



### **A Welcome from your Chair**

Time once again to showcase the best of production talent in the North East, Cumbria and Borders region of the UK. The Royal Television Society is inviting entries to the region's biggest and most prestigious awards. The ceremony on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Newcastle Gateshead Hilton will feature the cream of television, digital production, games and creative professionals. And this is your chance to get your work noticed. We have categories to cover a wide range of activity from post production and technical innovation to journalism and drama.

So whether you are working in broadcast, on-line, games or commercial production, you'll find a category to showcase your work. Closing date for entries is the end of October and we look forward to hearing from you.

Graeme Thompson

Chair, Royal Television Society North East and the Border Centre

### **RTS North East and the Border Centre Awards 2015 – Categories and Criteria for entries**

The RTS North East and the Border Centre Awards celebrate excellence in production across all platforms. From traditional television output such as documentary and drama, through to news and current affairs, and the latest cutting edge formats, animation and innovation - we are proud of our television industry here in the region. The nominees and award winners this year will have two things in common.

- They will reflect exceptional quality, originality and skill
- They will have a connection with the North East and the Border - either made in the region and/or made by people based in the region

**Nominations are invited for the following categories.**

	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Special Information re Nominations and Criteria</b>
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1A	Best Non-Broadcast Factual/Factual Entertainment/Features	<p>The North East and the Border is home to high achieving producers who are not always making programmes for broadcast.</p> <p>The RTS wants to recognise the wide range of productions made here for specific target audiences e.g. private or public sector clients, communities or educational groups.</p>	<p>The judges will be looking for quality in every aspect of the production and will want to know what kind of impact was made by the production.</p> <p>You must be clear about the target audience in your written submission.</p> <p>You will need to tell us why your production stands out. Perhaps it created headlines. Maybe audiences said this film made them take action or change their mind about a current issue.</p> <p>Entries should be accompanied by testimony from the production commissioner, outlining the effectiveness of the project in meeting the commissioner's goals.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD of the complete film/programme and upload to RTS system. You must recommend 30" sequence to be used at the Awards Ceremony: include time-code.</p>
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1B	Broadcast Factual/Factual Entertainment/Features	<p>The North East and the Border has a proud history of producing impactful factual programmes.</p> <p>This award recognises stand-out films made by North East and the Border producers. Entries may be a one off programme or one episode from a factual series.</p>	<p>Tell us why the film was a stand-out success, and how it demonstrates excellence.</p> <p>How was it received? What was the process that made it a success? Which distinctive skills were used? Why does it deserve to be recognised?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity and professionalism throughout the production. They will expect an appropriateness to the core audience for that broadcast slot and high quality production values against the budget – details of which should be included.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD of the complete film or programme and upload to RTS system. You must recommend 30” sequence to be used at the Awards Ceremony: include time-code.</p>
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2A	Best Drama (Below £600k per ep)	<p>This award recognises the very best in drama filmed in the region. This award is for fiction or other narrative drama, including docu-drama and online drama.</p> <p>From serial dramas to one-off specials and returning drama series this category is open to any drama production where the majority was filmed in the North East and the Border region.</p>	<p>Please tell us why this drama production deserves to be recognised. How was it received?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for high quality storytelling, originality, creativity and technical expertise throughout the production, as well as impressive performances. Appropriateness to the core audience for that broadcast slot will be considered.</p> <p>You must include budget details: cost per hour required.</p> <p>At least 60% of your entry must be shot in the North East and the Border region.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system. You must enter one whole episode from a drama series or the whole of a one-off drama.</p> <p>You must recommend 30" to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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2B	Best Drama ( £600k or above per ep)	<p>This award recognises the very best in drama filmed in the region. This award is for fiction or other narrative drama, including docu-drama and online.</p> <p>From serial dramas to one-off specials and returning drama series this category is open to any drama production where the majority was filmed in the North East and the Border region.</p>	<p>Please tell us why this drama production deserves to be recognised. How was it received?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for high quality storytelling, originality, creativity and technical expertise throughout the production, as well as impressive performances. Appropriateness to the core audience for that broadcast slot will be considered.</p> <p>You must include budget details: cost per hour required.</p> <p>At least 60% of your entry must be shot in the North East and the Border region.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system. You must enter one whole episode from a drama series or the whole of a one-off drama.