

70 YEARS OF EMMY®

1948 The Emmy Awards are conceived. The Television Academy's founding fathers struggle to name the award: Television Academy founder Syd Cassyd suggests "Ike," the nickname for the television iconoscope tube. Pioneer television engineer and future (1949) Academy president Harry Lubcke suggests "Immy," a nickname for the image-orthicon camera tube instrumental in the technical development of television. "Immy" is feminized as "Emmy" because the statuette, designed by engineer Louis McManus (who enlisted his wife Dorothy to model for it) depicts the winged "muse of art uplifting the electron of science."

1949 First Emmy Awards – given to Los Angeles area programming – take place at the Hollywood Athletic Club on January 25. Tickets are \$5.00. It is broadcast on local station KTSL. There are less than a million television sets in the U.S. The master of ceremonies was popular TV host **Walter O'Keefe**.

Six awards are given:

- *Most Outstanding Television Personality*: Twenty-year-old **Shirley Dinsdale** and her puppet sidekick Judy Splinters for "The Judy Splinters Show."
- *The Station Award for Outstanding Overall Achievement*: **KTLA** (the first commercial television station west of the Mississippi River).
- *Technical Award*: Engineer **Charles Mesak** of Don Lee Television for the introduction of TV camera technology.
- *The Best Film Made for Television*: "The Necklace" (a half hour adaptation of Guy de Maupassant's classic short story).
- *Most Popular Television Program*: "Pantomime Quiz."
- A special Emmy is presented to **Louis McManus** for designing the statuette.

1950 Second Emmy Awards (January 27, Ambassador Hotel)

- KFI-TV broadcasts, the six other Los Angeles area stations share expense of the telecast. Total estimated show cost: \$250.
- **Bill Welsh** and **Dick Lane** share hosting duties.
- Academy drops requirement that all competing shows be produced in Hollywood; contenders now include kinescope programs out of New York, Chicago and elsewhere.
- A few hours before the ceremony, winners' names are leaked, but the majority of recipients appear surprised when announced.
- **Ed Wynn** is named *Outstanding Live Personality*; **Milton Berle** is awarded *Outstanding Kinescope Personality*.

1951 Third Emmy Awards (KLAC-TV, January 23, Ambassador Hotel).

- Academy founder **Syd Cassyd** hosts the event.
- *Best Actor* and *Actress* categories added.
- 1,000 people attend the ceremony.
- Emmys are recognized as a major entertainment industry event.
- When **Groucho Marx** is named *Outstanding Personality*, he carries "Miss Emmy" (former Miss America **Rosemary LaPlanche**) offstage rather than his statuette.

1952 Fourth Emmy Awards (February 18, Coconut Grove)

- Telecast locally by ABC's KECA in Los Angeles.
- **Lucille Ball** and **Desi Arnaz** are the hosts.
- No coast-to-coast network broadcast available; New York winners are contacted by phone.

- Special achievement award goes to **Senator Estes Kefauver** who investigated organized crime and opened Congressional hearings to the television audience.
- AT&T presented with special achievement award for developing microwave relay system that enables television to be viewed nationwide.
- Awards committee is set up to develop a national awards system.

1953 Fifth Emmy Awards (KLAC, February 3, Hotel Statler)

- **Art Linkletter** emcees, handling with aplomb falling scenery and a microphone that goes dead for 10 minutes.
- **Lucille Ball** accepts Emmys for *Best Situation Comedy* ("I Love Lucy") and *Best Comedienne*. It is the first social function she attends since the birth of her son, Desi Arnaz Jr.
- Although Lucy is also considered a shoe-in for *Outstanding Television Personality*, the award goes to **Bishop Fulton J. Sheen**.

1954 Sixth Emmy Awards (KHJ, February 11, Hollywood Palladium)

- **Ed Sullivan** emcees, a move intended to diffuse his rancor towards the West Coast-based Academy.
- Ceremony almost cancelled when broadcaster KHJ-TV cannot find a sponsor.
- Year marks the beginning of "the golden age of television's" live anthology drama series such as "Television Playhouse," "Studio One," "Playhouse 90," "Kraft Television Theatre" and the "U.S. Steel Hour."

1955 Seventh Emmy Awards (NBC, March 7, Moulin Rouge in Hollywood/Nino's LaRue in New York)

- U.S. television set ownership grows to 25 million.
- NBC pays \$110,000 for the rights to air telecast across the nation; the show airs simultaneously on both coasts, adding prestige and publicity.
- **Steve Allen** hosts from Hollywood; **Dave Garroway** from New York.
- First presentation of Emmys to a full range of craft awards.

1956 Eighth Emmy Awards (NBC, March 17, Pan Pacific Auditorium in Hollywood/Grand Ballroom Waldorf Astoria, New York)

- **Art Linkletter** hosts from Hollywood; **John Daly** from New York.
- 40 awards are presented; 24 during the 90 minute broadcast, and 16 immediately following.
- Working press arrive at 5 p.m. for cocktails and are seated at special ringside tables where space is set aside for post-award interviews.

