared as an actor in a number of roles in theatre, film and television. Last year Hardie wrote and directed *Let it Rain*, which won the Nikon DSLR category at Tropfest February 2013. The success of the film inspired Hardie to pursue his writing and directing as well as his acting career.

To view winning film *Bamboozled* and the other finalist films please click [here](#).

###

About the MPA:

Promoting & Protecting Screen Communities in Asia Pacific

The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of the six international producers and distributors of filmed entertainment. To do so, they promote and protect the intellectual property rights of these companies and conduct public awareness programs to highlight to movie fans around the world the importance of content protection. These activities have helped to transform entire markets benefiting film and television industries in each country including foreign and local filmmakers alike.

The organizations act on behalf of the members of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc (MPAA) which include; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. The MPA and the MPA-I have worldwide operations which are directed from their head offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. and overseen in the Asia Pacific by a team based in Singapore. For more information about the MPA and the MPA-I, please visit www.mpa-i.org.

For more information, please contact

Stephen Jenner
MPA Asia-Pacific
(65) 6253 1033

June Tan
MPA Asia-Pacific
(65) 6253 1033