

# RTS North East and the Borders Awards 2024/25 Categories and Criteria

## Production Awards

Category 1	Non-Broadcast Scripted and Unscripted
Category 2	Broadcast Factual
Category 3	Broadcast Factual Entertainment
Category 4	Comedy
Category 5	Drama
Category 6	Commercial
Category 7	News Programme
Category 8	Broadcast Short Form
Category 9	Children's
Category 10	Cinematography
Category 11	Sport Award

## Individual Awards

Category 12	On Screen Journalism
Category 13	Presenter
Category 14	Drama Performance
Category 15	Newcomer

## Professional Excellence Awards

Category 16	Post production
Category 17	The Crew Award
Category 18	The Centre Award

## Judging Process

### How to Enter:

**Open for entries: Tuesday 17 September 2024**

**Entry deadline: Friday 08 November 2024**

## Production Awards

1. *Judges will consider all elements of the entries, based on the following criteria:*
  - *Quality*
  - *Creativity*
  - *Originality and innovation*
  - *Entertainment value*
  - *Use of resources*
  - *Professional Skills*
2. *Entries may come from any media platform and must have been either aired on TV, distributed for non-broadcast or streamed online for the first time between **November 2023 and January 2025**. Note that some categories are for broadcast entries only*
3. *Entries must have a substantial link with the region. This can be - more than a third of the budget spent in the region, originated and shot in the region and/or post-produced in the region.*
4. *Only one production or episode from a series can be entered into the same category*
5. *All rights must have been cleared for the copying and showing in public of extracts during the Awards presentation and for screening on the internet.*
6. *All entrants must provide a full programme for judging purposes and a 30-second clip (a stand-out moment) which should be uploaded along with their entry. Entries will not be considered complete unless the clip is included.*

Production awards include the following six categories.

### Category 1: Non-Broadcast Scripted and Unscripted

This award will recognise a production or promotion not made for broadcast. Entries are generally aimed at a specific target audience and can include factual as well as drama and entertainment.

Where there is a commissioning editor, a testimony from them should be included outlining how effective the production was in meeting the commissioner's objectives. Please include a headline production budget for the project. This category encourages online content commissioned for a specific purpose for charities, education institutions, local authorities and organisations. There is a separate category for commercials.

### Category 2: Broadcast Factual

This award will recognise productions made for broadcast. We are looking for the highest standard of output. This category includes daytime, documentaries, current affairs and specialist factual productions. Broadcast includes streaming services such as Netflix, Disney +, Apple TV and Prime.

Entries may be a one-off programme or a single episode from a factual series and can include investigative and political analysis. There is a separate category for inserts and strands.

### Category 3: Broadcast Factual Entertainment

This category includes productions made for broadcast demonstrating excellence in both Daytime and Peak. Including competition, travelogue and lifestyle formats. Broadcast includes streaming services such as Netflix, Disney +, Apple TV and Prime.

Entries may be a one-off programme or a single episode from a series.

### Category 4: Comedy

This award recognises writers, performers and producers making comedy for broadcast and non-broadcast across all platforms. Entries are welcomed from individuals or production teams.

### Category 5: Drama

This award is for broadcast singles and series. This award excludes short form - which has its own category. The full production must be submitted. The judges reserve the right to make two awards depending on the number of entries and budget considerations. Programme must have been aired on TV for the first time between **November 2023 and the end of January 2025**.

### Category 6: Commercial

This award recognises exceptional standards of work in the production of commercial content from any media platform. Please include a client testimony and brief budget details.

### Category 7: News Programme

This award is to recognise the highest standard of news output in the region. Rewarding exceptional journalism, production, technical delivery and depth and quality of coverage. Two submissions are required. The first can be any programme transmitted during the month of **May 2024**. The second is a 30-minute highlights reel showcasing the ten best news moments of the year (any clips between **November 8th 2023 and November 8th 2024 - the deadline for submissions**)

### Category 8: Broadcast Short Form

This category is designed to recognise excellence in the production of short form content and inserts for broadcast. These features or strands will have appeared in network or

regional magazine shows. Judges are looking for the specialist skills required in short story telling for scripted and unscripted broadcast. Judges will consider productions up to 20 minutes duration. The full programme should be submitted.

