2015 Winners
8th Annual National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Daniel Miller, Los Angeles Times

Judge’s comment: “Whether writing a well-researched business article, a humorous personality profile, or an investigative piece written in the style of a hard-boiled, noir detective story, Daniel Miller brings his excellent intelligence and narrative skills to his arts and entertainment journalism, earning him the top journalist award.”

2nd Amy Nicholson, LA Weekly

3rd Gary Baum, The Hollywood Reporter

B. ANY MEDIA PLATFORM

B1. BUSINESS


Judge’s comment: “Kim Masters proves again how her deep sourcing takes readers behind the scenes, in this case showing inside turns in an upheaval among top Hollywood agents – and how it has affected their famous clients.”

2nd Daniel Miller, Los Angeles Times, “How Robert Iger’s 'Fearless' Deal-Making Transformed Disney”

3rd Sandro Monetti, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Living Doll: Mattel Casts Sales Fortune with Big Screen Tie-Ins”

B2. INDUSTRY/ARTS INVESTIGATIVE


Judge’s comment: “Baum tracks down the records to show the shocking impact on immunization that activists are having on the city’s wealthy Westside – and how it is affecting kids.”

2nd Daniel Miller, Los Angeles Times, “Finding Marlowe”

**B3. CELEBRITY INVESTIGATIVE**

**Scott Johnson**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “A ‘Survivor’ Producer, a Dead Wife and a Mexican Prison”

Judge’s comment: “Johnson’s excellent extensive investigative piece on the murder of Monica Burgos in Cancun and the arrest and jailing of her celebrity husband, *Survivor* producer Bruce Beresford-Redman, casts doubt on his guilt, which is even more important in light of his conviction in Mexico earlier this year.”


**B4. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE**

**Daniel Miller, Lily Mihalik, Armand Emamdjomeh, Kari Howard** and **Morgan Schweitzer**, *Los Angeles Times*, “Finding Marlowe”

Judge’s comment: “A fun, entertaining and original multimedia package. The story casts the reporter as the gumshoe solving the case of Los Angeles’ first black private investigator. Written with the verve and panache of a 1930s American Noir crime novel, Miller fuses his writing with an interactive visual tale of Sam Marlowe, P.I.”


3rd Bohdan Zachary, Juan Devis, Ariel Carpenter, Elson Trinidad and Henry Cram, *KCET*, “KCET: 50 YEARS AT THE FOREFRONT”

**B5. BROADCAST/PRINT CRITIC**

**Amy Nicholson**, *LA Weekly*, “Fifty Shades of Grey Isn't Dirty, It's Puritanical; *American Sniper* is a Rah Rah War on Terror Fantasy; Focus' Margot Robbie Will Be a Major Movie Star if She Stays Nasty; The Man-Child Movie Trend Must End”

Judge’s comment: “At once thoughtful and a great read, Amy Nicholson has the gift of gab with gravitas. Her contrarian view here—so keenly observant, smart
and perceptive—is delivered with so much stylish wit that she’s like a stand-up critic working in front of a microphone.”


**B6. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION**

**Donna Kanter**, *Writer's Guild of America, West*, “Remembering Ben Starr”

Judge’s comment: “A moving tribute to veteran radio and television writer Ben Starr. Kanter’s tribute is not just a list of Starr’s achievements. She paints a vivid picture of his character, his personality and his craft that allows the reader to also feel that Starr was part of their family.”

2nd Staff, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Joan’s Arc”


**B7. HUMOR WRITING**

**Molly Fitzpatrick**, *Fusion*, “I Lasted One Day on Warren Buffett’s ‘Eat Like a Six-Year-Old’ Diet”

Judge’s comment: “Hilarious and vivid recounting of 24 hours on the most unhealthy—but incredible—diet on earth.”


3rd George Pennacchio and Li-Ping Chang, *KABC-TV*, “Chunkies: Art by the Pound”

**C. NON-FICTION BOOK**

**Scott Timberg**, *Yale University Press*, *Culture Crash*

Judge’s comment: “Scott Timberg’s timely and provocative book tracing the decline of the arts and the killing of the creative class, such as painters, journalists, and musicians, also is an urgent call to reverse that trend and support those artists. This winning entry is a must-read for all involved in the arts and entertainment industry.”

