



PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY LAUNCHES THE RTS PROGRAMME AWARDS 2022

London, 27 October 2021 – The **Royal Television Society (RTS)**, Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, has opened entries for the RTS Programme Awards 2022, in partnership with Audio Network. Taking place on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at London’s Grosvenor House Hotel, entries are now being accepted for programmes and performances that have been broadcast or streamed between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

New for this year, two of the coveted award categories have been renamed, including **RTS Network of the Year**, previously known as RTS Channel of the Year, which explicitly recognises the performance of a single broadcast channel, network or streaming service. Additionally, **Limited Series** replaces the Mini Series category, which highlights self-contained drama series with a closed-ended story arc.

The RTS Programme Awards celebrate programmes and performances which have made a material and positive contribution worthy of acclaim by the industry and UK viewers in 31 categories across: Single Drama; Drama Series; Limited Series; Soap and Continuing Drama; Writer – Drama; Scripted Comedy; Entertainment; Comedy Entertainment; Writer – Comedy; Actor (Female); Actor (Male); Entertainment Performance; Comedy Performance (Female); Comedy Performance (Male); Presenter; Breakthrough Award; History; Science and Natural History; Arts; Single Documentary; Documentary Series; Formatted Popular Factual; Daytime Programme; Children’s Programme; Live Event; Sports Programme; Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit; RTS Network of the Year; Judges’ Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Chair of the Awards, Kenton Allen, said: “It has been an incredibly challenging year, possibly the most difficult production environment any of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Despite this, the phenomenal creative talents of the entire UK industry, both in front of and behind the camera have managed to produce a remarkable year of record breaking, genre-defining programming, avidly consumed by audiences all over the world. A remarkable achievement given the exceptional circumstances. We are very much looking forward to reviewing the entries and celebrating everyone’s passion, professionalism and immense dedication in March.”

In line with all RTS awards, the society stresses the need for all organisations to show awareness when selecting entries of the need for recognising diversity in our industry and in our wider community. The 2022 RTS Programme Awards will be presented on Tuesday 29 March 2022, with nominations being announced in early March. Closing date for entries is Friday 10 December 2021. For more information on conditions of entry please visit: <https://rts.org.uk/award/rts-programme-awards-2022>



The RTS Programme Awards Categories

Drama

Single Drama

The single drama should be submitted in full and should be in one complete and self-contained episode.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Elizabeth Is Missing (winner); Anthony; Sitting In Limbo*

Drama Series

For returning drama series. Entries must be accompanied by full synopses of all other episodes in the series so that jurors can fully understand the context of the two episodes they view.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *In My Skin (winner); Save Me Too; I Hate Suzie*

Limited Series

For self-contained drama series with a closed-ended story arc. Entries must be accompanied by full synopses of all other episodes in the series so that jurors can fully understand the context of the two episodes they view.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations (previously Mini Series): *I May Destroy You (winner); Adult Material; Small Axe*

Soap and Continuing Drama

For half hour or hour long multi-unit entities running throughout the year with one or more episodes per week. Three consecutive episodes should be submitted to demonstrate the soap's consistency and continuing quality. Specials or late night episodes should not be included. Jurors will give equal weight to their consideration of each episode.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Casualty (winner); Coronation Street; Holby City*

Writer – Drama

Both original drama and adaptation can be entered. Single dramas should be submitted in full. For series and serials, please submit one episode only. Please include a shooting script with your online entry.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Michaela Coel – I May Destroy You (winner); Steve McQueen and Alastair Siddons – Small Axe; Lucy Prebble – I Hate Suzie*

Entertainment and Comedy

Scripted Comedy

For situation comedies, comedy dramas and sketch shows. Single programmes should be submitted in full. For series and serials, please submit two episodes.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *The Young Offenders (winner); Brassic; Sex Education*

Entertainment

For formatted studio entertainment shows, competitive reality shows, quiz shows, game shows. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *The Masked Singer (winner); Beat The Chasers; Big Zuu's Big Eats*

Comedy Entertainment

For panel shows, talent-led talk shows, humour-led variety or competition shows and clip shows. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *The Ranganation (winner); The Big Narstie Show; Charlie Brooker's Antiviral Wipe*

Writer – Comedy

For single writers or writing partnerships. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Mae Martin and Joe Hampson – Feel Good (winner); Peter Foott – The Young Offenders; Writing Team - Ghosts*

Performance

Actor (Female)

Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title. Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Michaela Coel – I May Destroy You (winner); Daisy Edgar-Jones – Normal People; Glenda Jackson – Elizabeth Is Missing*