</p> <p>You must recommend 30" to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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3	Best Promotion or Commercial Production	<p>It's a real skill to produce a captivating piece of television which also sells a message or product and we recognise promotional and commercial production in the North East and the Border region.</p> <p>This award recognises exceptional standards of work in the production of promotional or commercial content, including adverts, games and viral campaigns. They could be as short as a few seconds, or an extended commercial product, but must serve a promotional or commercial brief and must predominantly consist of moving images using live action and /or animation.</p> <p>The entries may come from any media platform used for distribution</p>	<p>Please tell us why the production stands out. What makes it special? Unique? Or top quality?</p> <p>The judges will consider originality, creativity and technical competence throughout the production, as well as target audience.</p> <p>Entries must include a testimonial from the client/commissioner, demonstrating the project's effectiveness and evidencing clear, objective benchmarks of success in the marketplace. A budget must be submitted: it should be for the commercial/promo and not for the whole campaign.</p> <p>This should be short form and no more than 5 minutes duration. Please provide a DVD and upload to RTS system. You must recommend 30" footage to be used at the awards ceremony: include time-code.</p>
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4	Best News Programme	<p>Television news is an important mainstay in the schedules and continues to attract high numbers of viewers.</p> <p>This award is to recognise the highest standards of news output in the region – rewarding exceptional journalism, production and technical delivery in a high-pressure, competitive genre.</p>	<p>Tell us why this news programme deserves to be recognised. How did it achieve excellence? What are the examples of key content which helped it to stand out?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for high standards of presentation and reporting, audience engagement, a variety of high-quality, original and creative content, fresh insights or perspectives, diverse voices and exceptional production values.</p> <p>A programme transmitted between 28 September and 11th October should be entered.</p> <p>Please provide a DVD and upload to RTS system. You must recommend 30” footage for the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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5	Professional Excellence - Innovation	<p>This award recognises outstanding achievement in the development of new technologies and outstanding creativity in utilising new technologies to enhance and create content.</p> <p>This award is designed to celebrate the use of content and technology in an expanding and changing world reaching out to new communities of users and new, often interactive, ways of communicating.</p>	<p>What difference did this innovation make to the production process? How was audience experience impacted by this innovation? What is the potential for further development?</p> <p>Judges will be looking for high quality, creative and original approaches to the production process demonstrating new technical thinking. Judges are looking for outstanding innovation in digital content across any platform or combination of platforms, breaking new ground in digital media. Judges will also consider reactions of audiences to this innovation. You may include evidence of this or reviews to support your submission.</p> <p>Individuals, groups or partnerships may enter.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD of the production and upload to RTS system.</p> <p>You must recommend 30" footage to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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6	Outstanding Journalism	<p>Dedicated journalists are working day in day out to bring us the stories that matter to the North East and the Border region. Sometimes they exceed expectations – with outstanding pieces of journalism, agenda-setting scoops or original investigations.</p> <p>This award will recognise high standards in television journalism produced by an outstanding individual.</p>	<p>Tell us why this journalist’s work is outstanding. Give us the context – did they secure the story everyone else wanted? Did it set the national news agenda? Or did they present the story in an original, stand-out way, which deserves to be recognised? Maybe they demonstrated specialist expertise through a continuing narrative with analysis and context over a period of time?</p> <p>The journalist can nominate themselves – or be nominated by others. The judges will consider news values, writing, originality and production techniques as well as an understanding of the audience.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system. This should be no more than 15 minutes duration. You must recommend 30” footage for the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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7	Presenter of the Year	<p>This award is to recognise the best on-screen presentation by a television professional – broadcast or non-broadcast. The presenter might be working in news or sport, features or documentaries, entertainment or magazine programmes.</p> <p>Entrants should be based in the North East and the Border region – or feature prominently in content produced in the North East and the Border.</p>	<p>Please tell us why this performance deserves to be recognised. How did they captivate the audience? How did they bring the screen alive?</p> <p>The judges will consider the presenter’s understanding of their subject, appropriate communication style with interviewees, professionalism and audience engagement. Their performance must stand out, and complement the rest of the team to contribute to an outstanding production.</p> <p>The portfolio should include three examples of the nominee’s work which can be from the same series. It may be studio based, on location, live or recorded.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system. The entry should be 15 minutes maximum duration.</p> <p>You must recommend 30” footage to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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8	Rising Star	<p>There is a generation of newcomers to the industry who are proving themselves with exceptionally high standards of work – both in front of the camera and behind it.