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## TELEVISION JOURNALISM

## AWARDS 2011/2012

## CRITERIA

The consultation procedure on the revised criteria for the Television Journalism Awards has now been completed. **Please read the criteria carefully as changes have been made to several of the categories.**

The Royal Television Society’s awards for news and current affairs seek to recognise creative and excellent journalism by organisations whose broadcasts are received in the UK and by the agencies which supply UK news broadcasters.

In most of the categories a panel of jurors from inside and outside broadcast journalism will view all the entries and shortlist three of them. This list of nominations will be announced in advance of the Awards ceremony. The jury will also hold a secret ballot between the three nominations to choose the winner but the result of this will not be known until the ceremony. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1K 1BE.

In addition there are two other Awards which are made at the discretion of a panel consisting of the chairs of the awards juries.

**NEWS AWARDS**

**News Coverage – Home**

The Home News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story in the UK. 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 and comprehensiveness of overall coverage.

**Entries:** **up to three entries per channel up to a maximum of 20 minutes per entry.** In addition news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit two stories which have appeared on a UK-wide channel. **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.**

#### News Coverage - International

The International News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story outside the UK. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including speed of reaction where the story is unexpected and unplanned, journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting and picture content, analysis and explanation and comprehensiveness of overall coverage.

**Entries: up to three entries per channel or agency up to a maximum of 20 minutes per entry.** In addition news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit two stories which have appeared on a UK-wide channel. **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.**

### Daily News Programme of the Year

The News Programme of the Year Award is for the programme which has consistently demonstrated journalistic excellence throughout the year.

**Entries: up to three entries per channel or agency up to a maximum of 60 minutes per entry.** In addition news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit a single entry. **Entries can consist of up to a maximum of 30 separate sequences, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally.**

# News Channel of the Year

The News Channel of the Year Award is for the news channel which has best reported the events of the year on cable or satellite received in the UK.

**Entries: one per channel.** **Each entry should consist of up to a maximum of 40 excerpts and should be separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits, of up to 60 minutes in total covering a number of different news events. The material must be as first broadcast. The jury may take into account the performance of a channel beyond the submitted material.**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS AWARDS**

### Current Affairs - Home

The Home Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of current affairs journalism shot in the UK. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical television journalism. Short-form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry. However documentaries should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards.

**Entries: up to three entries per channel.** **Entries should be a single programme or a single report from a programme, but not multi-item programmes or compilations. Entries must not be edited or repackaged.**

**Current Affairs - International**

The International Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of non UK current affairs journalism. The programme should be substantially about an international subject. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical journalism. Short form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry. However documentaries should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards.

**Entries: up to three entries per channel or agency.** **Entries should be a single programme or a single report from a programme, but not multi-item programmes or compilations. Entries must not be edited or repackaged.**

**IF YOU NEED ADVICE REGARDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF YOUR ENTRY INTO THIS CATEGORY PLEASE EMAIL** [**jo@rts.org.uk**](mailto:jo@rts.org.uk) **WITH A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF YOUR ENTRY.**

### NATIONS AND REGIONS AWARDS

**Nations and Regions News Programme**

The Nations and Regions News Programme Award is for the best news programme by a regional news team. Entries are invited from news teams in the nations (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), the regions of one of those nations, the English regions and sub-regions, the Channel Islands and local TV services in the cities of the UK.

**Entries: one per news team, up to 30 minutes in length.** **Entries can consist of up to a maximum of ten separate sequences, each clearly identified by time and date, preferably demonstrating a variety of stories, approaches and coverage. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally.**

### Nations and Regions Current Affairs and News Event

This Award is for the best piece of current affairs journalism commissioned, made and first transmitted in a region or a news event meeting the same criteria. Entries are invited from teams in the nations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), the regions of those nations, the English regions and sub-regions, the Channel Islands and local TV services in the cities of the UK.

**Entries: one per region of any length up to 60 minutes. Entries should be a single programme or a single report from a programme.**

**Regional Presenter of the Year (NEW CATEGORY)**

The Regional Presenter of the Year Award is for the best regional news or current affairs presenter.

**Entries: up to five entries per organisation of up to 30 minutes, please provide up to a maximum of 10 excerpts. Entries may be single items or separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits, of items demonstrating the range of the presenter, potentially including interviews, response to breaking news, or location presentation as well as programme presentation. Entrants are permitted to include material from more than one channel in their entry but must only be their work from news or current affairs. The jury may take into account the performance of a presenter beyond the submitted material. (NB. Where there is a cross over of channels entrants will need to specify from which channel their entry comes.)**

**OTHER AWARDS**

**Scoop of the Year**

This award recognises exclusive, original journalism in either news or current affairs by a broadcaster or agency. Entries will be judged on the strength of the journalism and the wider impact more than the production values of the transmitted story.

