



2019 WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY PROGRAMME AWARDS

Winners were announced at the Royal Television Society Programme Awards in partnership with Audio Network this evening

London, Tuesday 19th March, 2019: Winners of the prestigious Royal Television Society Programme Awards (RTS) were announced this evening by comedian Shappi Khorsandi at London's Grosvenor House Hotel. Guests in attendance included the cast of *Hollyoaks* and *Coronation Street*, star of *Killing Eve* and Actor (Female) winner Jodie Comer and legendary actress Lesley Manville, who picked up the award for Comedy Performance - Female for *Mum*.

Jodie Comer's iconic performance in *Killing Eve* won her the Actor - Female award, with Lucian Msamati winning the Actor - Male award for his harrowing and extraordinary portrayal of Tobi in *Kiri*. *Mum* won two awards during the evening with Stefan Golaszewski winning the Writer - Comedy award, and Lesley Manville winning the Comedy Performance - Female which was described by judges as having set a "new benchmark for excellence in this genre". The winner of the Comedy Performance - Male went to Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith for their "astonishing and committed" performances for *Inside No. 9*.

Derry Girls took home the award for Scripted Comedy whilst *The Last Leg* won the Entertainment Programme category, with Big Narstie and Mo Gilligan winning the Entertainment Performance award. Romesh Ranganathan took home the award for Presenter for *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan*, with Osi Umenyiora winning the award for Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit for his work on *NFL This Week* and *The NFL Show*.

Described as an "exciting new talent destined for an exceptional future", Nabhaan Rizwan took home the RTS Breakthrough Award for his incredible performance in *Informer*.

Sky Atlantic's *Save Me* was recognised in two separate categories: Drama Series and Writer – Drama for Lennie James. The show was praised by judges for "its authenticity as a series, and captivating performances throughout."

The past year has seen some truly captivating documentaries created, giving audiences much-needed insight into issues affecting both people and the planet: Channel 5's *Raped: My Story* won the Programme Award for Single Documentary, alongside Channel 4's *Prison* which took home the award for Documentary Series. *Drowning In Plastic* won the award for Science and Natural History with *A Dangerous Dynasty: The Household Of Assad* winning the award in the History category. *The Real Full Monty: Ladies Night* won the Formatted Popular Factual category.

The Live Event award went to the BBC's *The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle*, and *Match of The Day 2018 World Cup: Quarter Final - England VS Sweden* won Sports Programme Of the Year, described by judges as "capturing the intense emotion of the occasion".

Continuing their winning streak, the BBC's *A Very English Scandal* won the award for Mini-Series for its "excellent performances and relevance" whilst the award for Single Drama went to *Killed By My Debt* for its expertly told tale. CBeebies took home the award for Channel Of The Year.

The RTS proudly presented its prestigious Judges' Award to Ben Frow, the transformative Director of Programmes at Channel 5. The panel praised Frow's "passionate and transformative" approach to the channel since taking it over in 2013, increasing the audience by a full five percent over his tenure.

The winner of the Programme Award for Soap and Continuing Drama went to *Hollyoaks*, which blew the judges away this year for its performances and content.

Finally, presenter Lorraine Kelly received the Outstanding Contribution to British Television award.

The RTS Programme Awards seek to recognise programmes which, in the year in question, have made a material and positive contribution to their genre: either because their originality in form or content has in some way moved the genre on, or perhaps created a new genre; or because their quality has set standards which other programme-makers can learn from and emulate.

A full list of winners is below and at <https://rts.org.uk/award/rts-programme-awards-2019-partnership-audio-network>

Actor (Female)

WINNER – Jodie Comer *Killing Eve* (Sid Gentle Films for BBC One)

The judges described this performance as "already iconic, and impossible to imagine anyone else inhabiting the role in quite the same way".

Nominees:

- Sandra Oh *Killing Eve* (Sid Gentle Films for BBC One)
- Michaela Coel *Black Earth Rising* (Forgiving Earth for BBC Two)

Actor (Male)

WINNER - Lucian Msamati *Kiri* (The Forge Entertainment for Channel 4)

The judges called the actor's work in this piece "harrowing, unsentimental and nuanced...an extraordinarily brilliant performance".

Nominees:

- Ben Whishaw *A Very English Scandal* (Blueprint Pictures for BBC One)
- Lennie James *Save Me* (World Productions for Sky Atlantic)

Arts

WINNER - *The Art of Drumming* (Wall to Wall Media for Sky Arts)

"A stand out piece of programming, presenting the familiar in a wholly new way without missing a beat"

Nominees:

- *Black Hollywood: "They've Gotta Have Us"* (AFL Films for BBC Two)
- *Germaine Bloody Greer* (Big Wheel Film & Television for BBC Two)

Breakthrough Award

WINNER - Nabhaan Rizwan *Informer* (Neal Street Productions for BBC One)

“An exciting new talent who is clearly destined for an exceptional future. The performance was simply incredible.”

