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RADIO INDEPENDENTS GROUP

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RADIO AND AUDIO TALENT TO BE HONOURED AT THE AUDIO PRODUCTION AWARDS 2016

Five new categories and a new venue: BFI Southbank

Top producers and presenters behind many of the UK's very best radio and audio shows will be honoured at the Audio Production Awards 2016 on 23 November at the BFI Southbank, London, the Radio Independents Group (RIG) announced today.

Formerly known as the Radio Production Awards, this year's ceremony has rebranded to reflect the changing audio landscape. Sponsored by Audible, the world's leading provider of spoken audio entertainment, it will recognise the continued expansion of audio distribution online and via downloads, in addition to traditional broadcast radio.

This year, even more of the technicians and voices who play such an important role in bringing radio and audio shows to life will also be honoured, with the introduction of five new categories including Best Station Sound Producer, Best Presenter - Speech, Best Presenter - Music, the New Voice Award and Narrator of the Year.

Entries will open on Thursday 1st September and close on Thursday 29th September at 11.59pm with nominations announced in late October.

RIG Managing Director, Will Jackson, said: "After a huge amount of positive feedback last year, we're excited to be building on our 2015 success with a move to the prestigious location of BFI Southbank which will allow us to accommodate more guests.

"We're also delighted to welcome Audible on-board as our Lead Sponsor for 2016 following their generous sponsorship of the Gold Award and drinks reception in 2015.

"The event producers are already hard at work and are aiming to deliver our best ever awards night on 23rd November."

Tracey Markham, Country Manager for Audible, UK, said: "We are proud to be sponsors of the new look awards, which reflect our dynamic and changing audio landscape. The way in which we consume audio entertainment is expanding with an increasing trend for online audio distribution, and we are keen to recognise the talented producers and presenters behind these shows too.

In addition to championing great radio production, we are excited about shining a light on the technicians and voices that help to bring these shows to life through the new categories. “

The new location at BFI Southbank will allow a total of 350 guests this year, up from the 200 guests who filled the London Hippodrome venue to capacity in 2015. The awards will be preceded by a reception in the BFI's Riverfront Café.

Entries will cost £30+VAT (for RIG Members) and £48+VAT (for non-members).

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Notes

1. The Radio Independents Group (RIG) is the trade body for the independent audio-led production sector in the UK. RIG provides business affairs support, policy representation, and negotiates terms of trade with the BBC. RIG also produces the annual Audio Production Awards, which uniquely recognise and celebrate the production skills of radio and audio producers across the whole industry.
2. The winners of the Audio Production Awards 2016 will be revealed at the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 23rd November at BFI Southbank in London.
3. The Radio Production Awards began in 2010 and this year's Audio Production Awards honour the achievement of individuals and organisations as demonstrated by a body of work from the qualifying period of 1st July 2015 – 30th June 2016. More information at: www.audioproductionawards.co.uk
4. Last year's awards were hosted by **Gemma Cairney** and winners included: the Gold Award to radio comedy producer **David Tyler** of Pozzitive Television; Producer of the Year to White Stiletto's **Cathy FitzGerald**; and Indie of the Year to **TBI Media**.
5. Audible, an Amazon.com, Inc. subsidiary (NASDAQ:AMZN), is the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio information and entertainment, offering customers a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day. Audible was created to unleash the emotive music in language and the habituating power and utility of verbal expression. Audible content includes more than 200,000 audio programs from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters, entertainers, magazine and newspaper publishers, and business information providers. Audible is also the pre-eminent provider of spoken-word audio products for Apple's iTunes Store.

PHOTO FROM 2015 CEREMONY (photo credit: Will Jackson/RIG)



Appendix: Audio Production Awards 2016

The mission of the Audio Production Awards is to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement in audio and radio production within the designated categories covering both producers and on-mic talent.

ENTRY/JUDGING

The first 13 categories of the Audio Production Awards (along with Category 18, Indie of the Year) are open to public entries and will be judged by an independent panel of judges drawn from across the audio sector.

The awards for presenters (New Voice Award, Best Presenter - Speech, Best Presenter - Music) and the Gold Award will be open to written nominations from Radio Independents Group (RIG) Members with the winners then chosen by the RIG Awards Committee.

