

WINNERS

Los Angeles Press Club

National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – Print

Kyle Buchanan, *The New York Times*

<https://nyti.ms/3in2DYJ> ; <https://nyti.ms/3m6QZUh> ; <https://nyti.ms/2Tmogi2> ;
<https://nyti.ms/30m3ZwY> ; <https://nyti.ms/34vL4Cp> ; <https://nyti.ms/3kt9y4M>

Judges' comment: Whether interviewing actors, actresses or filmmakers, including Brad Pitt, Renee Zellweger, Linda Hamilton, the cast and crew of Mad Max: Fury Road, Sam Mendes on 1917, or criticism of Oscar's lack of diversity and recognition of female filmmakers, Buchanan brings incisive questions and excellent analyses to the world of filmmaking in his writings.

2nd - Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd - Makeda Easter, *Los Angeles Times*

A2. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – Online

Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*

<https://bit.ly/3o1U60R> ; <https://bit.ly/37a5e4J> ; <https://bit.ly/33i1WLA> ;
<https://bit.ly/3o3qL6h> ; <https://bit.ly/2UZXVHg>

Judges' comment: Teeman's cumulative online work, from incisive, extensive features on Broadway issues to impassioned commentary about religious intolerance of LGBTQ people, deserves this recognition as the Online Journalist of the Year.

2nd - Jem Aswad, *Variety*

3rd - Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*

A3. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – Broadcast

Giselle Fernandez, Spectrum News 1

<https://bit.ly/3lYgwiS> ; <https://bit.ly/35YCkp8>

Judges' comment: Through her ability to illuminate Los Angeles personalities with great questions, Fernandez combines that talent with engrossing facts and illustrations to highlight numerous stories about the city and its people, earning her a well-deserved top broadcast journalist award.

2nd - Ari Saperstein, *KPCC*

3rd - Zulekha Nathoo, *CBC News*

A4. PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Jay L. Clendenin, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://bit.ly/3c4kmTL> ; <https://bit.ly/3bhcm9b> ; <https://bit.ly/3uWuaI9>

Judges' comment: Clendenin's outstanding ability to capture playful portraits, serendipitous human moments, or a series of movie marquees during the pandemic earns him kudos as the top photojournalist.

2nd - Osceola Refetoff, *KCET*

3rd - Phil Ige, *KTLA*

B. CRITIC – Any media platform (print, broadcast or online)

B1. Film

Justin Chang, *Los Angeles Times*, "'Joker,' 'Marriage Story,' 'Cats,' 'Hamilton'"

<https://lat.ms/2I9BAE0> ; <https://lat.ms/2JIP62i> ; <https://lat.ms/32kox9T> ;
<https://lat.ms/3ey8QAY>

Judges' comment: These reviews are brimming with insights – into film history, current trends and meaningful comparisons that are showcased through a razor-sharp writing style. Mr. Chang's reviews are themselves illuminations beyond the ordinary-- even when the films he considers aren't.

2nd - Angie Han, *Mashable*, "'Cliff Booth,' 'Saint Frances,' 'Jon Stewart,' 'Joker'"

3rd - Sheri Linden, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Telluride 2019,' 'Never Rarely Sometimes Always,' 'Stray,' 'Ella Fitzgerald'"

B2. TV

Inkoo Kang, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'The Goop Lab,' 'High Fidelity,' 'Mrs. America,' 'P-Valley'"

<https://bit.ly/37oPTNY> ; <https://bit.ly/3mAbucv> ; <https://bit.ly/3mzwh03> ;
<https://bit.ly/3my04pR>

Judges' comment: These in-depth and deeply considered reviews are a pleasure to read – as well as an encouragement to view the shows in focus. Clearly, the reviewer is passionate about her work. Readers have much to be grateful for.

