

THE FAMOUS PEOPLE
OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN ACTRESSES

- Nicole Kidman



AUSTRALIAN ACTRESSES

Her career includes:

- an Oscar (2002) for her portrayal of Virginia Wolf in "The Hours",
- three Golden Globe awards:
 - o in 1995 for her role in "To Die For",
 - o in 2001 for "Moulin Rouge",
 - o in 2002 for "The Hours"
- several nominations for the Golden Globe and Oscar,
- many other prestigious awards and nominations of the film industry.

As of 2003 she has her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

With such a career it is not a wonder that in 2006 she topped the list of the highest-paid actresses.

- Australia has honoured her career and her contribution to humanitarian causes by making Nicole Kidman a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2006.
- In 2008 she starred next to one of the other great Australian actors, Hugh Jackman in the epic movie "Australia", directed by Baz Luhrmann.
- Nicole is currently married to one of the famous Australian singers, Keith Urban. The two celebrities have two daughters.
- She was also married previously to Tom Cruise. They adopted two children.

Cate Blanchett



- Cate Blanchett began her career in theatre in 1992. Two years later she played Ophelia in the "Hamlet" production of the "Company B" theatre in Sydney.
- "Paradise Road", directed by another famous Australian, Bruce Beresford, marked her international debut in a movie in 1997.
- In 1998 her astonishing portrayal of Queen Elizabeth I won her a Golden Globe, a BAFTA award and an Oscar nomination.
- Playing strong and influential characters proved a successful strategy for Cate Blanchett:

- • In 2005 she won an Oscar for starring as Katherine Hepburn in "The Aviator" by Martin Scorsese.
- • She received three Oscar nominations:
 - o for best supporting actress in "Notes on a Scandal", (2006)
 - o for the best actress in "Elizabeth the Golden Age", the sequel to her first movie "Elizabeth", (2007)
 - o for best supporting actress in "I'm Not There", where she played one of the six Bob Dylan characters in the picture, (2007).
- Cate has an impressive list of awards and nominations for almost all the films she played in. She has a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame since 2008.
- Cate continues to love theatre. She and her husband, Andrew Upton, another famous Australian dramatist and director are currently part of the board of directors and artistic co-directors of the Sydney Theatre Company.
- Recent theatre projects for Cate Blanchett include Sydney Theatre's productions of:
 - • "A Streetcar Named Desire", in 2009,
 - • "Uncle Vanya" in 2010,
 - • "Gross und Klein" - 2011.

