

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11 MARCH 2011

WOMAN ARRESTED AT ILLEGAL MOVIE DVD MARKET STALL

Illegal copies of The King's Speech and Sanctum Seized

Sydney: On 10 March, New South Wales Police, assisted by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), conducted an operation on suspected illegal movie DVD stalls at Boothill Markets in Minto in South West Sydney.

Over 2,500 illegal discs were seized and a woman in her forties was arrested.

Police closed down two separate market stalls allegedly selling illegal copies of new release movies and popular television shows. The movies were being sold on average at \$5 per disc.

At one market stall, Police seized approximately 1,300 discs, including illegal copies of the Oscar-winning movie *The King's Speech*, which stars Australia's Geoffrey Rush. The film is still showing in cinemas and is not currently available legitimately on DVD. A number of TV Box Sets were also seized, including infringing copies of *Two and a Half Men*.

At another market stall, over 800 movie titles were seized, including illegal copies of current release movies such as *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Hereafter*, and the locally-made 3D cave-diving thriller *Sanctum*. A man in his twenties is helping Police with their enquiries.

The Australian director of *Sanctum*, Alister Grierson, said he was disheartened to hear that illegal copies of the film were being sold: "Making *Sanctum* was a labour of love, and was only possible with the contribution of a highly-professional, hard-working Australians. We hope that people choose to see our film as it was intended to be seen – at the cinema or on high-quality legitimate Blu-Ray or DVD – not on stolen, poor quality rip-offs."

Commenting following the operation Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT said: "The important work carried out by New South Wales Police goes a long way to ensuring that local businesses like cinemas and DVD stores get a fair opportunity and do not have to compete with movie theft. We hope that today's actions reverberate through our community and make it clear that the flagrant infringement of other peoples' creative work for commercial gain will not go unpunished."

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or AFACT by calling 1800 251 996.

Penalties for copyright crimes under the Commonwealth Copyright Act are a maximum of \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

About AFACT

AFACT works closely with industry, government and enforcement agencies to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television community as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

In February, 2011, IPSOS and Oxford Economics released a study on behalf of AFACT entitled "Economic Consequences of Movie Piracy in Australia". The key findings, outlined below, indicated the scale of harm caused by movie piracy to the Australian economy in the 12 months up to July 2010.

- \$1.37 billion in revenue was lost across the entire Australian economy.
- 6,100 jobs were forgone across the entire economy.
- Tax losses to movie piracy amounted to \$193 million.
- Direct consumer spending losses to the movie industry, ie. cinema owners, local distributors, producers and retailers amounted to \$575 million.

Contact:

Stephen Jenner

02 9997 8011

0409 776 196

info@afact.com.au

www.afact.org.au