

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY OPENS ENTRIES FOR TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2023

New Political Journalism, Innovation and On-Demand Categories Introduced for 2023

London, 5 October 2022 – Britain’s leading forum for television and media, the **Royal Television Society (RTS)**, has opened entries for the RTS Television Journalism Awards 2023. Celebrating creativity and excellence in journalism for both news and current affairs, the ceremony will take place on March 1st 2023 at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

For 2023, a brand-new category for **Political Journalist of the Year** has been introduced to recognise the high-quality specialist knowledge and expertise required for political journalism on TV and video platforms. In addition, two further categories have been added, the **Innovation Award** and the **On-Demand Journalism** category, replacing the **Digital Award** for this year. The **Innovation Award** highlights innovations by news organisations, either in content, approach or technology, with the **On-Demand Journalism** category focusing on the huge growth in video-journalism produced specifically for internet connected on-demand platforms. Two of the Nations and Regions categories’ criteria have also changed significantly and when submitting it is advised to carefully note the changes for each of these awards.

Simon Bucks, Chair of the RTS Television Journalism Awards, said: “It has been a truly remarkable 12 months for news – globally as well as in the U.K. – which has been reflected in some fantastic video journalism on all platforms. I’m certain the competition for the RTS TV Journalism Awards will be more intense than ever, and It’s especially timely that we have introduced a new award for political journalism.

“The Awards are the Gold Standard of excellence and I’m really looking forward to seeing the range and quality of entries.”

All entries must have first transmitted on any platform in the UK or made available online between 16th November 2021 and 15th November 2022. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 1st December 2022. For more information please visit: <https://rts.org.uk/award/rts-television-journalism-awards-2023>

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 the wider community.

Please see below the full criteria:

RTS Television Journalism Awards 2023 Criteria

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS AWARDS

News Coverage – Home

The Home News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story in the UK as it unfolds. Entries can include material ranging over weeks or months. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting, picture and sound, analysis and explanation. Entries: Up to three entries per network channel or agency to a maximum of 30 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. In addition, news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or an English region or the Channel Islands may submit one story which has also appeared on a network channel or online.

News Coverage - International

The International News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story outside the U.K. as it unfolds. Entries can include material ranging over weeks or months. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting, picture and sound, analysis and explanation.

Network Daily News Programme of the Year

The Network Daily News Programme of the Year Award is for the programme which has demonstrated the greatest journalistic excellence throughout the year. The jury will take into account the programme's production values as well as its journalism. They may also take into account the performance of a programme beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

News Channel of the Year

The News Channel of the Year Award is for the news provider which has best reported the events of the year which will be of interest to viewers in the U.K., regardless of where the stories have taken place. A news channel is considered to be a continuous live video stream on network TV and/or online which may contain some pre-recorded elements. The jury may take into account the performance of an entrant beyond the submitted material, within the criteria year.

Breaking News

This award recognises the expertise of news organisations in responding in real time to an unscheduled or unexpected major news story. The judges will be focusing on the initial coverage from the moment the story breaks, including the speed of response, and the quality of cogent reports, background, context and analysis. They will also consider how well the broadcaster reported subsequent events over the first 48 hours. The jury may take into account the performance of an entrant beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Innovation Award

This award recognises innovations by news organisations, either in content, approach, technique or technology, which support and enhance video journalism and the delivery of news on TV and/or digital and online platforms. The judges will be particularly looking for evidence that entries have helped engage audiences, especially those who are hard to reach. It is likely that entrants will need to support their entry with information to help the judges understand why the innovation deserves special credit: this can be done on video with commentary or with text.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS AWARDS

Current Affairs - Home

The Home Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of current affairs journalism shot in the UK. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical video journalism on TV or online. Short-form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry.

This category is emphatically NOT for documentaries which should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards.

Current Affairs - International

The International Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of non-UK current affairs journalism. The programme should be substantially about an international subject. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical video journalism on TV or online. Short form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry.

This category is emphatically NOT for documentaries which should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards.

NATIONS AND REGIONS AWARDS

Nations and Regions News

The Nations and Regions News Award is for the programme which has best demonstrated originality and production quality as well as journalistic excellence. Entrants should bear in mind that judges are asked to consider not only the treatment of major news stories but evidence of how a programme team can create a sense of belonging that distinguishes individual programmes from the output of other areas. Entries are invited from news teams in the nations (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), the regions of those nations, the English regions and sub-regions, the Channel Islands and local TV services in the UK.

Nations and Regions Factual

This Award seeks to recognise how the market for topical television journalism has never been more diverse, both in its range and content as well as the way in which it is delivered. It encompasses the broad church of all treatments of longer form journalism - from Current Affairs to Documentary - and is designed to reward exceptional talent and creativity in programme making outside of daily news. It is open to every team in the

Nations (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England), the English Regions, the Channel Islands and Local TV services in the UK.