</p> <p>This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated the desire, skill and determination to go right to the top in the industry.</p> <p>They're already excelling, despite having less than two years of industry experience, and they deserve to be recognised.</p> <p>You can only enter the Rising Star category once in your career.</p>	<p>What makes this individual stand out? Why will they go right to the top? Why are they valued by their team?</p> <p>This individual may be nominated by others or they may nominate themselves.</p> <p>The judges will recognise their skills and talents are emerging. They will want to see evidence of extensive contributions to a team effort, demonstrate newly learned skills, creativity, innovation, professionalism and bags of potential. An enthusiasm for the sector and the region will be considered by the judges.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system. The portfolio should include three examples of the entrant's work: maximum duration 15 minutes.</p> <p>The nomination must include an endorsement by a senior manager from the entrant's organisation. This can be written (300 words maximum) or a piece to camera (2 minutes).</p> <p>You must recommend 30" footage to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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9A	Professional Excellence: Photography	<p>This award celebrates the skill and professional excellence of an individual who stands out from the crowd in the world of photography here in the North East and the Border.</p> <p>They will have delivered exceptional standards of work which deserve to be recognised.</p> <p>Put simply – this award recognises a stand out individual.</p>	<p>Tell us why the nominee stands out – and how their standards of work reached a level of excellence.</p> <p>How have they raised the bar? What impact did their work have on the production? And why should it be recognised?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity and professionalism throughout the production. Portfolios can include broadcast and non-broadcast work.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system: provide a portfolio of three extracts demonstrating exceptional camera work, no more than 15 minutes duration in total. Complete programmes can be submitted as an example of work but a time code reference recommending 15 minutes to be viewed must be supplied.</p> <p>You must recommend 30" sequence to be used at the Awards Ceremony: include time-code.</p>
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9B	Professional Excellence: Animation, Graphics and Titling	<p>This award recognises outstanding work in the related fields of animation, graphics and titling – including fully animated productions and contributions to multi-format output. Entries could include title sequences for TV programmes, trailers for programmes, part of a computer game or short film, TV commercial, online bumper or viral production.</p> <p>This category includes content across any platform, including regional, national, international and digital formats – in any genre.</p>	<p>Tell us why this submission stands-out. Explain the production context, how it was received, and what level of skill was required.</p> <p>The judges will consider originality, creativity, technical competence, versatility with a range of material and resources. Judges will be looking for a genuine flair for the craft of producer as graphic designer, editor or animator.</p> <p>Entries should include a maximum of three clips or sequences. Entries may be combined with live action footage or they may be stand-alone graphics.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to the RTS system.</p> <p>You must recommend 30” sequence to be used at the Awards Ceremony: include time-code.</p>
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9C	Professional Excellence - Editing	<p>This award celebrates the skill and professional excellence of an individual who stands out from the crowd in the world of film editing. They will have delivered exceptional standards across a portfolio of work or a single programme which deserve to be recognised. Put simply – this award recognises a stand-out editor.</p> <p>The submission may be across any platform, including regional, national, international and digital formats in any genre.</p>	<p>Tell us why the nominee stands out – and explain how their standards of work reaches a level of excellence.</p> <p>How have they raised the bar? What impact did their work have on the production? And why should it be recognised?</p> <p>The judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity and technical expertise throughout the production/portfolio.</p> <p>Do include information about time-scales and budget.</p> <p>The portfolio should include three extracts demonstrating exceptional editing – they may be from the same production.</p> <p>Please submit a DVD and upload to RTS system: maximum duration 15 minutes.</p> <p>You must recommend 30" footage to be shown at the awards ceremony: include time code.</p>
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10	The Centre Award	<p>This award will go to the person, team or organisation whose work has made an outstanding contribution to any aspect of the industry. There should be a broad focus on the last 12 months.</p> <p>Please note the Centre Award is not the same as lifetime achievement awards which have been made on occasion to reflect some individuals' long record of excellence.</p>	<p>The nominee's work, either in front of the camera or behind the scenes should have made a significant and lasting impact on audiences in the North East and the Borders – and on a wider stage. The judges are keen to invite nominations from as broad a range of talents as possible including teams from broadcast and nonbroadcast production. In every case the judges will be looking for evidence of recent exceptional achievements.</p> <p>Nominations for the Centre Award should be sent in confidence to the Chair of the Judges at <a href="mailto:netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk">netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk</a></p>
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## **RULES OF ENTRY**

