



MEDIA RELEASE: For Immediate Release

Australian Writers' Guild 41st Annual AWGIE Awards Call for Entries

Wednesday 6 February 2008: The Australian Writers' Guild 41st Annual AWGIE Awards are now open for entries.

The AWGIE Awards are the Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) annual awards for excellence in screen, stage, radio and new media writing. The AWGIEs are the only peer assessed awards of excellence for performance writers with judging based on the written script - the writer's intention - rather than the finished production.

"For forty years, the AWGIE Awards have celebrated writers and their work. They are unique in the Australian performance industries in recognising the importance of the written word and rewarding writers who excel in their craft," said AWG President Tim Pye.

AWGIE winners in 2007 included Keith Thompson for *Clubland*, Tommy Murphy's adaptation of *Holding the Man* and *Bastard Boys* by Sue Smith.

The AWG's recognition of emerging talent will continue in 2008 with the Short Form and Long Form Monte Miller Awards. These awards for unproduced scripts by an associate member of the Guild are open to all areas of performance writing including film, television and stage.

"There is extraordinary talent out there and not all of it is acknowledged, supported, or even discovered," said Pye. "The Monte Miller Awards help to unearth this new talent."

The 2008 AWGIE Awards will be presented in Melbourne, Friday 15 August 2008 with the winner of the Major AWGIE, for Outstanding Australian Script of the Year, receiving the \$10,000 Copyright Agency Limited Peer Recognition Prize.

A range of special prizes and fellowships will also be presented including the \$40,000 Richard Wherrett Prize to be shared evenly between a playwright and the production company that first produced their play in Australia, the \$25,000 Kit Denton Scholarship open to all performance writers, the \$25,000 FOXTEL Fellowship for television writers and the inaugural \$15,000 John Hinde Award for Science Fiction.

Entry to the 41st Annual AWGIE Awards is open to financial members of the AWG and scripts must have been produced between 1 January and 31 December 2007. For entry forms and more information, including special prizes and fellowships, go to www.awg.com.au, email admin@awg.com.au or call 1300 552 228. Entries close **5.00pm, Friday 7 March 2008**.

The Australian Writers' Guild has over 2,500 members and is the peak professional body for Australia's film, television, theatre, radio and new media writers.

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