

September 2024

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleague

### RTS PROGRAMME AWARDS

I am delighted to be chairing the RTS Programme Awards again this year. 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:

- **Single Drama and Limited Series have now been combined into a single category**
- **In the following performance categories we are now requesting one full episode plus a 10 minute reel reflecting the range of work across the series:** Leading Actor Female; Leading Actor Male; Supporting Actor Female; Supporting Actor Male; Comedy Performance Female; Comedy Performance Male; Entertainment Performance; Presenter; Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit; Breakthrough Award

Please note that we have retained the adaptation to the judging process for those categories where the total viewing time for jurors exceeds 20 hours:

- Depending on the number of entries, the jury will be split into two or three sub-groups.
- Each sub-group will view half or one third of the entries and rank them in order of preference .
- These preferences will be tallied and the top four to five will be shared with the other sub-group/s.
- The full jury will watch each sub-group's top selections and only these 12-15 entries will be discussed at the jury meeting.

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.

**When selecting your episodes, please bear in mind that juries are instructed to consider and discuss only the submitted episode.**

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 the Events Department on 020 7822 2810 or [events@rts.org.uk](mailto:events@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 2025 CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA**

Entries are now invited for the RTS Programme Awards 2025. All programmes and performances should have been first delivered, whether by broadcast or online streaming, between **1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024**.

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 are instructed to consider only the material which is submitted, 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 Programme Awards, in partnership with Cast & Crew, will be presented on Tuesday 25 March 2025. The nominations will be announced in early March 2025.

# DRAMA

## ***Drama Series***

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

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

2024 nominations: *Happy Valley (winner); The Gold; Top Boy*

## ***Limited Series and Single Drama***

For self-contained drama series with a closed-ended story arc and Single Dramas. The full episode of a Single Drama or one episode of a Limited Series should be submitted. Entries MUST be accompanied by full synopses of all other episodes in the series so that jurors can fully understand the context of the single episode they view.

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

Limited Series 2024 nominations: *The Sixth Commandment (winner); Best Interests; Boiling Point*

Single Drama 2024 nominations: *Partygate (winner); Consent; Men Up*

## ***Soap and Continuing Drama***

For half hour or hour long multi-unit entities running throughout the year with at least 20 episodes within the criteria year. 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.***

2024 nominations: *EastEnders (winner); Casualty; Waterloo Road*

## ***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.***

2024 nominations: *Sarah Phelps – The Sixth Commandment (winner); Emma Dennis-Edwards – Consent; Sally Wainwright – Happy Valley*

## **ENTERTAINMENT AND COMEDY**

### ***Scripted Comedy***

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

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

2024 nominations: *Extraordinary (winner); Black Ops; Such Brave Girls*

### ***Comedy Drama***

This category recognises the particular tone, intent and style of those narrative shows which blend comedy and humour with more dramatic elements and often serialised story telling across multiple episodes. Submitted series must have three or more episodes with a serialised narrative arc. There is no restriction on duration. Please submit one episode. Standalone pilot episodes may not be submitted. Programmes should be submitted in full.

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

2024 nominations: *Juice (winner); Big Boys; There She Goes*

### ***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.***

2024 nominations: *Squid Game (winner); Michael McIntyre's The Wheel; Strictly Come Dancing*

### ***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.***

2024 nominations: *Rob & Romesh Vs (winner); Taskmaster; The Graham Norton Show*

### ***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.***

2024 nominations: *Jack Rooke – Big Boys (winner); Bridget Christie – The Change; Joe Tucker, Lloyd Wolf, Gbemisola Ikumelo & Akemnji Ndifornyen*

## **PERFORMANCE**

### ***Leading Actor – Female***

Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a Single Drama a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

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

2024 nominations: *Tamara Lawrance – Time (winner)*; *Jodie Whittaker – Time*; *Sarah Lancashire – Happy Valley*

### ***Leading Actor – Male***

Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a Single Drama a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

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

2024 nominations: *Kane Robinson – Top Boy (winner)*; *Gary Oldman – Slow Horses*; *Timothy Spall – The Sixth Commandment*

### ***Supporting Actor – Female***

Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a Single Drama a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

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

2024 nominations: *Bella Ramsey – Time (winner)*; *Jasmine Jobson – Top Boy*; *Ronke Adékoluejo – Rain Dogs*

### ***Supporting Actor – Male***

Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each actor can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a Single Drama a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Please identify in the accompanying notes the actor being judged.

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

2024 nominations: *Éanna Hardwicke - The Sixth Commandment (winner)*; *Araloyin Oshunremi – Top Boy*; *Mark Gatiss – Nolly*

### ***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 one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each performer can

only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full).

**Up to five entries per channel.**

2024 nominations: *Hannah Waddingham – Eurovision Song Contest (winner)*; *Noel Fielding & Alison Hammond – The Great British Bake Off*; *Rob Beckett & Romesh Ranganathan – Rob & Romesh Vs*

**Comedy Performance (Female)**

For female actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full).

**Up to five entries per channel.**

2024 nominations: *Gbemisola Ikumelo – Black Ops (winner)*; *Máiréad Tyers – Extraordinary*; *Kat Sadler, Such Brave Girls*

**Comedy Performance (Male)**

For male actors/performers in sitcom, comedy drama and sketch shows. Please submit one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each performer can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full).