1957 Ninth Emmy Awards (NBC, March 16)

- Awards Ceremony is preceded a month earlier by novel, color telecast to announce nominees, scripted by **Rod Serling** and featuring **Steve Allen, Sid Caesar, Phil Silvers, Danny Thomas** and songwriter **Johnny Mercer** (then Television Academy President).
- First nationwide color telecast from NBC's East and West Coast studios; **Desi Arnaz** emcees.
- According to TV Guide's March 16, 1957 issue, "*...the Emmy Awards have finally achieved the stature of the Oscars. Certainly everyone in television feels that the Emmy is the highest honor in the industry.*"

1958 10th Emmy Awards (NBC, April 15, Coconut Grove in Hollywood; Seventh Regiment Armory National Guard in New York).

- **Phil Silvers** hosts on the East Coast and **Danny Thomas** on West Coast.
- Telecast sponsors include Procter & Gamble and the Pontiac Division of General Motors.
- **Lassie** finally attends the show as a presenter.

1959 11th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 6)

- First time Emmys are broadcast from three locations: Hollywood (Moulin Rouge), New York (Ziegfeld Theatre) and Washington, D.C. (Mayflower Hotel) --where **Vice President Richard Nixon** helps present news and documentary awards.
- **Raymond Burr** emcees.
- **Fred Astaire** wins an Emmy for his performance on "An Evening with Fred Astaire," but Ed Sullivan contests it. Ultimately, Astaire keeps his award.
- Eligibility period stretched to 14 months one time only, allowing the switch of eligibility period from calendar year to actual TV season.
- NBC technicians strike (in tuxedos keeping with Emmy dress code); cameras and broadcast controls are manned by NBC executives. Broadcast proceeds without technical difficulty.

1960 12th Emmy Awards (NBC, June 20, NBC's Burbank Studios; Ziegfeld Theatre in New York). **Fred Astaire** hosts in Burbank; **Arthur Godfrey** from New York.

Telecast highlighted by many firsts:

- **Harry Belafonte** is first black performer to win an Emmy, for "Tonight with Belafonte"
- Hanna-Barbera's syndicated show "Huckleberry Hound" wins *Outstanding Children's Show*. It is the first syndicated program and the first cartoon series to ever win an Emmy.
- **Ingrid Bergman** wins an Emmy for her first television performance in NBC's "The Turn of the Screw."
- **Laurence Olivier** wins an Emmy for his debut television performance in NBC's "The Moon and Sixpence."
- A relatively unknown standup comedian, **Bob Newhart**, fills in for **Mike Nichols** and **Elaine May**. A new television star is born.

1961 13th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 16 Moulin Rouge in Hollywood; Ziegfeld Theatre in New York)

- **Dick Powell** hosts from Hollywood and **Joey Bishop** from New York.
- First time eligibility period for awards directly parallels television network season.
- Ceremony dominated by "Hallmark Hall of Fame's Macbeth," the first made-for-TV movie – Emmys go to the program, stars **Maurice Evans** and **Judith Anderson**, director **George Schaefer**.
- Telecast pulls a 33.9 Nielsen rating and is the most watched show of its week, beating "Candid Camera," "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "The Untouchables."

1962 14th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 22)

- Telecast uses film and tape clips from nominated shows for the first time.
- **Bob Newhart** emcees from the Hollywood Palladium; **Johnny Carson** from the New York Astor Hotel; NBC newsman **David Brinkley** hosts at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington D.C.
- Washington, D.C. takes the spotlight as special Trustees Award is given to **Jacqueline Kennedy** for her CBS-TV tour of the White House. **Lady Bird Johnson** accepts for the camera-shy First Lady.
- A new award is presented in New York created solely for daytime programs.
- Television Academy's Board of Trustees honors the news departments of ABC, CBS and NBC for their coverage of **John Glenn's** space flight.

1963 15th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 26, Hollywood Palladium, Americana Hotel in New York, Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington)

- **Joey Bishop** emcees from Los Angeles; **Arthur Godfrey** from New York; **Chet Huntley** hosts from Washington D.C.
- President **John F. Kennedy** receives a Trustees citation "... for having initiated news conferences on TV, and for scheduling a news conference as part of the first Telstar broadcast."
- AT&T is given Trustees Award for conceiving and developing Telstar satellites.
- An international Emmy is introduced and the recipient is the U.K.'s Granada Television for its three-hour adaptation of Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

