Television Academy Honors: 2020-2021

Calendar

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
Eligibility year

December 14, 2020
Entry upload window opens

January 29, 2021
Entry deadline

Week of March 22, 2021
Committee deliberations conclude

TBD
Announcement of Honorees

TBD
Presentation of awards (location TBD)

Eligibility

Programs (and individual achievements within them) are eligible if they were originally aired (6:00 PM - 2:00 AM) during the eligibility year by broadcast to at least 50% of the total potential U. S. television market, (ii) by pay/basic cable transmissions (including by way of example so-called basic cable, pay cable, pay television and interactive cable), or (iii) by broadband to markets representing at least 50% or more of U.S. households.

Eligibility is to the program rather than individuals or companies associated with the making or distribution of the program, e.g., producers, directors, writers, networks, studios, production companies, etc. Entries may be made for limited series, television movies, documentaries, and for regular series. There is a limit of one entry per series. The person who signs the entry form is the entrant but not necessarily the acceptor if the entry goes on to become an honoree. The acceptor will be designated by the entrant when notified of their program’s selection as an honoree.

Purpose of the Award

Originally created to recognize “Television with a Conscience,” the Television Academy Honors recognizes programming that explores issues of concern to our society in a compelling, emotional and insightful way, and powers social change. Programming and programmers who enlighten and educate, create awareness and motivate positive change will be honored.
The Television Academy Honors is separate and distinct from Emmy’s recognition of television excellence. The purpose of Television Academy Honors is to celebrate programming that taps the power of television to change hearts and minds.

**Submission Requirements**


Your entry information and program upload will be reviewed by the members of the Television Academy Honors Selection Committee.

**Processing Fee**

For each entry there is a processing fee of $250.

**Voting**

Entries will be judged by the Television Academy Honors Selection Committee.

**Recipients of the 13th Television Academy Honors**

**16 Shots** (SHOWTIME Documentary Films Presents, in association with Topic, Impact Partners and Chicago Media Project)

16 Shots is the quixotic story of a small group of activists, journalists and attorneys who fought to reveal the truth behind the Chicago police killing of Laquan McDonald. The documentary features a forensic examination of a shooting, the anatomy of a coverup, and a portrait of the social/political machine that makes black lives disappear. Despite all odds, this group of activists fought to secure the release of the video of Laquan’s shooting, catalyzing a series of earth-shattering moments that culminated in the trial of the officer responsible for Laquan’s murder. (SHOWTIME)

**At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal** (Sidewinder Films II and HBO Documentary Films)

For more than two decades, Dr. Larry Nassar was the osteopathic physician for the U.S. women’s Olympic gymnastics team as well as a physician at Michigan State University. During that time, he sexually abused hundreds of female athletes. Offering insights that go beyond the sensational headlines, this documentary reveals a dangerous system that prioritized winning over everything else, including protecting young female athletes. Through interviews with dozens of survivors, as well as coaches, lawyers, journalists and Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, the film exposes an environment in which young women

*updated 1.6.21*
spent their youth competing for victory on a world stage, juxtaposed against a culture where abuse was hidden, and lives were forever damaged. (HBO)

**Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj (Art & Industry for Netflix)**
Each week comic Hasan Minhaj brings his unique comedic voice and storytelling skill to investigate larger social and political trends shaping our fragmented world. This comedy commentary series has explored obesity, retirement, immigration, global news, mental health and politics with depth and sincerity. Following a show on student loans, Minhaj was asked to testify before Congress on behalf of borrowers, proving that informed political satire can sometimes be the necessary catalyst for change. (Netflix)

**Queen Sugar (Harpo Films and Array Filmworks in association with Warner Horizon Scripted Television)**
This contemporary dramatic series from Ava DuVernay is more than entertainment. It addresses issues of race relations, mass incarceration, sexual assault and post-traumatic triggers. Through its fully realized, multi-dimensional depiction of an African American family, this racially progressive show tackles universal issues of culture, class and gender while highlighting specific concerns of the African American community. (OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network)

**Unbelievable (CBS Television Studios for Netflix)**
Inspired by The Marshall Project and ProPublica Pulitzer Prize-winning article "An Unbelievable Story of Rape," this limited series confronts sexual assault and the handling of victims of trauma, treating the difficult subject matter with respect and empathy toward the victims. The compelling drama, based on the true story of a woman accused of lying about being raped and the two female detectives—hundreds of miles away—who refused to give up their pursuit of a potential serial rapist, incites a bigger conversation about the too-frequent mishandling of rape cases and rape victims and how individual and collective prejudice can shape and sidetrack an investigation. (Netflix)

**Watchmen (HBO in association with White Rabbit, Paramount, Warner Bros. Television and DC Entertainment)**
Set in an alternate universe where masked vigilantes are treated as outlaws, Watchmen embraces the nostalgia of the original groundbreaking graphic novel of the same name while attempting to break new ground of its own. Watchmen goes beyond its basic plotline to highlight the most pervasive anxiety in America, the fear of imminent cultural destruction at the hands of each other, and the issue that most directly addresses an evil at the heart of our country's history. That evil is racism. (HBO)

*updated 1.6.21*