



For immediate release

Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show, Cabin Pressure and Battle of Britain at 75 teams amongst winners at the Radio Production Awards

The winners have been announced for the 2015 Radio Production Awards (RPAs), with two awards going to the team on the *Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show* and two to *Cabin Pressure* producer David Tyler of Pozzitive, including the special Gold Award sponsored by Audible.

The ceremony hosted on the evening of 24th November at London's Hippodrome, was organised by the Radio Independents Group (RIG), with support from the Radio Academy. It was hosted by Radio 1 presenter Gemma Cairney and the guests presenting the awards included fellow presenters Goldirocks and Clara Amfo, as well as Dotun Adebayo, Roger Bolton, Sue McGregor and journalist and presenter John McCarthy. The awards featured a special set from singer Nell Bryden, as well as a performance from comedian Jake Yapp.

TBI Media was 'Indie of the Year' for projects such as *Battle of Britain at 75*, and Cathy Fitzgerald won both 'Best Documentary/Feature Maker' and the 'Producer of the Year' award. Production staff from indie company Whistledown also won three awards.

Now in their sixth year, the RPAs recognise and celebrate the production skills of radio and audio producers based in the UK or supplying UK-based broadcasters from overseas. This year's nominees included 26 different indies, there were also 12 nominations for the BBC and 10 for commercial radio.

Roundhouse Radio won the new 'Best Grassroots Production' award, which encourages the participation of new and diverse talent in radio production.

As well as the Grassroots award, this year also featured for the first time awards for Presenter Hero, which went to the *Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show's* Richie Firth, and Best Nations & Regions Producer, which went to Paul Evans of Harvard Productions in Wales. Other Out-of-London winners included Bauer's Tony McShane from Metro Radio in the North East, plus Manchester's Sparklab Productions featured in a win for freelancer Steve Urquhart.

Christian O'Connell's Absolute Radio breakfast show featured again with Chris Skinner's award for 'Best Multi-Platform Creator'.

RIG's Managing Director Will Jackson said: "Another amazing Radio Production Awards night has once again demonstrated the exceptional quality of audio production in the UK, both from the wide range of indie companies across the country, and from in-house teams including the BBC and Bauer Media. I'm particularly pleased that our new 'Grassroots Production' award highlights organisations working with new production talent, meaning the sector is well-placed to rise to the significant opportunities on offer in the coming years."

ENDS

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Notes

1. Images: photos from ceremony; Audible logo
2. 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 Radio Production Awards¹, which uniquely recognise and celebrate the production skills of radio and audio producers across the whole industry. In association with the Department for Business Innovation & Skills and Creative Skillset, RIG has also established RIGtrain², a £350,000 training programme which is on course to reach more than 800 learners over a period of 18 months between November 2014 and March 2016. RIGtrain has recently established a diversity mentoring scheme.
<http://www.rigtrain.co.uk/index.php/diversity-scheme/diversity-mentoring>
3. Winners of the Radio Production Awards 2015 were revealed at the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 24th November at the Hippodrome in London's Leicester Square. A full list of winners is overleaf.
4. The RPAs have a range of sponsors including Audible, who sponsored both the Gold Award and Drinks reception, also Pure, Heavy Entertainment, Roberts Radio, ipDTL, Suzy Wootton Voices, Wired Broadcast, Media.info, Broadcast Bionics, Excellent Talent and The Sound Company.
5. The Radio Production Awards began in 2010 and honour the achievement of individuals and organisations as demonstrated by a body of work created and delivered during the qualifying period (1st July 2014 - 30th June 2015). More information at:

<http://www.radi Indies.org/index.php/services-open-to-all-new/rigradio-academy-radio-production-awards>

