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### **G'DAY USA 2018 PROGRAM AND HONOREES ANNOUNCED**

Los Angeles, CA: **G'Day USA**, the program that fosters deeper economic ties and promotes Australian ideas, talent and innovation in the United States, today announced its 2018 program of events and the honorees for its highly-anticipated annual G'Day USA Gala in Los Angeles presented by Qantas.

At the launch in Sydney, Australia, the Honorable Julie Bishop MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that in its 15th year G'Day USA will continue to showcase the very best Australia has to offer to the vast audiences across the United States.

"Today, G'Day USA is a year-long program of high-level dialogues and public performances showcasing talent, food, wine, tourism, and innovation. We raise Australia's profile in Los Angeles, and San Francisco, New York, Washington DC, Austin and Palm Springs," Ms Bishop said.

Ms Bishop also announced that the 15th annual G'Day USA Los Angeles Gala will honor three exceptional Australians who have made their mark in the entertainment industry.

Oscar-winning actor **Heath Ledger** will be honored posthumously with a G'Day USA Lifetime Achievement award. Best known for his work in *Brokeback Mountain* and *The Dark Knight*, Heath Ledger was a significant presence in Hollywood.

Actress and producer **Margot Robbie** will receive an Excellence in Film award in recognition of outstanding performances in recent films including *Suicide Squad* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Her rapid rise to become one of Hollywood's most sought after actresses saw her named by *Time Magazine* as one of 2017's most influential people.

Producer **Bruna Papandrea** will be honored with an Outstanding Achievement in Film and Television award. The Emmy Award winning producer is recognized as an industry leader, whose recent successes included the highly acclaimed series *Big Little Lies* and the film *Gone Girl*.

The Los Angeles Gala, on 27 January 2018, will also showcase premium Australian food and wine with a menu curated by Australian chef **Curtis Stone**. G'Day USA Champion, actress and director **Rachel**

**Griffiths**, will partner with actor and Australian Survivor host **Jonathan LaPaglia**, to co-host the awards show and dinner, with Australian television personality **Richard Wilkins** as MC.

The Honorable Steven Ciobo MP, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment said the 2018 G'Day USA program would also include a renewed focus on promoting trade and investment ties and promoting Australia as a unique tourist destination.

For the first time in 2018, the program will include a month-long **Pop-Up in Westfield Century City** showcasing Australian fashion and lifestyle brands, as well as an expanded presence at the **South by Southwest (SXSW®)** Conference and Festivals in Austin in March, and a new **G'Day USA Trade and Investment Week** in New York in April.

“This is a bilateral relationship that goes from strength to strength and G'Day USA 2018 will underpin that relationship, will highlight what we can do together and will reinforce why we remain such firm friends, such strong allies,” Mr Ciobo said.

The 2018 program will kick off with the opening of the Pop-Up in Los Angeles on 5 January, followed by events on both coasts to mark Australia Day on 26 January. The annual **US-Australian Dialogue on Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**, presented in partnership with the University of Sydney's US Studies Centre, the University of Western Australia's Perth USAsia Centre and the RAND Corporation, returns to Los Angeles, while the American Australian Association will host the inaugural **Australian Arts Awards** in New York.

The January program also sees the return of the G'Day USA **Film Industry Showcase**, this year featuring a special advance screening of the new Columbia Pictures family, hybrid animated movie, *Peter Rabbit*. Further G'Day USA events scheduled for 2018 include the **Australian Tourism Summit** and an inaugural **Dialogue on Cyber-Security**. The G'Day USA **Dialogue on Defense Industries** will return to Washington DC with expanded components, and G'Day USA will also return to the **Palm Springs International ShortFest** for its eighth year.

#### G'DAY USA BACKGROUND

*G'Day USA is Australia's premier public, economic and cultural diplomacy program in the United States. Produced by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Trade Commission, Tourism Australia and Qantas Airways, G'Day USA was first launched in 2004 and has since grown to become one of the largest public diplomacy programs run by any country in the United States. For further information about G'Day USA 2018 events, including location and ticketing details, plus a complete list of partners, sponsors and participants, visit [www.gdayusa.org](http://www.gdayusa.org).*

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