2nd Bernard Cooper, *W. W. Norton*, *My Avant-Garde Education*
D. PRINT—NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES

D1a. GENERAL NEWS


Judge’s comment: “Galloway unveils the story behind the Hollywood agency wars as they fought for talent. An incisive, illuminating article with a thumbnail history of the agencies. Excellent journalism.”


3rd Sandro Monetti, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Punched Up”

D1b. CELEBRITY NEWS


Judge’s comment: “Howard’s absorbing interview with Charlie Sheen about his previous health crisis—a diagnosis of possible throat cancer—demonstrates the value of a second medical opinion, as Sheen discovered from a second physician that it was only a minor irritation. A surprising positive twist in the life of a controversial celebrity.”


3rd Kevin Uhrich, Pasadena Weekly, “Imagine Love”

D2a. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Under 2,500 words


Judge’s comment: “Gardner’s poignant profile of veteran entertainment publicist Nanci Ryder, who revealed she has ALS, is an inspiring story of perseverance and friendship as industry personalities rally around Nanci and her cause to defeat ALS.”


3rd Kevin Uhrich, Pasadena Weekly, “Imagine Love”
D2b. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Over 2,500 words

Gendy Alimurung, LA Weekly, “The Shot of a Lifetime”

Judge’s comment: “Alimurung’s outstanding portrait of war photographer Nick Ut - best known for his shot of the “Napalm Girl” during the Vietnam War - reveals in stunning detail the horrors and injuries, physical and mental, faced by photojournalists. Not to be missed.”


3rd Daniel Miller, Los Angeles Times, “Finding Marlowe”

D3. INDUSTRY/ARTS FEATURE, Over 1,000 words


Judge’s comment: “Through outstanding investigative research and writing, Abramovitch meticulously constructs a cautionary tale about how the famous inventor of the Heimlich anti-choking maneuver made a stunning, and wrong, claim that HIV might be cured by injecting patients with malaria, and how sympathetic entertainers donated to Dr. Heimlich’s research that proved to be faulty and unscientific.”

2nd Zachary Pincus-Roth, LA Weekly, “Where Television Matters”


TIE


D4. CELEBRITY FEATURE, Over 1,000 words

Taffy Brodesser-Akner, Matter Magazine, “Miss American Dream”

Judge’s comment: “Interesting, entertaining, extremely well written, and with a clear and original angle about Britney Spears and the city that bets on her, Las Vegas.”

2nd Lukas I. Alpert, Playboy Magazine, “Steven Seagal’s Fight for Mother Russia”

D5. **FEATURE, Under 1,000 words**


Judge’s comment: “Wolff’s incisive commentary on James Murdoch, an heir apparent to his father Rupert Murdoch’s fortune, and the family squabbles with themselves and company executives, reads like a modern-day Shakespearean play.”


D6. **CRITIC**

*See B5*

D7. **COLUMNIST**

**Bill Carter**, *The Hollywood Reporter*

Judge’s comment: “The author uses decades of personal experience reporting on television to tell the story of the genesis and the soul of Saturday Night Live and its creator, Lorne Michaels. Through personal anecdotes, provides the feeling that the reader is having access to the world of a TV insider. The tone is something like ‘let me tell you what I know about this guy’, as if he was telling the story at a dinner party, and serves very well the purpose.”

2nd Gavin Polone, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd Sandro Monetti, *Los Angeles Business Journal*

D8. **HEADLINE**

**Staff**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "You: Do You Know Who I Am? Him: 'I Do, and I Don't Care'"

Judge’s comment: “This spot-on retort by restaurant hosts to celebrities reflects what many would love to say aloud instead of under their breath!”


3rd Staff, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Oh, the Places They’ll Bro!”
D9. ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATION

Judge’s comment: “‘Consistency’ and ‘excellence’ are the only words needed to describe the winning entry.”

E. TV/VIDEO/FILM
E1. NEWS
Mike Amor and Arron Hage, Seven Network Australia, “Robin Williams’ Death”

Judge’s comment: “Amor and Hage’s multiple reports on the death and life of Robin Williams are fine examples of solid news coverage of a tragic event, combining a touching respect for the work of the comedian and actor while reporting the hard facts of his struggles and suicide.”


