

October 2020

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleague

### RTS PROGRAMME AWARDS 2021

I am delighted to be the new Chair of the RTS Programme Awards. These are one of the gold standard awards in our industry and are an important showcase of the extraordinary talent evident across all genres in British television.

We have taken on board feedback from the industry following last year's awards. Our aim, as ever, is to reflect the changing television landscape and to make sure the categories recognise the kinds of programmes and talent that make up today's schedules and the best content in Britain.

Following discussions with judges and entering companies we have implemented the following changes:

- **Updated eligibility period:** The eligibility period will now follow the calendar year. For this changeover year entries will be accepted from programmes broadcast between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2020. Please refer to the Conditions of Entry for further details. Please be aware that in order to accommodate this change we will not be able to allow extensions to the entry deadlines.
- **Minimum duration:** We have introduced a minimum duration of 10 minutes (with the maximum duration still 15 minutes) for all performance categories
- **Comedy Entertainment:** We have introduced a new Comedy Entertainment category alongside the existing Entertainment category.
- **Allocation of entries:** in the genre and writing categories we will now limit the number of entries per category by broadcaster rather than by channel. Details of the new limit can be found within the description of each category. Entries in the performance categories remain at 5 per channel.

We would stress the need for all organisations to show awareness in their selection of entries of the need for recognising diversity in our industry and in our wider community.

Please refer to the full Programme Awards criteria before submitting your entries. If you have any queries on the criteria or conditions of entry, then please contact Lindsey Cran on 07710 759357 or [lindsey@cranberry-events.com](mailto:lindsey@cranberry-events.com). For queries regarding the online entry system please contact Danielle Gaughan on 020 7822 2822 or [dgaughan@rts.org.uk](mailto:dgaughan@rts.org.uk).

I look forward to seeing what I am sure will be a fantastic set of entries.

Yours sincerely

**Kenton Allen**  
Chair, RTS Programme Awards

# RTS PROGRAMME AWARDS 2021 CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Entries are now invited for the RTS Programme Awards 2021. All programmes and performances should have been first delivered, whether by broadcast or online streaming, between **1 November 2019 and 31 December 2020**.

The Awards are for original UK productions and, where appropriate, international co-productions. It is acceptable that the first transmission or delivery may have been to a non-UK audience but the first UK transmission or streaming must have been within the dates above.

RTS Awards recognise programmes and performances which, in the year in question, have made a material and positive contribution worthy of acclaim by the industry and UK viewers.

In particular, judges will wish to identify programmes and performances which offer:

- Originality in form or content which has set fresh standards
- Development of new genres, leading public taste
- Quality which others will seek to emulate
- Content which has had a significant impact on UK audiences
- Technical and production excellence

Juries will consider only the material which is entered so entrants should select relevant content for each category after reading the criteria carefully.

In common with other RTS awards, entrants should bear in mind in selecting their entries that judges are asked to ensure that these awards reflect diversity within the industry and within wider society.

The Awards will be presented on Tuesday 16 March 2021. The nominations will be announced in early March 2021.

## DRAMA

### **Single Drama**

The single drama should be submitted in full and should be in one complete and self-contained episode.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The Left Behind* (winner); *Brexit: The Uncivil War*; *Doing Money*

### **Drama Series**

For returning drama series. Entries MUST be accompanied by full synopses of all other episodes in the series so that jurors can fully understand the context of the two episodes they view.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Gentleman Jack* (winner); *The Capture*; *Ackley Bridge*

### **Mini-Series**

For single-run drama series that are not intended to return. Entries MUST be accompanied by full synopses of all other episodes in the series so that jurors can fully understand the context of the two episodes they view.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The Long Song* (winner); *Chernobyl*; *Years and Years*

### **Soap and Continuing Drama**

For half hour or hour long multi-unit entities running throughout the year with one or more episodes per week. Three **consecutive** episodes should be submitted to demonstrate the soap's consistency and continuing quality. Specials or late night episodes should NOT be included. Jurors will give equal weight to their consideration of each episode.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Casualty* (winner); *EastEnders*; *Coronation Street*

### **Writer – Drama**

Both original drama and adaptation can be entered. Single dramas should be submitted in full. For series and serials, please submit one episode only. Please include a shooting script with your online entry.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Craig Mazin – Chernobyl* (winner); *Roy Williams – Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle*; *Neil Forsyth - Guilt*

## **ENTERTAINMENT AND COMEDY**

### ***Scripted Comedy***

For situation comedies, comedy dramas and sketch shows. Single programmes should be submitted in full. For series and serials, please submit two episodes.

