

PRESS RELEASE**KRYSTEL RICHARDS NAMED RTS YOUNG
TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR 2020****Arran Paul announced as runner-up and recipient of the Coffey
Award for Excellence in Technology 2020**

London, 21 September 2020 – The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, has crowned the winner of its annual **RTS Young Technologist Award**, presented in memory of A.M Beresford-Cooke, at an online ceremony presented by Abadesi Osunsade, Founder and CEO of Hustle Crew and the Co-Host of the Techish Podcast. Krystel Richards, Associate Broadcast-IT Engineer at CNN/WarnerMedia, was chosen to receive the prestigious award by a panel of industry expert judges, chaired by Digital Media Consultant Terry Marsh.

Krystel started out on the prestigious BBC Broadcast Engineering Apprenticeship, where she took part in unique placements with industry leaders such as CNN, Digital UK and the BBC, earning a first-class degree. Following this she joined WarnerMedia CNN Engineering as the bureau relocated and modernised to create an all IP production facility. Krystel is also extremely passionate about education in the industry and the importance of schemes for diversity and social mobility.

The runner up and recipient of the Coffey Award for Excellence in Technology 2020 is Arran Paul, BBC news Location Engineer. Arran worked for three years as a BBC Broadcast Engineering Apprentice before taking on the permanent role as a Location Engineer, responsible for providing and supporting on-location connectivity and facilities for live news broadcasts.

Terry Marsh, Chair of the RTS Young Technologist Award jury, said: “The jury was overwhelmed with the talent and number of entries they received during what

has been a uniquely challenging year. Krystel demonstrated not only an impressive breadth of understanding for the industry, but also showed great vision for both technology and education, along with a commitment to supporting others. We are delighted to celebrate both Krystel and Arran at today's online ceremony."

Krystel Richards said: "I am delighted to receive such a prestigious award and would like to thank all who have and continue to spend countless hours sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience with me as I start out in my career.

These uncertain times have brought challenges but the industry has adapted and pushed technology to its limits; it is this innovation that makes television such an exciting field of work, with opportunities at every turn.

Looking ahead I hope to use this win as a platform to share my experiences and celebrate the successes of apprenticeships in STEM."

The Young Technologist Award was established by the RTS with funds received from the family of A.M. Beresford-Cooke – a distinguished engineer who contributed much to the development of British broadcasting technology through his work on towers and masts for VHF and UHF transmission. The aim of the award is to advance education in the science, practice, technology and art of television and its allied fields.

For further information on the RTS Young Technologist of the Year Award please visit: <https://rts.org.uk/award/rts-young-technologist-award-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.