3rd Tom Walters and Liam Hyland, CTV Canadian Television, “The Death of Robin Williams”

E2. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Judge’s comment: “Feinberg’s terrific profile of prolific filmmaker Douglas Trumbull reveals a remarkable and sometimes difficult career of the visual effects expert and director, as well as showing how forward-looking is Trumbull with new digital technology.”

2nd Juan Devis, Matthew Crotty, Chris Metzler, KCET, “Zorthian Ranch”


E3a. FEATURE, Under 5 minutes

Judge’s comment: “Bathke’s inspiring and heartfelt story about how choreographer/dancer Heidi Latsky encouraged and worked with disabled persons, such as cerebral palsy victim Jerron Herman, to make them into stage dancers demonstrates a terrific vision of defiance against human physical limitations.”
2nd Tom Walters and Liam Hyland, *CTV Canadian Television*, “Car Pool”


**E3b. FEATURE, Over 5 minutes**

**Nic Cha Kim**, *KCET*, “Radio Personality Art Laboe”

Judge’s comment: “Kim’s piece on long-time L.A. radio personality Art Laboe, who invented the phrase “Oldies but Goodies” and on-air dedications, and his place in the history of rock n’ roll radio is a wonderful exploration of the life of an entertainer who is still broadcasting at age 89.”

2nd Martha Teichner, Dustin Stephens and David Small, *CBS News*, “Buried Treasures”


**E4. DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL PROGRAM, Short**

**Seth Abramovitch, Victoria McKillop, Minh Hieu Bui, Jennifer Laski and Stephanie Fischette**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Motion Picture & Television Fund Retirement Home”

Judge’s comment: “THR's piece on the Motion Picture and Television Fund Retirement Home is sensitive without being sentimental. It portrays the residents as the dignified troopers they continue to be. Beautifully done.”

2nd Juan Devis, Matthew Crotty, Don Broida, Marielle Noble, *KCET*, “Gallery Tally”


**E5. DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL PROGRAM, Feature**

**Matthew Belloni, Janice Min, Jennifer Laski, Stephanie Fischette and Tess Gomet**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Actress Roundtable (Oscars)”

Judge’s comment: “The Hollywood Reporter’s examination of talented actresses in their run-up to the Oscars is itself an exercise in the art of interviewing entertainment artists.”
TIE

**Juan Devis, Matthew Crotty, Chris Metzler, Jeff Springer, KCET, “The Creative Economy”**

Judge’s comment: “The KCET team exhibited every aspect of a winning documentary: from writing to visuals and editing to a revealing take on its subject. An undeniable accomplishment.”


3rd Juan Devis, Matthew Crotty, Joris Debeij, Nic Cha Kim, Bruce Dickson, KCET, “Without Borders/Sin Fronteras”

**F. RADIO/PODCASTS**

**F1. NEWS**

**Larry Mantle, Lauren Osen, Jasmin Tuffaha, Fiona Ng and Matt Dangelantonio, KPCC, “Future tense: Impact of Sony Hack on the Future of Commerce, Policy and Culture”**

Judge’s comment: “The Larry Mantle Show’s exploration of the Sony hack and its current and future impact on commerce, policy and culture with five various experts is a fine example of broadcast journalism, as well as an engrossing discussion of one of the most disturbing trends in modern history - widespread computer hacking.”

2nd John Horn, Darby Maloney, Oscar Garza, Michelle Lanz and James Kim, KPCC, “Top women filmmakers reveal stories of gender bias in Hollywood”

3rd Collin Walzak and Avishay Artsy, KCRW, “What Happened, Miss Simone?”

**F2. PERSONALITY PROFILE**

**Michelle Lanz, KPCC, “Interstellar’ Composer Hans Zimmer: Hollywood is Keeping Orchestral Music Alive”**

Judge’s comment: “Hans Zimmer expresses his love and respect of orchestral music and the inspiration he drew upon to score Interstellar. The profile itself plays like a piece of chamber music.”