Nominees:

- Mo Gilligan *The Big Narstie Show* (Expectation / Dice Productions for Channel 4)
- Alice Feetham *Save Me* (World Productions for Sky Atlantic)

Children’s Programme

WINNER - *Prosiect Z* (Boom Cymru for S4C)

“Thoroughly engaging throughout, with a great narrative and a real sense of jeopardy at its centre”.

Nominees:

- *My Life: Locked in Boy* (Sugar Films for CBBC)
- *Jacqueline Wilson's Katy* (BBC Children’s In-House Productions for CBBC)

Comedy Performance (Female)

WINNER - Lesley Manville *Mum* (Big Talk Productions in association with The Money Men for BBC Two)

“Extremely funny, nuanced and beautifully balanced” ... “Her performance really did set a new benchmark for excellence in this genre”.

Nominees:

- Sian Gibson *Peter Kay’s Car Share - The Finale* (Goodnight Vienna Productions for BBC One)
- Daisy May Cooper *This Country* (BBC Studios for BBC Three)

Comedy Performance (Male)

WINNER - Steve Pemberton & Reece Shearsmith *Inside No. 9* (BBC Studios for BBC Two)

The judges called the work here “astonishing and committed, simply a masterclass in comedy performance at the very highest level”.

Nominees:

- Alex Murphy & Chris Walley *The Young Offenders* (Vico Films for BBC Three)
- Samson Kayo *Famalam* (BBC Studios for BBC Three)

Daytime Programme

WINNER - *The Repair Shop* (Ricochet for BBC Two)

“An original and engaging programme with lots of heart and great production values”

Nominees:

- *Moving On – Invisible* (LA Productions for BBC One)
- *Murder, Mystery and My Family* (Chalkboard TV for BBC One)

Documentary Series

WINNER - *Prison* (Spring Films for Channel 4)

"Cutting deeper than most immersive access documentaries, this series had a droll and provocative tone which emerged through astonishing scenes, encounters and characters"

Nominees:

- *Love and Hate Crime* (Top Hat Productions for BBC One)
- *Drugsland* (BBC Studios – Unscripted Productions and The Open University for BBC Three)

Drama Series

WINNER - *Save Me* (World Productions for Sky Atlantic)

"So fresh and authentic, it was if the dialogue was real rather than written. An astonishing achievement"

Nominees:

- *Killing Eve* (Sid Gentle Films for BBC One)
- *Peaky Blinders* (Caryn Mandabach Productions and Tiger Aspect Productions for BBC Two)

Entertainment

WINNER - *The Last Leg* (Open Mike for Channel 4)

"Bold and totally brilliant, entertaining its audience with seemingly endless creative inventiveness".

Nominees:

- *Britain's Got Talent* (Syco / Thames for ITV)
- *Don't Hate The Playaz* (Monkey Kingdom for ITV2)

Entertainment Performance

WINNER - Big Narstie and Mo Gilligan *The Big Narstie Show* (Expectation / Dice Productions for Channel 4)

"A complete breath of fresh air, refreshingly raw, authentic and VERY entertaining."

Nominees:

- Jennifer Hudson *The Voice UK* (ITV Studios and Talpa for ITV)
- Michael McIntyre *Michael McIntyre's Big Show* (Hungry McBear for BBC One)

Formatted Popular Factual

WINNER - *The Real Full Monty: Ladies Night* (Spun Gold TV for ITV)

"A deftly handled, original piece of work which has genuinely made its own impact on the factual landscape"

Nominees:

- *Gordon, Gino and Fred's Road Trip: The French Connection* (Studio Ramsay for ITV)
- *Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing* (Owl Power for BBC Two)

History

WINNER - *A Dangerous Dynasty: The House of Assad* (72 Films for BBC Two)

"An accessible, compelling piece with some astonishing archive and telling an important story"

Nominees:

- *Holocaust: The Revenge Plot* (Caravan for Channel 4)
- *The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story* (Wall to Wall for BBC Four)

Live Event

WINNER - *The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle* (BBC Studios for BBC One)

"A very British spectacle captured with great style and flair"

Nominees:

- *The Real Full Monty Live* (Spun Gold for ITV)
- *Glyndebourne Opera Cup* (Factory Films for Sky Arts)

Mini-Series

WINNER - *A Very English Scandal* (Blueprint Pictures for BBC One)

*"An exceptionally confident drama that couldn't be more relevant in these uncertain times, but written and performed with a sense of both lightness **and** outrage."*

Nominees:

- *The Cry* (Synchronicity Films for BBC One)
- *Butterfly* (Red Production Company and Aenon for ITV)

Presenter

WINNER - Romesh Ranganathan *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan* (Rumpus Media for BBC Two)

The judges said, "brought genuine originality to every scene, making the whole endeavour distinctive and very special".

