A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. Journalist of the Year - Any platform

1st – Eriq Gardner, *The Hollywood Reporter*

Judge’s comments: In a number of extensive, incisive and provocative articles about the legal entanglements of Hollywood celebrities, such as Roger Corman and Hulk Hogan, and a portrait of President-elect Trump’s Hollywood lawyer in the Trump University lawsuit, Eriq Gardner has provided memorable journalism, earning him this top award.

2nd – Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg*

3rd – Dylan Howard, *American Media*

B. ANY MEDIA PLATFORM

B1. Business – Any Platform


Judge’s comments: Masters uses her masterful knowledge of the inner workings of Hollywood to craft a piece that shows the pressure that HBO faces to keep its Time Warner overlords happy. It is struggling to come up with another megahit like Game of Thrones, and she details how executives haven’t been shy about halting expensive productions that aren’t showing early promise.

2nd – Gerry Smith, *Bloomberg News*, “ESPN’s Dilemma in a Mobile Age Where Fans See Clips All Day”


B2. Industry/Arts Investigative – Any Platform

1st – Daniel Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, “Selling Stardom”

Judge’s comment: This outstanding five-part series delves deep into the dark side of Hollywood’s casting machine. It unearths the behind-the-scene activities in which actors
and filmmakers are lured into throwing away their money on deceitful agents, listing agencies, screeners and others as they desperately try to break into the industry.

2nd – Felix Gillette and Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, “Viacom is Having a Midlife Crisis.”


**B3. Celebrity Investigative – Any Platform**


Judge’s comments: Howard became part of Sheen’s inner circle as he broke story after story about the actor’s downward spiral. He was there to chronicle every moment for Radar Online and the National Inquirer. This remarkable story tells how it all happened.

2nd – Brandy Zdrozny and Ben Collins, *The Daily Beast*, “Kris Jenner and the Shady Crew Behind her $105,000-a-Year Business School”


**B4. Multimedia Package – Any Platform**


Judge’s comment: This package was the clear winner because the voices are the centerpiece and the writers/videographers/editors/producers did not get in the way of their subjects -- especially in the videos. From poignant text and quotes to mostly black and white imagery -- not to mention the complimentary music – there is a stark richness in this multimedia package. Well done.


**B5. Broadcast Critic**

1st – Marlise Boland, Elyse Ashton, *The Anglophile Channel*, “OutlandDish – A “Wee” Recap Show”
Judge’s comments: With “OutlandDish,” Marlise Boland and Elyse Ashton have created an entertaining recap and critique show that will capture you whether you are a fan of the series Outlander or not. Although Boland and Ashton clearly love Outlander, they do not hesitate to point out plot holes and inconsistencies, thereby giving their audience the guidance good critique should offer.

**B6. Obituary/In Appreciation – Any Platform**


Judge’s comments: The gripping story about how the shy, late 106-year-old Nicholas Winton saved the author’s mother from the Holocaust – as well as hundreds of other children – makes this an outstanding tribute to a humanitarian.


3rd – Susan Bell, *USC Dornsife College*, “David Bowie: Life and Death of an Icon”

**B7. Humor Writing – Any Platform**


Judge’s comments: Jaci Stephen’s self-deprecating, dark humor over Adele’s famous song, “Hello,” leaves you in stitches as she responds to the singer as if Adele called her!


3rd – Doug Kolk, *KTLA 5 News*, “Biggest Springsteen Fan Doesn’t Meet the Boss”

**C. NON-FICTION BOOK**

1st – Brooke Hauser, *HarperCollins*, “Enter Helen”

Judge’s comments: Helen Gurley Brown’s fascinating cinematically-told story of traipsing through the sexually liberated 60s and becoming a feminist pioneer is a major movie waiting to happen.


D. PRINT – NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES

**D1. General News – Print**


Judge’s comments: A fun, timely check-in with a comedy legend (who apparently didn’t realize he was so beloved). Parker’s interview with Rick Moranis reminds readers of his body of work and that sometimes life can take a left turn.


**D2. Celebrity News – Print**


Judge’s comments: Dylan Howard gives an entertaining and unbelievable inside look at how he cultivated and eventually broke the story of Charlie Sheen being HIV positive in the National Enquirer. It’s a glimpse into the crazy world of Sheen at the time, and how he befriended Howard as editor-in-chief.


**D3. Personality Profile/Interview, Under 2,500 Words – Print**

1st – Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, “Pioneering Choreographer Rudy Perez, 88, is Legally Blind – But Still Creating New Work”

Judge’s comments: A detailed, lively and moving profile of a passionate and influential artist.