- 1964** 16th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 25, from the Texas Pavilion at the New York World's Fair and the Hollywood Palladium).
- **Joey Bishop** emcees from Los Angeles; **E.G. Marshall** from New York
 - Top honors go to "The Dick Van Dyke Show" – *Outstanding Comedy Series, Lead Actor and Actress (Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore), Director (Jerry Paris) and Writers (Carl Reiner, Sam Denoff and Bill Persky)*.
 - **Shelley Winters** wins for *Outstanding Single Performance by a Lead Actress* in Chrysler Theatre's teleplay "Two is the Number" and mistakenly thanks the Motion Picture Academy for her award.
- 1965** 17th Emmy Awards (NBC, September 12, **Danny Thomas** hosts from Hollywood Palladium; **Sammy Davis Jr.** from New York Hilton)
- The awards categories are revamped.
 - Competition is minimized and excellence honored whenever or wherever it occurs. The 27 national categories are reduced to "area" awards: Outstanding Program; Outstanding Individual Achievements (Entertainment and Program); and Individual Awards in the fields of news documentaries, information and sports. Each category has possibility of multiple award winners, one winner or no winner.
 - More than 50 million Americans watch the show.
 - There are five winners in *Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment (Leonard Bernstein, Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt, Barbra Streisand, Dick Van Dyke)* and four in *Outstanding Entertainment Programs* ("The Dick Van Dyke Show," "The Magnificent Yankee," "My Name is Barbra," "What Is Sonata Form? Young People's Concert with Leonard Bernstein").
- 1966** 18th Emmy Awards (CBS, May 22, **Danny Kaye** hosts at Hollywood Palladium; **Bill Cosby** at New York's Americana Hotel)
- The Emmy Awards begin rotating among the three networks.
 - The awards categories are revamped again. Half revert to previous format of one winner per category. The rest continue to be "areas" of achievement in which multiple, one or no winners can be named.
 - **Bill Cosby** ("I Spy") wins *Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series* – only the second black performer to win an Emmy.
- 1967** 19th Emmy Awards (ABC, June 4, **Joey Bishop** hosts from Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles/ **Hugh Downs** from New York's Americana Hotel)
- Costume Design is recognized as an Emmy category.
 - **Bob Mackie** and **Ray Aghayan** win first Emmy for *Best Costume Design* for "Alice Through the Looking Glass."
 - **Gene Kelly's** "Jack and The Beanstalk" (which combined live action and animation) wins *Outstanding Children's Programming*.
 - "The Monkees" is a surprise first-season winner as *Outstanding Comedy Series*.
- 1968** 20th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 19, **Frank Sinatra** hosts from Hollywood Palladium; **Dick Van Dyke** from New York's Americana Hotel)
- A highlight of the show is **Lucille Ball, Carol Burnett** and Sinatra singing "I Remember it Well."
 - Four months after its premiere, NBC's risqué variety show "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" scores four Emmys.
- 1969** 21st Emmy Awards (CBS, June 8, **Bill Cosby** hosts from Santa Monica Civic Auditorium; **Merv Griffin** from Carnegie Hall)
- Four cancelled series receive Emmys: NBC's "Get Smart" and "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," ABC's "Judd for the Defense" and CBS' "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour."
 - Most controversial votes were 'no votes'. No Emmy is given in three categories: *Outstanding Single Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role; Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Comedy, Variety or Music* and *Outstanding Achievement in Children's Programming*.

- First time news and documentary awards are announced two weeks prior to the telecast.
- 1970** 22nd Emmy Awards (ABC, June 7, **Bill Cosby** hosts from Century Plaza in Los Angeles; **Dick Cavett** from Carnegie Hall in New York)
- First year the telecast concentrates solely on primetime entertainment.
 - Separate Creative Arts Awards are created when craft and technical awards are presented at an earlier non-televised event; telecast can no longer accommodate expanding number of awards presentations.
- 1971** 23rd Emmy Awards (NBC, May 9, **Johnny Carson** hosts from Hollywood Palladium)
- For the first time since 1953, the Emmys are entirely a Hollywood ceremony.
 - **Shirley Dinsdale**, recipient of first Emmy, flown in from New York to attend ceremony.
 - Skit featuring Edith and Archie from "All in the Family" opens show; "All in the Family" goes on to win *Outstanding New Series* and *Outstanding Comedy Series*.
- 1972** 24th Emmy Awards (CBS, May 14, **Johnny Carson** hosts from Hollywood Palladium)
- New categories added: *Outstanding Achievement in Daytime Drama* which goes to "The Doctors," and *Outstanding Religious Programming – Individual* (**Alfredo Antonini**, music director for "And David Wept"; **Lon Stucky**, Lighting director on "Contact").
 - "Brian's Song" wins *Outstanding Program*, setting new standard for made-for-TV movies.
- 1973** 25th Emmy Awards (BC, May 20, Shubert Theatre, **Johnny Carson** hosts)
- Due to rules changes, the awards introduce a new category: *Outstanding Drama/Comedy – Limited Episode*, to differentiate competitions between ongoing regular series and limited series such as the closed-ended "Masterpiece Theatre" limited series.
 - Talk show category is eliminated.
 - **Bob Fosse** becomes only person to win an Emmy (three wins for "Liza with a 'Z'"), Oscar and Tony in the same year.
 - Categories are created for Daytime Dramas and Non-Dramas. **Mary Fickett** of "All My Children" is the first soap opera actor ever to win an Emmy.
 - For the first time ever News and Documentary Emmys are bestowed in a separate, May 22 CBS telecast from the New York Hilton.
- 1974** 26th Emmy Awards (NBC, May 28, **Johnny Carson** hosts from Pantages Theatre)
- CBS wins 44 Emmys, the most won in a single year by a network.
 - "Super Emmys" awarded for first time. It is argued that since so many Emmys are given away each year for best actor (in comedy, drama, limited series and TV film genres), why not have them compete against each other for "Actor of the Year – Series" or "Actor of the Year – Special." Likewise for actress, directors, writers, etc. Fourteen Super Emmys in primetime and five in daytime are awarded. Two hundred of Hollywood's biggest stars, producers and directors protest and threaten to quit the Academy but NATAS convinces them to give it a try. Soon after the broadcast, "Super Emmy" is dropped.
 - First time Daytime TV given a separate, daytime broadcast May 28 on NBC from Rockefeller Plaza in New York.
 - News and Documentary Emmys are presented on ABC on September 4.
- 1975** 27th Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS May 19, from Hollywood Palladium)
- Telecast features 10 female stars as Mistresses of Ceremonies: **Lucille Ball, Bea Arthur, Jean Stapleton, Carol Burnett, Cher, Teresa Graves, Mary Tyler Moore, Susan Saint James, Michael Learned** and **Karen Valentine**. The 11th "hostess" is **Flip Wilson** appearing in drag as his sassy character "Geraldine."
 - Writers and directors threaten to boycott the Emmys when they learn of Television Academy's initial plan to present their Emmys off air.