2nd John Horn and Michelle Lanz, KPCC, “Why One Scene in 'Empire' Left Writer/Director Lee Daniels 'Sobbing' Behind the Camera”

3rd James Kim, KPCC, “Weezer's Tour Life: Rocking Out While Changing Diapers at the After-Party”
F3. ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW

Ted Johnson, Charla Boveland and Mike Fische, Variety and SiriusXM, “Laura Poitras”

Judge’s comment: “Ted Johnson's session with Citizenfour filmmaker Laura Poitras is a textbook example of the revealing and important intersection between Entertainment and Politics.”

2nd John Horn and Darby Maloney, KPCC, “Philip Glass Explains How He Scores Films and Continues Creating at 78”

3rd Kaitlin Parker, KCRW, “Ava DuVernay on 'Selma,' Building a Career Her Own Way”

F4. FEATURE

Brian Lauritzen, KUSC, “Light And Somber Moments with YOLA in Japan”

Judge’s comment: “Lauritzen’s moving and poignant report on the L.A. youth orchestra’s joint concert with a Japanese youth orchestra, which was formed after the tragic earthquake and tsunami of 2011, and conducted by Dudamel during a tour of Japan demonstrates how music can bridge cultural differences and bond people together emotionally.”

2nd Michelle Lanz, KPCC, “‘Monster Maker' Rick Baker Prepares to Retire From Film Biz and Auction Off Career-Spanning Creature Collection”

3rd Rachel Reynolds, KCRW, “KCRW in Berlin: Techno, Tech and What's Next”

G. ONLINE

G1./G2 NEWS


Judge’s comment: “The unprecedented and embarrassing Sony hack is presented in fascinating detail by Kevin Roose in this major story with international implications.”

2nd Dawn Chmielewski and Arik Hesseldahl, Re/code, “Sony: The Worst Hack in Corporate History”

3rd Anousha Sakoui, Lulu Yilun Chen and Alex Sherman, Bloomberg News, “China Invades Hollywood”
G3. PERSONALITY PROFILE


Judge’s comment: “*The Hollywood Reporter’s Scott Feinberg’s “Found Star: New Radical’s Gregg Alexander,” uses the 1990s rock star’s first interview in years as a vehicle to explore what happened when this young artist walked away from fame rather than bow to corporate demands, how he kept his artistry alive behind the scenes and how stardom once again has come his way. Much more than a profile of a rock star, this is a journey tale told at it’s best.”

2nd Drew Tewksbury, *KCET Artbound*, “Dwight Yoakam on His Early Cowpunk Years in Los Angeles”

3rd Chrissy Iley, *Mail Online*, “Barbra Streisand - Barbra Bares Her Soul”

G4a. FILM/TV/THEATER FEATURE


Judge’s comment: “*While the out-of-control man-child has been a fixture in movies for a long time, the woman-child appears to be a more recent phenomenon, and Lauren Duca casts an incisive, original look at this development in her engrossing feature.”


3rd Maureen Lee Lenker, *Neon Tommy*, “Has Actors' Equity Sounded A Death Knell For Small L.A. Theaters?”

G4b. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

Kelsey McKinney, *Fusion*, “DOLLAR $IGNS”

Judge’s comment: “McKinney’s absorbing in-depth feature on how little songwriters are paid is an eye-opening look at a part of the music industry that is little understood.”


3rd Hillary Jackson, *Neon Tommy*, “Going to the Chapel: Tying the Knot Without Breaking the Bank”

G5. CELEBRITY FEATURE

Judge’s comment: “Maza’s touching dual portrait of Robin Williams and Joan Rivers celebrates their lives and the laughter they provided to millions of fans. Linking the two late entertainers and their works is an inspiring piece of work.”

2nd Jase Peeples, *The Advocate*, “Getting Nostalgic with Annie Lennox”


G6. CRITIC

Tim Goodman, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “’Mad Men’: Tim Goodman on the Patterns Getting Clearer as the End Nears”

Judge’s comment: “Goodman clearly loves this show, but not indiscriminately. He knows how it works, and when it works, and when it doesn’t. Which is how useful criticism should work.”

2nd Carrie Rickey, *Truthdig*

3rd M.G. Lord, *Dame Magazine*, “’Going Clear’ is a Powerful Indictment of the Insidiously Absurd”

G7. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS/TREND


Judge’s comment: “In this eye-opening reflection about a seemingly trivial subject - the latest Zellweger's plastic surgery - Amy Nicholson reveals brilliantly the diktats of appearance in Hollywood.”

