**PRESS RELEASE**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCEd AT**

**RTS Programme Awards 2013**

**London, 18 March 2014** –The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain's leading forum for television and related media, has announced the winners of the

**RTS Programme Awards 2013**.

Olivia Colman picked up the award for Female Actor for the second year running for her roles in *Broadchurch* (ITV) and *Run* (Channel 4), while Idris Elba won the Male Actor award for his role in *Luther* (BBC One). *Broadchurch* received the award for Drama Serial.

Other winners on the night included Brendan O'Carroll for Comedy Performance for *Mrs Brown's Boys* (BBC One); *Peaky Blinders* (BBC Two) for Drama Series; *Dumping Ground* (CBBC) for Children's Fiction; *Gogglebox* (Channel 4) for Popular, Factual and Features; *Educating Yorkshire* (Channel 4) for Documentary Series; and *PLEBS* (ITV2) for Scripted Comedy. *Game Of Thrones* took the International Award, while Alan Carr won the award for Entertainment Performance for *Alan Carr: Chatty Man* (Channel 4); Stephen Fry received the Presenter award for *Stephen Fry - Out There* (BBC Two); and Gary Neville won the award for Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit for his role on Sky Sports.

Chaired by David Liddiment, the RTS Programme Awards honour excellence across all genres of television programming, from soaps to history, children’s fiction to comedy performance and sports, and recognise exceptional actors, presenters, writers and production teams as well as the programmes themselves.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony hosted by comedian Tim Vine on Tuesday 18 March at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London.

**The Winners:**

**Actor - Female**

***Olivia Colman – Broadchurch/Run*** Kudos for ITV/Acme Films for Channel 4

*“The judges found this a typically believable, warm and utterly empathic performance from an actress at the very top of her game.*”

***Nominees:***

***Jodie Whittaker - Broadchurch*** Kudos for ITV

***Sharon Rooney - My Mad Fat Diary*** A Tiger Aspect Production for Channel 4

**Actor - Male**

***Idris Elba - Luther*** BBC Drama Production London for BBC One

*“An extraordinary screen presence; charismatic and powerful.  A complete joy to watch.”*

***Nominees:***

***Stephen Dillane - The Tunnel*** Kudos and Shine France Films in association with Filmlance for Sky Atlantic and Canal +

***Lennie James - Run*** Acme Films for Channel 4

**Arts**

***Imagine…Vivian Maier: Who Took Nanny's Pictures?*** BBC Arts for BBC One

*“A wonderfully crafted film that told a difficult and little known story to great effect.”*

***Nominees:***

***Inside The Mind of Leonardo*** IWC Media and Handel Productions for Sky 3D and Sky Arts

***Rebuilding The World Trade Center*** A Marcus Robinson, Lion Television/All3Media Production for Channel 4

**Children's Fiction**

***Dumping Ground*** CBBC

*“Its powerful storyline, exceptional writing and stunning ensemble acting from the children made this exceptional.”*

***Nominees:***

***The Ugly Duckling*** CBeebies

***Wolfblood*** CBBC Productions, co-producers ZDF/ZDFE for CBBC

**Children's Programme**

***Hard Times - A Newsround Special*** CBBC

*“Moving and informative for both adults and children, the winning programme did a spectacular job of looking at the bigger picture of the recession and its aftermath.”*

***Nominees:***

***Absolute Genius with Dick and Dom*** CBBC

***Swashbuckle*** CBeebies

**Comedy Performance**

***Brendan O'Carroll - Mrs Brown's Boys*** BBC Scotland/BBC Comedy Production

co-production with BocPix in association with RTE for BBC One

*“His character, like his show, dresses up a truly original talent in a hugely popular traditional guise.”*

***Nominees:***

***Rebecca Front - Psychobitches*** Tiger Aspect Productions for Sky Arts

***Ryan Sampson - PLEBS*** Rise Films for ITV2

**Daytime**

***Four Rooms*** Boundless for Channel 4

*“An original, fascinating twist to the highly populated buying and selling genre, with well-cast experts and compelling individual stories.”*

***Nominees:***

***The Chase*** Potato for ITV

***Pointless*** Remarkable Television, Endemol for BBC One

**Documentary Series**

***Educating Yorkshire*** Twofour Broadcast for Channel 4

“*Enormously watchable, with excellent production values and inspiring human stories, this memorable series was revelatory on the subject of education and teaching.”*

