

PRESS RELEASE

11 November 2019

2020 Sandford St Martin Awards open for entries

Entries are now being accepted for the UK's most prestigious annual broadcasting awards for content exploring religious, spiritual or ethical themes.

Founded in 1978, these are the only UK Awards that welcome entries about any and all faiths and are open to a wide range of genres – news, current affairs, factual, arts, music, drama and comedy and well as 'traditional' religious broadcasting.

Jimmy McGovern, writer and executive producer of *Broken* (BBC) which won two awards in 2018 said "Religion sounds boring to some and contentious to others. But what it is to me is a wonderful source of stories about what it is to be human and a huge part of many people's lives."

Winners in four categories – Radio/Audio, TV/Video, Children's Broadcasting and Journalism – will be decided by expert panels of media professionals. Readers of the *Radio Times* also vote in their thousands for their favourite programme from a list published in that magazine.

Speaking about the importance of these awards Anna McNamee, Executive Director of the Sandford St Martin Trust said: "At times marked by political or social uncertainty, the need for better and more religiously literate broadcasting is particularly acute. Whether it's exploring the roots of the conflict in Kashmir, sectarianism in Northern Ireland and its impact on politics today, or understanding the nature of the Birmingham school LGBT protests or even what's going on with Kanye West's new album, good broadcasters understand that human stories are often complex and a true understanding of the world around us often requires digging below the surface to reveal the layers of motivation and meaning below."

The deadline for entries is Friday 31st January 2020. Winners will be announced at a special ceremony at Lambeth Palace in June 2020.

For details on how to enter, go to <https://sandfordawards.org.uk/the-awards/enter-the-2020-awards/>

For more information please contact:

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EDITORS' NOTES

1) The 2020 Sandford St Martin Awards

The following award categories are now open for entries:

- Sandford St Martin Journalism Award
- Sandford St Martin TV/Video Award
- Sandford St Martin Radio/Audio Award
- Sandford St Martin Children's Broadcasting Award

Entries must have been broadcast for the first time between 1 January and 31 December 2019.

The deadline for entries is 17.00 on Friday 31 January, 2020.

Entry forms and full criteria for the awards are available on the website: <https://sandfordawards.org.uk/the-awards/enter-the-2020-awards/>

2) Award Winners

Award winners are announced at a gala ceremony held at Lambeth Palace in June.

Previous Sandford St Martin Award winners include Mobeen Azhar, Joan Bakewell, Danny Boyle and Frank Cottrell Boyce, Olivia Colman, Ian Hislop, Tom Hollander, Patrick Kielty, Rageh Omaar, Sally Philips, Tony Robinson, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Simon Schama, David Suchet, Louis Theroux and many other well known media personalities.

For a full list of recent winners visit: <https://sandfordawards.org.uk/the-awards/>

3) The Sandford St Martin Trust

The Sandford St Martin Trust is an independent, non-profit organisation. It has been making annual broadcasting awards for the best programmes about religion, ethics and spirituality since 1978.

In addition to the Awards, the Trust engages with a wide range of media organisations and individual journalists, filmmakers, broadcasters and other media figures, many of whom give their time and expertise voluntarily to support the Trust's work. This includes contributing to and participating in conferences, festivals and training as well as on-going public consultations and debates on the future of broadcasting.

The Trust believes the media can be a powerful tool to increase understanding of different perspectives and beliefs in our world, helping create greater understanding, tolerance and thoughtfulness.

You can read more about the Trust and its work at <http://sandfordawards.org.uk>