



# **RULES AND GUIDELINES 2013**

Version 113

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

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## **THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The British Comedy Awards are presented annually to recognise, honour and reward individuals and productions for outstanding achievement in Comedy Television and Film. The awards categories reflect the wealth and diversity of British Comedy.

The majority of Awards given in any year are voted for by the membership of The British Comedy Academy. In addition to the regular programme genre & performance categories, The Awards may also honour special individuals or productions in recognition of their specific contribution to the Comedy Television & Film industry. These awards are not voted for by the Academy membership but are approved by the BCA. The proposal process for each of these awards varies; further details are provided herein.

#### **The Academy**

The British Comedy Academy is a collective of professionals and performers within the UK comedy and entertainment industries. It was established and fully funded in 2010 by the producers of the British Comedy Awards in an effort to create a body that would vote upon the 'longlist' of programmes and performers eligible for each category in every year of the British Comedy Awards.

#### **Academy Membership**

The membership numbers approximately 500, which includes all past winners of British Comedy Awards over the 24 year history of the Awards, as well as a cross section of those who work at the highest level in the UK comedy industry; be they performers, broadcast executives, writers, producers, directors, agents - past and present. The Academy appoints trustees to review membership each year to address fair representation across the balance of the membership, making best efforts to ensure that no region, broadcaster, or agency has an overbearing influence upon the voting. As such the Academy grows each year and applications for membership can be made by contacting the Academy directly.

#### **The Juries**

Any position on The Jury is by invitation of the Academy only. The core of each Jury is comprised of one representative from each major Broadcaster, led by an appointed independent Chairperson. These core Jury positions are augmented each year by a selection of Journalists, Comedy Practitioners, Writers and Talent. Jury members may already be existing members of the British Comedy Academy. It is the responsibility of the Academy chairperson to ensure that, when inviting persons to stand, no one organisation connected via their business backgrounds could become a majority influence. Jury members do not participate in voting upon categories where there is a direct conflict of interest. Whilst core Jury positions generally repeat attendance annually, the augmented positions are generally rotating positions each year. The Academy reserves the right to rotate the non-core positions annually.

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

### AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION

The following categories can be recognised each year. However these may alter from year to year, as trends in the industry develop. If a category has less than 10 eligible nominees in a particular year, The British Comedy Awards reserves the right to remove, reclassify or merge a category with another, but will always endeavour to do so with the consensus of the broadcasters via consultation.

#### Programme Categories:

1. **Best Comedy Panel Programme**
2. **Best Comedy Entertainment Programme**
3. **Best Comedy Sketch Show**
4. **Best Comedy Sitcom**
5. **Best Comedy Drama\***
6. **Best New Comedy Programme**

#### Performance Categories:

7. **Best Male TV Comic**
8. **Best Female TV Comic**
9. **Best Comedy Entertainment Personality**
10. **Best Breakthrough Talent**
11. **Best Comedy TV Actor**
12. **Best Comedy TV Actress**

#### Special Awards:

13. **The Writer's Guild of Great Britain Award (WGGB)**
14. **The British Comedy Academy Outstanding Achievement Award<sup>#</sup>**
15. **The British Comedy Academy Lifetime Achievement Award<sup>#</sup>**
16. **King or Queen of Comedy**

*\*For the 2013 Comedy Awards the Academy has agreed that Best Comedy Drama will not be represented.*

*<sup>#</sup>Interchangeable with **International** Outstanding/Lifetime Achievement Awards*

The British Comedy Academy will work in consultation and discretion with the BCA Production Company to determine each year which awards are presented during the main ceremony.

### NOMINEES AND WINNERS

- The Longlist and nominations for each category will always be listed in alphabetical order;
- Nominations will be announced publicly approximately two weeks before the ceremony;
- Nominees will receive an invite to the Awards Ceremony;
- The winners press release is the definitive source of award winners information;
- All individuals named as award winners will receive a British Comedy Award. Additional copies can be requested for a fee;
- The British Comedy Award or logo may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless prior permission has been obtained from the Academy;
- Award winners unable to collect their Comedy Award(s) on the night of the ceremony must arrange collection from the Academy within twelve months of the ceremony.