***Nominees:***

***Her Majesty's Prison: Aylesbury*** Wild Pictures for ITV

***The Call Centre*** BBC Documentaries, Cymru Wales for BBC Three

**Drama Serial**

***Broadchurch*** Kudos for ITV

*“A powerful drama with brilliant plotting, standout performances and an extraordinary depth of characterisation, all of which combined to create one of the stand out TV events of the year.”*

***Nominees:***

***Top Of The Lake*** See-Saw Films for BBC Two

***In The Flesh*** BBC Drama Production Salford, BBC America for BBC Three

**Drama Series**

***Peaky Blinders*** Caryn Mandabach Productions, Tiger Aspect Productions for

BBC Two

*“A bold and ambitious series with outstanding production values, this was a thrilling and atmospheric tale, brilliantly realised.”*

***Nominees:***

***Utopia*** Kudos for Channel 4

***My Mad Fat Diary*** A Tiger Aspect Production for E4

**Entertainment**

***The Last Leg*** An Open Mike Production for Channel 4

*“This show is confident, clever and witty – and has heart. It has successfully moved beyond its niche into a more mainstream entertainment show, whilst still pushing the boundaries.”*

***Nominees:***

***A League Of Their Own*** CPL Productions for Sky 1

***Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*** ITV Sudios and Mitre Television for ITV

**Entertainment Performance**

***Alan Carr - Alan Carr: Chatty Man*** An Open Mike Production for Channel 4

***“****Hugely likeable, with a sharp eye for pretensions that need popping, he's fearless in the face of fame.”*

***Nominees:***

***Leigh Francis - Celebrity Juice/Through The Keyhole*** Talkback (part of FremantleMedia UK) for ITV

***Ant & Dec - Britain's Got Talent/Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*** Thames (part of FremantleMedia UK) and Syco Entertainment/ITV Studios and Mitre Television for ITV

**History**

***Richard III: King In The Car Park*** Darlow Smithson for Channel 4

*“The winning programme created headlines around the world, and vividly portrayed the application of forensic science to a major historical mystery. It was presented with huge gusto, authority and sense of event.”*

***Nominees:***

***Secrets From The Workhouse*** Wall To Wall for ITV

***The Story Of The Jews*** An Oxford Film & Television Production for BBC and THIRTEEN in association with WNET for BBC Two

**International**

***Game Of Thrones*** HBO Entertainment in association with Bighead,

Littlehead; Television 360; Startling Television and Generator Productions broadcast on Sky Atlantic

*“Bravely structured on a shockingly brilliant scale, this was sophisticated, engaging and consistently amazing.”*

***Nominees:***

***The Returned*** Haut et Court for Channel 4

***Storyville - Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*** Roast Beef Productions for BBC Four

**Live Event**

***The Ashes - 2013*** Sky Sports

*“Effortless, confident and fresh, with great use of pundits… the winning programme has moved cricket coverage on.”*

***Nominees:***

***Bollywood Carmen Live*** BBC Music Television for BBC Three

***Wimbledon Men's Final*** BBC Sport for BBC One

**Popular Factual and Features**

***Gogglebox*** Studio Lambert for Channel 4

*“Endlessly watchable, authentic, brilliantly cast, and by turns hilarious and profoundly moving. It tackled difficult subjects in a fresh and illuminating way, placing the viewer at the centre of the action.”*

***Nominees:***

***Long Lost Family*** Wall To Wall for ITV

***Gadget Man*** North One Television for Channel 4

**Presenter**

***Stephen Fry - Stephen Fry - Out There*** Maverick Television and Sprout Pictures for BBC Two

*“A memorable piece of work – heartfelt, passionate, personal and eloquent.”*

***Nominees:***

***David Attenborough – Galapagos 3D with David Attenborough*** Colossus Productions for Sky 3D and Sky 1

***Davina McCall - Long Lost Family*** Wall to Wall for ITV

**Science and Natural History**

***Africa*** BBC NHU, Discovery Channel, CCTV9, France Television for BBC One

*“The jury said the winning programme was vast, epic and breathtaking, with beautiful storytelling.”*