**D4. Personality Profile, Over 2,500 Words – Print**


Judge’s comments: Lacey Rose captures the energy of Ryan Murphy right off the bat in this well-written look at the showrunner’s career and personal life, prior to the phenomenon that was the O.J. Simpson anthology series.


**D5. Industry/Arts Feature, Under 1,000 Words – Print**

1st – Pablo Ximenez de Sandoval, *EL PAIS*, “The Oscars from the Last Row”

Judge’s comments: A vivid and delightful depiction of Hollywood’s biggest night, from an original point of view.

2nd – Chris Palmeri, *Bloomberg*, “Carnival Rocks the Boat”


**D6. Industry/Arts Feature, Over 1,000 Words – Print**

1st – Hillel Aron, *LA Weekly*, “A Hotheaded Landlord Made a Movie About Murdering His Tenants. Then He Knifed One”

Judge’s comments: Hillel Aron takes the reader down a dark path to the sordid tale of Hollywood ego and attempted murder. An inside look at not only a man on the lam, but how young Hollywood lives under the control of a slumlord.

2nd – Simi Horwitz, *FORWARD*, “The Jews of Al-Jazeera”


**D7. Celebrity Feature, Under 1,000 Words – Print**
1st – Michelle Boston, USC Dornsife Magazine, “The Craftsman”

Judge’s comments: Michelle Boston drew a wonderful portrait of the quiet Edoardo Ponti, son of Sophia Loren and the late Carlo Ponti, and his artistic journey that took him from poetry to film, which he approaches as a craft.


D8. Celebrity Feature, Over 1,000 Words – Print

1st – Adam Tanswell, SciFiNow, “The X-Files Reborn”

Judge’s comments: Looking back at the original X-Files, then forward to the new TV series, Tanswell recounts well its storied history and provides excellent portraits of Mulder and Scully – played once again by David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson – and includes informative sidebar guides to the series.


3rd – Michelle Boston, USC Dornsife Magazine, “The Art of Style”

D9. Critic – Print

Besha Rodell, LA Weekly, “Jon & Vinny’s Grapples with What It Means to Be a Family Restaurant”

Judge’s comments: Besha Rodell makes food fun even if you’re fasting. Her phrase making, wit and appetite for the offbeat are the ingredients of a great read.

2nd – Simi Horwitz, Film Journal International

3rd – M. G. Lord, NY Times Book Review

D10. Columnist – Print

1st – Danielle Berrin, Jewish Journal

Judge’s comments: A thoughtful, well-reasoned, optimistic reflection on the future of Jews and Judaism framed by popular culture and a nod to the TV series “Homeland.”
2nd – Michael Wolff, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd – Randy Lewis, *Los Angeles Times*

**D11. Headline**

1st – Christopher Palmeri, Anousha Sakoui, Lucas Shaw and David Gillen, *Bloomberg News*, “‘The Godfather’ Studio is Hoping for an Offer It Can’t Refuse”

Judge’s comments: A fine example of what a good headline is supposed to do: Tell the story!

**D12. Page Layout**

1st – Shanti Marlar, Peter Cury and Christopher Hawkins, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “We’re Going to F*@k S#%t Up”

Judge’s comments: The combined work of Shanti Marlar, Peter Cury and Christopher Hawkins succeeds in immediately captivating the reader’s interest, which is the foundation of good editorial design. This particular spread features smart and purposeful use of color and typography.


3rd – Dan Knapp and Letty Avila, *USC Dornsife Magazine*, “As Seen on TV?”

**D13. Entertainment Publication - Magazine Or Supplement**


Judge’s comment: The Hollywood Reporter offers its readers insightful commentary, well-researched industry analysis and riveting features. With their attention to design, photography and writing, the team behind The Hollywood Reporter continues to prove that dedication and hard work pay off.


**E. TV/ VIDEO/FILM**

**E1. TV/ Video/Film – News**

Judge’s comments: The Hollywood Reporter’s absorbing interview with the movie Academy leaders provides insight into the controversial lack of black nominees for Oscars for the second year.

2nd – Cheryl Diano and George Pennacchio, *KABC*, “Death of Prince”

3rd – Tom Walters and David Iacolucci, *CTV*, “Roman Radio”

**E2. TV/Video/Film – Personality Profile/Interview**


Judge’s comments: The profile of Kathy Bates, her acting history and battle with health problems, including lymphedema, is a superb portrait of this funny, down-to-earth woman.

2nd – Mike Amor, Duncan McLeod and Ben Shaw, *7 Network Australia*, “Tracy Chapman”

3rd – Doug Kolk and Michael Joseph James, *KTLA News*, “Trejo’s Tacos”

**E3A. TV/Video/Film – Hard News Feature, Under 5 Minutes**


Judge’s comments: Outstanding investigative report exposes a promotional music racket that offers awards for fees paid by naive, heartbroken new music artists.