Productions and portfolio submissions must have been completed between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015. All work must have been transmitted on TV, distributed for non-broadcast or streamed online for the first time between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

All rights must have been cleared for the copying and showing in public of extracts during the Awards presentation and for screening on the internet.

### **Production categories 1-5**

- No production can be entered into more than one production category
- Productions must have a substantial link with the region – see entry form
- Production companies must hold the rights to the productions entered, or make a joint entry with the rights holder

### **Individual and craft categories 6-9**

- Only individuals may enter these categories
- Entrants must be moving image professionals working as staff, freelance or sole traders
- Entrants must have their home base in the region if they work elsewhere
- Entries should include three different samples showing range (these can come from the same production)
- The duration of the three-part portfolio must not exceed 15 minutes



## **HOW TO ENTER**

### **Entry forms**

All the information you need to enter and upload your entries can be found here:

<http://awardsentry.rts.org.uk/entrant/>

All entrants are asked to identify by time code an appropriate clip of up to 30 seconds in duration which, in their opinion, best showcases their submission, should it be screened at the Awards. This clip is a suggestion and may not be used.

A DVD copy and entry form should be sent or delivered to:

Julie Jude

RTS North East and the Border Centre Awards

C/o Joanna Makepeace

University of Sunderland

The David Putnam Media Centre

Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St. Peter's Way

Sunderland SR6 0DD



### **Entry fees**

'Early' entry fee: £40 + VAT (£48.00).

Complete entries must be received by noon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015. 'Final' entry fee: £60 + VAT (£72.00).

Complete entries must be received by noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Cheques should be made payable to 'RTS North East and the Border Centre' and sent to Julie Jude at the above address.

Payment can also be made by Bank transfer:

**Bank:** NatWest

**Sort code:** 60-40-04

**Account:** 31867669

**Name:** Royal Television Society North East and the Border (NB: please state your name and company as reference).

There is no entry fee for the Centre Award. Nominations should be sent in confidence to [netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk](mailto:netbchairofjudges@rts.org.uk) **THE JUDGING PROCESS**

There is one over-arching criterion which the judges will consider:

***Any award must demonstrate exceptionally high technical and/or production quality in the programme, production, team or individual it represents.***

The judges will consider all submissions for particular categories including viewing all material and will come to a judgement based on the criteria (see above) relevant to that category. The judges will then discuss their findings - via a meeting (face-to-face or virtual) with each other and the Chair of the Panel - and come to an agreed decision. Although a scoring process may be used as part of the judging process the final decision will be made through discussion. The judges' decision is final.



**NB: Nominations should provide sufficient information to enable the judges to make a decision based on the above criteria - only the information provided via the form and accompanying A/V material will be considered so it is important to include as much detail as possible – *where deemed appropriate supporting evidence such as press reviews can be included*. The submission form may ask for an overall budget figure – this will enable the judges to make an informed decision on the effective use of budgets, recognising the different tariffs that are applied to different productions.**

**Judges will be asked to disregard any knowledge or information they have if it is not included in the nomination information provided. Entrants must recommend 30” video material to show at the final awards ceremony.**