Nominees:

- Michael Palin *Michael Palin in North Korea* (ITN Productions for Channel 5)
- Bobby Friction *Pump Up the Bhangra: The Sound of Asian Britain* (Pacific Quay Productions, BBC Studios for BBC Four)

RTS Channel of the Year

WINNER – Cbeebies

The winning channel "seems more important now than ever...commissioning programmes that entertain and educate its audience in equal measure."

Nominees:

- BBC One
- Channel 5

Science and Natural History

WINNER - *Drowning in Plastic* (Raw TV for BBC One)

"Deeply emotionally engaging on a subject we thought we all knew about"

Nominees:

- *The Secret Life of Landfill: A Rubbish History* (Tern Television Productions for BBC Four)
- *Blue Planet II* (BBC Studios – The Natural History Unit for BBC One)

Scripted Comedy

WINNER - *Derry Girls* (Hat Trick Productions for Channel 4)

"Skilful, special and truthful, combining super-smart writing with outstanding acting"

Nominees:

- *Famalam* (BBC Studios for BBC Three)
- *Detectorists* (Channel X North, Treasure Trove Productions, and Lola Entertainment for BBC Four)

Single Documentary

WINNER - *Raped: My Story* (Lambent Productions for Channel 5)

"A shocking eye-opener of a programme" said the judges. "It was beautiful, powerful film making; carefully produced and edited brilliantly."

Nominees:

- *Grenfell* (Minnow Films for BBC One)
- *Married to a Paedophile* (Brinkworth Films for Channel 4)

Single Drama

WINNER - *Killed By My Debt* (BBC Studios: The Documentary Unit for BBC Three)

"Devastating, with a true story unpacked expertly and brought to life by extremely well-judged performances".

Nominees:

- *Mother's Day* (BBC Studios: The Documentary Unit for BBC Two)
- *Black Mirror: USS Callister* (House of Tomorrow for Netflix)

Soap and Continuing Drama

WINNER - *Hollyoaks* (Lime Pictures for Channel 4)

"We were blown away by it!" ... "Well written, beautifully acted, it was bold and confident with terrific central performances".

Nominees:

- *Casualty* (BBC Studios for BBC One)
- *Coronation Street* (ITV Studios for ITV)

Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit

WINNER - Osi Umennyiora *NFL This Week and The NFL Show* (Whisper Films for BBC Two)
“Charismatic, knowledgeable, insightful and opinionated – a total joy to watch”.

Nominees:

- Roy Keane *2018 FIFA World Cup* (ITV Sport for ITV)
- Gary Lineker *MOTD: World Cup 2018* (BBC Sport for BBC One)

Sports Programme

WINNER - *MOTD 2018 World Cup: Quarter Final - England v Sweden* (BBC Sport for BBC One)
“Capturing all the intense emotion of the occasion, alongside some dazzling punditry and a thrilling commentary”.

Nominees:

- *Winter Paralympic Games* (Whisper Films for Channel 4)
- *2018 Ryder Cup* (Sky Sports & European Tour Productions for Sky Sports)

Writer (Comedy)

WINNER - Stefan Golaszewski *Mum* (Big Talk Productions in association with The Money Men for BBC Two)
Writing that “just sings throughout this masterfully well observed, beautiful comedy”.

Nominees:

- Jamie Demetriou and Robert Popper *Stath Lets Flats* (Roughcut TV for Channel 4)
- Lisa McGee *Derry Girls* (Hat Trick Productions for Channel 4)

Writer (Drama)

WINNER - Lennie James *Save Me* (World Productions for Sky Atlantic)
“Witty, warm writing rubbed up against harsh, dark and truthful storytelling populated by wonderful rich characters”.

Nominees:

- David Nicholls *Patrick Melrose* (Little Island Productions, Two Cities Television and Sunny March for Sky Atlantic)
- Russell T. Davies *A Very English Scandal* (Blueprint Pictures for BBC One)

Judges’ Award

WINNER – Ben Frow (Director of Programmes, Channel 5)
“... a Director of Programmes who is having a truly transformative effect on Channel 5. He’s evolved it from a broadcaster heavily reliant on American acquisitions to one defined by a distinctive, original home grown programme mix that has found its own appreciative and loyal audience.

