



Television  
Academy

HONORS®

***Enlightens. Educates. Sparks positive change. These qualities are shared by all of the programs selected for the Television Academy Honors, now celebrating its fifteenth year.***

Since its inception in 2008, the Honors has recognized fiction and nonfiction television programming that creatively, accurately and responsibly addresses many of society's most pressing concerns. That broad swath of issues has included terrorism, racism, addiction, immigration, teen suicide, marriage equality, religion, the death penalty and environmental protection, among many others.

As you will see in the following pages, this year's honorees have tackled equally compelling topics: the opioid epidemic in America; the reservation life of Indigenous teens; the devastating start of AIDS; the power of food to unite us; the challenges confronting a group of Black women who are lifelong friends; the impact of racism on the efforts to find missing children; and the positive effects of Covid lockdowns on our planet.

The Honors began through the efforts of Television Cares, at the time the Academy's committee devoted to social outreach. The committee's cochairs, former Television Academy chairman John Shaffner and longtime Academy member Lynn Roth — along with another former chairman, Dick Askin — shared a vision to create an annual event that would recognize what Shaffner described as "television with a conscience." Eventually, the committee was renamed to focus on the Television Academy Honors.

The programs celebrated this year — and every year — have made us think differently about issues that many of us believed we already understood. They have moved us and helped changed some of our minds. And today — perhaps more than ever — that is a most honorable achievement.

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#### **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2022 TELEVISION ACADEMY HONORS SELECTION COMMITTEE**

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# CONGRATULATIONS

to our 15<sup>th</sup> annual TELEVISION ACADEMY HONORS RECIPIENTS

HBO DOCUMENTARY FILMS™  
**BLACK  
AND  
MISSING**  
HONOREE



HBO ORIGINAL  
**insecure**  
HONOREE



max ORIGINAL  
**IT'S A  
SIN**  
HONOREE



Thank you, ACADEMY HONORS COMMITTEE,  
for your recognition.

**HBOmax**



# BLACK<sup>AND</sup> MISSING

HBO Documentary Films presents in association with SO'B Productions  
HBO/HBO Max

**Keeshae Jacobs, twenty-one, texted her mother that she had plans to spend the night with a friend. A day later, she went missing.**



Sadly, Keeshae's case is but one of many. In 2019, some 600,000 people went missing in the U.S. Of those, 40 percent were Black.

The Television Academy honors *Black and Missing*, a compelling four-part documentary series that spotlights the efforts of two sisters, Derrica and Natalie Wilson, and their nonprofit organization, the Black and Missing Foundation (BAM). The series' producers include two-time Emmy

Award winner Geeta Gandbhir and journalist, author and award-winning documentarian Soledad O'Brien.

"For most police departments, missing-person cases are not a priority," says Derrica Wilson, who was in law enforcement herself for two decades. "It's not considered a crime, so families are left to do the work on their own of finding what happened to their loved one."

That neglect, she says, is

even more prevalent if the missing person is Black. "There have been many systemic issues surrounding law enforcement in the minority community," Natalie Wilson points out. "They've been bringing their stereotypes and biases into the equation. They aren't taking these cases seriously."

The Wilson sisters founded BAM in 2008 to raise awareness of missing-persons cases and create a database of these individuals to help search for them.

"As a police officer, mother and member of the African-American community, I have witnessed firsthand the disparity in media coverage for missing persons of color," Derrica Wilson said when launching the foundation. "BAM was created to change that disparity by being the voice of the missing."

While the Wilsons' work has brought impressive results and helped some parents find their children, many remain on BAM's missing list — including Keeshae Jacobs.