Nations and Regions Reporter of the Year

The Nations and Regions Reporter of the Year Award recognises the best visual storytelling and innovative technical ability. The judges will be looking for strong all-round reporting skills - scripting, use of pictures, original journalism, and on-screen presence. They will give additional credit for human interest stories that illuminate important or complex issues and, where applicable, excellence in self shooting and editing. The category applies to both news and sport journalism.

The accompanying submission with this category must make it clear exactly what the reporter did, whether it was self-edited, self-shot and how much postproduction was involved. The judges will take any third-party help into consideration.

AWARDS FOR NEWS OR CURRENT AFFAIRS

Scoop of the Year

This award recognises exclusive, entrepreneurial journalism in either news or current affairs by a broadcaster or agency. Entries will be judged on the strength of the journalism and the wider impact more than the production values of the transmitted story.

Political Journalist of the Year

The award recognises the high-quality specialist knowledge and expertise required for political journalism on TV and video platforms. In this context political journalism is not confined to coverage of Westminster. Credit will be given for original story-getting, reporting, analysis and interviewing. The jury may take into account the performance of the individual beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Specialist Journalist of the Year

The award recognises high quality specialist knowledge and expertise in thematic genres such as arts, entertainment, science, health, education, business, economics and defence inside or outside the UK. Coverage of a particular area of the world is not considered specialist in itself but reporting of a theme or issue within that area is. The jury may take into account the performance of the individual beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Young Talent of the Year

The Young Talent of the Year Award is for the best work in news or current affairs during the year by an on or off-screen journalist, editor, video journalist, camera operator or technician. Entrants must be under the age of 30 (on the last day of the 12 month period from which entries are invited). In the case of offscreen candidates especially (but all candidates ideally), the judges will welcome supporting written material and background information to help understand the individual contribution.

Network Television Journalist of the Year

The Television Journalist of the Year award is for the best work during the year by an on-screen television journalist in news and/or current affairs. Judges will expect to see a demonstration of the range of the journalist and may take into account the performance of a journalist beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Camera Operator of the Year

The Camera Operator of the Year Award is for the best work by a camera operator in news or current affairs. The judges will wish to see the breadth and depth of the camera operator's skill. It will be particularly helpful for the jury to be provided with written background information on whether, for example, the camera operator also helped to produce the items or edited them.

Network Presenter of the Year

The Network Presenter of the Year Award is for the best news and/or current affairs presenter whose skills may include interviewing, responding to breaking news, effective communication with the programme audience and presenting on location as well as studio presentation. Reporter packages made on presentation assignments may be submitted but this category is primarily for presenting not reporting and those reports can be submitted into the news coverage categories. The jury may take into account the performance of a presenter beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

On-Demand Journalism

This award recognises the huge growth in video-journalism produced specifically for internet connected on-demand platforms. These include websites, apps, YouTube and OTT ("over-the-top") TV channels. Any professional video-journalism organisation with a U.K production base is eligible to enter (including mainstream broadcasters). The spirit of this award is to encourage and reward original journalism not made primarily for broadcast. Entries should have been commissioned and designed for a digital platform or platforms. Although entries may subsequently have been shown on conventional TV (DTT, satellite or cable) the judges will be looking particularly for an originality of approach which focusses on the production and delivery of journalism for non-broadcast audiences. This type of journalism is often produced by individuals or very small teams who are multi-skilled, and this will be also taken into account by the judges.

Network Interview of the Year

This award recognises the importance of the television interview in making news and in analysing issues. The judges will be looking for an interview which reveals new - and often unexpected - information and demonstrates journalistic skills by the interviewer. The award is given for the best interview, not for the best package of interviews by one journalist.

Awards given at the discretion of the Society

The RTS welcomes suggestions for the following two Awards, these will be awarded or deferred at the discretion of the Society following discussion and guidance from the Jury Chairs and Entrants representatives. Suggestions for the two awards must be submitted via the online entry site, no payment is required for these suggestions.

RTS Special Award

The Special Award is for an individual (on or off screen) or a team to recognise an outstanding contribution to the advancement of video Journalism during the awards year. The principle of this award is that it is for achievements which are not represented in or go beyond any of the conventional categories. Nominations must be made via the awards portal. A nomination must be supported by the reasons why it should win, as

well as supporting documentation and testimonials. The RTS Committee of Neutral Chairs will consider all nominations and make a recommendation to the RTS. The RTS reserves the right not to make the award if it considers there are no suitable nominations. This Award cannot be made posthumously.

Outstanding Contribution Award

The Outstanding Contribution Award recognizes an individual's work over a sustained period. The spirit of this award is that recipients should have several significant achievements during their careers. Nominations must be made via the awards portal. A nomination must be supported by the reasons why he or she should win, as well as supporting documentation and testimonials. The RTS will take into account evidence of the individual's contribution to the wider industry, for example by promoting diversity. The RTS Committee of Neutral Chairs will consider all nominations and make a recommendation to the RTS. The RTS reserves the right not to make the award if it considers there are no suitable nominations. This Award cannot be made posthumously.

For further information please contact:

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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 3,500 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 His Majesty King Charles III 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.