Ben Frow joined Channel 5 in 2013, a year before it was acquired by Viacom. Since then he’s taken the channel on a journey of gradual but radical change – all of which seems to have paid off in the last year. In the last twelve months alone the channel has won its first BAFTA.”

Outstanding Contribution to British Television

WINNER – Lorraine Kelly

“... a woman who is more than just a presenter – though she’s an excellent one of those; more than just a journalist – though again, her editorial credentials are impeccable; more than just a star – although she’s so famous that she’s usually known by her first name only.

She’s someone who, for decades now, has simply been woven into the daily life of our nation.

This year, Lorraine Kelly celebrates thirty five years on television. That in itself is an incredible accomplishment. Think about it: when Lorraine made her network debut in 1984 the Prime Minister was Margaret Thatcher, the internet hadn’t really been invented and Britain had just four television channels. Since then she’s been the face of morning television almost every single weekday for an unbroken three and a half decades. And not only is she still there, her daily show’s currently enjoying its highest ratings in over five years.

Lorraine began her television career as a researcher at BBC Scotland in 1983. The following year she became the on-screen reporter of Scottish news stories for ITV’s breakfast show. Some television journalists have a style that just seems to leap through the screen, and makes a very direct connection with viewers – and so it was with Lorraine. Her news reports were authoritative but - perhaps in a foretaste of things to come – she always emphasised the human angle of any story. Her live reporting of the Lockerbie disaster in 1989 was a defining moment, and within months she was invited to London to become one of the hosts of TV-AM’s Good Morning Britain.

Since then, she’s been a constant in all our lives every morning on the many breakfast shows she’s anchored. From TV-AM to GMTV, from Daybreak to the programme with her own name as its title, Lorraine has been there – a steady, consistent, reassuring presence year after year, decade after decade, during which virtually everything else around us has changed.

She’s covered every news story from Dunblane to the death of Diana, 9/11 to 7/7, the Gulf War to Grenfell. She’s the most empathetic interviewer on television – never afraid to show her own emotions while retaining her tough journalistic instinct. Every guest who sits opposite Lorraine feels secure enough in her presence to really open up...whether they’re a member of the public who’s been touched by tragedy, or a Hollywood superstar with a movie to sell. She just treats everyone with the same warmth and respect.

Over the decades, Lorraine’s also shown she knows the real impact on viewers’ lives her show can have. She’ll use her unique relationship with her audience to talk about subjects once considered off limits in the sunny world of breakfast television...the menopause, transgender rights, terminal illness, body image, grief, family breakdown, depression, abortion, child abuse, even her own miscarriage. In fact, there really isn’t anything that Lorraine HASN’T talked about at eight thirty in the morning.

So what do we put her extraordinary appeal down to? Well one of her co-hosts perhaps put it best when he said “Lorraine relates to the audience, and the audience know that when they switch on, she’s one of them”. And that’s it, isn’t it? She has a connection with her viewers that is simply unrivalled. They absolutely love her, because they recognise her authenticity, her complete lack of affectation, her genuine innate warmth. They trust and respect her...because despite however famous Lorraine’s become, she’s never stopped being just like them.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

About The Royal Television Society:

From glamorous award ceremonies to lively debates, the RTS embraces all aspects of television, and is open to anyone with an interest in the medium.

As an educational charity, we encourage and celebrate work in television and its related fields, from finding out how the nation's favourite shows are made in our Anatomy of a Hit series, to celebrating burgeoning talent at our annual Student Awards.

The industry's most talented individuals give us an insight into the work that goes into making cutting edge contemporary TV. From Government ministers and CEOs to workshops with great runners, our events look at every part of the business.

Our annual Television Journalism, Programme, Craft and Design, and Student Awards celebrate achievements across the broadcasting industry.

Each year, we offer Television Production and Technology bursaries to help those from less affluent backgrounds get a foothold in the industry, and Masterclass sessions bring together students, academics and industry heads.

Global television leaders gather to discuss what the future holds for television at our London Conference or the RTS Cambridge Convention.

Alongside our engaged community of over 4,800 full members, the Society is supported by Britain and the world's biggest broadcasters, producers and consultants, including Principal Patrons BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Sky.

Originally founded as the Television Society in 1927, the Society was granted its Royal title in 1966 and HRH The Prince of Wales became Patron of the RTS in 1997.

Today, 15 regional and national groups curate lively events and awards around the UK and Ireland, from Glasgow to Galway.

RTS Futures, which is aimed at those in their first two years of employment, organises an exciting roster of discussion, training and social occasions. Recent events have included workshops on learning how to format shows and how to survive as a freelancer, and expert panels explaining how to be the best researcher and how to make it on-screen.