



Gradaim RTS | RTS Ireland Awards 2025

This is the fifth year of the Gradaim RTS / RTS Ireland Awards Event for Ireland, and through these awards we aim to showcase and give recognition to the Irish TV industry for achievements and excellence in creative production for the year.

The Irish Broadcasters (Virgin Media Television, RTÉ, TG4 & Sky Ireland) and the wider independent television production industry are pleased to support the awards and we welcome entries from Production Companies for content produced in 2024.

Entries must have been first broadcast or streamed on an Irish broadcaster platform in the calendar year of 2024 (prior international delivery may be allowed). Awards are intended for original Irish productions and, where appropriate, international co-productions with substantial Irish involvement. Entries should feature some or all of the following:

- Originality in form or content which has set fresh standards
- Development of new genres, leading public taste
- Quality which others will seek to emulate
- Content which has had a significant impact on Irish audiences
- Technical, artistic, performance and production excellence
- High performance in exceptional circumstances

Juries will consider only the material which is entered so entrants should select relevant content and support material for each category after reading the criteria carefully. Entrants should bear in mind that judges are asked to ensure that these awards reflect evolving diversity within the industry and within wider society. Entries in the Irish language are eligible for all categories.

Subject to confirmation, the Awards will be presented on in March 2025 in Dublin city, hosted by Virgin Media Television. The nominations will be announced in late February 2025.

Conditions of Entry

- Closing date for all entries will be Friday 10th January 2025.
- Entries must have been published during the 2024 calendar year either on a partner-broadcaster's channel or on an Irish streaming platform and entered by the broadcaster or by the production company.
- All entries must either be produced in Ireland or, for international co-productions, the Irish participant must have had significant editorial, production, performance and/or financial input
- The RTS will reserve the right to limit the number of entries per company in any category and to move programmes between categories
- Jurors will welcome any supplementary information (excluding press cuttings) entrants can supply, such as a synopsis or specific reasons why the entry is worthy of an award.
- The RTS reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the conditions or which exceed or are less than the stated running time.
- The cost per entry is €85 + VAT.
- Finalist nominees will be announced in late February 2025.
- Entries will require completed entry forms, 2 x 30 second clips/trailers per entry plus thumbnails.
- The RTS will require standard broadcast, streaming, catch-up, publicity and residual rights, permissions and clearances to publish the entry clips in the awards programme on members' linear and non-linear channels and platforms and in VOD format on members' broadcast websites and related download, side-load and on-the-go services and on the RTS Website. For the avoidance of doubt RTS reserves the right to use any and all publicity materials on all publicity outlets at the sole discretion of the RTS.

Categories:

1. Scripted

Ireland currently has a fine tradition of exceptional scripted output. This award recognises the very best in drama and comedy, including long-running serial, singles and returning series. This category is open to any scripted production made by an Irish broadcaster or company, OR where a significant number of scenes were filmed in Ireland. This award is for fiction or other narrative drama, including docu-drama.

Please submit either the single or one episode from a series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality in scripting and storytelling, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

2. Entertainment

This award includes quizzes, game shows, talent shows, music specials and all general entertainment programmes. Also included in this category are comedy-based panel shows, chat shows, stand-up specials and comedy clip shows.

Please enter a single episode from a series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

3. Factual Series

This category is designed for programmes conceived as a series of a general factual nature, including documentaries and observational documentary series.

Please enter a 10-minute unedited clip and a single episode from the series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

4. Factual Single

This award is designed for programmes conceived as one-off programmes of a general factual nature including current affairs.

Please enter a 10-minute unedited clip and a single episode from the series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

5. Live Sports Coverage

This Award will recognise high production, performance and editorial values in Live Sports. This can be from live event coverage from one or more OBs or studio presentations.

The submission should include either one representative hour or an hour's representation/assembly of the coverage as transmitted. There can be a maximum of eight extracts within the hour (a continuous clip which crosses an ad break is considered to be two extracts).

If the sporting event or series crosses multiple days, extracts may come from more than one day. Each extract must be from the same programme or series and must be as-transmitted.

Programmes that include third-party host broadcast coverage will be welcome but judges will not attribute credit to the entry for third-party material. For entries seeking to illustrate originality or remarkably high standards in exceptional circumstances an accompanying PDF should be uploaded to contextualise the relevant achievements and/or challenges overcome with clear references to the associated clips.

6. News Broadcaster of The Year

This award is for the best news coverage by a broadcaster during 2024. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting, picture and sound, analysis and explanation, possible use of online, social, digital, mobile, or other innovation, and/or the comprehensiveness of the overall coverage. This category covers all **live** and **as-live** broadcast news and current affairs programming (including panel shows).

Entries can include material ranging over weeks or months and can consist of up to a maximum of 5 excerpts, each clearly identified by time and date.

These can be from the same or multiple news stories – whatever the news broadcaster deems relevant to best showcase their news coverage. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally. Entries from news agencies should include copies of scripts sent with the original material and, where possible, details of how the content was used by broadcasters and/or online distributors. Copies of scripts must be sent in one combined PDF document that is uploaded on the application form with each script clearly identified.

Judges will be looking for quality of journalism and for engagement with the viewers as well as for innovation, high production and technical standards as well as the impact the programme(s) may have had.

7. Animation & Children's Programme

Animation programmes and children's programmes are eligible for this category.

Animation includes fully animated productions and contributions to multi-format output. This includes content across any platform, including regional, national, international and digital formats – in any genre.

This category also recognises professional excellence in the field of children's programmes. Series (one episode) and single programmes can be entered for children's drama, comedy and entertainment programmes. To enter as a Children's Programme, programmes must have been commissioned and produced specifically for the child audience, and broadcast during children's airtime.

Please enter a single episode from the series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

8. Specialist Factual

This category is for broadcast material which falls into a specialist factual genre, which includes arts, history, music, religion, business, natural history, sports and science. Entries **MUST** come from a factual series or a one-off single film – although only one edition of the series may be submitted. Please note that "one edition of the series" excludes not only compilation entries but compilation broadcasts unless there is substantial new content.

Please enter the single or a single episode from the series.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

9. Factual Entertainment

This award is designed for programmes of an entertainment factual nature.

Please enter a single episode.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

10. Breakthrough Talent Award

This category recognises new and emerging professional excellence in the role of Presenter, Journalist, Show Host, Interviewer, Commentator or Cast Member.

This awarded is decided by the RTS ROI Committee.

12. Special Recognition Award

The award for Special Recognition is a new award being presented by RTS ROI for 2025. It is awarded to a person or group of people that have made a significant contribution to the Irish television scene over a number of years.

This awarded is decided by the RTS ROI Committee.

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