



RTS NORTHERN IRELAND
AWARDS 2024

RTS NI AWARDS 2024

Category Criteria



RTS NI AWARDS 2024

The aim of the RTS NI Awards 2024 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 further information on Ofcom criteria for regional production visit link below:
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/152450/regional-production-and-regional-programme-guidance-from-2021.pdf

ENTRIES OPEN:

Monday 22nd April 2024

ENTRIES CLOSE:

Friday 5th July 2024

ENTRIES ELIGIBLE:

Broadcast between 1 January 2023 to 31 May 2024

CATEGORIES

1	Actor - Female	<i>New for 2024</i>
2	Actor - Male	<i>New for 2024</i>
3	Breakthrough Award (Off-Screen)	<i>New for 2024</i>
4	Breakthrough Award (On-Screen)	<i>New for 2024</i>
5	Children's / Animation	
6	Comedy	
7	Current Affairs	
8	Documentary	
9	Drama	
10	Entertainment	
11	Factual Entertainment Format	
12	Hidden Hero	<i>New for 2024</i>
13	Lifestyle and Features	
14	News Coverage	
15	Original Music Score	
16	Post-Production	<i>New for 2024</i>
17	Specialist Factual	
18	Writer	<i>New for 2024</i>
19	Brian Waddell Award for Outstanding Contribution	

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- We will be considering content which has been aired on television or released online for the first time between 1 January 2023 and 31 May 2024 inclusive. Entries must be received no later than 23.59 on Friday 5 July, 2024.
- The awards are about "Television" in its broadest sense, to include web and connected TV activity, on demand as well as linear services.
- Entries must have been commissioned by a bona fide broadcaster or streamer.
- 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.
- If for any reason an entrant wishes to withdraw an application, refunds of the entry fee will only be given up until Friday 5 July, 2024.
- 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.
- RTS NI requires the rights to show excerpts from all entries, nominated and winning shows and individuals on the night; for use on promotion of the RTS and awards; and on-screen news coverage. This includes the use of music and on-screen personalities / actors.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

- All entries must be received via the RTS online system for entries. Please VISIT [HERE](#) to create your account and enter the RTS Northern Ireland Programme Awards.
- Each entry costs £100 (plus VAT).
- The RTS recognises that many of our colleagues work on a freelance basis. We therefore welcome and encourage individuals to enter themselves and their work (except with the Breakthrough Off-Screen Award, Hidden Hero Award and Brian Waddell Outstanding Contribution Award). If you require any help with your entry, please contact us at RTSNI@rts.org.uk.
- 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. 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.
- Minimum submission requirements for all categories - except where specific category requirements apply:
 - Full edition/ episode of the broadcast content unless otherwise stipulated.
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)

JUDGING

- Judging will take place between July 2024 and September 2024 (with the exception of Brian Waddell Award for Outstanding Contribution).
- Judging 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.
- Judges will be asked to disregard any knowledge or information they have if it is not included in the nomination information provided. Any known and declared conflicts of interest are managed by the Chair to prevent any undue influence on the judging process.
- 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.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOMINATED?

- All nominees will receive a notification email no later than mid-October 2024.
- All notifications around the awards and award ceremony will be sent to your supplied email address.
- The full list of nominations will be available online by mid-October 2024.

SUPPORT

For any queries, please email RTSNI@rts.org.uk

GOOD LUCK!

Join the RTS - membership@rts.org.uk

[RTS Northern Ireland Website](#)

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Actor - Female

For a leading or supporting Northern Ireland actor featured in any UK production - OR - any leading or supporting actor in a Northern Ireland scripted programme or series. Entrants should submit a portfolio of no more than three clips and should be no longer than 12 minutes duration.

Submission Requirements

- Portfolio video of three clips – no longer than 12 minutes in duration
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
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Actor - Male

For a leading or supporting Northern Ireland actor featured in any UK production - OR - any leading or supporting actor in a Northern Ireland scripted programme or series. Entrants should submit a portfolio of no more than three clips and should be no longer than 12 minutes duration.