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

### ELIGIBILITY

#### Production & Performance categories

For the 2013 British Comedy Awards, Programmes or Performances must have had their first transmission in the UK between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 on terrestrial, cable, satellite or digital channels, to be eligible for entry. If a single episode of a series is broadcast before 23<sup>rd</sup> September, then the series may be eligible for inclusion in this year's event. However, it cannot also be included in next year's event. If a series commences broadcast after 23<sup>rd</sup> September, then no programme from that series can be eligible for inclusion.

Programmes should be predominantly British productions and include predominantly British on-screen talent.

For **Programme** categories there is no maximum on the number of entries that can be put forward for the Longlist. For **Performance** categories there is a maximum of ten per category that can be submitted for the Longlist. International programmes are only eligible in the International category, unless they are co-production's (both financially and creatively, and provided the first transmission was in the UK).

### ENTRY

Broadcasters generate the Longlist of eligible submissions each year. Entrance to the Performance or Production categories is done online/by post by completing the specific category templates supplied by the Academy. Broadcasters will be contacted directly for this submissions process. Independent productions companies, Producers and Directors are not currently eligible to submit entries for the Longlist, instead they should liaise with their Broadcaster to ensure that their programme is not overlooked in the Longlist process.

The deadline for entries to the Longlist for the 2013 Awards is Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

There is currently no cost to submit a Production or Performance entry to the Longlist.

The Academy has the right to move performers or productions into alternative categories if they feel they are wrongly entered. This is done after consultation with the Broadcaster.

From 2013, a Broadcast quality episode of the nominated person/programme must be submitted by September 20<sup>th</sup>. If broadcast quality vision does not accompany each nomination, your nomination may be declared ineligible.

As in previous years, if a nominee is shortlisted for Jury consideration, the sample programme will be made available to jurors via the British Comedy Awards voting portal. The BCA voting portal is username and password-protected and is only accessible by Jury Voters, who will be able to stream content from the site until Jury Day.

Correct entry information is the responsibility of the Broadcaster. The British Comedy Awards or the Academy is not liable for errors in listings that are the result of incorrect information being submitted on the entry form templates by the Broadcaster. The British Comedy Awards and Academy cannot be held responsible for any omissions or programmes being entered in the wrong categories.

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

### AWARD CATEGORIES

#### AWARDS IN THE GIFT OF THE ACADEMY AND JURY

The following categories are not voted for by the British Comedy Academy membership, nor are they recognised every year. They are only awarded when it is deemed by the BCA that there is a candidate worthy of special recognition.

#### Special Categories:

- **The Writer's Guild of Great Britain Award (WGGB)**  
This award is in the gift of the WGGB and is in recognition of excellence in comedy writing, for television or film, either for a body of work over many years, or for a specific piece of work which is deemed worthy of special consideration. Nominations for this award are proposed by the WGGB and ratified by the core BCA Jury.
- **Outstanding Achievement in Comedy**  
This award is in recognition of excellence in comedy performance, for television, film or stand-up, either for a body of work or for a specific piece of work which is worthy of special consideration. The BCA Academy trustees consider all suggestions and shortlists the most worthy candidates. Then following a process of consultation may choose to submit one or more names to the core BCA Jury for ratification.
- **Lifetime Achievement in Comedy**  
This is the highest accolade the Academy can bestow. This award is in recognition of consistent excellence in comedy performance in television, film or stand-up, for a substantial body of work over a period of ten or more years. Nominations for this award can be proposed by any Academy member throughout the preceding year. The BCA Academy trustees consider all suggestions and shortlists the most worthy candidates. Then following a process of consultation may choose to submit one or more names to the BCA Jury for ratification.
- **The King / Queen of Comedy**  
This award is to recognise the nation's most popular comedian of the year, either a male or female, individual or double-act/troupe. It is voted for by the British public in the week/s leading up to and during the live British Comedy Awards event. The public are given a shortlist of comedians as eligible nominees for whom they can vote. This shortlist is determined by a vote of The BCA Academy who is asked to give consideration on the basis of a performer or performers' body of work during the year of eligibility, recognising those whose success has been most prominent during the year. This delivers a shortlist of nominees all of whom have had a stellar year and would be worthy winners whomsoever the Public eventually elect as their King or Queen. The Public Voting is generally done via a telephone vote, however the BCA reserves the right to amend this system in consultation with the broadcaster.