2nd - Caroline Framke, *Variety*, "'Little America,' 'Dare Me' and Netflix's 'Spinning Out,' 'Aziz Ansari: Right Now,' 'The Good Place'"

3rd - Ben Travers, *IndieWire*, "'Mindhunter,' 'City So Real,' 'Snowpiercer,' 'At Home With Amy Sedaris'"

B3. Theater/Performing Arts

Peter Debruge, *Variety*, “Isabelle Huppert and Dimitris Papaioannou in Paris,’ ‘A Play Is a Poem,’ ‘The Night Before Broadway Went Dark,’ ‘The Present’”

<https://bit.ly/3meQDek> ; <https://bit.ly/3kq9GSD> ; <https://bit.ly/3oiWktA> ; <https://bit.ly/3kriyr5>

Judges’ comment: Debruge’s voice is a seasoned one, deeply personal, engaging and informed. His point of view is bolstered by a wide range of experiences as he takes readers on an international journey through the theater world and current times, from Paris to Broadway to home, from before COVID-19 to smack in the middle of it.

2nd - Cate Young, *Ampersand*, “Sell Buy Date Sells Sex Workers Down the River”

3rd - Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, “‘West Side Story’, Revived on Broadway and Lost in Time”

B4. Art/Design

Christopher Knight, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘Mind of the Master,’ ‘Bubonic plague in Europe changed art history. Why coronavirus could do the same,’ ‘U.S. should build a memorial ‘plague column’ for COVID-19, but where?’ ‘Confederate monuments institutionalize racism’”

<https://lat.ms/356o6Sx> ; <https://lat.ms/356onVz> ; <https://lat.ms/38kU7se> ; <https://lat.ms/3l5cvJ7>

Judges’ comment: One expects a reviewer to be knowledgeable and analytical; it is an extreme bonus when their insights are themselves artistic and thrilling.

2nd - Carolina Miranda, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘Project to honor artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres devolved into an Instagram stunt,’ ‘Two artists present their visions of the border at MASS MoCA,’ ‘What would the real ‘Brady Bunch’ house architect make of HGTV’s ‘Very Brady Renovation?’ ‘Targeted in El Paso, vilified by Trump’”

3rd - Joseph Giovannini, *Alta Journal*, “The Old Man and the River; The Olympic Gold Won’t Go To LA”

B5. Books

David L. Ulin, *Alta Journal*, “‘Joy Harjo’s Trail of Tears,’ ‘California Dreaming,’ ‘Blade Runner,’ ‘Torchbearer’”

<https://bit.ly/35mXooT> ; <https://bit.ly/32GoXrz> ; <https://bit.ly/3nns2o3> ; <https://bit.ly/3nhLjat>

Judges’ comment: Ulin’s book criticism, whether about poetry, novels, science fiction works, or a bookseller, is compelling and wide-ranging. His insightful takes on California’s past, present and future portrayed through different books is particularly thought-provoking, earning him this book critic award.

2nd - Lisa Niver, *Ms. Magazine/Wharton Magazine*, "'Untamed': Brave Means Living from the Inside Out"

3rd - Shawna Kenney, *Rock the Bells*, "Best Hip Hop Memoirs"

B6. Food/Culture

Lucas Kwan Peterson, *Los Angeles Times*, "Reviews: 'The Chateau Marmont,' 'The Cheesecake Factory,' 'Antico,' 'Rosa Porto'"

<https://lat.ms/2HYytKP> ; <https://lat.ms/351rqhK> ; <https://lat.ms/38hI9j0> ; <https://lat.ms/38hnfQL>

Judges' comment: Peterson masterfully managed an issue that so many food critics have had to face recently—the ethics of separating a chef from the food they create and whether it's appropriate to give acclaim to a person whose actions outside of creating that plate of food are not worthy of endorsement. In this case, the awkward service and poorly prepared food that seemed to prioritize glitz over flavor worked in Peterson's favor to skewer the restaurant. The comparison of the crispy fried chicken to that of something found at the hot food bar at a supermarket was every bit as delicious as the dish wishes it was.

2nd - Brad A. Johnson, *Orange County Register*, "Reviews: 'Knife Pleat,' 'Henry's,' 'Fable & Spirit,' 'Puesto at Home'"

3rd - Michael Bauer, *Alta Journal*, "'Seattle Is Your Oyster,' 'Boonville Hotel's Prodigal Son,' 'The Classics of California Cuisine,' 'Santa Barbara Taco Tour,' 'Santa Barbara Food Gets Its Own 'Sideways' Moment'"

B7. Music

Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "Broadway Review: David Byrne's 'American Utopia'"

<https://bit.ly/3ocL2XG>

Judges' comment: A reader expects a critic to be both knowledgeable and insightful. An understanding of the current music scene is, of course, essential. It's a major plus when textured nuances and a strong visual context are added to descriptions of music acts and their performance environments. In particular, the review of David Byrne's Broadway production of *American Utopia* is so rich that it makes one deeply regret not seeing the show.