Actor (Male)

Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title. Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Shaun Parkes – Small Axe (winner); Lennie James – Save Me Too; Paul Mescal – Normal People*

Entertainment Performance

For hosts, comperes and panellists performing as themselves in a pure entertainment format, e.g. chat shows, panel shows and 'shiny floor' studio shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Big Narstie & Mo Gilligan – The Big Narstie Show (winner); Rob Beckett & Romesh Ranganathan – Rob & Romesh Vs; Yung Filly – Hot Property*

Comedy Performance (Female)

For female actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Gbemisola Ikumelo – Famalam (winner); Ruth Jones – Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special; Sophie Willan – Alma's Not Normal*

Comedy Performance (Male)

For male actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Youssef Kerkour – Home (winner); Paul Chahidi – This Country; O-T Fagbenle - Maxxx*

Presenter

Presenter

For presenters (not performers in an entertainment show) in broadcast programmes, online and streamed services. Judges will focus on the ability to communicate with the viewer and, by doing so, add impact to the programme rather than reporting or interviewing techniques. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each presenter can only be considered for a



single programme title. Sports presenters should be entered into the Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit category.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Joe Lycett – The Great British Sewing Bee (winner); Yinka Bokinni – Damilola: The Boy Next Door; Grayson Perry – Grayson’s Arts Club*

Breakthrough Award

For recognition of the emergence of a significant new on-screen talent. Judges will consider the personal impact and the recognition of that impact during the awards year. There is no age limit and it may well be that the entrant has been a member of a successful team for several years but has only now achieved personal recognition. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each entrant can only be considered for a single programme title.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Mae Martin – Feel Good (winner); Robert Softley Gale – Crip Tales: Hamish; Big Zuu – Big Zuu’s Big Eats*

Factual

History

For series and single programmes about History, including, where appropriate, dramatic reconstruction of historical events. “Series” in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme, which is part of a broader strand, may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring History formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may not be entered in another Factual category.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Damilola: The Boy Next Door (winner); Lost Home Movies of Nazi Germany; The World’s Biggest Murder Trial: Nuremburg*

Science and Natural History

For series and single programmes within the Science and Natural History genre. “Series” in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme which is part of a broader strand may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring Science and Natural History formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may not be entered in another Factual category.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.



2021 nominations: *The Surgeon's Cut* (winner); *Surviving the Virus: My Brother & Me*; *Brain Surgeons: Between Life and Death*

Arts

For series and single programmes within the Arts genre. "Series" in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme which is part of a broader strand may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring Arts formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may not be entered in another Factual category.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Grayson's Art Club* (winner); *African Renaissance: When Art Meets Power*; *Keith Haring: Street Art Boy*

Single Documentary

For programmes conceived as either as a single documentary or as a one-off programme that is part of a documentary strand. The programme must be submitted in full. This category is aimed at documentaries of a general nature, including religious, business or other specialist journalism. History, Science & Natural History, and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Anton Ferdinand: Football, Racism & Me* (winner); *Surviving Covid*; *The Family Secret*

Documentary Series

For a series which has a continuous narrative or is linked by a central theme. Two programmes representative of the series should be submitted. Entries must be accompanied by a complete list of other programmes in the series within the Awards year. This category is aimed at documentaries of a general nature, including religious, business or other specialist journalism. History, Science & Natural History and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Once Upon A Time In Iraq* (winner); *Hospital: Fighting Covid-19*; *The School That Tried To End Racism*

Formatted Popular Factual

This category is for originality in developing and delivering constructed factual content aimed at the widest possible audience. It is likely, though not necessary, that such formatted factual shows will be pre-watershed. One episode of a series should be entered as representative of that format and series. Subject matter could include – for instance – cookery, fashion, consumer, travel but also such shows as *The Undateables*, *The Apprentice*, *SAS Who Dares Wins*, *Long Lost Family*. Programmes entered into this



category may not be entered into another Factual category. History, Science & Natural History and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Joe Lycett's Got Your Back (winner); Long Lost Family: Born Without Trace; The Rap Game UK*

Daytime Programme

For the purposes of this Award, the RTS considers Daytime to run from 6.00am to 7.00pm. For programmes lasting longer than an hour, up to one hour of continuous programming (not edited highlights) should be submitted.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *Loose Women (winner); The Bidding Room; Junior Bake Off*

Children's

Children's Programme

Series (one episode) and single programmes can be entered for children's factual, entertainment, animation, drama and comedy programmes. Programmes must have been commissioned and produced specifically for the child audience and broadcast during children's airtime or on a dedicated children's channel.