#### ***Up to six entries per broadcaster.***

2020 nominations: *Fleabag (winner); Stath Lets Flats; Derry Girls*

### ***Entertainment***

For formatted studio entertainment shows, competitive reality shows, quiz shows, game shows. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

#### ***Up to six entries per broadcaster.***

2020 nominations: *RuPaul's Drag Race UK (winner); Love Island; Britain's Got Talent*

### ***Comedy Entertainment***

For panel shows, talent-led talk shows, humour-led variety or competition shows and clip shows. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

#### ***Up to six entries per broadcaster.***

2020 nominations: *N/A (new category in 2021)*

### ***Writer – Comedy***

For single writers or writing partnerships. Series (one episode only) and single programmes can be entered. Programmes should be submitted in full.

#### ***Up to six entries per broadcaster.***

2020 nominations: *Phoebe Waller-Bridge – Fleabag (winner); Laurie Nunn – Sex Education; Danny Brocklehurst - Brassic*

## PERFORMANCE

### **Actor (Female)**

Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title. Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

#### **Up to five entries per channel.**

2020 nominations: *Tamara Lawrance – The Long Song (winner); Niamh Algar – The Virtues; Suranne Jones – Gentleman Jack*

### **Actor (Male)**

Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title. Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

#### **Up to five entries per channel.**

2020 nominations: *Stephen Graham – The Virtues (winner); Jared Harris – Chernobyl; Micheal Ward – Top Boy*

### **Entertainment Performance**

For hosts, comperes and panellists performing as themselves in a pure entertainment format, eg chat shows, panel shows and 'shiny floor' studio shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

#### **Up to five entries per channel.**

2020 nominations: *London Hughes – Don't Hate The Playaz (winner); Mo Gilligan – The Lateish Show With Mo Gilligan; Stephen Mulhern – In For A Penny*

### **Comedy Performance (Female)**

For female actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

#### **Up to five entries per channel.**

2020 nominations: *Saoirse-Monica Jackson – Derry Girls (winner); Phoebe Waller-Bridge – Fleabag; Diane Morgan – Motherland*

### **Comedy Performance (Male)**

For male actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title.

#### **Up to five entries per channel.**

2020 nominations: *Ncuti Gatwa – Sex Education (winner); Alex Murphy & Chris Walley – The Young Offenders; Youssef Kerkour – Home*

## **PRESENTER**

### ***Presenter***

For presenters (not performers in an entertainment show) in broadcast programmes, online and streamed services. Judges will focus on the ability to communicate with the viewer and, by doing so, add impact to the programme rather than reporting or interviewing techniques. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each presenter can only be considered for a single programme title. Sports presenters should be entered into the Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit category.

### ***Up to five entries per channel.***

2020 nominations: *Mobeen Azhar – Hometown: A Killing (winner)*; *Vicky McClure – Our Dementia Choir With Vicky McClure*; *Fred Brathwaite – A Fresh Guide To Florence With Fab 5 Freddy*

## **BREAKTHROUGH AWARD**

### ***Breakthrough Award***

For recognition of the emergence of a significant new on-screen talent. Judges will consider the personal impact and the recognition of that impact during the awards year. There is no age limit and it may well be that the entrant has been a member of a successful team for several years but has only now achieved personal recognition. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. This can include material from multiple episodes of the same series, but each entrant can only be considered for a single programme title.

### ***Up to five entries per channel.***

2020 nominations: *Tanya Moodie – Motherland (winner)*; *Aisling Bea – This Way Up*; *Tim Renkow – Jerk*

# FACTUAL

## **History**

For series and single programmes about History, including, where appropriate, dramatic reconstruction of historical events. “Series” in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme which is part of a broader strand may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring History formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may NOT be entered in another Factual category.

### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Jade: The Reality Star Who Changed Britain* (winner); *Spotlight On The Troubles: A Secret History*; *The Last Survivors*

## **Science and Natural History**

For series and single programmes within the Science and Natural History genre. “Series” in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme which is part of a broader strand may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring Science and Natural History formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may NOT be entered in another Factual category.

### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The Parkinson’s Drug Trial: A Miracle Cure?* (winner); *The Planets*; *8 Days: To The Moon And Back*

## **Arts**

For series and single programmes within the Arts genre. “Series” in this category does not refer to a programme strand (a collection of unrelated programmes grouped together under a generic title) but only to programmes conceived and transmitted as an entity, even though each separate programme may be complete in itself. A single programme which is part of a broader strand may be entered as a single programme. New and recurring Arts formats should be entered into this category rather than Documentary or Formatted Popular Factual. An entire single programme or one episode of a series should be entered as representative of that series. Programmes entered into this category may NOT be entered in another Factual category.

### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Bros: After The Screaming Stops* (winner); *imagine... James Graham: In The Room Where It Happens*; *Superkids: Breaking Away From Care*

### **Single Documentary**

For programmes conceived as either as a single documentary or as a one-off programme that is part of a documentary strand. The programme must be submitted in full. This category is aimed at documentaries of a general nature, including religious, business or other specialist journalism. History, Science & Natural History, and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

#### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *War In The Blood (winner)*; *Undercover: Inside China's Digital Gulag*; *David Harewood: Psychosis And Me*

### **Documentary Series**

For a series which has a continuous narrative or is linked by a central theme. Two programmes representative of the series should be submitted. Entries must be accompanied by a complete list of other programmes in the series within the Awards year. This category is aimed at documentaries of a general nature, including religious, business or other specialist journalism. History, Science & Natural History and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

#### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The Choir: Our School By The Tower (winner)*; *Hometown: A Killing*; *Crime And Punishment*

### **Formatted Popular Factual**

This category is for originality in developing and delivering constructed factual content aimed at the widest possible audience. It is likely, though not necessary, that such formatted factual shows will be pre-watershed. One episode of a series should be entered as representative of that format and series. Subject matter could include – for instance – cookery, fashion, consumer, travel but also such shows as *The Undateables*, *The Apprentice*, *SAS Who Dares Wins*, *Long Lost Family*. Programmes entered into this category may NOT be entered into another Factual category. History, Science & Natural History and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

#### **Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The British Tribe Next Door (winner)*; *The Circle*; *Celebrity Gogglebox*



### **Daytime Programme**

For the purposes of this Award, the RTS considers Daytime to run from 6.00am to 7.00pm. For programmes lasting longer than an hour, up to one hour of continuous programming (NOT edited highlights) should be submitted.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *The Repair Shop* (winner); *Good Morning Britain*; *Beat The Chef*

## **CHILDREN'S**

### **Children's Programme**

Series (one episode) and single programmes can be entered for children's factual, entertainment, animation, drama and comedy programmes. Programmes must have been commissioned and produced specifically for the child audience and broadcast during children's airtime or on a dedicated children's channel.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster, of which at least two must be produced by independent production companies.**

2020 nominations: *Zog* (winner); *The Athena*; *Step Up To The Plate*

## **LIVE EVENT**

### **Live Event**

For network broadcast or streamed live events which are not sport. Entries should be a 30 minute compilation of coverage as transmitted, with a maximum of three extracts included. If the event crosses multiple days, the extracts may come from more than one day. Each extract must be as transmitted and not re-edited for these awards. Entries will be judged on the quality of the coverage, not on the importance or excitement of the event. The entry should reflect the full range of the coverage. The focus will be on the commentary, pictures and sound, what was shown or not shown, editing, packaging and presentation.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2020 nominations: *Stormzy At Glastonbury 2019* (winner); *The Royal British Legion Festival Of Remembrance*; *The BRIT Awards 2019*

## **SPORT**

### ***Sports Programme***

The Award will recognise production and editorial values in live OB and actuality sports programming – event coverage (live and/or recorded), strand or individual programme. The entry should be either one continuous hour or an hour's compilation of the coverage as transmitted but without editing to enhance for this submission. There can be a maximum of four extracts within the hour (a continuous clip which crosses an ad break is considered to be two extracts). If the sporting event crosses multiple days, extracts may come from more than one day. Each extract must be from the same programme and must be as transmitted and not specifically edited. Credit will not be given for material sourced from a host broadcaster.

### ***Up to six entries per broadcaster.***

2020 nominations: *ICC Cricket World Cup Final (winner); 2019 Rugby World Cup; FIFA Women's World Cup 2019*

### ***Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit***

For the best work by a sports presenter or pundit/analyst either on location or in the studio, or a sports commentator on location. Please submit a single extract or a portfolio of items (this can include material from multiple episodes of the same series but each entrant can only be considered for a single programme title), to a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 15 minutes. Each excerpt must be as transmitted and not specifically edited. Only networked commentators are eligible.

