



PRESS RELEASE

THE ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR THE TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2020

Sky News for Snapchat Discover and YouTube wins inaugural Digital Award

London, 26 February 2020 – The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, announced the winners of its 2020 Television Journalism Awards, sponsored by Avid, at a prestigious awards ceremony held this evening at the London Hilton on Park Lane. The awards ceremony was hosted by Sky News presenter Anna Botting.

The awards celebrated talent across 19 categories in total, and this year the BBC led the way with ten wins spanning both news and current affairs, followed by Sky News with five wins overall. The winner of the Outstanding Contribution Award was Christiane Amanpour, who as a global figure in English speaking broadcast journalism has spent over four decades covering major conflicts and campaigning for media freedom and the safety of journalists.

The Digital Award, new this year, was awarded to Sky News for Snapchat Discover and YouTube for the piece ‘Why are transgender people self-medicating?’ Including this new award, the 2020 ceremony recognised talent across the following categories: News Coverage – Home; News Coverage – International; Daily News Programme of the Year; News Channel of the Year; Breaking News; News Technology; Current Affairs – Home; Current Affairs – International; Nations and Regions News; Nations and Regions Current Affairs; Nations and Regions Presenter of the Year; Scoop of the Year; Specialist Journalist of the Year; Young Talent of the Year; Television Journalist of the Year; Camera Operator of the Year; Network Presenter of the Year; Digital Award and Interview of the Year. In addition, the Judges’ Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award was handed out at the discretion of the jury.



Simon Bucks, Chair, RTS Television Journalism Awards, said: "The Royal Television Society Television Journalism Awards are the touchstone of our industry and provide a benchmark of quality across both news and current affairs journalism. The standard of entries was exceptional this year, giving the juries the hardest of tasks, and I would like to congratulate not only the winners and nominees, but all the entrants whose work represents the very best of the UK's television and video journalism. The decision to give the Judges Award to all the broadcast political teams is an important recognition that over the past year, they have been subjected to unprecedented pressure and abuse, for only doing their jobs."

Please see below the full list of winners and nominees, as well as the jury's comments on each winner:

Breaking News

WINNER - Hong Kong Protesters Storm Legislative Council *CNN International*

"The judges were very impressed by the strength of the entries in this category. However, the winner won special praise for its gripping coverage of a dramatic unfolding story. The judges said it was a triumph of pre-planning, field production, and brilliant live reporting combined with exemplary use of technology."

Nominees:

Turkey's Incursion into Syria *CNN International*
Hong Kong *BBC Newschannel*

Camera Operator of the Year

WINNER – Wang Xiqing – BBC News *BBC One*

"Once again the jury commented on the quality and diversity of the entries with great technical skills on show. The winner managed to apply outstanding film-making techniques to an unfolding and unexpected environment. Add to that, bravery to tell the story despite on-going and real threats to personal security."

Nominees:

Ben Martin – Channel 4 News *ITN for Channel 4*
Mstyslav Chernov *Associated Press*

Current Affairs – Home

WINNER - Spotlight on The Troubles: A Secret History *BBC NI for BBC Four and BBC One Northern Ireland*



“This year there were an exceptional number of outstanding entries in this category and even reaching the shortlist was not easy. The winning entry demonstrated both brilliant storytelling and wonderfully evocative film making. It was a complex story that was well pulled together and included stunning new revelations. Altogether a great piece of investigative journalism.”

Nominees:

Panorama - Undercover Hospital Abuse Scandal *BBC Panorama* for *BBC One*

Exposure - The Priory: Teenage Mental Health Uncovered *Hardcash Productions* for *ITV*

Current Affairs – International

WINNER – For Sama *Channel 4 News / ITN Productions* for *Channel 4* and *PBS Frontline*

“The judges felt this year’s entries were very strong, and they were spoilt for choice in this category. All the shortlisted projects were brilliant, but there was little disagreement about the winner. An outstanding film, the judges thought the filmmaker told her story, combining the intimate with the macro, with breathtaking courage, stamina and determination. Already a winner of many awards, here is another.”

Nominees:

This World – One Day in Gaza *BBC Current Affairs London* for *BBC Two*

Exposure – Undercover: Inside China’s Digital Gulag *Hardcash Productions* for *ITV*

Daily News Programme of the Year

WINNER - *Newsnight* *BBC Two*

“This category attracted entries from several genres of daily news programmes, giving the jurors the hard task of comparing extremely strong examples of programmes concentrating on important social issues against others which stick to a more mainstream agenda. All the nominees were praised for some remarkable examples of original journalism. The winner covered all the major news stories with consistent rigour and originality as well as making headlines with a scoop. However, its hallmark was its focus on political coverage underpinned by first class interviewing by its presenters. The jury agreed the programme had made itself – once again - required viewing.”