2nd - Chris Willman, *Variety*, "'Billie Eilish,' 'Paul McCartney,' 'Bob Dylan's 'Rough and Rowdy Ways,' 'Tanya Tucker'"

3rd - Cary Wong, *Film Score Monthly Online*, "Best of 2019 and Reviews"

C. ANY MEDIA PLATFORM (print, broadcast or online)

C1a. Business, TV/Video

Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "Rough Morning: How TV's A.M. News Shows Are Grappling with Trump and Technology"

<https://bit.ly/2SNbKrs>

Judges' comment: Forget late night. This deeply reported piece takes an in-depth look at how cutthroat morning show competition has led to shifting formats and talent, marking a big departure from past decades.

2nd - Benjamin Mullin, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Jeffrey Katzenberg and Meg Whitman Struggle With Their Startup — and Each Other"

3rd - Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "TV Star Salaries Revealed: Reese Witherspoon, Chris Evans, Cardi B and the \$1 Million Club"

C1b. Business, Film

Jason Guerrasio, *Business Insider*, "The definitive story of how a controversial Florida businessman blew up MoviePass and burned hundreds of millions"

<https://bit.ly/3npL9Oj>

Judges' comment: The inside story of the death of MoviePass through a series of bonehead decisions is told with riveting detail.

2nd - Gene Maddaus, Elizabeth Wagmeister and Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Harvey Weinstein Is Behind Bars, but Has the Culture in Hollywood Really Changed?"

3rd - Tim Gray, *Variety*, "Why Awards Aren't Always the Best Measure of Hollywood Progress"

C1c. Business, Entertainment Industry

Kate Aurthur, *Variety*, "New Document Lays Out Plan to Resume Movie and TV Productions with Strict Quarantine Pods"

<https://tinyurl.com/ycnet8jk>

Judges' comment: There were many stories speculating on how the coronavirus would affect Hollywood, but Aurthur's piece stood out with documentation that spelled out exactly how one production planned to try to isolate workers and protect performers in attempt to try to keep the cameras rolling.

2nd - Trey Williams, *TheWrap*, "Inside Endeavor's Dire, Debt-Filled Fall from Hollywood's Heights"

3rd - Natalie Jarvey, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Bob Iger's Next Priority? Streamline Disney+ Development"

C2. Business, Music/Theater/Performing Arts related

Shirley Halperin and Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "Hiding in Plain Sight: Dr. Luke Is Back With Doja Cat's Smash 'Say So,' But Did He Ever Really Go Away?"

<https://bit.ly/35qUj65>

Judges' comment: Sharp detail is what distinguishes this fascinating piece on the comeback of Lukasz Gottwald, better known as Dr. Luke, as a force in the recording industry.

2nd - Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "Katy Perry's 'Dark Horse' Case and Its Chilling Effect"

3rd - Dan Rys, *Billboard*, "In Jamaica With the Marleys: Behind a Booming Family Business As It Weathers A Global Crisis"

C3. Business, Tech/Arts related

Chris Palmeri, *Bloomberg News*, "A Playboy in Lockdown, Dan Bilzerian Pushes Party Brand from a Social Distance"

<https://bloom.bg/3ep1zDw>

Judges' comment: This gripping piece reveals how a celebrity businessman is using his company to fund his Hefner-like lifestyle at a time when it's still incurring huge losses.

2nd - Shirley Halperin and Leena Taylor, *Variety*, "Jason Derulo Sparks Outrage Down Under for Lifting Polynesian Teen's TikTok Hit"

3rd - Ariel Wesler, *Spectrum News 1*, "Kips Toyland"

C4. Entertainment Industry/Arts Investigative

Kim Masters and Bryn Sandberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'The Environment Was Very Toxic': Nudity, a Graphic Photo and the Untold Story of Why Ruth Wilson Left 'The Affair'"

<https://bit.ly/3q79V8b>

Judges' comment: This story unravels the mystery surrounding Ruth Wilson's surprise departure from her lead role in the Showtime drama "The Affair," uncovering how Hollywood still fails to adequately protect actors' privacy and dignity in the portrayal of intimacy onscreen.