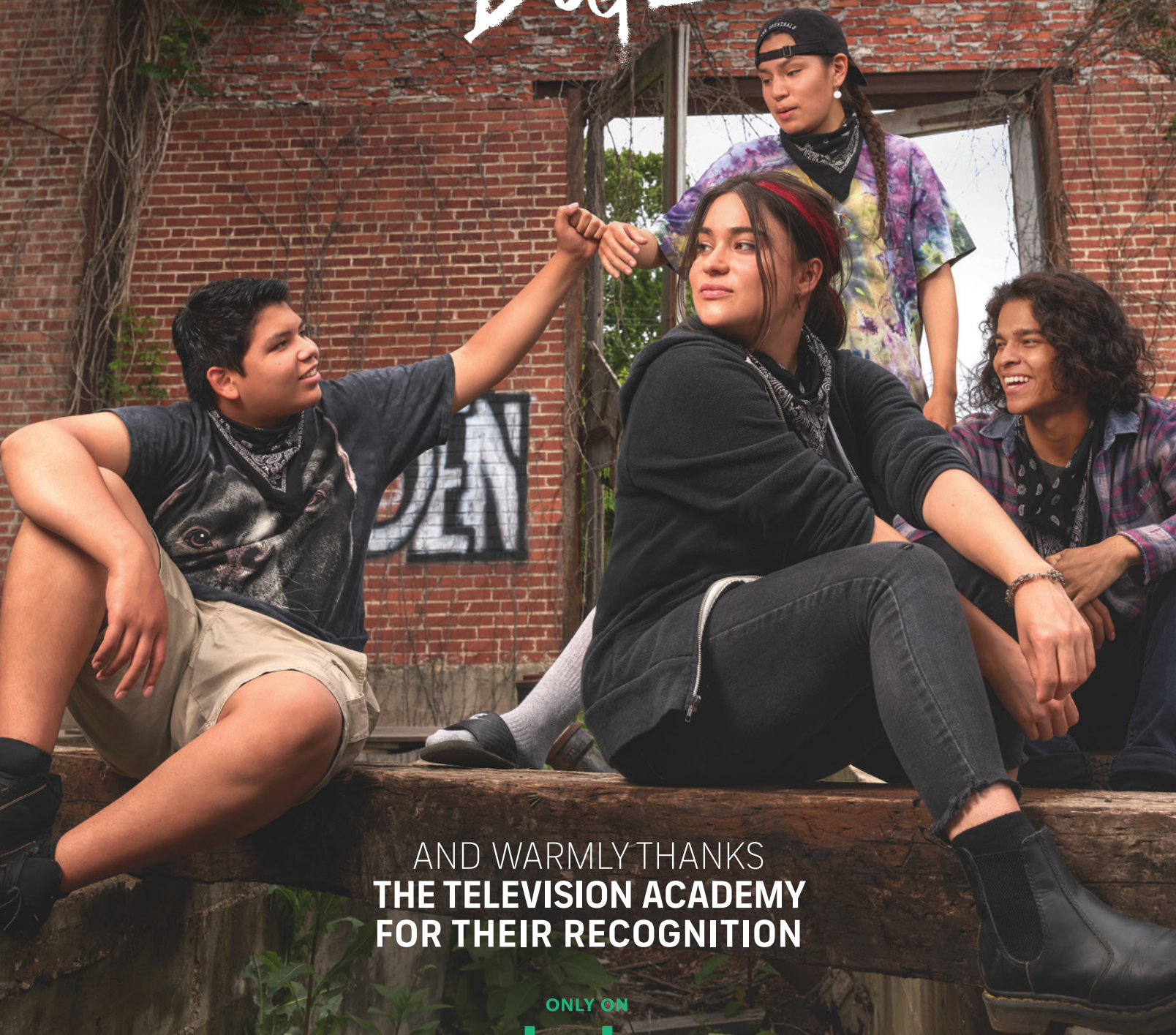
HBO



FX CONGRATULATES OUR  
TELEVISION ACADEMY HONORS RECIPIENT



# RESERVATION DOGS



AND WARMLY THANKS  
**THE TELEVISION ACADEMY**  
FOR THEIR RECOGNITION

ONLY ON  
**hulu**



# DOPE SICK

Hulu, Danny Strong Productions, John Goldwyn Productions,  
The Littlefield Company, 20th Television  
Hulu

## *Is it possible to redefine pain?*



That question was the starting point in the mid-1980s when executives at Purdue Pharma sought to treat chronic pain with a new classification of purportedly nonaddictive opioids. Instead, the drug they created — OxyContin — triggered a deadly crisis of addiction.

The Television Academy honors *Dopesick*, an eight-part limited series, for its lucid and thorough depiction of how one company — and the family that owns it —

disregarded all safety guardrails as it sought to gain market share and create a “miracle” drug that would outsell the competition.

Created by Danny Strong, the series stars Michael Keaton, Kaitlyn Dever, Peter Sarsgaard and Rosario Dawson. Based on Beth Macy’s 2018 nonfiction book, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*, it is a moving exposé of corporate malfeasance that led to a public health crisis.

Most afflicted were regions where workers suffer on-the-job injuries, like the coal mining country of West Virginia. Keaton portrays Samuel Finnix, a small-town doctor whose patients — many of whom suffer from chronic pain — become addicted to the OxyContin that he has prescribed.

When physicians initially voiced skepticism about the Class 2 narcotic, Purdue Pharma rallied its sales force. Sales reps assured doctors that the drug’s time-release absorption would reduce the risk of addiction.

Within three years of the launch of OxyContin, law-enforcement officials began to see spikes in crime, child abandonment and deaths. As users became desperate to acquire the drug, communities were ravaged.

While Purdue Pharma ultimately declared bankruptcy and its owners, the Sackler family, have been ordered to pay billions to settle lawsuits around the country, the stain of their enterprise continues to plague America.

Gene Page/Hulu

We know great  
performance  
when we see it.  
Congratulations,  
honorees.