AUSTRALIAN ACTORS

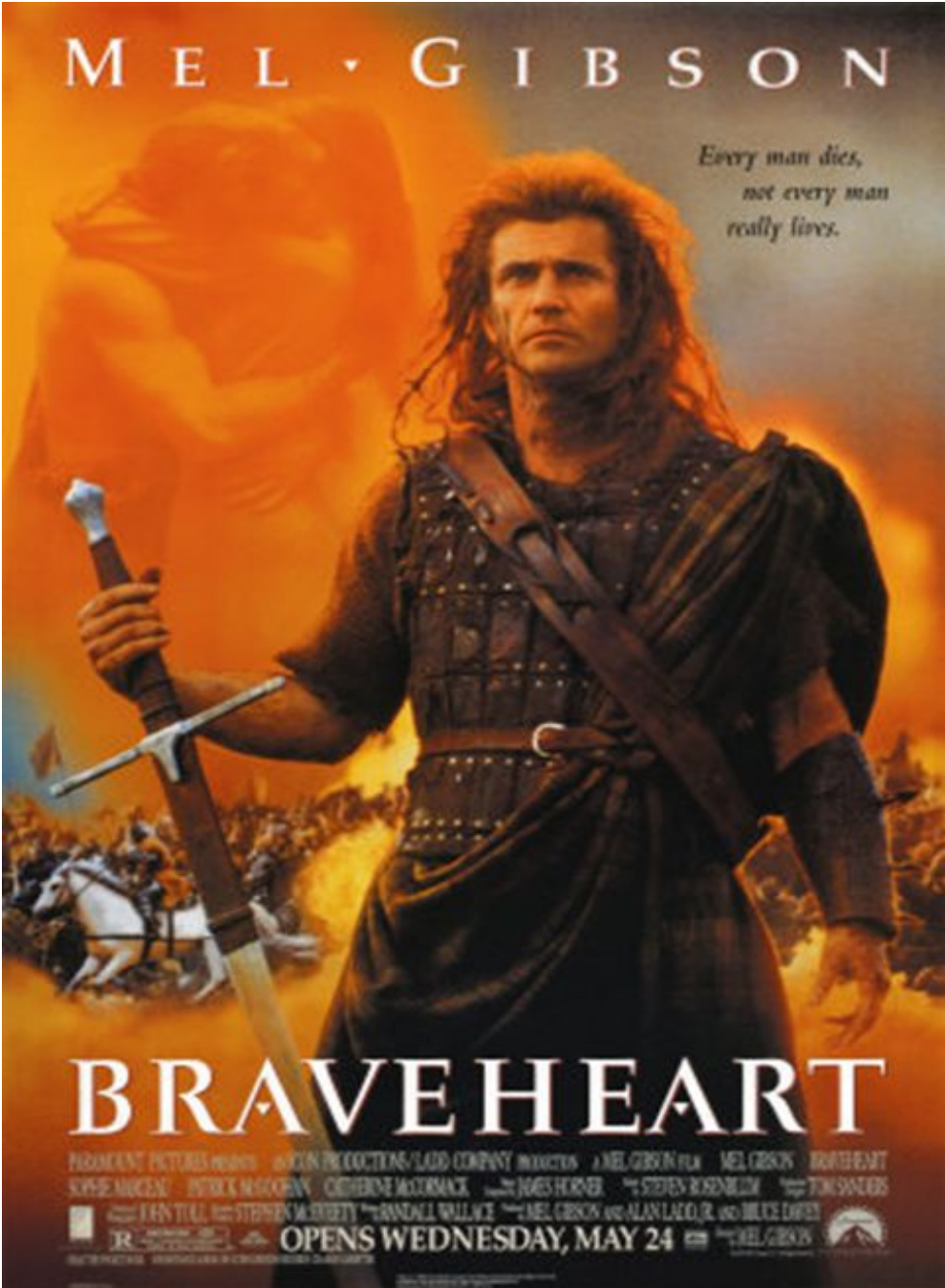
Hugh Jackman



- Hugh Jackman is a versatile actor, singer and dancer and, to top it all, he is a producer too.
- He graced the stage of the 2009 Oscars by hosting the event and presenting the awards.
- As a teenager he was part of his high school's production of the musical "My Fair Lady" but he didn't go for an acting career immediately. He did a degree in communications before enrolling to a one year program at the Actors Centre in Sydney, and then graduating from the Academy of Performing Arts in Perth.
- He went on to play in various musicals in Melbourne, television series and a couple of films. This early stage of his career was rewarded with a nomination for best actor from the Australian Film Institute and an award from the Film Critics Circle of Australia for his role in "Erskinville Kings".

- Hugh Jackman's international career started with theatre in London. His performance in the musical "Oklahoma" won him an Olivier award nomination in 1998.
- Two years later he took on the Wolverine role in "X-Men" and rose to celebrity status. He continued with this role in several sequels in 2003, 2006 and 2009.
- In 2001 Hugh Jackman received a Golden Globe nomination for best actor in the movie "Kate and Leopold".
- His love for music and the stage won him a Tony Award for his performance in the "Boy from Oz" on Broadway in 2004.
- Among the many other movies that followed, a controversial one was "Australia", where he starred next to actress Nicole Kidman. Despite the big budget and high publicity, the film did not meet all the expectations of the box office and the reviews were rather cold.
- His 2012 movies include Butter and Les Miserables.

Mel Gibson



- Much as we would like to think that Mel Gibson is Australian, he is not. But he studied and worked in Australia.
- He was born in the US and his family moved to Australia when he was 12. He did his acting studies at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney and started to act on stage and in pictures.
- While still a student he received an AFI award for his role in the movie "Tim" in 1979. The first film of the "Mad Max" trilogy pushed his career internationally.
- Gibson was involved in theatrical productions in Adelaide and Sydney and in various television series.
- His role in Peter Weir's drama "Gallipoli" won him a second AFI best actor award in 1981.
- His Australian career includes:
 - two more sequels to "Mad Max",
 - another movie by Peter Weir - "The Year of Living Dangerously" which brought him an AFI nomination,
 - "Attack Force Z".

- In Hollywood, Gibson recognised the power of taking advantage of his own successes by replicating them. He starred in the four "Lethal Weapon" thrillers and won an MTV movie award for series 3 of this film in 1992 and an MTV nomination for series 4 in 1998.
- The 1990 drama "Hamlet" is a proof of how resourceful an actor Gibson is.
- Here are just some of his movies that received award nominations:
 - • historic drama "Braveheart" - two MTV Movie award nominations for best performance and most desirable male in 1995,
 - • thriller "Ransom" - Golden Globe nomination for best actor in 1996,
 - • comedy "What Women Want" - Golden Globe nomination for best actor in 2000,
 - • drama "Patriot" - MTV Movie award nomination for best performance in 2000.
- Mel Gibson proved that he is not just an actor. He took on directing and producing films and this payed him off big.
- He produced, directed and played the leading role in "Braveheart". The movie won five Oscars in 1995 and two of them were for best director and best picture. Mel Gibsons' ability as a director were also recognised with a Golden Globe for this film.
- He went on to produce and direct the "Passion of the Christ" in 2004 and "Apocalypto" in 2006.

Mel Gibson's contribution to Australian film industry earned him the Officer of