**Entries: up to three entries per channel of up to 30 minutes each, consisting of up to a maximum of 10 excerpts.** **Entries may either be single items or separately identifiably extracts, with no internal edits, of items taken from the coverage of one story.**

**Innovative News**

This Award is for the most impressive achievement by an individual or team in addressing news audiences in an original way. The Society welcomes entries which, through creative production, by integrating traditional broadcasting and new technologies, or simply through a unique or highly original approach to the news, have engaged viewers in ways beyond traditional news broadcasts. **Entries: up to two per news organisation, agency or production company. Entries may be single pieces of media or separately identifiable extracts with no internal edits. Commentary is allowed to help explain the importance or innovation of the entry.**

### Specialist Journalist of the Year

The Specialist Journalist of the Year Award is for the individual who has shown particular expertise and produced outstanding coverage of a specialist issue or event during the year. Emphasis will be placed on journalists who have demonstrated their specialist expertise through a continuing narrative, with analysis and context, over a period of time rather than reporting a single event.

**Entries: two per channel, news organisation, agency or production company of up to 30 minutes.** **Entries must be separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits. The jury may take into account the performance of the individual beyond the submitted material.**

**Young Journalist of the Year**

The Young Journalist of the Year Award is for the best work during the year by an on or off-screen journalist, editor, video journalist, camera operator or technician involved in the production of broadcast news. Entrants must be under the age of 30 (on the last day of the twelve month period from which entries are invited).

**Entries: two per channel or news organisations, agency or production company of up to 30 minutes**. **Entries should consist of three excerpts ONLY, with no internal edits, preferably demonstrating a range of content. In the case of off-screen candidates it would be helpful for the jury to be provided with supporting material or background information on how the individual contributed to the items.**

### Television Journalist of the Year

The Television Journalist of the Year award is for the best work during the year by an on-screen television journalist.

**Entries: up to three per channel of up to 30 minutes though in exceptional circumstances the Jury will consider up to 45 minutes. Entries, with no internal edits, should include a minimum of three items to demonstrate the range of the journalist. The jury may take into account the performance of a journalist beyond the submitted material.**

**Camera Operator of the Year**

The Camera Operator of the Year Award is for the best work by a camera operator in news or current affairs during the year.

**Entries: up to three per channel or agency of up to 15 minutes.**  **Entries should include up to three items to demonstrate the breadth and depth of the camera operator’s skill. It will be particularly helpful for the jury to be provided with background information on whether, for example, the camera operator also helped to produce the items or edited them.   The submitted material should, preferably, consist of pictures and effects only, i.e. without any added commentary, although a written script may be submitted as well. The material should be as first broadcast (or, in the case of agencies, as sent to clients on the day) with no subsequent edits.  Natural sound levels may be restored to their original levels as recorded at the time but no enhancement.**

**National Presenter of the Year**

The Presenter of the Year Award is for the best news or current affairs presenter.

**Entries: up to five entries per organisation of up to 30 minutes, please provide up to a maximum of 10 excerpts. Entries may be single items or separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits, of items demonstrating the range of the presenter, potentially including interviews, response to breaking news, or location presentation as well as programme presentation. Entrants are permitted to include material from more than one channel in their entry but must only be their work from news or current affairs. The jury may take into account the performance of a presenter beyond the submitted material. (NB. Where there is a cross over of channels entrants will need to specify from which channel their entry comes.)**

**The Independent Award**

This award is to recognise the best original journalism by an independent production company. Emphasis will be placed on material or stories that would not have been seen without the individual contribution of the entrant. The material must have been shown in video form on either a television channel or website. Entries: two entries per company. Entries should be a single piece of work, a complete item and not an excerpt and be news or current affairs based. The maximum length of each entry is 30 minutes.

##### AWARDS CHOSEN BY A PANEL OF CHAIRS OF THE JURIES

**The Judges’ Award and Lifetime Achievement Award will be awarded or deferred at the discretion of the Jury Chairs.**

**Judges’ Award**

The panel of chairs of the awards juries may wish to make a Judges Award to an individual (on or off screen) or a production team to recognise an outstanding contribution to the advancement of television journalism in the past year.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

In special circumstances the panel of the chairs of the awards juries may decide to make a further award to an individual (on or off screen) to mark a lifetime achievement. It is envisaged that this may arise when the Judges’ Award has gone to an individual for a specific achievement in the past year but where, for instance, it is felt that another person after long service to television journalism should also be marked. It is not intended that in one year there should effectively be two lifetime awards.

**TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2011/2012**

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

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| 1 | Entries will be accepted from broadcasting organisations, or staff and freelance technicians whose broadcasts or online videos are received in the UK. This includes cable and satellite but not IPTV. Exceptionally for the new Independent Award, entries will be accepted from independent production companies. |
| 2 | **All entries must have been first transmitted on television via cable or satellite in the UK between 16 November 2011 and 15 November 2012.** |
| 3 | Entries should be checked carefully to ensure that they meet the criteria and conditions of entry and that sound and vision are continuous throughout. If entries are found not to meet criteria and conditions of entry they may be declared ineligible at any stage in the judging process. |
| 4 | Entries must be endorsed by the television organisation or agency which transmitted or distributed the material. |
| 5 | The entry must be as originally edited for transmission. Except where indicated otherwise, no items may have internal edits and individual excerpts must be clearly identified. Subsequent editing to improve the recording for the purpose of these Awards is not permitted. |
| 6 | Sound tracks on news items should contain only the sound recorded at the time of shooting unless otherwise stated in the criteria. |
| 7 | Entries must be submitted on either HDCam, DigiBeta or well-encoded first generation DVD (PLEASE ENSURE THAT ANY DVDS ARE CHECKED FOR QUALITY PRIOR TO SUBMISSION). Cassettes must be clearly marked with the programme and category entered. (**PLEASE SEE POINT 8.)** |
| 8 | **Excerpts from winning entries will be shown at the Awards Ceremony and nominees will be asked for their excerpts on HDCam.** |
| 9 | The leader should identify the entry, and give the title of the story, running time and category of the Award. |
| 10 | Where necessary, entries should be accompanied by background information to assist the judges. All supplementary information must be submitted at the time of entry. |
| 11 | Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form and cheque for £270.00 + £54.00 VAT. Cheques should be made payable to RTS Enterprises Ltd. A VAT receipt will be issued on receipt of payment. **Purchase orders should be made out to RTS Enterprises Ltd. Please ensure a hard copy of your purchase order is supplied with your entry form to enable us to check that the payment details are correct.** |
| 12 | Programmes submitted for the RTS Journalism Awards home and international current affairs categories are now also eligible for submission to the RTS Programme Awards **ONLY** if the programme clearly demonstrates both disciplines. |
| 13 | **Closing date:** in order to start judging sessions in January, entries must have arrived at Head Office no later than **23 November 2012.** The entries should be marked **RTS TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS** and sent to: **Events Department, Kildare House, 3 Dorset Rise, London EC4Y 8EN**. Tel: 020 7822 2823, Fax: 020 7822 2811. In the event of any queries, please contact Jo Mitchell, Events Manager. |
| 14 | The decisions made by the judges are final and no correspondence can be entered into as to why particular entries were not chosen for nomination. |

**The Royal Television Society will take all reasonable care of the entries submitted, but cannot accept responsibility for non-receipt, loss or damage. Tapes will not be returned unless specifically requested.**

**TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2010/2011**

**ENTRY FORM**

CATEGORY .......................................................................................................................................................

TITLE OF REPORT……………………………………………………...............................................…..................

PROGRAMME/SERIES IN WHICH REPORT TRANSMITTED ....……..........................................……………..

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DURATION OF ENTRY **(MUST BE STATED AND INCLUDE BEGINNING AND END SLATES)** .............................

DATE(S) OF SHOOTING ……………………………………………………………………………………………….

TRANSMISSION DATE OF ENTRY **(MUST BE STATED)**................................................................................

TIME OF TRANSMISSION ………………………………………………………………………………….................

AWARD RECIPIENT ………………………………………………......................................................…………….

CONTACT NAME ...............................................................................................................................................

COMPANY .........................................................................................................................................................

ADDRESS ..........................................................................................................................................................

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EMAIL .................................................................................................................................................................

TEL NO .................................................................... FAX NO ..........................................................................

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENTRY WHICH MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JUDGES ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

Entry Fee: the fee per entry is £270.00 + £54.00 VAT. I enclose a cheque for £ ..............

**(payable to RTS ENTERPRISES LTD). A VAT receipt will be issued on receipt of payment. Purchase orders should be made out to RTS Enterprises Ltd. Please ensure a hard copy of your purchase order is supplied with your entry form.**

**Please complete the above form carefully as the information is used in the compilation of awards and certificates should you be nominated. Please complete all sections of the form, completing a separate form for each entry and using BLOCK CAPITALS.**

**THE ENTRANT IS AWARE THAT BREACHES OF THE RULES WILL, EXCEPT IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. IGNORANCE OF THE RULES OR INNOCENT NON-COMPLIANCE IS NO DEFENCE. YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO ENSURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE DOUBLE-CHECKED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.**

**Name …………………………………. Position ………………………………... Signed…………………………………….**