



ROYAL  
TELEVISION  
SOCIETY

# RTS NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS 2023

The aim of these awards is to recognise and promote high quality television production by independent producers, broadcasters, and freelancers based in Northern Ireland, as defined by Ofcom's criteria for regional production.

**ENTRIES OPEN:**

16th November 2022

**ENTRIES CLOSE:**

3rd February 2023

**ENTRIES ELIGIBLE:**

Broadcast between 2nd December 2021 - 31st December 2022

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- We will be considering content which has been aired on television or released online from the 2 December 2021 – 31 December 2022.
- Entries must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 3rd February 2023.
- Regrettably, no entries will be accepted after the closing date.
- There is no limit to the number of entries made by an individual or organisation.
- With the exception of the Interactive Entertainment, all work must have been aired on a “Television” platform for the first time between 2 December 2021 and 31 December 2022. For Interactive Entertainment, the content should have been released between 2 December 2021, and 31 December 2022.
- Each separate entry must be accompanied by an entry form and a fee of £100 (plus VAT)
- If for any reason an entrant wishes to withdraw an application, refunds of the entry fee will only be given up until Friday 3rd February 2023.
- The awards are about “Television” in its broadest sense, to include web and connected TV activity, on demand as well as linear services.
- The RTS Northern Ireland Awards panel reserves the right to reject an entry at any point, up to and including shortlisting, if an entry does not meet the eligibility criteria for entry. Entrants may be required to provide justification as to why this is a valid entry for the RTS Northern Ireland Awards.
- The RTS Northern Ireland Awards panel also reserves the right to withdraw the category if insufficient entries are received.
- Entry is not confined to RTS members or traditional broadcasters but open to the entire value chain of video content: writer, researcher, presenter, reporter, production staff, production and facility companies, production service providers, video editors, sound, graphics, broadcast and online delivery organisations, with networked, regional, local or corporate content.
- Entries not in the English language are welcome and eligible in all relevant categories however weblinks for viewing must be submitted supplied with English subtitles.
- Co-productions are eligible for entry, so long as all other criteria is met.
- Independent productions may be entered either by the production company or the broadcasting company.

## JUDGING

Judging, which will take place in February / March (with the exception of The RTS NI Judges' Award), will comprise of an invited Chair appointed by the RTS NI Committee, plus at least four other individuals - all five jury members will be recognised industry figures and currently be residing and working outside of Northern Ireland.

## NOTE

For all categories, a full edition/episode of the broadcast content must be submitted for judging unless otherwise stipulated.

For *Interactive Entertainment*, a 20 minute video of the main gameplay and an executable of the project must be submitted.

For *Original Score*, it is preferable to submit a small compilation, no more than 10 minutes, which highlights the original music score within the commissioned content.

## ENTRY CATEGORIES

### Children's / Animation

This category recognises professional excellence in the field of children's programmes and animation. Series (one episode) and single programmes can be entered for children's drama, comedy and entertainment programmes. Programmes must have been commissioned and produced specifically for the child audience, and broadcast during children's airtime.

Animation programmes not commissioned in the children's genre are eligible for this category – including fully animated productions and contributions to multi-format output. Animation includes content across any platform, including regional, national, international and digital formats – in any genre.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

### Comedy

This category covers situational comedies, panel, stand-up, mockumentary and scripted comedy sketch shows.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

### Current Affairs

This award is presented for the best exclusive, off diary news current affairs story (including sports) - maybe it's an "outstanding scoop" or an agenda-setting piece of analysis. The entry may be a compilation of reports from one programme or a single report. Entries are welcome from broadcasters and / or individuals. Judges will pay particular attention to clarity, authority and comprehensive response from a news organisation. Evidence of 'exclusivity' should be included where appropriate.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity and quality of the journalism along with the impact the programme may have had.

