

**MEDIA RELEASE** - July 20, 2012

## **MENTAL STARS TO WALK RED CARPET AT AIMC OPENING NIGHT**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Australian International Movie Convention (AIMC) will open with the star-studded Queensland Premiere of P.J. Hogan's *Mental* on Sunday August 19.

Stars Anthony LaPaglia, Rebecca Gibney and talented newcomer Lily Sullivan will walk the red carpet at Jupiters Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast, along with the film's writer/director P.J. Hogan and producers Jocelyn Moorhouse and Todd Fellman.

Around 1400 guests will watch the screening of *Mental* in the Jupiters Theatre, which has recently undergone a \$20 million redevelopment, including the installation of state-of-the-art digital equipment.

Filmed on the Gold Coast, *Mental* reunites writer-director P.J. Hogan with his original leading lady Toni Collette for the first time since *Muriel's Wedding*. The impressive ensemble cast also includes Anthony LaPaglia, Rebecca Gibney, Liev Schreiber, Deborah Mailman, Kerry Fox, Caroline Goodall and Sam Clark.

The film follows the story of the Moochmore girls who are certain they all suffer from some kind of undiagnosed mental illness - because if they're not crazy then they're just unpopular. Their mother Shirley (Gibney), unable to cope with her demanding teenage daughters and philandering politician husband, Barry (LaPaglia), suffers a nervous breakdown. After Barry commits his wife to a mental hospital (telling his constituents that she's "on holiday") he finds himself alone with five teenage girls he barely knows. Desperate, he impulsively picks up a hitchhiker named Shaz (Collette) and installs her in his home as nanny to his daughters.

Michael Hawkins, Chair of the Australian International Movie Convention Committee, said: "It is a proud tradition of the Movie Convention to kick things off by showcasing a must-see Australian film on Opening Night. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to host the QLD Premiere of *Mental*."

Billed as an "outrageous original comedy with heart", *Mental* is distributed in Australia by Universal Pictures and opens on October 4.

The Australian International Movie Convention is supported by the Queensland Government through Events Queensland as part of a growing calendar of sporting, cultural and regional events across the state.

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### About the Australian International Movie Convention

Continually attracting record numbers of delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the US and Europe, the Australian International Movie Convention (AIMC) remains the premier event to showcase the Australian film industry and provide opportunities for industry stakeholders to reflect upon and shape the issues that affect the business of motion pictures, and to network with local and international colleagues. The Australian International Movie Convention is held annually on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The 67<sup>th</sup> AIMC runs August 19-23, 2012.

<http://www.movieconvention.com.au>

View the 'Mental' trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnQPnXbj-RY&feature=youtu.be>  
Images from the film are available from [www.upimedia.com](http://www.upimedia.com)

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### **Australian International Movie Convention**

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