

PRESS RELEASE**ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY MIDLANDS AWARDS
SUE NICHOLLS THE BAIRD MEDAL FOR 2020**

Birmingham, 25 November 2020 – The **Royal Television Society (RTS) Midlands Centre** has announced that Walsall born award winning-actress **Sue Nicholls** (*Coronation Street*) is the recipient of this year's prestigious Baird Medal.

Viewers of the prestigious **RTS Midlands TV Awards 2020** which are being broadcast live on the RTS's website from 8pm on Wednesday 25 November will see Sue accept the award from Corrie co-star **Jack P Shepherd**. Sue Nicholls was born in Walsall and was educated at the School of St Mary and St Anne (now known as Abbots Bromley School for Girls) before graduating from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Starring in a number of popular and acclaimed British television series, Sue has had an outstanding career to date, debuting as waitress Marilyn Gates in the popular Midlands soap opera *Crossroads* from 1964-1968; and going on to appear in series such as *Pipkins*, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, *The Professionals – The Acorn Syndrome*; as well as a tour and Broadway run in *London Assurance*. From 1979-82 and then from 1984 to present day, she has been recognised and praised for her portrayal of Audrey Roberts in one of the country's biggest soaps - *Coronation Street*.

Sue Nicholls says: "Thank you very much, I really don't deserve this award, I really don't, because it is to do with my job over the last sixty years and that is wonderful. I feel really flattered and rather humble and very overjoyed. Thank you, thank you."

Caren Davies, Chair, RTS Midlands, says: "The Baird Medal is given to an individual from the region who has made an outstanding contribution to television and Sue has most definitely done that. She is a much-loved household name and has never forgotten her roots. Sue is a very proud Midlander and we are just as proud of her. Congratulations Sue."

Previous recipients of the Baird Medal include Sir David Attenborough, Jed Mercurio, Frank Skinner and Barbara Slater, OBE.

The prestigious RTS Midlands TV Awards celebrate the TV and broadcasting industry across the Midlands. Sponsored by **Film Birmingham**, **Create Central** and **Channel 4** nominations include *The Rap Game UK*, *Doctors*, Paul Hollywood, Oloni, ITV News Central and many more. Hosted by Birmingham's **Tim Warwood**, the ceremony will be broadcast live from BBC Birmingham to the RTS's website and YouTube channel on Wednesday 25th November at 8pm. **Steven Knight**, CBE will give the welcome and 'voice of the balls' **Alan Dedicoat** provides the voiceover for the ceremony. For more information on how to watch the awards visit: <https://rts.org.uk/award/rts-midlands-awards-2020>

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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 5,000 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.