Submission Requirements

- Portfolio video of three clips – no longer than 12 minutes in duration
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
-

Breakthrough Award (On-Screen Talent)

This category recognises new and emerging 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.

This award is for an individual who has been working in the sector for less than three years. Judges will be looking for star quality, originality, creativity, impact and professionalism throughout the production.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
- 30 second clip
- 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
- Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)

Breakthrough Award (Off-Screen Talent)

This category recognises new and upcoming off-screen talent who have shown determination, ambition and excellence on a production. They're already excelling, despite being a newcomer to the industry, and they deserve to be recognised. Please tell us why this person stood out – and how they've already made an impact. The judges will be looking for someone with the X Factor. They will recognise their skills are just emerging, but they will want to see evidence of extensive contributions to a team effort, a quality of work, creativity, professionalism and bags of potential.

This award is for an individual who has been working in the sector for less than three years. Submissions can be entered by the broadcaster or the production company. You cannot nominate yourself for this award. The nomination can be supported by a showreel (of no more than 15 minutes) and must include a written reference demonstrating the nominees' qualities, abilities and potential. The award is for people working in any area who have played a key role off-screen. Entries for this are not eligible for the Hidden Hero category.

Submission Requirements

- Written reference (no more than 500 words)
 - Showreel (no more than 15 minutes) (if relevant)
 - Photo of entrant
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
- 30 second clip
- 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
- Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)

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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
-

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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
- 30 second clip
- 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
- Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)

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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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Entertainment

This award includes quizzes, game shows, talent shows, competitions, music specials and all general entertainment programmes.

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

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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Hidden Hero

Who's the hero in your office, who steps up to the plate time and time again, but never takes the glory? This award recognises the hidden hero of your production or your company. The one who keeps their head whilst those around are losing theirs! Please tell us why this person stands out for you and your team and what they have done to ensure the show goes on. Judges will be looking for evidence of their contribution that goes above and beyond expectations, evidence that they save the day. Judging for this Award will be by Head Judges from other award categories.

This award is for an individual who has proved themselves to be invaluable with significant experience of working in the industry. Entrants must be nominated by their employers, or a current industry professional. You cannot nominate yourself for this award. The nomination must include a written citation (no more than 500 words) and may be supported by a showreel (of no more than 15 minutes) as well as relevant testimonials. Entries for this are not eligible for the Breakthrough Off-Screen category.

Submission Requirements

- Written citation – no more than 500 words
 - Showreel (no more than 15 minutes) (if relevant)
 - Testimonials (if relevant)
 - Photo of entrant
-

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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - Script
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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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.

Submission Requirements

- Compilation (no more than 10 minutes)
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
-

Post-Production

This award celebrates the skill and professional excellence of an individual or team that stands out from the crowd in the world of post-production. They will have delivered exceptional standards of work which deserve to be recognised. Tell us why the nominee stands out – and how their standards of work reached a level of excellence. How have they raised the bar? What impact did their work have? And why should it be recognised?

The award is open for any professionals in the post-production phase, including (but not limited to) editing, dubbing, graphics, music and post-production sound and visual effects.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, creativity and professionalism.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
-

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.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
-

Writer

This award is to recognise the wealth of writing talent in the region. Demonstrating exceptional talent and skill, this award is for stand-out pieces of work in the world of scriptwriting. Tell us why this scriptwriter deserves to be recognised? How does their work stand out?

This award is for anyone who received a 'writer' credit on any qualifying show including drama, comedy, children's TV, or programmes featuring significant amounts of scripted content.

Judges will be looking for quality, originality, style and creativity from this writer.

Submission Requirements

- Full programme
 - 30 second clip
 - 3 publicity still sizes (18x9, 16x9, 4x5)
 - Behind-the-scenes footage / stills (if available, not essential)
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