Up to six entries per broadcaster, of which at least two must be produced by independent production companies.

2021 nominations: *IRL with Team Charlene (winner); JoJo and Gran Gran/It's Time To Go To The Hairdresser's; FYI Investigates – Brazil: Children Caught In The Crossfire*

Live Event

Live Event

For network broadcast or streamed live events which are not sport. Entries should be a 30-minute compilation of coverage as transmitted, with a maximum of three extracts included. If the event crosses multiple days, the extracts may come from more than one day. Each extract must be as transmitted and not re-edited for these awards. Entries will be judged on the quality of the coverage, not on the importance or excitement of the event. The entry should reflect the full range of the coverage. The focus will be on the commentary, pictures and sound, what was shown or not shown, editing, packaging and presentation.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *The Third Day: Autumn (winner); ENO's Drive & Live: La Bohème; Election 2019 Live: The Results*

Sport

Sports Programme

The Award will recognise production and editorial values in live OB and actuality sports programming – event coverage (live and/or recorded), strand or individual programme. The entry should be either one continuous hour or an hour's compilation of the coverage as transmitted but without editing to enhance for this submission. There can be a maximum of four extracts within the hour (a continuous clip which crosses an ad break is considered to be two extracts). If the sporting event crosses multiple days, extracts may come from more than one day. Each extract must be from the same programme and must be as transmitted and not specifically edited. Credit will not be given for material sourced from a host broadcaster.

Up to six entries per broadcaster.

2021 nominations: *England v West Indies 1st Test – Black Lives Matter (winner); London Marathon 2020; The Open For The Ages*

Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit

For the best work by a sports presenter or pundit/analyst either on location or in the studio, or a sports commentator on location. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items (this can include material from multiple episodes of the same series but each entrant can only be considered for a single programme title), to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. Each excerpt must be as transmitted and not specifically edited. Only networked commentators are eligible.

Up to five entries per channel.

2021 nominations: *Michael Holding – England v West Indies (winner); Bryan Habana – 2019 Rugby World Cup Final; Gabby Logan – London Marathon 2020*

RTS Network Of The Year

This award recognises outstanding performance by a single broadcast channel, network or streaming service accessible to UK viewers and showing original content created in the UK during the award year. The channel, network or streaming service may be delivered on any or many platforms and may be linear or VOD, free-to-air, subscription or pay to view. It would, therefore, be acceptable for a provider to make separate entries for any of its main channels and also its on demand service. The judges will require evidence of high quality and range of original content. This should be presented in a video showcase of between five and 10 minutes. The judges will also consider the channel or streaming service's wider curation, delivery and performance beyond fresh content and such supporting evidence based on viewer and user research and impact during the year which the channel or streaming service presents to support its claims of success. In short, the winner will be the channel, network or streaming service which, in the opinion of the judges, captures the mood of the moment.

2021 nominations (previously RTS Channel of the Year): *BBC One (winner); ITV; Sky Arts*



Judges' Award

The Judges' Award recognises an outstanding contribution to the UK's television and media industry (excluding television journalism, which has its own Judges' Award). This award can also recognise outstanding achievements which do not fit neatly into the standard categories. The winner can be an individual or a group. The award is in the gift of the Chair of the Awards, advised by the category chairs and will focus primarily on impact in the criteria year. A separate award (Outstanding Achievement) recognises achievements over an extended period. This award is not aimed at on-screen personalities for their on-screen work and cannot be awarded posthumously. Broadcasters cannot make direct entries for this award but suggestions are always welcomed.

Outstanding Achievement Award

This Award may be presented at the discretion of the Chair of the Awards, advised by the category chairs, for an outstanding broadcaster for an on-screen or off-screen achievement over a number of years in a career which demonstrates excellence. This Award cannot be awarded posthumously. Broadcasters cannot make direct entries for this award but suggestions are always welcomed.

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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 around 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.

About Audio Network:

Audio Network provides original music of the highest quality for broadcasters, brands, creators and music fans, alongside simple and transparent licensing that allows creators to use music on multiple platforms, everywhere, forever.

Founded in 2001, by music entrepreneurs Andrew Sunnucks and Robert Hurst, we are an inclusive, global music company, with some of the entertainment industry's most talented individuals on our team and working alongside us as partners. Working with a catalogue of more than 1000+ artists, composers and producers, and 200,000+ wholly owned tracks, our growing team of more than 170 music professionals, across 17 locations globally, is dedicated to bringing you incredible music.