2nd Dodai Stewart, *Fusion*, “It’s 2015. Cinderella doesn’t have to be blonde.”


G8. ENTERTAINMENT WEBSITE


Judge’s comment: “The Hollywood Reporter does an excellent job in reportage, design, videos and breaking news. It’s a shame they don’t spend more time and efforts on their concert reviews, for if they did they’d be unstoppable.”
2nd Melody Soto, Drew Tewksbury, Zoë Montano, Daniel Medina, KCET, “Artbound”

3rd Dylan Howard, RadarOnline.com, “RadarOnline.com”

G9. ENTERTAINMENT BLOG BY AN INDIVIDUAL

Devra Maza, The Huffington Post, “The Adaptation Game: Playing with Fifty Shades of Sex for Film”

Judge’s comment: “Good writing makes the difference here, as it elevates entertainment journalism from casual observation to something more involving and in-depth. Devra Maza exhibits the talent to delve into many different subjects while always bringing a spark to the writing.”


3rd Donna Balancia, California Rocker, “The New Basement Tapes One Night Only”

TIE


H. SOCIAL MEDIA
H. BEST JOURNALISTIC USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA


Judge’s comment: "A socially enhanced list, culminating in 40.2 million impressions."


3rd Zoë Montano, Melody Soto and Drew Tewksbury, KCET, “Artbound”

J. PHOTOGRAPHY
J1. PORTRAIT PHOTO


Judge’s comment: “Humorous Shoeless Louis even gets laughs from a traditional portrait, which reflects his comedy.”


**J2. FEATURE PHOTO**

**Mike Ruiz, Rose Cefalu and Rich Bleiweiss, Emmy, “Empire’s’Taraji P. Henson”**

Judge’s comment: “The exciting multiple exposure of Henson along with the vivid red and black colors make this a most memorable winning photo.”


3rd Ruben Nepales, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, “Clint Eastwood”

**J3. ACTION PHOTO**

**Jennifer Laski, Shanti Marlar and Brian Bowen Smith, The Hollywood Reporter, “Channing Tatum”**

Judge’s comment: “Channing Tatum as a kind of whirling dervish makes this action photo an exciting one.”

2nd Sahra Sulaiman, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*, “Friends of Oscar Toledo, Jr., Gather Around the Ghost Bike Put Up at 47th and Normandie in South LA”

**J4. PHOTO ESSAY**


Judge’s comment: “Photographic excellence is on display along with the actress’ confidence and courage.”

2nd Heather Harris, *California Rocker*, “James Williamson Produces A-List Concert”

3rd Carrie Smith, Jennifer Laski, David Needleman, Austin Hargrave and Fabrizio Maltese, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “100 Favorite Films”

**K. STUDENT JOURNALISM**

K1. BEST ARTS OR ENTERTAINMENT NEWS STORY

Judge’s comment: “Zerbib's coverage of the alleged sexual harassment of a reporter by a Mad Men actor is a fine journalistic piece that illustrates the difficulty sometimes of determining the truth of “he said, she said” situations.”

2nd Melissa Breccia, *Los Angeles Collegian*, “Art 'Scholarship Show' Presents Dynamic Exhibit”

3rd Tomas Rodriguez, *Los Angeles Collegian*, “Modern Islamic Art Shines Light on Middle Eastern Life”

K2. BEST ARTS OR ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

Juliette Boland, *The Anglophile Channel*, “The Timey Wimey Show”

Judge’s comment: “The incredible creativity of Juliette Boland on her funny and witty web series makes it hard to imagine she’s only 12 years old. The Timey Wimey Show will one day be followed by hit shows that we all know.”


K4. BEST COMMENTARY/CRIQUE

Kate Oh, *Neon Tommy*, “Is Pop Music More Queer Today Than in the Past?”

Judge’s comment: “Kate Oh's engaging and in-depth look at the "queer" movement within pop music is wonderfully readable, meticulously sourced and informative.”

2nd Ryan David McRee, *Neon Tommy*, “There Are Signs of Greatness in Deaf West's 'American Buffalo’”

3rd Maureen Lee Lenker, *Neon Tommy*, “Has Actors' Equity Sounded a Death Knell For Small L.A. Theaters?”