

audio production awards.2017

Sponsored by



Organised by



Embargoed until 12 noon on Tuesday 29th August 2017

NEW CATEGORIES AND 'BLIND JUDGING' TO BE INTRODUCED AT THE AUDIO PRODUCTION AWARDS 2017

Top producers and presenters behind the UK's very best radio and audio content will be honoured at the Audio Production Awards on Thursday 23 November 2017 at the BFI Southbank, London, the Radio Independents Group (RIG) announced today.

Sponsored by Audible, the world's leading provider of spoken audio entertainment, it will recognise the continued expansion of audio distribution online and via downloads, in addition to traditional broadcast radio. The awards are open to all audio producers, from BBC and commercial radio to community stations and podcasters, as well as independent production companies.

This year, even more producers who play such an important role in bringing radio and audio content to life will be honoured, with the expansion of best feature/documentary into three clear distinct categories to recognise the excellence in this sector.

For the first time, many of the awards will be "blind judged"; meaning that judges will not see fields containing the name of the entrant, or their company, which risks introducing elements of conscious or unconscious bias. RIG seeks to lead the way in this becoming best practice for audio and radio industry awards, ensuring a level playing field for all entrants.

Entries will open on Tuesday 29th August and close on Friday 22nd September at 11.59pm with nominations announced in late October.

RIG Managing Director, Will Jackson, said: "The APA's keep getting bigger and better, a true reflection of our sector, and we're hoping for a record-breaking number of entries from all parts of the audio and radio industry."

We're also delighted to welcome Audible back as our Lead Sponsor for 2017 and to continue our partnership with them. The event producers are already hard at work and are aiming to deliver our best ever awards night at the prestigious BFI Southbank on 23rd November."

Tracey Markham, Country Manager for Audible, UK, said: "The APAs reflect our dynamic and changing audio landscape and we are delighted to be sponsoring the awards again this year. Online audio distribution continues to grow, offering new and exciting opportunities for the incredibly talented people working across the industry. We are thrilled to help recognise the talented producers and presenters as well as shining a light on the technicians and voices that help to bring these shows to life."

Notes

1. The Radio Independents Group (RIG) is the trade body for the independent audio-led production sector in the UK. RIG provides business affairs support, policy representation, and negotiates terms of trade with the BBC. RIG also produces the annual Audio Production Awards, which uniquely recognise and celebrate the production skills of radio and audio producers across the whole industry.
2. The winners of the Audio Production Awards 2017 will be revealed at the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 23rd November at BFI Southbank in London. Tickets go on public sale on 23rd October.
3. The Radio Production Awards began in 2010 and this year's Audio Production Awards honour the achievement of individuals and organisations as demonstrated by a body of work from the qualifying period of **1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017**. More information at: www.audioproductionawards.co.uk
4. Last year's awards were hosted by **Edith Bowman** and attended by a capacity audience. Winners included: the Gold Award to **Stephen Fry**, Lifetime Achievement Award to **Desmond Carrington** and Indie of the Year to **Whistledown**.
5. Audible, an Amazon.com, Inc. subsidiary (NASDAQ:AMZN), is the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio information and entertainment, offering customers a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day. Audible was created to unleash the emotive music in language and the habituating power and utility of verbal expression. Audible content includes more than 250,000 audio programs from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters, entertainers, magazine and newspaper publishers, and business information providers.

*For all press enquiries, more information or additional photographs, please contact:
Nicci Holliday, M: 0773 0000 798 nicci@radioindies.org*



Appendix: Audio Production Awards 2017

The mission of the Audio Production Awards is to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement in audio and radio production within the designated categories covering both producers and on-mic talent.

ENTRY/JUDGING

The first 14 categories of the Audio Production Awards are open to public entries and will be judged by an independent panel of judges drawn from across the audio sector.

For the first time this year, where possible, categories will be “blind judged”. This means that judges will not see fields containing the name of the entrant, or their company, which risks introducing elements of conscious or unconscious bias. Clearly this will not be possible in all categories, such as best presenter, where the entrant will be obvious.

RIG wants to lead the way in this becoming best practice for industry awards. We strive to make the APAs fair and inclusive, with a level playing field for all entrants, and truly about recognising the best audio production work regardless of source.

We therefore strongly encourage entrants not to include personal information, including the use of gender pronouns, in any fields other than name/company. If an entrant chooses to include personal details, or are identifiable from the audio, we will not be able to review and remove this.

The awards for presenters (New Voice Award, Best Presenter - Speech, Best Presenter - Music) will be open to written nominations from Radio Independents Group (RIG) Members with the winners then chosen by the RIG Awards Committee.

The qualifying period for the awards is from **1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017**.

The maximum length of audio clips is 15 minutes, unless otherwise stated and written nominations/supporting statements are not to exceed 600 words.

Entries for each of these awards should either reflect a "body of work" consisting of excerpts from several productions, or demonstrate the full range of production skills in an exceptional one off programme.