***Nominees:***

***How To Win The Grand National*** An OSF Wales Production for Channel 4

***Planet Ant: Life Inside the Colony*** BBC Science/Science Channel for BBC Four

**Scripted Comedy**

***PLEBS*** Rise Films for ITV2

*“Fresh, funny and confident, with fantastic scale, the winning comedy seamlessly melded contemporary attitudes with an ambitious historical setting.”*

***Nominees:***

***Toast Of London*** Objective Productions for Channel 4

***A Touch Of Cloth II: Undercover Cloth*** Zeppotron for Sky 1

**Single Documentary**

***The Murder Trial*** Windfall Films West for Channel 4

*“From a very strong shortlist, the winner is an exquisitely well-made and gripping real life drama, which brought something genuinely new to the viewer.”*

***Nominees:***

***Dogging Tales*** Minnow Films for Channel 4

***The Unspeakable Crime: Rape*** Gold Star Productions for BBC One

**Single Drama**

***The Challenger*** BBC Science, Erste Weltweit Medien, Moonlighting Films, The Open University, Pictureshow Productions (US Unit) and Science Channel for

BBC Two

*“Absorbing, compelling and informative, this was a confident drama which felt like a Hollywood movie.”*

***Nominees:***

***Burton and Taylor*** BBC Drama Production London/BBC America for BBC Four

***Our Girl*** BBC Drama Production London for BBC One

**Soap and Continuing Drama**

***Coronation Street*** ITV Studios for ITV

*“Beautifully written, blending the funny and the tragic, and with terrific performances. This was drama at its very best.”*

***Nominees:***

***Emmerdale*** ITV Studios for ITV

***Casualty*** BBC Drama Production Wales for BBC One

**Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit**

***Gary Neville - Sky Sports*** Sky Sports

*“In a short time the winner has mastered his ‘new’ craft – intelligent views delivered with honesty and integrity.”*

***Nominees:***

***Clare Balding - C4 Racing*** IMG Productions for Channel 4

***Gabby Logan - World Athletics*** BBC Sport for BBC One/BBC Two

**Sports Programme**

***World Athletics - Mo Farah's Double Gold Win*** BBC Sport for BBC One

*“With brilliant pundits and presenters who always avoided cliché, the winning programme felt modern and creative.”*

***Nominees:***

***FA Cup Final*** ITV Sport for ITV

***Andy Murray: The Man Behind the Racquet*** BBC Sport for BBC One

**Writer - Comedy**

***James Corden and Mathew Baynton, with Tom Basden - The Wrong Mans*** BBC Comedy Production London/Hulu co-production for BBC Two

*“Original, funny and strong writing with smart, well drawn characters. Ambitious and completely gripping, it drew the two styles of comedy and drama together beautifully with a net effect of laugh out loud comedy.”*

***Nominees:***

***Writing Team - Psychobitches*** Tiger Aspect Productions for Sky Arts

***Sam Leifer and Tom Basden - PLEBS*** Rise Films for ITV2

**Writer - Drama**

***Marlon Smith and Daniel Fajemisin-Duncan - Run*** Acme Films for Channel 4

*“Stories from our lives, carefully constructed yet superbly authentic and believable.”*

***Nominees:***

***Dennis Kelly - Utopia*** Kudos for Channel 4

***Chris Chibnall - Broadchurch*** Kudos for ITV

**Judges’ Award**

***Janice Hadlow***

*“The winner of [the] Judges' Award has just stepped down from one of the key roles in British television. She started her career with the BBC as a production trainee in 1986, becoming a producer on* Woman's Hour *and* Start The Week*. She moved into television as producer and then editor of* The Late Show *before being appointed Deputy Head of the BBC's Music and Arts Department. After a brief spell at Channel 4, she returned to take up the helm of BBC Four in 2004 and was appointed Controller of BBC Two four years later.*

*During our winner's tenure, BBC Two has seen a remarkable resurgence in specialist factual, comedy and drama and more than made its mark with live events. Among the many hits which brought about this success are the immensely popular* Great British Bake Off *- which ended its most recent run with just under 10 milllion viewers and* The Great British Sewing Bee*. Historical and contemporary drama successes have ranged from* The Hollow Crown *to* The Fall, *which rated as the channel's biggest drama launch in eight years. A broad range of comedy triumphs include* Miranda*,* Charlie Brooker's Screen Wipe*,* The Wrong Mans *and the award-winning* Twenty Twelve*.* Stargazing Live *and* Lambing Live *have established the channel as the home of special event television. Complementing its comedy, drama and entertainment slate, the channel has the widest range and the most knowledge-building programming of any BBC channels, with significant programmes like* The Story of the Jews *and the* Wonder of the Universe*.*