The qualifying period for the awards is from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016.

The maximum length of audio clips is 15 minutes, unless otherwise stated, and written nominations/supporting statements should not exceed 600 words.

THE CATEGORIES

1. BEST DOCUMENTARY/FEATURE MAKER

For general feature and documentary making including all areas of non-topical news features and documentaries. Typically this might include historical, arts, lifestyle features and documentaries. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

2. BEST NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY/FEATURE MAKER

For news and current affairs documentary and feature making, including investigative documentaries, topical issues and foreign reporting. Typically entries should be led or inspired by the news agenda or

contemporary life, but may also include human stories, comment or science reporting. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

3. BEST COMEDY/ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCER

For comedy and other entertainment audio content or programming including panel games, but excluding music & drama.

4. BEST MUSIC PRODUCER

For music audio content or programming including music-based documentaries and sequence programmes.

5. BEST SOUND DESIGNER/ENGINEER

For production and broadcast (live or pre-recorded) capturing the atmosphere of musical performances in concerts, festivals and studios. Or for sound designers (studio managers or engineers) working on any type of production. Judging criteria will include technical skills, sound quality, innovation and creative contribution, as appropriate. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

6. BEST PODCAST/ ONLINE PRODUCER

For the creation of audio programming and/or podcasts, designed solely for online transmission or distribution.

7. BEST MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCER

For the creative extension of audio programming onto other media platforms. Judges will be looking for the visionary of the future. Social media, video elements and/or online presentations should be submitted as hyperlinks.

8. BEST DRAMA PRODUCER

For the production of audio drama, dramatised readings, spoken word and creative writing. Judging criteria will include the range and choice of material, performance, direction and production values. In this category, entry length is up to 30 minutes, to allow space to show the full impact of the dramatic extracts. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

9. BEST READINGS/ AUDIOBOOK PRODUCER

For the production of broadcast readings or audio books. Judging criteria will include the range and choice of material, performance, direction and production values.

10. BEST NEWCOMER

To honour a newcomer to audio production who has shown great potential. The judges will be looking for evidence of a sustained contribution to a production or production company, or for a remarkable debut as a producer or engineer. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

11. BEST STATION SOUND PRODUCER

For producers in radio/audio imaging. Judges will be looking for exceptional creativity across the full range of audio branding, including voiceovers, music beds, sweepers, intros, promos, liners, stingers,

bumpers, shotguns, and jingles. Content can be created for online distribution only or for radio broadcast.

12. GRASSROOTS PRODUCTION AWARD

For an individual, production company, radio station, audio brand or community-based organisation that has shown extraordinary achievement in identifying, nurturing or mentoring new and diverse talent to the audio industry. This category is not aimed at the new talent themselves.

13. NARRATOR OF THE YEAR

Recognising the year's best performance by the narrator of an audiobook or readings series. Judges will be looking for evidence of outstanding vocal capabilities and sensitivity across a wide range of material.

14. BEST PRESENTER - SPEECH

For exceptional on-mic talent presenting speech programmes. As well as being judged on exceptional audio/radio content, criteria will include rapport with the production team, creativity and the willingness to regularly go above and beyond the call of duty.

15. BEST PRESENTER - MUSIC

For exceptional on-mic talent presenting music programmes. As well as being judged on exceptional audio/radio content, criteria will include rapport with the production team, creativity and the willingness to regularly go above and beyond the call of duty.

16. NEW VOICE AWARD

For exceptional presenters who, although already established in the audio/radio sector, have not yet achieved mainstream recognition. Entrants should not be brand new to the audio industry as judges will be looking for a track record which points to their great future potential.

17. GOLD AWARD

For an individual who has made an outstanding contribution, usually over a number of years, to the independent radio and audio production sector in the UK.

18. INDIE OF THE YEAR

Recognises a company's success across the year. Entries welcome from the smallest to the largest companies. Judges will consider the level of creative excellence as well as business challenges and growth of the company during the qualifying period, and taking into account the size of the company. In this category, entry length is up to 30 minutes, to allow space to show the full impact of the company's output across the year.

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