**Up to five entries per channel.**

2024 nominations: *Hammad Animashaun – Black Ops (winner)*; *Freddie Meredith – Such Brave Girls*; *Jon Pointing – Big Boys*

## **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 one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each presenter can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Sports presenters should be entered into the Sports Presenter, Commentator or Pundit category.

**Up to five entries per channel.**

2024 nominations: *Rhod Gilbert – Chris Packham – Inside Our Autistic Minds (winner)*; *Rhod Gilbert: A Pain In The Neck*; *Stacey Solomon – Sort Your Life Out*

## **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 one full episode PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each performer/presenter can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full).

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

2024 nominations: *Lucy Edwards – Japan – The Way I See It – The Travel Show (winner)*; *Ashley Thomas – Great Expectations*

## **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.***

2024 nominations: *White Nanny, Black Child (winner)*; *Britain’s Human Zoos*; *The Man Who Played With Fire*

### **Science & The Natural World**

For series and single programmes exploring the Natural World and Science. Jurors will be asked to give equal weight to programmes from both genres. “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 & The Natural World 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.**

2024 nominations: *Chimp Planet (winner)*; *Inside Our Autistic Minds*; *Planet Earth III*

### **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.**

2024 nominations: *Fight The Power: How Hip Hop Changed The World (winner)*; *Becoming Frieda Kahlo*; *Lewis Capaldi: How I’m Feeling Now*

### **Single Documentary**

For programmes conceived as either a single documentary or 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 & The Natural World, and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2024 nominations: *Otto Baxter: Not A F\*\*\*ing Horror Story (winner)*; *Anorexic*; *The Price of Truth*



### **Documentary Series**

For a series which has a continuous narrative or is linked by a central theme. One episode 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 & The Natural World, and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2024 nominations: *Once Upon A Time In Northern Ireland (winner); Evacuation; Kids*

### **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 & The Natural World, and Arts programmes cannot be submitted in this category but should be entered in the specialist categories.

**Up to six entries per broadcaster.**

2024 nominations: *Sort Your Life Out (winner); Banged Up; The Piano*

### **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.**

2024 nominations: *Scam Interceptors (winner); Good Morning Britain; Junior Bake Off*

## **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.**

2024 nominations:

*A Kind of Spark(winner); FYI Investigates: Kids Who Vape; Tabby McTat*

## **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 six 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.***

2024 nominations: *Eurovision Song Contest 2023 (winner); The Coronation Concert; The Coronation of TM The King and Queen Camilla*

## **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 eight 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.***

2024 nominations: *All Ireland Senior Football Championship Final (winner); 2023 Rugby World Cup; The Ashes*

### ***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 minimum of 30 minutes up to a maximum of 90 minutes of continuous programming. PLUS a portfolio of items to a maximum of 10 minutes. This portfolio should include material from multiple episodes of the series, but each presenter can only be considered for a single programme title (in the case of a performance in a stand alone show a portfolio is NOT required, only the programme in full). Only networked commentators are eligible.

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

2024 nominations: *Alex Scott – FIFA Women's World Cup (winner); Gabby Logan – FIFA Women's World Cup; Nasser Hussain – The Ashes*

## **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 January 2024 and 31 December 2024 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 FOUR extra entries across any combination of categories of their choosing. Please email the Events Department on [events@rts.org.uk](mailto:events@rts.org.uk) to confirm in which categories you wish to submit your additional entries.
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://awardentry.rts.org.uk/entrant/index.php>. Please contact the Events Department on 020 7822 2810 or [events@rts.org.uk](mailto:events@rts.org.uk) with any queries about the system.**

**- Continues overleaf -**

## Conditions of entry continued:

### 13. Closing Dates:

- **Closing date for all entries broadcast prior to 1 December 2024:** Friday 6 December 2024 (written submissions and video uploads for entries broadcast prior to 1 December 2024 will **NOT** be accepted after this date)
- **Closing date for entries broadcast between 1 December 2024 and 31 December 2024:** The written application (excluding supplementary information) for all entries must be logged on the portal by midnight on Friday 6 December 2024  
The portal will then be re-opened for associated videos and supplementary information to be uploaded between Friday 13 December 2024 and Friday 3 January 2025
- **No entries or video uploads will be accepted after Friday 3 January 2025 and no written applications will be accepted after Friday 6 December 2024.**

14. The cost per entry is **£465.00 + 93.00 VAT**. There is no cost to supply written suggestions for the Judges' Award or Outstanding Achievement Award.

**15. Entries submitted later than Friday 3 January 2025 will incur a financial penalty of 20% of the entry fee (a total fee of £558.00 + £111.60 VAT per entry)**

16. Please be aware that should your entry receive a nomination (announced in early March), we will require two 25 second clips per nomination. Details of the delivery format will be issued at the time of nomination notification.

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

18. The RTS may use any uploaded publicity stills on its website and social media, therefore please ensure they have been cleared for copyright and by uploading them you give the Society permission to use them.

**19. PAYMENT MUST BE RECIEVED PRIOR TO JUDGING, WHICH WILL COMMENCE AT THE END OF JANUARY 2025.**