### Documentary

This category is designed for programmes conceived as a single documentary, or documentary series or as a one-off programme that is part of a documentary strand. This also includes observational documentary singles and series. The documentary should be submitted in full or a single episode from a series. This category is aimed at documentaries of a general nature.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

### Drama

Northern Ireland currently has a fine tradition of exceptional drama output. This award recognises the very best in drama, including long-running serial dramas to drama singles and returning drama series. This category is open to any drama production made by a Northern Ireland broadcaster or company, OR where the majority was filmed in Northern Ireland. This award is for fiction or other narrative drama, including docu-drama.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality of storytelling, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## Entertainment

This award includes quizzes, game shows, talent shows, competitions, music specials and all general entertainment programmes. Also included in this category are comedy-based panel shows, chat shows, stand-up specials and comedy clip shows.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## Factual Entertainment Format

This category is for broadcast material which falls into formatted factual entertainment programming. For this award, the factual entertainment formats are formats, shot in the field or in studios where there is not competition but rather the exploration of a slice of life either for elucidation or for entertainment. Entries MUST come from a factual series, although only one edition of the series may be submitted. Please note that “one edition of the series” excludes not only compilation entries but compilation broadcasts unless there is substantial new content.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## Interactive Entertainment

This category recognises the growth and rising excellence of interactive entertainment production in Northern Ireland. This category requires the user to actively engage and participate with the content to access the full experience, this should cover games, VR / AR and other related content. Entries should demonstrate the project’s effectiveness, evidencing clear, objective benchmarks of success in the marketplace. A 20-minute video of the main gameplay and an executable of the project must be submitted.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact, range and interactivity of the entry along with the effectiveness of the project.

## Lifestyle and Features

This category is for broadcast material which falls into lifestyle, features and/or factual entertainment genres which is non-formatted. It could include lifestyle, fact-ent, travel, cookery and magazine programming which is observational in style. Entries may come from a factual series or a one-off, although only one edition of the series may be submitted. Please note that “one edition of the series” excludes not only compilation entries but compilation broadcasts unless there is substantial new content. Please note, it can not be a VT as part of a magazine show - it must be a full episode.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## News Coverage

Television news is an important mainstay in the schedules and RTS NI will recognise the highest standards of news output, rewarding exceptional journalism, production and technical delivery in a high-pressure, competitive genre. This award is for the best coverage of a news story in Northern Ireland. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including speed of reaction, particularly where the story is unexpected and unplanned, journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting and picture content, analysis and explanation, possible use of online and mobile, and comprehensiveness of overall coverage.

Entries can consist of up to a maximum of 10 excerpts, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally. Entries from news agencies should include copies of scripts sent with the original material and, where possible, details of how the content was used by broadcasters and/or online distributors. Copies of scripts must be sent in one combined PDF document that is uploaded on the application form with each script clearly identified.

Judges will be looking for quality and originality of the journalism during the programme along with the impact and engagement with the viewers.

## Original Music Score

This category recognises professional excellence in the field of music composition. The score must have been specifically commissioned for either a specific one-off programme or series. It is preferable to submit a small compilation, no more than 10 minutes, which highlights the original music score within the commissioned content.

Judges will look for the creativity and originality of the music during the programme.

## Outstanding On-Screen Talent Featured in a Production

This category, in its 2nd year, recognises professional excellence in the role of Presenter, Journalist, Show Host, Interviewer, Commentator or Cast Member. Submissions can be entered by the broadcaster, production company or by the individual themselves but they must have permission from the rights holder. We can only consider one production at a time, so if a talent would like to be considered over multiple productions they must submit each production individually.

Judges will be looking for star quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## Specialist Factual

This category is for broadcast material which falls into the special factual genres which includes arts, history, music, religion, business, natural history and science. Entries MUST come from a factual series or a one-off single film - although only one edition of the series may be submitted. Please note that "one edition of the series" excludes not only compilation entries but compilation broadcasts unless there is substantial new content.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

## Brian Waddell Award for Outstanding Contribution

RTS Northern Ireland Committee will gladly accept any recommendations for nominees for this award. Please email [RTSNI@rts.org.uk](mailto:RTSNI@rts.org.uk) with any recommendations. The RTS NI Committee will decide on the eventual recipient of the award.

## STAY CONNECTED



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For any queries, please email:  
[RTSNI@rts.org.uk](mailto:RTSNI@rts.org.uk)

## SAVE THE DATE

RTS NI AWARDS  
Thursday 1st June 2023

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JUNE