

MEDIA RELEASE

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***Samson & Delilah* announced as Australia's official entry for nomination consideration for Best Foreign Language Film at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards®**

Tuesday 29 September 2009: Screen Australia today announced that the feature film ***Samson & Delilah*** is Australia's official entry for nomination consideration for Best Foreign Language Film at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards®.

To be eligible for consideration for the Best Foreign Language Film Award, a film must have been released in its country of origin for at least seven days and is defined by predominantly non-English dialogue. Each country can submit one film for nomination consideration. In 2009 there were two eligible Australian films: ***Van Diemen's Land*** (w: **Jonathan auf der Heide**, **Oscar Redding**; d: **Jonathan auf der Heide**; p: **Maggie Miles**), which is largely in Gaelic, and ***Samson & Delilah***. A committee of active industry professionals selected ***Samson & Delilah*** as the Australian film to be entered.

Written and directed by **Warwick Thornton** and produced by **Kath Shelper**, ***Samson & Delilah*** is shot predominantly in the Aboriginal language Warlpiri. It stars Marissa Gibson as Delilah and Rowan McNamara as Samson.

Samson & Delilah won the Caméra d'Or for best first feature at the Cannes Film Festival in May, and screened at the Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival in September. It will have its UK premiere at the London Film Festival in October and begins its theatrical release in France on 25 November. The film is still screening in Australian cinemas after 20 weeks and to date has taken \$3.17 million, making it the highest-grossing Australian film of the year. The film releases theatrically in New Zealand this week.

Samson & Delilah was financed by Screen Australia, Screen NSW (NSW Film and Television Office), Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Adelaide Film Festival. The film is being distributed in Australia by Footprint Films in association with Transmission and Paramount Films. Internationally it is represented by French sales agent Elle Driver.

The 82nd Academy Award® nominations will be announced on 2 February 2010, with the awards presented on 7 March.

Samson & Delilah

www.samsonanddelilah.com.au

(101 mins)

Production Companies: Scarlett Pictures Pty Ltd, CAAMA Productions Pty Ltd

Writer/Director: Warwick Thornton

Producer: Kath Shelper

Australian Distributor: Footprint Films

International Sales: Elle Driver

Finance: Screen Australia, Screen NSW (NSW Film and Television Office), Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Adelaide Film Festival

Cast: Rowan McNamara, Marissa Gibson, Mitjili Gibson, Scott Thornton

Synopsis: The world is a small place when you're Samson and Delilah – an isolated community in the desert. Their silent love for each other takes them on a journey of survival. Lost, unwanted and alone, they discover that life isn't always fair, but love never judges.