### Category 9: Children's

The key audience for this category is children. Entries can include productions made for broadcast and non-broadcast across all platforms. Entries may be a one-off programme or an episode from a children's series.

### Category 10: Cinematography

This award celebrates the skill and professional excellence of an individual or team in all elements of camera work - including sound capture where relevant in single camera operations. Submissions can include scripted and non-scripted productions, broadcast and non-broadcast

### Category 11: Sport Award

This category is open to broadcast and non-broadcast. This award recognises the importance of sport to the region and will be given for excellence in sports reporting, sports presentation and sports production. This could be an individual award or could recognise sports production teams working on a range of projects. The full programme should be submitted.

## Individual Awards

1. *All work must have been aired on TV, distributed for non-broadcast or streamed online for the first time between **November 2023 and end of January 2025***
2. *All entrants must provide a 30 second clip (a stand-out moment) which should be uploaded along with their entry. Entries will not be considered complete unless the clip is included.*

Portfolio Awards include the following four categories:

### Category 12: On Screen Journalism

Open to television and digital journalists working in news and current affairs. Entrants should submit a portfolio of three pieces of work no longer than 15 minutes in total which show a range of skills, together with background notes between 500 and 750 words.

Judges will assess a range of skills including on the day/breaking news reporting as well as examples of original and creative journalism combined with strong storytelling and compelling use of pictures. Presentation and effective communication skills will also be taken into account. This is an individual award for on screen journalists based in the region working on regional or network channels.

### Category 13: Presenter

This category recognises anchors, hosts and programme presenters across the full range of TV news, current affairs, documentaries and features. Presenters of factual and entertainment series based in the region are also eligible. Judges will take into account the skills of interviewing, conveying information, building a relationship with viewers and presenting on location. Entrants should submit a portfolio of three separate items totalling 15 minutes. Judges will also take into account the written submission.

### Category 14: Drama Performance

This award is to recognise the best on-screen performance this year by an actor in broadcast Drama production. Entrants should be based in the region or feature in content produced in the region.

Judges will be looking for an inspired performance and one that has brought depth to the character and the situation portrayed.

Please include the full programme and highlight in the written entry why this performer has been nominated. Work must have been aired on TV for the first time between **November 2023 and the end of January 2025**.

### Category 15: Newcomer

This award is for a newcomer with less than two years industry experience either in front or behind the camera. They will originate from the region or have a long-term base and live and work in the region. The individual will have demonstrated exceptionally high standards of work and show potential to go right to the top in the industry.

The judges will recognise their skills and talents are emerging. They will want to see evidence of extensive contributions to a team effort, demonstrate newly learned skills, creativity, innovation, professionalism and bags of potential.

The nominee, for example, might be a writer who has had their first network commission aired – they might be in their first film editor job – they might be in the early stages of a news production career or they might be showing real talent behind the scenes in a TV drama. Entrants may be trainees, assistants or early career freelancers.

This is a broad category and individuals must be nominated by a senior manager who will submit a written nomination between 500 and 1000 words demonstrating why the nominee is already considered to be a “rising star” and why they are likely to make a big impact on the industry in the future. The entry should also include endorsements/letters from clients/managers which highlight how the individual has demonstrated excellence in their role. Video content will not be accepted in this category.