1976 28th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, May 17, Shubert Theatre)

- Hosting duties are shared by **Mary Tyler Moore** and **John Denver**.
- Newcomer "Saturday Night Live" wins four Emmys out of five nominations. **Milton Berle** presents show with *Best Variety Series* award.
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1977 29th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 11, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)

- Due to differences between New York and Hollywood chapters of the Television Academy, and the split of the organization into two different academies, the Primetime Emmys air in September. The Hollywood group reverts to its original name -- Academy of Television Arts & Sciences -- and the New York group goes by National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- Each group controls specific award shows. Los Angeles keeps the Primetime Emmys and NATAS the Daytime Emmys, News Documentary and Sports Emmys as well as jurisdiction over 19 chapters around the U.S. which produce local Emmy events.
- ABC's most-watched miniseries, "Roots", receives a record 37 nominations and picks up 9 awards – the most ever won by a miniseries.
- It's a tie - a first in Emmy history. The category of *Outstanding Special or Drama* ends in a tie and both shows are directed by the same person. ABC's "Eleanor and Franklin: The White House Years" and NBC's "Sybil" both directed by **Daniel Petrie**.
- **Angie Dickinson** and **Robert Blake** host.
- The show clocks in at a record 3 hours and 30 minutes.

1978 30th Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 17, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Alan Alda** emcees)

- Show is interrupted by a half hour press conference in which **U.S. President Jimmy Carter**, **Egyptian President Anwar Sadat** and **Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin** announce a successful resolution to their peace talks at Camp David.

1979 31st Primetime Emmys Awards (ABC, September 9, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Henry Winkler** and **Cheryl Ladd** host.)

- Telecast is interrupted by President Carter's tribute to three television newsmen killed in Nicaragua and Guyana.
- The Governors Award is presented to **Walter Cronkite** (who was president of the New York chapter of the Television Academy 25 years earlier); CBS Founder **William S. Paley** is given the Trustees Award and **Milton Berle** "Mr. Television" receives a special presentation.

1980 32nd Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 7, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **Dick Clark** and **Steve Allen**)

- The Television Academy adjusts the show to reflect the resurgence of variety/music shows and adds three awards for directors, writers and art directors.
- **John Leverence** is named Awards Administrator for the Television Academy.
- The 32nd Primetime Emmys are boycotted by the actors and actresses because it occurs during the seven-week strike by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) against the television networks and major TV and film producers.
- **Powers Boothe** is the only one of the 52 nominated performers to attend. He wins for *Outstanding Actor in a Limited Series or Special* for "Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones" and receives a standing ovation. He is remembered for saying "This is either the most courageous moment of my career or the stupidest."

1981 33rd Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 13, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Ed Asner** and **Shirley MacLaine** host)

- "Hill Street Blues," a first-year police drama on NBC with little viewership, receives 21 nominations and wins eight Emmys – no series has ever received as many nominations in one season nor has ever won as many statuettes.

- 1982** 34th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 19, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **Marlo Thomas** and **John Forsythe**)
- "Barney Miller," the long running police station sitcom had been nominated for *Outstanding Comedy Series* seven times during its seven seasons on the air. The show finally wins -- after being cancelled by ABC.
- 1983** 35th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 25, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)
- Hosted by **Joan Rivers** and **Eddie Murphy**.
 - Risqué comments by Rivers cause the NBC switchboard to light up with calls from angry viewers. Telecast is subsequently edited for the tape-delayed West Coast presentation for the first time ever.
 - "Cheers" leads with 13 nominations and scores 6 awards.
 - NBC takes 21 of the 29 awards presented on air.
- 1984** 36th Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 23, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **Tom Selleck**)
- "Hill Street Blues" becomes the most honored dramatic series in history with a total of 25 Emmy wins.
 - Show runs 3 hours and 36 minutes setting a new broadcast record for the Emmy Awards.
- 1985** 37th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 22, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **John Forsythe** hosts)
- Television Academy's Board of Governors vote to include national cable programming in future Emmy Awards telecasts.
 - An unfamiliar, tuxedo-clad man almost makes off with **Betty Thomas'** Emmy for *Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series* when he accepts the award for Thomas. ABC cuts to commercial and returns with Thomas making her acceptance speech. The stranger is **Barry Bremen**, a professional hoaxer. He is arrested for grand theft.
- 1986** 38th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 21, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)
- The ceremony is cohosted by **David Letterman** and **Shelley Long**
 - "The Golden Girls," the first hit show in TV history with an all-female cast, wins for *Outstanding Comedy Series* and **Betty White** wins for *Outstanding Actress*.
 - After winning for *Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series*, **Michael J. Fox** quips "I feel 4 feet tall."
 - During the ceremony, Letterman salutes **Grant Tinker**, who had stepped down as chairman of NBC -- its parent company, RCA, was acquired by General Electric.
 - The ceremony paid tribute to **Red Skelton** who was presented with the Governors Award. During his acceptance speech he confessed having missed being on TV for the previous 16 years.
 - An entertaining musical number saluting television theme music was performed which featured such actresses as **Bea Arthur, Linda Lavin, Marlo Thomas** and more singing and dancing to their program's theme songs.
- 1987** 39th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 20, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Bruce Willis** emcees)
- Fox Broadcasting lands a three-year contract to telecast the Emmys, which had been telecast in rotation for more than 20 years on ABC, CBS and NBC. FOX outbids the competition with an offer of \$4.5 million to telecast the Emmys over a three-year period.
 - Changes to telecast include:
 - Recap of winners are added two-thirds into the show.
 - Voiceovers inform viewers of the number of previous nominations and wins for each winner as they approached the stage.
 - No time cap on acceptance speeches.
 - Sets a record set for the longest telecast, coming in 20 seconds short of four hours.