¹ <http://www.radioproductionawards.co.uk/>

² <http://www.rigtrain.co.uk/>

RADIO PRODUCTION AWARDS 2015
WINNERS and Nominees



Best Audiobook/Readings Producer sponsored by Heavy Entertainment Studios and presented by Nicholas Briggs	
WINNER: Roy McMillan	Penguin Random House Audio
Daryl Chapman	Royal National Institute of Blind People
Hannah Marshall	Loftus Media
Holly Newson	Listening Books
Peter Curran	The Foghorn Company
Best Comedy/Entertainment Producer sponsored by Suzy Wootton Voices and presented by Clara Amfo	
WINNER: David Tyler	Pozzitive Television Ltd
Alexandra Smith	BBC Radio Comedy
Ed Morrish	BBC Radio Comedy
Gus Beattie	The Comedy Unit
Tony McShane	Bauer Media
Best Drama Producer sponsored by ECOVIS Wingrave Yeats and presented by Miranda Sawyer	
WINNER: Joby Waldman	Somethin' Else
Jay Sykes	University of Sunderland
Cherry Cookson	Wireless Theatre Limited
Celia De Wolff	Pier Productions
Andrew Mark Sewell	B7 Productions Limited
Best Live Music Producer/Engineer sponsored by Wired Broadcast and presented by Sam Hall AKA Goldirocks	
WINNER: Andy Walters	BBC
Chris Elcombe	Somethin' Else
Ioana Barbu	Absolute Radio

Best Music Entertainment Producer sponsored by Roberts Radio and presented by Alex Lester	
WINNER: Kellie Redmond	Freelance - BBC
Simon Ward	Ora Et Labora
Guy Bellamy	107 Meridian FM
Natalie Steed	Whistledown
Phil Noyce	Global / Classic FM
Best Nations & Regions Producer sponsored by Quattrain and presented by Dotun Adebayo	
WINNER: Paul Evans	Harvard Productions Limited
Caz Graham	BBC Radio 4 - Freelance
David Eurof Williams	ACME tv ltd
Gus Beattie	The Comedy Unit
Will Wilkin	BBC
Best Newcomer presented by John McCarthy	
WINNER: Anishka Sharma	Whistledown
Alison Pritchard	Kirrin Productions
Hannah Loy	BBC
Michael Umney	Resonance FM
Geraint Ellis	Absolute Radio
Best News & Current Affairs Documentary/Feature Maker sponsored by ipDTL and presented by Sue McGregor	
WINNER: Deborah Dudgeon	Whistledown
Leo Hornak	BBC
Marie Helly	BBC
Simon Cox	BBC

Best Sound Designer sponsored by Pure and presented by John Waite	
WINNER: Steve Urquhart	Freelance (Sparklab Prods / Falling Tree)
Dave Dodd	Whistledown
David Thomas	Sonic Boom Audio
Steve Bond	Goldhawk Productions Ltd
Wilfredo Acosta	B7 Productions Limited
Production Hero sponsored by The Sound Company and presented by Emma Barnett	
WINNER: Tony McShane	Bauer Media
Darby Dorras	Somethin' Else
Hayley Lewis	TBI Media
Michael Umney	Resonance FM
Susan Marling	Just Radio Ltd
Best Podcast/Online Producer sponsored by media.info and presented by Joivan Wade	
WINNER: Katherine Godfrey	Whistledown
Helen Zaltzman	freelance
Sean Douglas	The Codpast
Georgia Mills	The Naked Scientists
Graihagh Jackson	The Naked Scientists
Best Grassroots Production presented by Peter Curran	
WINNER: Roundhouse Radio	
HIGHLY COMMENDED: NATIONAL PRISON RADIO	
Folded Wing	
Podium.me	
Sam Bonham	
BBC Introducing in the West (Radio Bristol, Radio Gloucestershire, BBC Somerset, BBC Wiltshire)	
Whistledown Radio First	

Best Multi-Platform Creator sponsored by Broadcast Bionics and presented by Helen Zaltzman	
WINNER: Chris Skinner	Absolute Radio
Jonathan Haw	Siren FM
Rhian Roberts	Radio 4, Music and Radio Multiplatform
Rose de Larrabeiti	Whistledown
Thomas Coxhead	Somethin' else
Best Documentary / Feature Maker presented by Ritula Shah	
WINNER: Cathy FitzGerald	White Stiletto
Colin McNulty	Whistledown
Isabel Sutton	Just Radio Ltd
Mark Sharman	TBI Media
Steve Urquhart	Freelance (Sparklab Productions / Falling Tree)
Producer of the Year presented by Martha Kearney	
WINNER: Cathy Fitzgerald, White Stiletto	
Presenter Hero Sponsored by Excellent Talent - Video intro from Christian O'Connell	
WINNER: Ritchie Firth, Absolute Radio	
Gold Award sponsored by Audible introduced by Steve Carsey, Director of Original Programming, Audible presented by John Finnemore	
WINNER: David Tyler, Pozzitive Television	
Indie of the Year presented by Roger Bolton	
WINNER: TBI Media	
Silver: Whistledown Productions	
Bronze: PRA Productions	
Loftus Media	
Wire Free Productions	