Nominees:

News at Ten *ITN* for *ITV*

BBC News at Ten *BBC News* for *BBC One*

Digital Award

WINNER - Why are transgender people self-medicating? *Sky News* for *Snapchat Discover* and *YouTube*



“This was a new award for the RTS and we were happy to see so many submissions. The winning entry was commissioned for the vertical storytelling platform Snapchat and stood out from its competitors for its revelatory journalism told through powerful case studies. More than 1.55m people, mostly under 35s, have watched the film.”

Nominees:

Modern Masculinity – Men need meaning and responsibility *The Guardian for The Guardian / YouTube*

Uncovered – Mexico Femicide *ITN for Online*

Interview of the Year

WINNER – The Prince Andrew Interview – Newsnight *BBC Two*

“This was an unprecedented interview demonstrating enterprise, thorough preparation and was full of the unexpected. The questioning was forensic and the programme demonstrated fine journalistic skill which had a huge impact.”

Nominees:

Harry and Meghan: An African Journey – Duchess of Sussex *ITN Productions and ITV News for ITV*

Andrew Neil interviews Boris Johnson *BBC News for BBC One*

Nations and Regions Current Affairs

WINNER - Disclosure: Who Killed Emma? *BBC Scotland for BBC One Scotland*

“Here was a brilliant piece of investigation that was meticulously researched, and which not only gained surprising access to police files but also used it to pursue police failures and cover ups. The jury found the programme both electrifying and chilling. Remarkably, a tenacious, dogged reporter made more progress on a murder enquiry than a police force – an extraordinary feat that is a shining example of what exceptional journalism can achieve.”

Nominees:

The Pub Bombings *BBC Birmingham for BBC England*

Spotlight - Paisley in Paradise *BBC Northern Ireland*

Nations and Regions News

WINNER – BBC South East Today – Shoreham Special programme *BBC South East for BBC One*

“The winning programme competed in a very strong field. What stood out for the judges was the exceptional investment in a great regional news story that was a technical triumph as well. The reporting featured a number of exclusives. It made for a compelling watch that skillfully captured the psychological and emotional effects of the worst tragedy of its kind in more than 60 years.”



Nominees:

ITV News London – Domestic Abuse: The Crime Behind Closed Doors *ITN for ITV*
BBC Look North (Yorkshire) – Floods November 2019 *BBC Yorkshire for BBC One*

Nations and Regions Presenter of the Year

WINNER - Riz Lateef *BBC London for BBC One*

“Some of the measures of a highly skilled regional presenter include how well they’re able to connect with viewers; a discernible knowledge of their area; and someone who might display easy charm but knows how to ask bold questions and handle awkward situations. Our winner has all this, and it stood out. The jury appreciated the flexibility, sparkle and thought that had evidently gone into every piece they were doing and the authority that they conveyed.”

Nominees:

Mark Carruthers - The View; Sunday Politics NI; Election 2019 *BBC Northern Ireland*
Tony Morris - ITV News - Granada Reports *ITV News for ITV*

Network Presenter of the Year

WINNER – Emily Maitlis – *Newsnight BBC Two*

“Some tremendous performances graced this year’s entries. The nominated candidates demonstrated empathy, range and tenacity. The judges were impressed by their ability to present a breaking news story one day and carry out a sensitive and intimate interview on another. But the winner was seen by the judges to have had a stand-out year. In a year of political chaos, her nose for nonsense led to bruising encounters with politicians and her interview with a member of the Royal family will live on in history.”

Nominees:

Tom Bradby – *ITV News ITN for ITV*
Victoria Derbyshire – *Victoria Derbyshire Programme BBC Two and BBC Newschannel*

News Channel of the Year

WINNER – *Sky News*

“This was a very hotly contested category. In a year when the UK news agenda was dominated by a colossal domestic, political story the nominees were also praised for the breadth of their non-Brexit output. They all featured strong coverage of the environment and climate change, as well as in-depth reporting of major, often shocking, events from Syria and Sri Lanka to New Zealand and Hong Kong. In a tight vote, the winner was the channel which the jurors said displayed the greatest range and most enterprise and innovation – on the ground and indeed underwater.”

Nominees:

BBC Newschannel
CNN International



News Coverage – Home

WINNER – The Death of Molly Russell – BBC News for BBC One

“The judges were very impressed with this entry, giving it ten out of ten and agreed it ticked all the boxes for a top award. It showed creativity, excellent scriptwriting and innovation. The entry was described as very much of our time.”