Movement that inspires

Congratulations to all of the Television Academy Honors recipients. Inspiration is what moves us. And we were inspired by the creativity, vision, and accomplishments of each of you. Keep up the great work. And we promise to do the same.

2023 Telluride X-Pro SX Prestige shown. Some features may vary. Available in fall 2022.

# insecure

HBO in association with Hoorae Productions, A Penny for Your Thoughts Entertainment and 3 Arts Entertainment  
HBO/HBO Max

*Life always presents more questions than answers.*



That's a truism Issa Rae has addressed over five seasons of HBO's comedy-drama *Insecure*, an authentic take on the lives of a group of Black women who've been lifelong friends. Created by Rae and Larry Wilmore, the critically acclaimed series has been a touchstone for millennials who — like protagonist Issa Dee (played by Rae) — are dealing with self-doubt as they navigate adulthood, careers and relationships.

The Television Academy honors *Insecure* for its potent, poignant and relevant examination of what it means to be a young Black woman in today's society.

The opener of the fifth and final season finds Issa and her friends back at Stanford University for their ten-year reunion. Are they brimming with confidence and eager to share their professional success? Not necessarily.

When asked to join a panel

discussion of young entrepreneurs, Issa is initially flattered, but that feeling is short-lived. Talking to her friends later, she says, "I thought it was going to make me feel like I was *somebody*, that I was *somewhere*. It only reminded me of where I'm not." Issa is left wondering if she's just been wasting time that she can never get back.

When she meets her younger self in the mirror, the encounter is brutal.

"I know you're a big-time lawyer now!" Issa's younger self exclaims.

Issa replies that she never wanted to be a lawyer.

"Well, do we have any man?" younger Issa asks.

"Girl, it's complicated," older Issa says.

"Okay, then let me see those abs!" younger Issa demands, adding, "Oh, man, where did I go wrong?"

In this forthright series, Issa comes to understand that there's a wide gap between success and happiness, but luckily her friends help her bridge that gap every day.

Merie Weismiller Wallace/HBO





We Celebrate  
THE RECIPIENTS OF THE  
15<sup>TH</sup> Television  
Academy  
Honors  
**People**<sup>®</sup>

PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE  
OF THE TELEVISION ACADEMY

# IT'S A SIN

HBO Max presents a Red Production Company production in association with Channel 4 Television  
HBO/HBO Max

**As several gay young men in London come to terms with coming out, a crisis threatens their newfound freedom. It is 1981, and HIV/AIDS is on the horizon.**



The Television Academy honors *It's a Sin*, HBO's five-part limited series from executive producer Russell T Davies (other executive producers are director Peter Hoar and Nicola Shindler). The series offers a window into gay life as the medical community was just

discovering HIV/AIDS. While the friends learn to embrace their true selves and enjoy some moments of happiness, those moments are soon overshadowed by unimaginable pain and loss.

Ritchie (Olly Alexander) is choosing an acting career over law

school; Colin (Callum Scott Howells) is an apprentice with a Savile Row tailor, and Roscoe (Omari Douglas) has run away from home because his parents won't accept who he is. Meanwhile Ritchie's friend Jill (Lydia West) is starting to worry about the men around her who are becoming ill.

Just as a public education campaign about AIDS starts to reach the masses, many of the most vulnerable choose denial, because this sickness is a scandal.

Over a ten-year period — from 1981 to 1991 — early promise, youth and vitality fade as the friends fall victim, one by one. The tragedy of their shortened lives is compounded when some of their families react to the news with revulsion and shame.

Exploring lives caught in the crux of tragedy, *It's a Sin* is a story of love, honesty and courage.

Ben Blackall/HBO



# EARTH'S FINEST WATER®



FIJI Water congratulates this year's  
Television Academy Honors Recipients

[FIJIWater.com](http://FIJIWater.com)

# RESERVATION DOGS

FX Productions  
FX

For four teens living on a reservation in rural Oklahoma, the goal is clear — to beg, borrow or steal enough money to shake off the confines of their hardscrabble life and head to California.



But life — not to mention friends, family and the law — all seem to stand in their way.

The Television Academy honors *Reservation Dogs*, FX's rough-edged comedy from cocreators and executive producers Sterlin Harjo and Taika Waititi. Filmed on location in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the series is the first to feature all Indigenous

writers and directors, along with a mostly Indigenous cast and production team.

The *Reservation Dogs*, in this case, are four teens: Bear (D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai), Elora Danan (Devery Jacobs), Cheese (Lane Factor) and Willie Jack (Paulina Alexis).

Their fundraising methods are

often less than legal — and can trigger a vision of Bear's spirit guide (Dallas Goldtooth). This warrior, who died during the Battle of Little Big Horn when his horse stepped in a gopher hole and rolled over on him, is often scornful of the lost teen's pitiful life goals.