*Our recipient is particularly well known for championing female talent across all the genres - both on and off screen, including Amanda Vickery, Alice Roberts, Sarah Millican and Mary Beard.”*

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

***David Suchet CBE***

*“[The] recipient has had an extraordinary career in theatre as well as television, appearing in* All My Sons*,* Othello*,* The Merchant of Venice*,* Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*,* A Long Day's Journey Into Night*,* The Way We Live Now*,* Great Expectations*,* Maxwell and Blott on the Landscape*, amongst many, many others. He is currently in rehearsal for a world tour of* The Last Confession*. There is, however, one role with which he is synonymous...*

*In November last year a legendary TV series came to an end. After an extraordinary 25 years the final episode of* Agatha Christie'sPoirot *was broadcast on ITV, and there can be few actors who have made a role so their own as the man who played Hercule Poirot for that quarter century.*

*The Christie family were delighted to see our recipient suggested for the part and it's now hard to imagine a better choice for playing the little Belgian with his "little grey cells." In fact Mathew Prichard, Agatha Christie's grandson, has said how he wishes his grandmother had had the chance to see the portrayal which, as he put it, "conveys to the viewer just enough of the irritation we always associate with a perfectionist."*

*The very public mourning as the curtain came down on* Poirot *is a testament to the affection held for the series and David, but it's also worth noting how there was a slight undercurrent of surprise in some commentators' reactions - it's as though Poirot had become such a familiar part of the furniture that we simply hadn't imagined a world without him. This is a testimony to David's performance, it was immaculate but unshowy, so true that he simply was Poirot, so real and part of television's DNA that we couldn't conceive of him not being there; to borrow part of a famous quote from Prince Charles, Poirot was "an elegant and much-loved friend."*

*But perhaps the funniest moment in the reaction to Poirot's death was during Channel 4's* Googlebox*. Whilst we watched a family watching* Curtain*, a teenage boy (and certainly not the most obvious* Poirot *fan), was absolutely flabbergasted when David peeled off his moustache. "You mean to say the moustache was false!!!," he stammered.*

*It was perhaps the most famous moustache on TV and David's fame will live on as he goes down in television history as the exemplar of an actor delivering a definitive performance. To do that for a quarter of a century is truly extraordinary.”*



Follow us on @RTS\_media. And keep up-to-date with news about the RTS Programme Awards at #RTSProgramme.

**\*\* ENDS \*\***

**Notes to Editors:**

**About The Royal Television Society:**

The Royal Television Society is Britain’s leading forum for television and related media. Membership is open to everyone with an interest in the medium.

The RTS was granted its Royal title in 1966 and HRH The Prince of Wales became Patron of the Society in 1997.

The RTS brings together people to exchange ideas, debate and explore key issues. The RTS Awards are an internationally recognised hallmark for quality and originality.

For over 80 years, the RTS has provided the UK’s main platform for debate about the future of television. Its lectures, events and publications make a substantial contribution to raising standards and developing practice. The RTS organises dinners with influential speakers, lectures, monthly sessions on current issues, and the world famous biennial Cambridge Convention sets the agenda for the future.

Television, the leading UK monthly on television issues and broadcasting policy, is distributed free to members. Separate RTS Awards events cover Programme Making, Television Journalism, Craft and Design, Students and Innovation.

Many of the Society’s dinners and conventions are oversubscribed. Patron and individual membership entitles members to priority applications and advanced booking.

There are 13 regional centres in the UK, and a Republic of Ireland Centre located in Dublin. Each Centre provides a mix of programme, technical, and craft events.

The Society is an educational charity, embracing all aspects of television, including the creative community, broadcasting, equipment manufacture, professional consultancy, journalism, design, research and development, cable, satellite, video and interactivity.

The Society relies for its future on the contributions of individual members, corporate Patrons and the hard work of its volunteers. Individual membership is available from £65.00 per year.

**For further information please contact:**

Mary Bennett Teresa Hunt

[mary@hobnobpr.com](mailto:mary@hobnobpr.com) [teresa@hobnobpr.com](mailto:teresa@hobnobpr.com)

+44 (0) 7843 572070 +44 (0) 7939 202613