



NEWS RELEASE

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NEXT STOP LA FOR TROPFEST AUSTRALIA WINNER THANKS TO MPA

Julian Lucas wins film course for first place film "Granny Smith"



SYDNEY/SINGAPORE: On December 7, 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 providing First Prize winning filmmaker, Julian Lucas, with a five-day film immersion course in Los Angeles.

Lucas's film *Granny Smith*, a dark comedy about a man who lies about attending the funeral of his grandmother to get a day off work, scooped the top prize from a highly competitive line up of finalist short films. Lucas was presented with his prize by Tropfest judge and popular Australian film critic Margaret Pomeranz, in front of a live audience of film lovers who braved late afternoon tropical thunderstorms to attend the event at Centennial Park, Sydney, Australia.

On winning a trip to Los Angeles, Julian Lucas said, "I have a big smile on my face thinking about heading to LA. It's such an amazing opportunity and I'm extremely grateful for it."

Tropfest Managing Director, Michael Laverty said, "As Tropfest has grown, it is amazing to see the breadth of opportunities that have opened up to the finalist filmmakers, and especially our winners. This has only been achievable through the contribution of our partners, who recognise the terrific creative talent of our filmmakers and give generously to support their development. Chief amongst these associates is the Motion Picture Association, who has

worked closely with us for a couple of years now, and has become our first global partner. Their support of young filmmakers through the first prize trip to Los Angeles is incredibly valuable, and I hope Julian will enjoy the experience for all it's worth."

Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director Asia Pacific, MPA said, "Tropfest more than any other film festival achieves the important goal of connecting filmmakers with an appreciative live audience. The Tropfest events work so well because those thousands of people that attend see their own community reflected so well in the finalist films. 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 truly value our global partnership with Tropfest around the world, and we are delighted to help support filmmakers at the early stages of their careers. Congratulations to Julian Lucas and all of the finalists."

Julian Lucas is an independent writer/director from Melbourne. He has a passion for comedy, music videos and fashion films. Julian has been a Tropfest finalist previously for his comedy *Charades* in 2013, which he co-wrote and directed.

Earlier this year, he co-directed a fashion film for Finnigan Swimwear, which was a winner at the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival. His collaborative short for Telstra and Bruny Island Cheese, which he also co-directed, was awarded best film by MOFILM, and was screened in New York during September.

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

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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.

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