"Being a warrior is not always easy," he tells Bear. "What are you and your thuggy-ass friends doing for your people? It's easy to be bad — it's hard to be a warrior with dignity."

Life on the rez isn't easy for these four, who feel the lack of prospects and promise. But carrying out two-bit crimes and exploiting the equally downtrodden exact their own moral toll, especially for Bear. "Are we the bad guys?" he asks his pals after they hear that the truck driver whose cargo they stole has been fired because of the theft.

All the lessons here are hard, but so is the teens' determination to find a better future.

FX



# *EXCEPTIONAL FROM EVERY ANGLE®*

Congratulating this year's Television  
Academy Honors Recipients for  
their exceptional work.

Cheers!



# TASTE THE NATION

## HOLIDAY EDITION

WITH **PADMA LAKSHMI**

Hulu, Part 2 Pictures, Delicious Entertainment  
Hulu

Who can resist the rich cooking traditions of cultural celebration?

Michael Desmond/Hulu



Certainly not Padma Lakshmi, the renowned cookbook author and television producer-host who takes viewers on a journey of the senses in *Taste the Nation: Holiday Edition*. As she investigates the culinary history of four cultures, she offers hope that food can be the binder that brings us together as a nation.

The Television Academy honors

*Taste the Nation: Holiday Edition*, a delicious exploration of how traditions built around food not only enhance a cultural heritage but invite others to leave their biases at the door and instead sit down and find common ground.

You don't have to be Jewish to savor *latkes*, the golden-brown potato pancakes served at Hanukkah. And you don't have to

be Cuban to relish the succulent roast pig of *Nochebuena*, or Christmas Eve. Besides exploring Jewish and Cuban traditions, Lakshmi learns about Wampanoag and Korean feasts. In the four episodes (an offshoot of Hulu's 2020-21 series, *Taste the Nation with Padma Lakshmi*), she reveals how these food-centric customs got their start, how they morphed as immigrants came to the U.S., and how newer generations are accepting the rites of food — even as they're changing them.

At the same time, members of these communities discuss some painful histories — the Holocaust that killed 6 million Jews, the forced exile of Koreans and the genocide of Indigenous people by white settlers. And for hundreds of thousands of Cubans, the revolution of 1959 caused them to flee to Miami. They have thrived there, Lakshmi points out, and we as a country are richer for it.



# THE YEAR EARTH CHANGED

BBC Studios Natural History Unit in association with Apple  
Apple TV+

**A pandemic, it turns out, can have a silver lining.**



Apple TV+

When the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, consequences were felt worldwide. As cities, states and countries shut down and people stayed home, a remarkable thing happened.

The Earth began to breathe again.

The Television Academy honors *The Year Earth Changed*, a brilliantly vivid documentary from BBC Studios

in association with Apple that tells a story not of disease and death, but rather of plant and animal life flourishing.

With global traffic — planes, trains, automobiles and shipping — reduced by 70 to 90 percent, the air became pristine. In India, residents of smog-soaked cities saw something they hadn't seen in thirty years — the magnificent skyline of the Himalayas. Cruise ships no longer jockeyed for space

in the waters off Alaska, and in the underwater silence, humpback whales became very chatty, to the amazement of scientists. In Africa's Maasai Mara game reserve, mother cheetahs no longer had to navigate truckloads of tourists to feed their young, and cub counts rose.

Narrated by David Attenborough, *The Year Earth Changed* powerfully illustrates how global lockdown instigated a renewal of the planet. Was this respite temporary? The documentary focuses keenly on that question, examining how changes in human behavior (reducing cruise ship traffic, closing beaches a few days a year, et cetera) and identifying ways for humans and wildlife to coexist harmoniously can have profound effects on nature.

Will it take a new pandemic to give Mother Nature another much-needed break? Or can we summon the will to safeguard all the inhabitants of our planet?

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Television Academy Honors selection committee has chosen three programs for special recognition. Each will receive a certificate acknowledging its thoughtful, pro-social content.

### **Fauci**

National Geographic

The long career of the country's top immunologist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, is explored in this documentary. A lifelong public servant, Fauci led the fight against Covid-19 in the face of verbal abuse and physical threats from those claiming the pandemic was not real.

### **Maid**

Netflix

Molly Smith Metzler created this limited series about a young mother who escapes an abusive relationship and takes work cleaning houses to try to make ends meet. Based on Stephanie Land's 2019 memoir, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, it stars Margaret Qualley and Andie MacDowell.

### **Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre**

The HISTORY Channel

This searing documentary examines the rise of Black Wall Street, the bloody two-day riot that caused its catastrophic downfall a century ago, the ensuing cover-up and denial and finally, the modern efforts to reconstruct this American tragedy.



# We raise a cocktail to this year's Television Honorees.

**Ketel One**<sup>®</sup>  
VODKA



PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY. KETEL ONE Vodka. Distilled from Grain.  
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