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

### VOTED CATEGORIES

The following categories are voted for by the British Comedy Academy membership and a Jury process.

#### *Programme Categories:*

- **Best Comedy Panel Show**  
Quiz or game show format but with emphasis upon laughs rather than actual scoring or prizes. Traditionally with comedians as team captains and guests.
- **Best Comedy Entertainment Show**  
An entertainment special or series with major comedy content. This category should not include 'hidden camera' type formats.
- **Best Comedy Sketch Show**  
Broken comedy, series or special of any duration. This category may include 'hidden camera' style shows.
- **Best Comedy Sitcom**  
Unbroken narrative comedy, series or special of any duration
- **Best Comedy Drama\***  
Unbroken narrative comedy, series or special of any duration in which there is an equal or nearly equal balance of humour and serious content.
- **Best New Comedy Programme**  
A series or special from any genre which has premiered for the first time during the eligibility period. Second series and pilots are not eligible.

#### *Performance Categories:*

- **Best Male TV Comic**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). Performers in comedy panel shows and TV stand-up, not in unbroken comedy or sitcom. Nominees cannot be entered for the same programme in the Comedy Entertainment Personality category.
- **Best Female TV Comic**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). Performers in comedy panel shows and TV stand-up, not in unbroken comedy, sitcom or presenters/hosts of panel shows. Nominees *cannot* be entered for the same programme in the Comedy Entertainment Personality category.
- **Best Comedy Entertainment Personality**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). Male or Female comedy **presenter/host** for performances in chat, comedy and entertainment shows with major comedy content (not in panel shows, sitcoms or sketch shows). Nominees *cannot* be entered for the same programme in the Male/Female TV Comic categories.
- **Best Breakthrough Talent**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). A male or female comedy newcomer who has come to significant prominence in the specific Nomination year in any television comedy genre.
- **Best Comedy TV Actor**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). Actors who play scripted characters in sitcoms and sketch shows.
- **Best Comedy TV Actress**  
Up to 10 nominations permissible (per channel). Actresses who play scripted characters in sitcoms and sketch shows.

*\*For the 2013 Comedy Awards the Academy has decided that Best Comedy Drama will not be represented.*

## THE BRITISH COMEDY AWARDS

### VOTING PROCESS

Prior to the first round of voting, all Voting Members are informed of voting rules and must vote (or register their abstention). They may vote for up to FIVE programmes/performers per category but may register their abstention from any category where they feel unqualified to vote. The 5 nominees in each category receiving the most votes from the Academy (to be known as the Academy Finalists) will be advanced to the Jury Day.

Voting in Round One is restricted to registered Academy Voting Members. Voting is conducted online. All voting is authenticated by the Academy's appointed scrutineers.

Each broadcaster is allocated three 'Wildcard's'. Wildcards are utilised when a Broadcaster feels that a significant nominee has been overlooked by the Academy membership vote and has therefore failed to reach the second round of voting. The Broadcaster must use one wildcard for a programme, one for a performance and the other as they wish. The Broadcaster can only utilise the 'wildcard' on a nominee that has scored immediately outside of automatic qualification from the Round 1 Academy vote. Wildcards are then added to the Jury deliberation. The 'wildcards' can be applied on up to three nominees across all categories, **not** per category.

The BCA Jury then assemble to vote and decide the four final nominees and overall winner in each category. These are the four nominees that may be featured in the BCA programme.

### VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting is restricted to registered and active Voting Academy Members. Voting is conducted online and each round is authenticated by the Academy's appointed scrutineers.

Prior to the first round of voting, all registered Academy Voting Members are informed of voting rules and provided with the list of eligible categories and nominations that have been entered by Broadcasters.

### CONTACT LIST

For General Enquiries

TV Entry and Rules

Voting Procedures

Nominees and Membership write to [info@britishcomedyawards.com](mailto:info@britishcomedyawards.com)

[www.britishcomedyawards.com](http://www.britishcomedyawards.com)

[www.britishcomedyacademy.com](http://www.britishcomedyacademy.com)

[www.uniquetv.tv](http://www.uniquetv.tv)