3rd – Cher Calvin, Marcus Wilson Smith and Phil Ige, *KTLA*, “LA Pride”

**E3B. TV/Video/Film – Soft News Feature, Under 5 Minutes**

1st – Michelle Nash and Miguel Endara, *FUSION*, “Webucation”

Judge’s comments: The excellent Fusion Web education series of well-crafted short videos of young people discussing and demonstrating skills, such as opera singing and
break dancing, learned from the Internet is inspiring, and entertaining, for kids of all ages.

2nd – Kimberly Cheng and Nick Simpson, KTLA, “Remembering Dr. Haing S. Ngor”

3rd – Tom Walters and Liam Hyland, CTV - Canadian Television, “Slip of the Tongue”

E4. TV/Video/Film – Feature, Over 5 Minutes

1st – Stephanie Fischette, Mia Galuppo, Natalie Heltzel, Vince Patrick Potalivo, The Hollywood Reporter, “Roger (Corman) Deserves a Monument in Front of the Academy’ Says Bruce Dern”

Judge’s comments: For those who may have forgotten and for those who never knew, this well-done piece brings to life Roger Corman’s monumental career and substantial impact.

2nd – Nic Cha Kim, KCET, “‘Feathers of Fire’: A Spectacular Shadow Play”

3rd – Marlise Boland, Paul Boland and Elyse Ashton, The Anglophile Channel, “The Downton Dish: A Farewell to Downton Abbey”

E5. TV/Video/Film – Documentary or Special Program, Short


Judge’s comments: The Hollywood Reporter brings us a story revealing how the emotional ties of mentorship empower underprivileged young women and lead them to independence.

2nd – Michelle Nash and Miguel Endara, Fusion, “Webucation”


E6. TV/Video/Film – Documentary or Special Program, Feature

1st – Juan Devis, Stephen Pagano, Matthew Crotty and Jaime Morgan Muñoz, KCET Artbound, “Charles Lummis: Reimagining the American West”

Judge’s comment: An exceptional and inspiring documentary profiling Charles Fletcher Lummus, anthropologist, historian, journalist, and photographer who arrived in Los Angeles in the 1880s and became a preservationist and archivist of indigenous
Southwest cultures. With his collection of artifacts and his own photographs, he founded The Southwest Museum, the first museum in Los Angeles.


3rd – Juan Devis, Christine Yuan, Matthew Crotty and Austin Simons, KCET Artbound, “MOCA: Beyond The Museum Walls”

F. RADIO/PODCASTS

F1. Radio/Podcasts – News/News Feature

1st – Steve Chiotakis and Benjamin Gottlieb, KCRW, “Remembering Prince and His Times in L.A.”

Judge’s comments: Patrice Rushen, one of Prince’s L.A. collaborators shares her heartfelt feelings over the loss of the musical genius.

2nd – Steve Chiotakis and Benjamin Gottlieb, KCRW, “Afghani, Graffiti Artist, Woman”


F2. Radio/Podcasts – Personality Profile/Interview

1st – James Kim, KPCC, “Game of Thrones’ sound designer”

Judge’s comments: Emmy Winner Paula Fairfield reveals her personal emotional relationship to her sound designs in this wonderful piece.


F3. Radio/Podcasts – One-On-One Interview

1st – Scott Feinberg and Dora Takacs, The Hollywood Reporter, “‘Awards Chatter’ Podcast – Steven Spielberg (‘Bridge of Spies’)”

Judges comment: An incomparable self-portrait of a great artist perfectly guided by the nuanced yet unobtrusive questioning of Scott Feinberg.
2nd – Kim Masters and Kaitlin Parker, KCRW, “Brazilian Director Anna Muylaert Finds Success, then Sexism”

3rd – Kim Masters, Kaitlin Parker, KCRW, “George Miller: From Pigs to Penguins to ‘Mad Max: Fury Road’”

F4. Radio/Podcasts – Hard News Feature

See F1

F5. Radio/Podcasts – Soft News Feature

See F1

G. ONLINE

G1a. Online – Industry/Arts Hard News


Judge’s comment: Insightful and scrupulously reported; a first rate overview of the complex issues in the celebrated case and its likely consequences.

2nd – Matt Donnelly, Itay Hod and Beatrice Verhoeven, TheWrap, “The Sony Hack: One Year Later”


G1b. Online – Industry/Arts Soft News


Judge’s comments: A fascinating backstage look at the life of one of America’s literary lions and his family.

