

PRESS RELEASE

EMILY MAITLIS TO DELIVER THE STEVE HEWLETT MEMORIAL LECTURE

London, 2 March 2020 – The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, announced the annual Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture will be delivered by celebrated journalist, presenter and author Emily Maitlis, on Wednesday 23rd of September 2020. Last week Maitlis was awarded Network Presenter of the Year at the RTS Television Journalism Awards, with The Prince Andrew Interview for Newsnight BBC Two also winning Scoop of the Year and Interview of the Year.

The net proceeds from the event will go to the Steve Hewlett Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to journalism and TV production students from low-income backgrounds. The annual lecture, and the scholarship fund, was established by The Media Society and The Royal Television Society in memory of celebrated journalist Steve Hewlett who died in February 2017.

Emily Maitlis, said: “It’s a huge honour - and no small challenge - to be asked to give this lecture at this time. Steve understood so well - and conveyed so well - the sheer complexity of broadcasting and our constant and evolving search to “get it right “. It will be no small task to do him justice.”

Theresa Wise, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Television Society, said: “We are immensely honoured that Emily has offered to deliver the Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture this year. Emily is highly admired in our industry, has lots to say on key issues in politics and society, and she is a huge inspiration to aspiring journalists. I think Steve would have thought she was an excellent booking.”

The 2019 Steve Hewlett Memorial Lecture was presented by President and CEO of The New York Times Company and former Director General of the BBC, Mark Thompson and urged increased public funding for some of parts of media, more support of the BBC and government co-ordination on policy in the shifting landscape. Other eminent

speakers have included Director of Content at the BBC, Charlotte Moore in 2018 and journalist and BBC's Today programme presenter, Nick Robinson in 2017.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

www.rts.org.uk/event/stevehewlett2020

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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.