1988 40th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, August 28, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)

- "Saturday Night Live's" **Lorne Michaels** produces.
- Show has no host or production numbers.
- Cable television now permitted to compete in the primetime honors.
- Actress **Tracey Ullman** says the show is "the hippest Emmys I've ever seen."
- Time cap on acceptance speeches reinstated.
- "The Wonder Years" – a mid-season comedy – scores an upset victory in the *Outstanding Comedy Series* category.

1989 41st Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 17, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **John Larroquette**)

- FOX Network finally wins four awards for the "Tracey Ullman Show."
- **Candice Bergen** wins her first Emmy portraying Murphy Brown and quips "Dad, if you are watching, this is for you!" referencing her father, the late Edgar Bergen who had never won an Emmy, but had served as the Television Academy's first president.
- **Lucille Ball** is honored with a posthumous Governors Award, presented by Bob Hope to Ball's husband, Gary Morton, who had been widowed in April.

1990 42nd Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 16, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)

- **Candice Bergen, Jay Leno** and **Jane Pauley** serve as hosts.
- Quirky "Twin Peaks" receives 14 nominations.
- Cable breaks through with 10 Emmys – 8 for HBO and 2 for Disney Channel.
- FOX signs another three-year deal to broadcast the show.

1991 43rd Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, August 25, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)

- Ceremony held in August instead of September as FOX attempts to avoid competing with new shows and season premieres on the major networks in September.
- **Dennis Miller** emcees.
- FOX issues a public apology regarding comedian **Gilbert Gottfried's** off-color remarks after viewers jam the switchboard with irate calls.
- The ceremony is the first televised event to feature red ribbons worn by those present in support of men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS. Producers ask **Jamie Lee Curtis** to explain the significance to viewers.

1992 44th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, August 30, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Dennis Miller**).

- "Murphy Brown" receives the Emmy for *Outstanding Comedy Series* after **Vice President Dan Quayle** publicly criticizes the fictitious character for having a baby out of wedlock.
- Television Academy consolidates *Outstanding Guest Actor/Actress in a Drama and Comedy Series* into the *Outstanding Lead Actor/Actress* categories eliminating two award categories and allowing guest stars to participate in the televised portion of the awards rather than in the non-televised Creative Arts presentation.
- Worldwide viewership grows to more than 300 million people in 30 countries including Russia and Japan for the first time.

1993 45th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 19, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Angela Lansbury** hosts)

- After six consecutive years of Emmy telecasts on FOX the show is up for renewal. Television Academy leaders and executives from all four networks agree that show should be shared. But the licensing fee can't be agreed upon; Television Academy rejects rotating bid and gives the show to ABC for the next three years. Boycott by other three networks declared.
- Television Academy leadership finally permits the cartoon hit "The Simpsons" to enter the competition for *Best Comedy Series*, but it isn't nominated.
- HBO's "The Larry Sanders Show" becomes the first cable program ever nominated for *Best Comedy Series*.
- HBO ties with ABC with 55 nominations. HBO wins 17 awards - most for any network.
- **Betty Thomas** becomes the first woman to receive a *Directing* Emmy for the HBO comedy "Dream On."

- 27 awards are given out - single presenters are used instead of twosomes and no song and dance numbers.
- 1994** 46th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 11, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **Patricia Richardson** and **Ellen DeGeneres**)
- Rival networks drop boycott when ABC nixes its exclusive broadcast contract.
 - Television Academy confirms a new deal to rotate the Primetime Emmys among all four networks.
 - "NYPD Blue" enters with 26 nominations.
- 1995** 47th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 10, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, hosted by **Jason Alexander** and **Cybill Shepherd**)
- UPN and The WB emerge as two more broadcast networks.
 - Television Academy rewords its bylaws to honor programming carried on new distribution formats.
 - "ER" enters with 23 nominations.
 - New rules changes govern the evaluation of award contenders in two top categories. Nominees for *Outstanding Comedy* and *Drama series* now submit eight episodes to four different judging panels. (Series used to submit only one sample episode to one panel and more recently submitted two).
- 1996** 48th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 8, Pasadena Civic Auditorium)
- **Paul Reiser, Oprah Winfrey** and **Michael J. Fox** share hosting duties.
 - Telecast introduces the President's Award, a new honor recognizing a program that best explores social, educational or medical issues and encourages and promotes changes that help society. Award goes to the American Movie Classic channel for "Blacklist: Hollywood on Trial." It is the cable network's first Emmy.
 - Telecast is beamed to 85 countries including, for the first time, most of the Middle East.
- 1997** 49th Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 14, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, **Bryant Gumbel** hosts)
- Television commercials are nominated for the first time since 1955. An HBO spot featuring monkeys mouthing lines from famous movies wins the award presented at the non-televised Creative Arts Awards.
 - "Law and Order" takes home *Best Drama Series* over favored "NYPD Blue."
 - **Ellen DeGeneres** is nominated for *Best Comedy Actress* for the special one-hour episode of "Ellen" in which she came out as a lesbian. It was the first depiction of homosexuality by a lead in primetime.
 - "The Simpsons" makes Emmy history as the biggest winner of the awards for *Outstanding Animated Program*, scoring its fourth victory in eight years.
- 1998** 50th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 13, The Shrine Auditorium, no host)
- After 21 years at the 2,800 seat Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Emmy moves to the 6,000 seat Shrine Auditorium in honor of the 50th Anniversary Gala.
 - "Frasier" marks the first half-century of the Primetime Emmy Awards by rewriting the record book and winning 5 *Comedy Series* Emmys consecutively.
 - After **Camryn Manheim** wins the Emmy for *Best Supporting Actress*, she thrusts it over her head and shouts, "This is for all the fat girls."
 - The President's Award is eliminated.
- 1999** 51st Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 12, The Shrine Auditorium, **Jenna Elfman** and **David Hyde Pierce** host)
- **David E. Kelley** makes Emmy history as the first producer to win awards for *Outstanding Comedy* ("Ally McBeal") and *Outstanding Drama Series* ("The Practice") in the same year.
 - "Ally McBeal" is first hour-long series ever honored in the *Outstanding Comedy* category.
 - HBO's "The Sopranos" is the first cable series ever nominated for *Outstanding Drama*.