2nd – Molly Fitzpatrick, Fusion, “What It’s Like to be Black on The Bachelor”

G2. Online – Celebrity News


Judges Comment: An excellent interview, casting a light on a scandal that needs to be exposed and denounced over and over.


3rd – Dylan Howard, Melissa Cronin and Staff, RadarOnline.com, “Charlie Sheen HIV Scandal”

G3. Online – Personality Profile/Interview


Judge’s comments: This timely piece by Scott Feinberg on the “sports pope” Mike Francesa who rose from a part time gig in a Queens basement studio to the pinnacle of his field as a CBS radio sports talk show host is written with insight, humor and lots of sports color. Feinberg shows us the many sides of Francesa as he evolved into an indispensible voice in the Big Apple and across the country for sports fans now eagerly awaiting his next act. Well done!

2nd – Chrissy Iley, Daily Mail, “The Madness of Boy George”

3rd – Shelly Leopold, KCET Artbound, “Betye Saar: Reflecting American Culture Through Assemblage Art”

G4. Online – Film/TV/Theater/Book Feature

1st – Kelsey McKinney, FUSION, “The Truth about Life after American Idol”

Judge’s comments: This well reported and written piece takes the reader behind the glitz and hype of the super hit “American Idol” to the participants whose experiences are often far less glamorous. Even finalists struggle to find their footing in a tough industry after their moment of fame is over. In this piece, Kelsey McKinney puts one of the culture’s most iconic shows in the perspective it deserves. Nice job!


**G5. Online – Arts & Entertainment Feature**


Judge’s comments: Tim Teeman expertly takes the reader on a wild ride through the late Gore Vidal’s former Italian villa in prose the master himself would surely appreciate. Indeed the “bird’s nest,” as the mansion nested above Ravello was called, becomes in Teeman’s hands a metaphor for the complexity of Vidal’s life from his vast literary output, to his varied sex and love life, his alcoholism and even his love of cats. A great read!

2nd – Christopher Palmeri, *Bloomberg News*, “Disney’s Foreign Curse Could End with China Resort Project”

3rd – Liz Goldner, *KCET Artbound*, “Laguna Beach in the Sixties: A Colony for the Arts”

**G6. Online – Celebrity Feature**

1st – John Patterson, *Truthdig*, “30 Years Gone, and Oh, How We Still Love Orson Welles”

Judge’s comments: Patterson’s incisive feature on Orson Welles through a dialogue with biographer F.X. Feeney that enlightens us about the myths, misconceptions and brilliance of the multi-talented artist is simply top-notch.


**G7a. Online – Theater/Film/TV Critic**

1st – Peter Rainer, *the Christian Science Monitor*

Judge’s comments: The competition was photo-finish in an unbelievably strong field. Rainer’s reviews are a compass showing True North.

2nd – David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd – Alonso Duralde, *TheWrap*
**G7b. Online – Book/Cultural Critic**

1st – Tim Riley, *Truthdig*

Judge’s comments: A detailed and enthusiastic review of the Sam Phillips biography does what it’s supposed to do: makes you want to know more about the origins of modern American music.

2nd – M.G. Lord, *NY Times*

3rd – Stereo Williams, *The Daily Beast*

**G8A. Online – Commentary/Analysis/Trend**


Judge’s comments: Galloway’s piece on the trial of Lonnie Franklin, Jr. - the “Grim Sleeper” - not only brilliantly comments on how murder investigations differ between poor and rich victims but also captures how routine is a court trial in contrast with how they are generally portrayed in Hollywood.

2nd – Devra Maza, *The Huffington Post*, “Art of Resistance: Charlie Hebdo’s Antonio Fischetti and Judea Pearl on the War on Journalists”


**G8B. Online – Diversity/Gender**

1st – Isha Aran, *Fusion*, “Bollywood’s Shameful History of Blackface”

Judge’s comment: In a surprising expose of the extent of Bollywood actors and actresses in racist “blackface,” Isha Aran casts light on a little-known aspect that is attributed to lingering white colonialism; a disturbing commentary on an ongoing trend.

2nd – Jon Frosch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Critic’s Notebook: Amid Oscars Debacle, Sundance Diversity Shines”

3rd – Mary O’Hara, *The Guardian*, “Making it in the Film Industry with a Disability”

**G9. Online – Entertainment Website**

Janice Min, *The Hollywood Reporter*
Judge’s comments: When it comes to breadth and depth, THR is among the best in entertainment sites. Strong content, a variety of voices/perspectives, engaging videos, and more, are presented in a clean design that does not overwhelm like so many other site. Well done.

