

PRESS RELEASE

**MARK THOMPSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY TO DELIVER THE ROYAL
TELEVISION SOCIETY'S STEVE HEWLETT MEMORIAL LECTURE**

London, 10 June 2019 – The Royal Television Society's (RTS), annual Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Mark Thompson, President and CEO of The New York Times Company and former Director General of the BBC, on Tuesday, 24th of September 2019. Thompson's address will tackle issues of timely relevance for those working in the UK broadcast and associated industries.

The net proceeds from the event will go to the Steve Hewlett Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to journalism and TV production students from low-income backgrounds. The annual lecture, and the scholarship fund, was established by The Media Society and The Royal Television Society in memory of journalist Steve Hewlett who died in February 2017.

Mark Thompson, President and CEO of The New York Times Company, said: "I knew Steve Hewlett for more than thirty years and saw him develop first into a brilliant and iconoclastic programme-maker and then into the most insightful media commentator of his generation. No one understood our industry better than Steve, which is why it's such an honour - and a challenge - to be asked to give the third annual Hewlett lecture.

Theresa Wise, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Television Society, said: "The RTS and The Media Society are so delighted that Mark Thompson is giving this year's Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture. As CEO of The New York Times Company, and former Director General of the BBC, Mark has a unique perspective on our political condition – here and in the US. He knew Steve well and his talk will be a fitting tribute to the great man."

The 2018 Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture was presented by BBC Director of Content, Charlotte Moore and focused on championing human storytelling in a data-led world, and called out parts of the industry more focused on what they can take from audiences, instead of what they can give back.

For more information on, and to book tickets to, this year's event please go to:
<https://rts.org.uk/event/mark-thompson-delivers-steve-hewlett-memorial-lecture-2019>

**** ENDS ****

For further information please contact:

rts@ddapr.com

+44 20 7932 9800

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.