



ROYAL  
TELEVISION  
SOCIETY

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **ROYAL TELEVISION AWARDS POSTPONED UNTIL 2022**

**The RTS North East & Border Centre Awards will host a virtual Student Awards in 2021 with the main awards rescheduled for 2022**

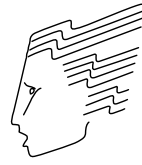
The annual Royal Television Society (RTS) Awards celebrating television, media and creative arts production in the North East and Cumbria will now take place in 2022.

Due to the continued uncertainty in the wake of Coronavirus, organisers of the region's prestigious RTS Awards have taken the decision to replace the 2021 event with a virtual ceremony to recognise student talent with the full category of awards returning in February 2022.

For more than thirty years the awards have showcased the very best of the region's television and production talent with the annual red-carpet ceremony attracting more than 500 media professionals and celebrities from the world of television.

Graeme Thompson, Chair of the regional Royal Television Society Awards committee, said: "It is with great regret that we have decided to postpone the annual RTS Awards. Our priority is the safety of our guests and we have no way of predicting whether large scale events will be permitted. So we look forward instead to the Student Awards being held online in the New Year with the main awards returning bigger and better than ever in 2022."

The regional finals of the national RTS Students Awards will be staged online in February 2021 with the winners going forward to the grand final. It is expected the ceremony along with the postponed awards event will reflect the challenges of producing programmes during the pandemic.



This year's star-studded ceremony took place at the end of February and was hosted by Tyneside Comedian and Broadcaster Jason Cook with celebrity guests including Steph McGovern, Brenda Blethyn and voice of Strictly Come Dancing, Alan Dedicoat.

The 2022 RTS Awards will welcome entries from 2021 with the usual mix of categories ranging from best journalism to best drama. The awards will also include the hotly contested best presenter and best news programme of the year categories.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

Free to use photographs of the 2020 Awards can be requested from **[pictures@northnews.co.uk](mailto:pictures@northnews.co.uk)**

The image attached shows some of the 2020 Winners on stage at the ceremony held at the Hilton Newcastle-Gateshead.

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