



ROYAL TELEVISION
SOCIETY

Northern Ireland Programme Awards 2015.
Category Definitions and Conditions of Entry.

Award Categories:

Judges will consider all elements of the entries, based on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Originality and innovation
- Entertainment value
- Use of resources
- Professionalism

Comedy and Entertainment:

This award category is for a wide range of comedy and entertainment programmes whose common aim is to make the audience laugh. This could include studio panel shows, chat shows, game shows, situation-comedies, comedy dramas, authored documentaries, events and sketch shows.

Factual Series:

This category is for broadcast material which falls into the broad factual / factual entertainment / features genres. 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. The same programme or episode should not be entered in other production categories.

Single Documentary:

This category is designed for programmes conceived as a single documentary or as a one-off programme that is part of a documentary strand. The single documentary should be submitted in full. This category is aimed at documentaries of a broad interest, as well as specialist factual including religious, business, history, science, natural history and arts.

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.

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



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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.

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.

Children's and/or 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.

International Production:

Northern Ireland is home to more than just great television. We have great characters, landscapes, towns and cities – and more and more are becoming the subject or setting for programmes made by those outside. The RTS NI wants to recognise the magnificent range of programmes made here and this award is open for any production company based outside of the region who has chosen to be in Northern Ireland to make their programme a success.

It could be a drama, documentary or feature, a factual series or a one-off, which either:

- put Northern Ireland on the screen
- brought production to Northern Ireland
- or was about Northern Ireland or a Northern Irish person/people



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Portfolio Award:

This category celebrates professional excellence and an outstanding contribution to the television sector in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Craft and Innovation:

Craft entrants should submit a weblink to three items showing a range of work, together with contextual notes of no more than 750 words overall, setting out the background to the entry and being explicit about the entrants' involvement in the story and the way in which it was produced and eventually broadcast. As well as traditional craft (like camera, lighting, sound, graphics, post-production), the category recognises innovation - outstanding achievement in the development of new technologies and outstanding creativity in exploiting these developments in new forms of, and enhancement of content such as second screen, multi-screen, interactive, online and connected TV content, mobile content and games.

We are looking for outstanding craft in traditional programmes as well as innovations in digital content across any platform or combination of platforms, which break new ground in digital media. Entrants should submit weblinks to a maximum of three programmes, clips or sequences exhibiting professional excellence in this area. Total duration should not exceed 12 minutes.



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Conditions of Entry

- 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 - for reference click on the weblink below:
http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/guidance/programme-guidance/reg_prod
- With the exception of the International Production Award, all work must have been aired on a Television channel for the first time between **1 January 2014 and 31 May 2015**.
- Television Channel specifically means linear services available on Sky, Virgin and Freeview platforms within Northern Ireland. For the avoidance of doubt, the International Production Award is for content first broadcast on linear television outside of Northern Ireland.
- 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.
- Entries must be received no later than **5pm on Wednesday 16th September 2015**.
Regrettably, no entries will be accepted after the closing date.
- The cost of entry per programme per award category is £99.00 + vat.
- If for any reason an entrant wishes to withdraw an application, refunds of the entry fee will only be given up until Monday 31st August 2015.
- Coproduction's 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 which will take place in September / October (with the exception of The RTS NI Judges Award) will comprise 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.
- Complete programmes **MUST** be submitted by a weblink on your application form.
- Production organisations may submit up to **TWO** programmes in each category.
- No posted entry forms or programme DVD's will be accepted.