## Professional Excellence Awards

1. *All work must have been aired on TV, distributed for non-broadcast or streamed online for the first time between **November 2023 and the end of January 2025.***
2. *Individuals or teams may enter these categories.*
3. *Entrants must have their home base in the region if they work elsewhere. At least one member of a team should be based in the North East and Borders.*
4. *These awards include a broad range of disciplines and the winner will be able to clearly demonstrate to the judges that their work is excellent.*
5. *The judging panel will consider:*
  - *Quality*
  - *Originality*
  - *Creativity*
  - *Technical excellence*
6. *All entrants must provide along with their entry, a 30-second clip (a stand-out moment) which should be uploaded along with their entry. Entries will not be considered complete unless the clip is included.*

Professional Excellence Awards include the following categories:

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### Category 16: Post Production

This category recognises professional excellence in post-production for broadcast and non-broadcast. Submissions are invited from post production companies, individual editors and sound mixers based in the North East and Borders working on network, regional television and feature projects.

Entrants should submit three samples of work totalling 15 minutes which demonstrate professional excellence in this area. The portfolio should be supported by written narrative.

This award could identify the work of one individual or the contribution of the whole post-production team.

### Category 17: The Crew Award

Judges are seeking nominations for unsung heroes of tv production in the North East and the Borders. This could be an individual or team award. They might be exceptional make-up or props professionals, art directors, location or production managers or costume designers. This award is not suitable for above the line roles such as writers, directors and executive producers.

**This award is sponsored by [North East Screen](#) and there is no cost to nominating individuals or teams for this category.**

This is a broad category and individuals or teams must be nominated or supported by a senior manager on a production on which they have worked. Video content and images will be accepted as part of the nomination.

## The Centre Award

This award is open to individuals, teams and organisations whose work, either in front of the camera or behind the scenes, has made an outstanding contribution to any aspect of our industry - broadcasting, production, talent development or technical sectors in the North East and Border region – and on a wider stage - with a particular focus on the past 12 months.

Entrants should submit a statement of no less than 1000 words, plus at least three letters of support for the nomination outlining why they deserve this industry award. Without this the entry will not be eligible and therefore will not be considered.

Nominations for the Centre Award and any special achievement awards should be sent in confidence to [netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk](mailto:netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk)

and [RTSNorthEastBordersViceChair@rts.org.uk](mailto:RTSNorthEastBordersViceChair@rts.org.uk)

## Judging Process

Each entry will be judged by a panel of industry experts who are responsible for specific categories. Each will consider the entries along with entry notes and testimonials where required. Each judging panel will have a chair who has the casting vote in the event of a tie in any category.

Panel chairs will report to the Chair of Judges who has the final say in matters of dispute.

The entries will be judged on the basis of what entrants submit and not on the judges' knowledge of the entrant's other work.

If there are too few entries in a particular category, the judges reserve the right not to offer an award or if appropriate switch entries to another category.

Judges will be looking for a strong written submission so please take care completing the entry form and make sure you comply with the entry requirements for each category. Be careful to follow guidance on length of submitted video material.

One award will be given per category; however, the Chair of Judges reserve the right to award more than one award if after discussion this is deemed appropriate.

## How to Enter

**Open for entries: Tuesday 17 September 2024**

Link to online portal: <https://awardsentry.rts.org.uk/entrant/>

Entry fee: £70 + VAT.

Entry deadline: In line with other RTS centres there is now one entry deadline which is **08 November 2024 at 17:00.**

The Award ceremony takes place on **Saturday 15 February 2025 at Newcastle Gateshead Hilton.**

For technical support contact: [awards@rts.org.uk](mailto:awards@rts.org.uk) 0207 822 2820

For general enquiries contact: [rtsnortheastborders@rts.org.uk](mailto:rtsnortheastborders@rts.org.uk)

Website: [www.rts.org/region/north-east-and-the-border](http://www.rts.org/region/north-east-and-the-border)

Join the RTS: [membership@rts.org.uk](mailto:membership@rts.org.uk)

**Submission check list:**

- Entry form completed
- Full programme uploaded
- 30-second highlights clip uploaded
- Entry fee paid

Good luck!