2nd – Melody Soto and Zoe Montano, KCET Artbound

2nd – Sharon Waxman, TheWrap

G10. Online – Entertainment Blog by An Individual

N/A

G11. Online – Entertainment Blog by An Individual or Group, Tied to an Organization


Judge’s comments: Rather than provide a wrap up of news bites, Sharon Waxman provides her spin and perspective on relevant entertainment issues. Her strong voice and perspective are mixed with unique voices from her sources in this thought-provoking blog.


H. SOCIAL MEDIA

H. Best Use of Social Media

1st – Zoe Montano and Melody Soto, KCET Artbound, “50 Years Later, Artist Dale Brockman Davis Reflects on the Watts Riots”

Judge’s comments: By combining video, text and hashtag, Zoe Montana and Melody Soto effectively use Facebook to showcase their story on artist Dale Brockman.

2nd – Zoe Montano, Melody Soto, KCET Artbound, “Betye Saar: A Modern Art Iconoclast”


J. PHOTOGRAPHY
J1. Photography – Portrait Photo


Judge’s comments: Ricky Gervais’s creative mania is perfectly captured in this winning shot.

2nd – Ada Guerin, Benjo Arwas and Laura Geiser, TheWrap, “Broad City’ creators and stars Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer”

3rd – Ada Guerin and Jeff Vespa, TheWrap, “Jake Gyllenhaal”

J2. Photography – Feature Photo

1st – Ada Guerin and HollenderX2, TheWrap, “Rami Malek”

Judge’s comments: A visual metaphor for an otherwise indescribable character in all his eerie and robotic glory.


3rd – Ada Guerin and HollenderX2, TheWrap, “Jane Krakowski”

J3. Photography – Action Photo

1st – Donna Balancia, CaliforniaRocker.com, “Cedric Bixler-Zavala of ‘At the Drive-In’ Gives It His All”

Judge’s comments: Swirling light, color and energy perfectly envelop a mid-flight rocker. You can almost hear the music.


J4. Photography – Photo Essay

1st – Suzanna Allison Witkin, CaliforniaRocker.com, “On Tour with the Hollywood Vampires”
Judge’s comments: This photo essay is vibrant, theatrical, fun and revelatory; a clear-cut winner.


**K. STUDENT JOURNALISM**

**K1. Student Journalism – Best Arts or Entertainment News Story**

1st – Emily McCormick, *Daily Bruin*, “Students Paint Hand Prints on Canvases to Express Support for Community”

Judge’s comment: Well-written article with an attention-getting lede.

2nd – Byron Umana Bermudez, *Los Angeles Collegian*, “Musicians Bring Community Closer with Symphony of Equality, Unity”

3. Clinton Cameron, *Los Angeles Collegian*, “Black Art Sparks Discussion”

**K2A. Student Journalism – Best Pop Culture Feature**


Judge’s comment: And this is Juliette’s second year in a row as a winner for her passionate and fun show about the BBC’s Doctor Who series.

2nd – Hannah Schoenbaum, *Los Angeles Times High School Insider*, “Film ‘Love is All You Need?’ Touches Hearts and Sheds Light on Issues of LGBTQ+ Bullying and Suicide”

3rd – Allison Wolfe, *Ampersand USC Annenberg*, “I was a Teenage Duranimal”

**K2B. Student Journalism – Best Art or Entertainment Feature**


Judge’s comment: Short podcast on racial image, told with colorful sound bites

2nd – Tehya Faulk, *Daily Bruin*, “Dancing to Heal”

K3. Student Journalism – Best Arts Or Entertainment Photo

Tie between:

1st – Curtis Sabir, Collegian Times, “Thai Town”

Judge’s comment: Evocative image of lamppost sculpture that guards the community from harm.

1st – Tehya Faulk, Daily Bruin, “Dancing to Heal”

Judge’s comment: Stunning mirror-image of a male dancer.

2nd – Erika Almanza, Los Angeles Collegian, “Performances Break Language Barriers at Student Union Building”

3rd – Rocio Flores, Los Angeles Collegian, “Sex, Rape, Consent: ‘Drunk Girl’ Tell All

K4. Student Journalism – Student Journalism – Best Commentary/Critique

1st – Maureen Lenker, USC Annenberg Media, “‘Cabaret’ at Pantages Looks to Our Past to Warn Us of Our Future”

Judge’s comment: Simply put: This is professional-level writing and criticism relating a piece of theater to our current political climate.

2nd – Namrata Kakade, Daily Bruin, “Second Take: My Indian Culture Should Not Be Used as a Marketing Tool”

3rd – Ande Richards, Collegian Times, “It was a Saturday Night, I Guess that Makes it All Right”