- 2000** 52nd Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 10, The Shrine Auditorium, host is **Garry Shandling**)
- Television Academy changes voting system with the organization of blue ribbon panel judging at home for final round voting.
 - NBC goes in with a record 97 nominations for any single network.
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- 2001** 53rd Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, November 4, Shubert Theatre)
- Sept.16 telecast postponed due to the terrorist attacks on September 11; October 7 telecast postponed due to U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. Executive Producer **Don Mischer** stays with the show through October, but due to production commitments for the 2002 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies, the November 4 telecast is produced by **Gary Smith**. **Ellen DeGeneres** hosts a landmark show.
 - Television Academy strikes ground-breaking, eight-year licensing deal with the four networks raising the licensing fee to \$5.5 million for each of the first four years and \$7.5 million for each of the next four.
- 2002** 54th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, September 22, hosted by **Conan O'Brien** at The Shrine Auditorium)
- For the first time, the Creative Arts Awards are televised as a two-hour special on E! Entertainment Television.
 - **Oprah Winfrey** is the recipient of the first Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.
- 2003** 55th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 21, The Shrine Auditorium)
- Telecast forgoes use of traditional host(s) and features 11 top comics who emcee the evening.
 - **Bill Cosby** is the recipient of the prestigious Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.
- 2004** 56th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 22; Hosted by **Garry Shandling** at The Shrine Auditorium)
- Nominees include more crossovers from the motion picture industry than ever before: **Meryl Streep, Al Pacino, Sharon Stone, Emma Thompson, Glenn Close, Helen Mirren, Judy Davis, Antonio Banderas, Steve Buscemi, William H. Macy, Julie Andrews, Anne Heche, Anjelica Huston** and **Mary Louise Parker** are all nominated for an Emmy Award.
 - **Danny Thomas** posthumously receives the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.
- 2005** 57th Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 19; Hosted by **Ellen DeGeneres** at The Shrine Auditorium)
- Emmy telecast debuts "Emmy Idol" -- a contest in tribute to television's favorite theme songs featuring duets by **Donald Trump & Megan Mullally** ("Green Acres"), **Kristen Bell** ("Fame"), **Gary Dourdan & Macy Gray** ("Movin' On Up" from "The Jeffersons"), **William Shatner & Frederica von Stade** ("Star Trek"). Viewers vote for their favorite during the broadcast.
 - **David Letterman** pays special tribute to **Johnny Carson**, who had passed away January 23.
 - **Tom Brokaw** and **Dan Rather** pay tribute to colleague **Peter Jennings**, who passed away August 7, and commemorate the departure of all three newsmen from anchoring nightly network news on NBC, CBS and ABC.
- 2006** 58th Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, August 27; Hosted by **Conan O'Brien** at The Shrine Auditorium)
- Due to NBC's football schedule, the Emmy Awards air a month early in August for the first time in 14 years.
 - During a tribute to TV legend **Aaron Spelling**, who passed away June 23, the original "Charlie's Angels" – **Kate Jackson, Farrah Fawcett and Jaclyn Smith** -- reunite on the same stage.