THE CATEGORIES

1. BEST ARTS/MUSIC DOCUMENTARY/FEATURE MAKER

This category celebrates the best of culture-based audio and radio. Typically, the content submitted will cover areas based around the arts or music, but other arts related topics will be accepted. The programme or podcast content will have been reported and produced to the highest of standards, and should give a sense of special insight into their subject.

2. BEST CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY/FEATURE MAKER

Entries into this category will have been created by outstanding producers, who have made programmes or podcasts led by the current affairs agenda. This may include investigative, news, or foreign reporting, as well as science, issue or ideas programmes based around our rapidly changing world. It also includes content reflecting on past events. The judges will be looking for a strong journalistic instinct, and a clear and gripping narrative. We are particularly interested in entries which cover local or regional stories.

3. BEST CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY/ FEATURE MAKER.

This category celebrates exceptional understanding and use of sound to convey a story or emotion. Typically this could be in podcast, documentary or short feature form and entries which include challenging audio, soundscapes, montage or sound art are particularly encouraged.

4. BEST COMEDY PRODUCER

All comedy based audio and radio will meet the criteria for this category; be it a sitcom, scripted comedy, sketch shows or panel shows. In short - if its format was designed to make you laugh, it fits the bill. The judges will be looking for creative and innovative comedic style, as well as more traditional comedy done sublimely.

5. BEST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCER

Submissions to this category will showcase the work of outstanding entertainment producers, who successfully create fresh and amusing content. The audio can feature entertainment from many broad formats; be it live daytime programmes or light-hearted podcasts, but must not be 'pure comedy' - such content should be entered into Category 3.

6. BEST MUSIC PRODUCER

This award is for an exceptional producer working in music. Entries can include a range of music programming, from single programmes to sequence programmes. Judges will be looking for an understanding and appreciation of the music and the genre alongside creativity and excellent production values.

7. BEST SOUND DESIGNER/ENGINEER

For production and broadcast (live or pre-recorded) capturing the atmosphere of musical performances in concerts, festivals and studios. Or for sound designers (studio managers or engineers) working on any type of production. Judging criteria will include technical skills, sound quality, innovation and creative contribution, as appropriate.

8. BEST PODCAST PRODUCER

This award is for an outstanding Podcast Producer who truly understands the podcast medium and its audience. Judges will be looking for compelling content combined with creativity that takes full advantage of the medium.

9. BEST DIGITAL PRODUCER

This award will recognise an individual who understands the social media environment, and is able to deliver smart, creative content that makes full use of the platform it's on. Social media, video elements and/or online presentations should be submitted as hyperlinks.

10. BEST DRAMA PRODUCER

This award is for an exceptional audio drama producer. An individual who is able to bring the story, the characters and narrative to life through skilful production. **In this category, entry length is up to 30 minutes**, to allow space to show the full impact of the entry. This can either be an unedited 30 minutes or extracts from several related pieces (a series) up to 30 minutes.

11. BEST AUDIOBOOK/READINGS PRODUCER

The award recognises the producer of audiobooks. Judging criteria will include the range and choice of material, performance, direction and production values. **In this category, entry length is up to 30 minutes**, to allow space to show the full impact of the entry. This can either be an unedited 30 minutes or extracts from several related pieces (a series) up to 30 minutes.

12. BEST NEW PRODUCER

To honour a newcomer to audio production who has shown great potential. The judges will be looking for evidence of a sustained contribution to a production or production company, or for a remarkable debut as a producer or engineer.

13. STATION SOUND PRODUCER

For producers who are working in or contributing to radio/audio imaging and/or station sound production. Judges will be looking for exceptional creativity in audio branding and station promotion, such as station IDs, jingles, music beds, voiceovers, programme trails and promotions. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

14. GRASSROOTS PRODUCTION AWARD

For an individual, production company, radio station or community-based organisation that has shown extraordinary achievement in **identifying, nurturing or mentoring new and diverse talent** to the audio industry. This category is not aimed at the new talent themselves.

15. BEST PRESENTER - SPEECH

For exceptional on-air talent presenting speech programmes or podcasts. Judging criteria will include compelling conversation, brilliant interviews, creativity and connection with their audience.

16. BEST PRESENTER - MUSIC

For exceptional on-air talent presenting music programmes or podcasts. Judging criteria will include an absolute understanding of the music genre they are in, ability to share that passion, creativity and connection with their audience.

17. NEW VOICE AWARD

For exceptional presenters who have either recently entered the broadcasting or podcasting world or gained significant mainstream recognition for the first time.

18. GOLD AWARD

For an individual who has made an outstanding contribution, usually over a number of years, to the independent radio and audio production sector in the UK. Whilst this is aimed at an individual, strong cases for teams may be made to the committee.

19. INDIE OF THE YEAR

This award recognises and celebrates a company's success across the year. Entries welcome from the smallest to the largest companies. Judges will consider the level of creative excellence as well as business challenges and growth of the company during the qualifying period, and taking into account the size of the company. [ENDS]