Nominees:

Britain’s Hidden Children’s Homes – Newsnight *BBC Two*

The Murder of Lyra McKee – Channel 4 News *ITN for Channel 4*

News Coverage – International

WINNER - The Missing Muslims of Xinjiang - BBC News at Ten *BBC News for BBC One*

“This was an intensely competitive category with many highly-compelling submissions. The winner fully captured a story that every broadcaster was chasing. The team secured great access in a challenging environment. With great story-telling and global impact.”

Nominees:

The Migrant Crisis: Death on the Channel – *ITV News ITN for ITV*

Inside Syria - Channel 4 News *ITN for Channel 4*

News Technology

WINNER - First Lives from the Deep *Sky News and Associated Press*

“The winning entry represented an innovative step-change in broadcast technology. At a time when climate change is our biggest story, the ability to present live, 300 metres below the Indian Ocean completely untethered, brought new insights and perspectives on the damage being done to our seas. This project with its pioneering technology was almost a year in the planning.”

Nominees:

Click 1000 – *BBC Click BBC News*

Vote Coder *BBC News*

Scoop of the Year

WINNER - The Prince Andrew Interview – Newsnight *BBC Two*

“This world exclusive was making headlines even before it was broadcast. Clips were running, it was on every front page and it was already clear that this amazing interview was going to cause major ructions for at least one member of the Royal Family, even though we knew he wasn’t sweating about it!”



Nominees:

Undercover with the Clerics: Iraq's Secret Sex Trade - *BBC News Arabic for BBC News and BBC Two*
Harry Dunn *Sky News*

Specialist Journalist of the Year

WINNER - Rohit Kachroo - ITV News *ITN for ITV*

"Rohit has had an extraordinary year and has really made his mark. He is tough when he needs to be and has a fantastic portfolio of exclusives that anyone would bite their opponents' legs off to get. In a fine field, Rohit's work stood out above all the others."

Nominees:

Alex Crawford – *Sky News*
Dan Rivers – *ITV News ITN for ITV*

Television Journalist of the Year

WINNER - Nima Elbagir *CNN International*

"The standard of entries in this category was as high as it has ever been and each of the nominees would have been a worthy winner. In the end the judges went for a journalist who demonstrated an unmatched range of investigation, eye-witness reporting and courage with sparkling writing and the ability to find themselves at the centre of a story."

Nominees:

Gabriel Gatehouse – *Newsnight BBC Two*
Stuart Ramsay *Sky News*

Young Talent of the Year

WINNER - Martha Kelner *Sky News*

"Martha has established herself as a leading broadcast sports correspondent – a beat dominated by men – through bringing hard edged and investigative skills into an area where they are rarely seen. She gets beneath the sports headlines to underlying issues and has built an enviable track record in breaking stories as a result. She has brought fresh perspectives to sport and pursued them with unusual skill and energy."

Noinees:

Ben Hunte – *BBC News for BBC One*
Yousra Elbagir – *Channel 4 News ITN for Channel 4*

Judges' Award

WINNER – Political Teams (*5 News, BBC News, Channel 4 News, ITV News and Sky News*)



“The divisions of Brexit put unprecedented pressure on political journalists. Many suffered abuse and threats.

In addition – as Adam Boulton wrote recently – relations between the media and the political class are being increasingly challenged as politicians by-pass journalists, preferring instead to put their messages out directly.

Against this background the judges decided that the RTS should recognize all the political teams across all the UK broadcasters for their important role as guardians of democracy.”

Outstanding Contribution Award

WINNER - Christiane Amanpour

“This year [the Judges’ Award] goes to a towering global figure in English speaking broadcast journalism, a doyenne of international television presenters.

She was born in London, raised in Tehran, educated at a convent in Buckinghamshire before university in America.

She began her broadcast career while still an undergraduate. Over four decades she has covered more or less every major conflict and interviewed pretty much anyone who is anyone. She is a committed campaigner for media freedom and the safety of journalists.”

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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.

About Avid:

Avid delivers the most open and efficient media platform, connecting content creation with collaboration, asset protection, distribution, and consumption. Avid's preeminent customer community uses Avid's comprehensive tools and workflow solutions to create, distribute and monetize the most watched, loved and listened to media in the world—from prestigious and award-winning feature films to popular television shows, news programs and televised sporting events, and celebrated music recordings and live concerts. With the most flexible deployment and pricing options, Avid's industry-leading solutions include Media Composer®, Pro Tools®, Avid NEXIS®, MediaCentral®, iNEWS®, AirSpeed®, Sibelius®, Avid VENUE™, FastServe®, and Maestro™. For more information about Avid solutions and services, visit www.avid.com, connect with Avid on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), or subscribe to [Avid Blogs](#).