- 2007** 59th Primetime Emmy Awards (FOX, September 16; Hosted by **Ryan Seacrest** at The Shrine Auditorium)
- First time show is shot as “theatre in the round” with nominees sitting on stage.
 - **Tony Bennett** and **Christina Aguilera** perform together on the classic “Steppin’ Out with My Baby.”
 - “A Fond Farewell to the Sopranos” features a performance by the cast of the hit Broadway musical **Jersey Boys**.
 -
- 2008** 60th Primetime Emmy Awards (ABC, September 21; Five Reality Hosts at the Nokia Theatre, L.A. LIVE)
- After nine years at the Shrine the Emmys move to the new Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE
 - **Oprah Winfrey** introduces show hosts-- the nominees for *Outstanding Reality Host* -- **Tom Bergeron, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel, Jeff Probst** and **Ryan Seacrest**.
 - **Lauren Conrad** from “The Hills” and **Christian Siriano** from “Project Runway” design gowns for the trophy girls.
 - **Josh Groban** performs television's greatest theme songs.
 - Iconic stars and sets from television's greatest shows are incorporated into the telecast – including **Mary Tyler Moore** and original “Laugh-In” cast members reuniting for the 40th anniversary of the comedy variety classic.
- 2009** 61st Primetime Emmy Awards (CBS, September 20: Hosted by **Neil Patrick Harris** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- **Neil Patrick Harris** is the night’s critically-acclaimed host, opening with an original number, “Put Down the Remote!”
 - Other music highlights include a live band on stage for the first time in years and **Sarah McLachlan** performing “I Will Remember You” during “In Memoriam” segment.
 - **Executive Producer Don Mischer and team** are visible on the stage via a transparent production set-up.
 - The number of nominees expands to six (6) each in *Outstanding Drama* and *Comedy Performers* and *Supporting Performers, Drama and Comedy Series*.
 - “Family Guy” becomes the first animated *Outstanding Comedy Series* nominee since “The Flintstones” nearly 50 years earlier.
- 2010** 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards (NBC, August 29: Hosted by **Jimmy Fallon** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- No more tape delayed telecast! The Emmys are telecast **live** coast-to-coast for the first time in over three decades.
 - **Jimmy Fallon** scores with a “Glee”-inspired opening number featuring Bruce Springsteen’s “Born to Run,” featuring **Tina Fey**, “Glee” cast members, **Jon Hamm, Betty White** and **Kate Gosselin** plus several musical spoofs throughout the show.
 - **George Clooney** is presented with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.
 - **Jewel** performs her original and previously unreleased song, “The Shape of You,” for the “In Memoriam” segment.
 - Emmys.com and NBC.com premiere “Backstage LIVE” – a second screen companion program to the telecast – a behind the scenes showcase featuring unique shots of **Jimmy Fallon, Executive Producer Don Mischer** and the evening’s winners.
 - “Saturday Night Live” surpasses “ER” as the most nominated television show in Emmy history with 126 nominations as of 2010.
- 2011** 63rd Emmy Awards (FOX, September 18: Hosted by **Jane Lynch** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- The Emmys are again telecast **live** coast-to-coast and executive produced for the first time by **Mark Burnett**.
 - Host **Jane Lynch** opens with an original musical number featuring **Jon Hamm** and the cast of “Mad Men,” **Nick Offerman, Jim Parsons** and the cast of “The Big Bang Theory,” **Eric Dane, Randy Jackson** and more.
 - The **Canadian Tenors** perform “Hallelujah” during the In Memoriam package.
 - Mimicking a beauty pageant, *Lead Comedy Actress* nominees take the stage when announced, and present flowers and a tiara to first-time winner **Melissa McCarthy**.

- Comedy music troupe **The Lonely Island** performs a medley of their hits "I Just Had Sex," "Three Way" and "Jack Sparrow" with **Michael Bolton** and **Akon**.
- 2012** 64th Emmy Awards (ABC, September 23: Hosted by **Jimmy Kimmel** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- **Live** coast-to-coast telecasting continues and **Don Mischer** executive produces.
 - The show opening features a comedic video of **Jimmy Kimmel** preparing to host with cameos by **Zoey Deschanel, Lena Dunham, Connie Britton, Kathy Bates, Christina Hendricks, Mindy Kaling** and more.
 - Freshman drama "**Homeland**" wins *Outstanding Drama Series* and the series' **Claire Danes** and **Damian Lewis** win *Lead Actress* and *Actor in a Drama Series*.
 - **Kimmel** enlists **Tracy Morgan** and Twitter to play a trick on the television audience – during commercial break, everyone in the theatre Tweets that Morgan has passed out on stage, and the moment trends
 - **Ron Howard** pays tribute to the late **Andy Griffith**.
- 2013** 65th Emmy Awards (CBS, September 22: Hosted by **Neil Patrick Harris** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- **Live** telecasting is here to stay, with **Ken Ehrlich** executive producing.
 - **Robin Williams, Michael J. Fox** and **Edie Falco** pay tribute to the late great **Jonathan Winters, Gary David Goldberg** and **James Gandolfini**. **Jane Lynch** remembers the tragic loss of "Glee" cast mate **Cory Monteith**.
 - For the first time, a digital platform series (Netflix's "House of Cards") is nominated in the major series and performance categories.
 - **Elton John** performs a tribute to Liberace in support of "Behind the Candelabra," and **Michael Douglas** wins the Emmy for his role as the amazing showman.
 - First-time Emmy winners include **Jeff Daniels** ("The Newsroom"), "**The Voice**," "**The Colbert Report**," and "**Breaking Bad**."
 - Television's role in the historic events of 1963 is remembered as **Don Cheadle** recalls the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and **Carrie Underwood** performs "Yesterday" to celebrate the Beatles' debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
 - For the first time, the *Outstanding Choreography* Emmy is awarded on the telecast in tandem with an incredible dance performance by the nominees.
- 2014** 66th Emmy Awards (NBC, August 25: Hosted by **Seth Meyers** at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE)
- **Don Mischer** returns to executive produce the live telecast.
 - For the first time since 1976 (28th Emmy Awards), the Emmys are held on a Monday instead of Sunday.
 - **Billy Crystal** presents a touching tribute to the late **Robin Williams**.
 - The evening features a surprise performance by **Weird Al Yankovic** and **Andy Samberg** putting lyrics to some of television's most iconic theme music.
 - **Uzo Aduba** is named *Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series* (Netflix's "**Orange is the New Black**").
 - In its final season, "**Breaking Bad**" takes home the Emmy for *Outstanding Drama Series*.
- 2015** 67th Emmy Awards (FOX, September 20: Hosted by **Andy Samberg** at the renamed Microsoft Theater L.A. LIVE)
- **Viola Davis** makes history becoming the first African American to win *Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series* for ABC's "**How to Get Away with Murder**."
 - African American actresses **Regina King** and **Uzo Aduba** also take top honors – King as *Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series* (ABC's "**American Crime**"), and Aduba as *Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series* (Netflix's "**Orange is the New Black**")
 - **Jon Hamm** brings the audience to its feet when Tina Fey announces him as the *Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series* for the final season of AMC's "**Mad Men**."
 - HBO sweeps the *Outstanding Drama, Comedy* and *Limited Series Program* categories with "**Game of Thrones**," "**Veep**" and "**Olive Kitteridge**."
 - Amazon Prime's "**Transparent**" breaks new ground for the transgender community, and Emmys go home with the series' executive producer **Jill Soloway** for directing,