### ***Up to five entries per channel.***

2020 nominations: *Alex Scott – 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup (winner); Nasser Hussain – The Ashes; Gareth Thomas – 2019 Rugby World Cup*

## **RTS CHANNEL OF THE YEAR**

This award recognises outstanding performance by a single broadcast channel or wider streaming service based in the UK during the award year. The channel or service may be delivered on any or many platforms, be in linear or VOD in form, and be free-to-air, subscription or pay-per-view. The judges will require evidence of attractive, original and fresh content in a video showcase compilation of no less than 3 minutes and no more than 10 minutes. They will also consider such supporting evidence based on viewer and user research and impact during the year which the channel presents to support its claims of success. In short, the winner will be the channel which, in the opinion of the judges, catches the mood of the moment.

2020 nominations: *Channel 5 (winner); BBC Three; Sky Atlantic*

## **JUDGES' AWARD**

The Judges' Award recognises an outstanding contribution to the UK's television and media industry (excluding television journalism, which has its own Judges' Award). This award can also recognise outstanding achievements which do not fit neatly into the standard categories. The winner can be an individual or a group. The award is in the gift of the Chair of the Awards, advised by the category chairs and will focus primarily on impact in the criteria year. A separate award (Outstanding Achievement) recognises achievements over an extended period. This award is not aimed at on-screen personalities for their on-screen work and cannot be awarded posthumously. Broadcasters cannot make direct entries for this award but suggestions are always welcomed.

## **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This Award may be presented at the discretion of the Chair of the Awards, advised by the category chairs, for an outstanding broadcaster for an on-screen or off-screen achievement over a number of years in a career which demonstrates excellence. This Award cannot be awarded posthumously. Broadcasters cannot make direct entries for this award but suggestions are always welcomed.

# CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries must have **first** been transmitted or streamed between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2020 in the UK. Where a series is transmitted across two criteria years, the specific episode/s submitted for consideration must have been transmitted within the eligibility period.
2. **Entries must have been pre-selected by the broadcaster/channel/non-broadcast platform (independent production companies cannot submit entries without pre-selection)**
3. Entries must have been networked or made available online at the same time throughout the UK.
4. Entries are welcome from creators offering content on non-broadcast platforms provided the submitted content is a UK production or co-production as defined in 5 below.
5. All entries by any delivery system must either be produced in the UK or, in the case of international co-productions, the UK company must have had significant editorial (50% or more) as well as financial input (30% or more).
6. All entries must NOT have had a theatrical release prior to broadcast or delivery in the UK.
7. The RTS will reserve the right to call for no more than one extra entry per company in any category if it is felt by the judges or by the RTS that there has been a significant omission.
8. In addition to the specified number of entries per broadcaster/per category, each broadcaster may submit ONE extra entry into any ONE category of their choosing. Please email Danielle Gaughan on [dgaughan@rts.org.uk](mailto:dgaughan@rts.org.uk) to confirm in which category you wish to submit your additional entry.
9. The RTS reserves the right to move programmes between categories. Initial acceptance of an entry does not guarantee its eligibility in the category for which it was entered.
10. Jurors will welcome any supplementary information (excluding press cuttings) you can supply, such as a synopsis or specific reasons why the entry is worthy of an award.
11. Where minimum and maximum running times for entries are stated in the category criteria, these must be strictly adhered to. The RTS reserves the right to disqualify entries which exceed or are less than the stated running time.
12. **All entries must be submitted using the RTS Online Awards Entry System - <https://awardsentry.rts.org.uk/entrant/index.php>. Please contact Danielle Gaughan on 020 7822 2822 or [dgaughan@rts.org.uk](mailto:dgaughan@rts.org.uk) with any queries about the system.**

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## Conditions of entry continued:

### 13. Closing Dates:

- **Closing date for all entries broadcast prior to 1 December 2020:** Friday 11 December 2020 (written submissions and video uploads for entries broadcast prior to 1 December 2020 will **NOT** be accepted after this date)
- **Closing date for entries broadcast between 1 December 2020 and 31 December 2020:** The written application (excluding supplementary information) for all entries must be logged on the portal by midnight on Friday 11 December 2020  
The portal will then be re-opened for associated videos and supplementary information to be uploaded on Friday 18 December 2020 and Monday 4 January 2021
- **No entries or video uploads will be accepted after Monday 4 January 2021 and no written applications will be accepted after Friday 11 December 2020.**

14. The cost per entry is **£366.00 + £73.20 VAT**. This excludes written suggestions for the Judges' Award or Outstanding Achievement Award.

15. Please be aware that should your entry receive a nomination (announced in early March), we will require two 30 second clips per nomination. Details of the delivery format will be issued at the time of nomination notification.

16. The RTS will require permission to re-broadcast on its website any clips supplied of the nominated entries.