and **Jeffrey Tambor** as *Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series* for his portrayal of transgender Maura Pfefferman.

2016 68th Emmy Awards (ABC, September 18: Hosted by **Jimmy Kimmel** at the Microsoft Theater, L.A. LIVE)

- The live telecast, is preceded the weekend prior with not one, but two **Creative Arts Emmy Awards**, Sept. 10 & 11, which air Saturday, Sept. 17 on FXX.
- Cast members from Netflix's summer series "**Stranger Things**" – Millie Bobby Brown, Caleb McLaughlin and Gaten Matarazzo – bring down the house in their pre-telecast performance of "Uptown Funk." It becomes a viral sensation.
- **Rami Malek** (USA's "**Mr. Robot**") and **Tatiana Maslany** (BBCAmerica's "**Orphan Black**") are named the *Outstanding Lead Actor* and *Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series*, providing the evening's unexpected and exciting wins.
- Accepting her fifth consecutive *Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series* Emmy with her portrayal of Selina Meyer in "**VEEP**," **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** notes the program started as political satire, but "now feels ... like a sobering documentary," and pays an emotional tribute to her recently deceased father.
- "**The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story**" receives nine (9) Emmys over the Creative Arts and Primetime telecast, including *Outstanding Limited Series*, **Sarah Paulson** as *Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie*, **Courtney B. Vance** as *Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie* and **Sterling K. Brown** as *Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or Movie*.
- "**Game of Thrones**" receives 12 Emmys over the three Emmy Awards nights, including a second, consecutive *Outstanding Drama Series* trophy. The series is the record-holder for **most Emmys won by a single program (38)**, exceeding "Frasier's" record-setting 37 Emmys.

2017 69th Emmy Awards (CBS, September 17: Hosted by **Steven Colbert** at the Microsoft Theater, L.A. LIVE)

- First-time Emmy telecast executive producers **Glenn Weiss** and **Ricky Kirshner** of **White Cherry** deliver a telecast celebrating inclusion and the power of women.
- **Colbert** opens with a rousing musical number, "The World's A Little Better on TV," featuring many nominees and a chorus line of "handmaids" of both sexes.
- **Colbert** brings the house down during his opening monologue with the surprise appearance of former White House Press Secretary **Sean Spicer**.
- **Hulu** becomes the first streaming service to capture *Outstanding Drama Series*, with "**The Handmaid's Tale**" adapted from Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel. Cast members **Elisabeth Moss**, **Ann Dowd** and **Alexis Bledel** are first-time Emmy winners for their lead, supporting and guest performances in the series.
- "**Big Little Lies**," HBO's domestic abuse drama produced by **Reese Witherspoon** and Nicole Kidman takes home eight Emmys, including *Outstanding Limited Series*, *Outstanding Actress in a Limited Series (Nicole Kidman)*, *Supporting Actor (Alexander Skarsgard)* and *Supporting Actress (Laura Dern)*.
- **Lena Waithe** becomes the second black woman to win the Emmy for *Outstanding Comedy Writing* for her work on "**Master of None**." (The first was Linda Morris for "Frasier" in 1994, 1995 and 1996.)
- **Sterling K. Brown** wins his second Emmy, this time as *Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama* for his role on NBC's family drama "**This Is Us**."
- **Donald Glover** wins two Emmys – *Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series* and *Outstanding Directing for a Comedy* – for "**Atlanta**."
- **Alec Baldwin** as **Donald Trump**, and **Kate McKinnon** as various characters including **Hillary Clinton**, are Emmy winners for their *Outstanding Supporting Comedy Series* performances on "**SNL**."

2018 70th Emmy Awards (NBC, September 17; Hosted by **Michael Che** and **Colin Hanks** at the Microsoft Theater, L.A. LIVE)

- "SNL's" Emmy Award-winning producer **Lorne Michaels** returns to executive produce the Emmys – he last produced in 1988.
- As they did in 2014, NBC schedules the telecast on a Monday, instead of what has been a traditional Sunday telecast (beginning in 1977).

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