2nd - Phoebe Eaton, *Air Mail*, "The Making of a Predator: A three-part series"

3rd - Katya Kazakina, Ellen Milligan and Deirdre Hipwell, *Bloomberg News*, "The Fraud Allegations Against Inigo Philbrick"

C5. Celebrity Investigative

Amy Kaufman, *Los Angeles Times*, "After Twitter outcry, five women detail Chris D'Elia's alleged sexual improprieties"

<https://lat.ms/3n0LTtm>

Judges' comment: Amy Kaufman deftly details allegations of how a rising comedian used his newfound celebrity status to hunt online for young girls.

2nd - Ashley Collman and Pamela Engel, *Insider*, "What really happens when Drake enters the club"

3rd - Gary Baum, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Meet the Controversial Doctor Behind the Dr. Phil Empire"

C6. Multimedia Package

Makeda Easter, Claire Hannah Collins, J.R. Lizarraga and Vanessa Martínez, *Los Angeles Times*, "Rise of the Dancefluencer"

<https://lat.ms/32iDDN6>

Judges' comment: All aspects of this inspiring story complement each other in a complete package. Many elements draw in the reader/viewer, from bio boxes to the graphics to the photos. This team maximizes the digital platform to get the most out of this story. The "behind the story" video is worth every minute.

2nd - Nicole Herrington, Jolie Ruben and Gabriel Gianordoli, *The New York Times*, "The African-American Art Shaping the 21st Century"

3rd - Travis Hartman, *Reuters*, "Lightsaber Duels"

C7a. Diversity in the Entertainment Industry, Broadcast

Zulekha Nathoo, *CBC News*, "Last of Us 2 Changes the Game for Accessibility"

<https://bit.ly/3nlvv0H>

Judges' comment: This story is a smart and surprising approach to diversity and accessibility.

2nd - Seth Katz, Giselle Fernandez, Tony Carrasco, Michelle Benoit and Stacy Strazis, *Spectrum News 1*, "Freedom Riders"

3rd - The SoCal Scene Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Gay Men's Chorus 40th Anniversary"

C7b. Diversity in the Entertainment Industry, Print/Online

Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "See Us, Trust Us, Employ Us: Broadway Women of Color on Confronting Racism -- and Reshaping Theater"

<https://bit.ly/37io2z8>

Judges' comment: This story was eye-opening, comprehensive, well-sourced and smartly written. It could not be more topical and when Broadway reopens, its questions and challenges will continue to resonate with those on stage, in the wings and in the audience.

2nd - Daniel Hernandez, *Los Angeles Times*, "'American Dirt' was supposed to be a publishing triumph. What went wrong?"

3rd - Reggie Ugwu, *The New York Times*, "They Set Us Up to Fail!: Black Directors of the '90s Speak Out"

C8. Obituary/In appreciation, Film and TV Personalities

Chris Gardner, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How Nanci Ryder Changed My Life: Hollywood Reporter Staff Writer Pays Tribute"

<https://bit.ly/2JcoYg9>

Judges' comment: Chris Gardner forged a friendship with someone nearing the end of their life and never giving up. In looking back, Gardner gives a peek inside Team Nanci and the influence the BWR Co-Founder had in advancing ALS research. It's a touching and emotional tribute to a Hollywood great.

2nd - Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*, "Kirk Douglas: A Golden-God Movie Star Who Was Mythic Enough to Symbolize America"

3rd - Nardine Saad, *Los Angeles Times*, "Diahann Carroll, groundbreaking star of TV's 'Julia' and 'Dynasty,' dies at 84"

C9. Obituary/In appreciation, Music and Other Arts Personalities

Steve Pond, *TheWrap*, "Little Richard Appreciation: He Summed Up Rock 'n' Roll in a Phrase"

<https://bit.ly/3lThrQR>

Judges' comment: Steve Pond's tribute to Little Richard flows as quickly and easily as "Tutti Frutti" rolls off the lips. The appreciation captures the energy of Little Richard for the reader throughout.

2nd - Lynell George, *Alta Journal*, "Clora Bryant Blew Doors Open"

3rd - Jim Farmer, *ArtsATL*, "Appreciation: Atlanta colleagues remember puppeteer Bobby Box for his laugh, zest"

C10. Humor Writing Arts or entertainment related.

Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Justin Bieber's 'Yummy' vs. the Ohio Express's 'Yummy Yummy Yummy': Whose Is Yummiest?"

<https://bit.ly/35x5Ocb>

Judges' comment: Bless Chris Willman for repeatedly listening to both of these terrible songs enough to write a precise dissection of each one's merits and pitfalls. Ridiculous concept with thorough execution, reminding us that awful lyricism is cyclical across generations.

2nd - Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "How 'Couple Spreading' Made Lockdown Walking a Nightmare"

3rd - Rick Adams, *Spectrum News 1*, "Exploding Turkeys - Why Deep Fat Frying Turkeys for Thanksgiving Explode!"

D. BOOK

D1. NON-FICTION BOOK

Christian Guémy and Alessandra Mattanza, *Whitestar Publishers*, "C215 #ChristianGuemy Stencil Art"

<https://bit.ly/30iBDDm> ; <https://bit.ly/3eaotQZ>

Judges' comment: Mattanza's fascinating portrait of the orphaned Christian Guémy (aka the artist "C215"), supplemented by comments from C215, is accompanied by outstanding examples of his street stencil art that he drew on buildings and street objects worldwide. The story and photos about the revered artist in this superb book earns it a first place.

2nd - Blake Gopnik, *Ecco*, "Warhol"

E. PHOTOGRAPHY/ART, *online or print*

E1. News Photo

Emma McIntyre, *Getty Images*, "Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt Reunite"

<https://rb.gy/3c1oxe>

Judges' comment: A wonderful moment in time captured well by McIntyre of the reuniting of Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston at an awards ceremony.

E2. Portrait Photo

Jennifer Laski, Jenny Sargent and Ramona Rosales, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "John Oliver"

<https://bit.ly/3kMT7RM>

Judges' comment: The formality of the photo of comic John Oliver and the placed objects give it a hilarious wry portrait.

2nd - Jay L. Clendenin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Bombshell, Charlize Theron"

3rd - Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson, Nora O'Donnell and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "April Cover/Angyil"

E3. Feature Photo

Jay L. Clendenin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Flo and Scar Jo Look MARVELous"

<https://bit.ly/3ecYsjW>

Judges' comment: In this best feature photo, Clendenin captures a serendipitous, pre-pandemic moment of joy when actresses Florence Pugh and Scarlet Johansson greet each other at the Academy Awards show following their acting in a film. A fine example of documentary photography.

2nd - Jennifer Laski, Jenny Sargent and Lia Clay Miller, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Billy Porter"

3rd - Osceola Refetoff, *KCET*, "Jim, Windle and Maddie standing behind Elks Lodge – Trona, California"

E4. Action Photo

Jim Krantz, Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Once Upon a Time in Agua Dulce"

<https://bit.ly/2IB2mpb>

Judges' comment: This jaw-dropping photo of trick rider Gattlin Griffith caught in the air above his horse is a terrific action photo winner.

2nd - Donna Balancia, *California Rocker*, "Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones Rocks the Rose Bowl"

3rd - Gino Terrell, *Idol Features*, "Lauren Jauregui Delivers "Expectations" at Mall of America"

E5. Photo Essay

Scott Baxter, *Alta Journal*, "Cowboy Poets of the New West"

<https://bit.ly/30fiJNt>

Judges' comment: This outstanding photo essay of traveling cowboy poets/musicians captures well a revival of a fading art.

2nd - Jennifer Laski and Joe Pugliese, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Hollywood on Lockdown - 30 Feet Away"

3rd - Jay L. Clendenin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Messages of Hope"

E6. Illustration

Kelsey Stefanson and Leon Edler, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Streaming TV's Binge-Watching Dilemma"

<https://bit.ly/3sUN94c>

Judges' comment: In a fascinating montage, the illustrators capture the essence of the article on binge-watching,

2nd - John Mavroudis, *Alta Journal*, "Joan Didion"

3rd - Haley Kluge, Raul Aguila and Mercedes DeBellard, *Variety*, "Jennifer Aniston"

E7. Graphic

Travis Hartman and Matt Weber, *Reuters*, "Lightsaber Duels"

<https://tmsnrt.rs/2LWV5in>

Judges' comment: The Reuters duo developed a comic, tongue-in-cheek graphic listing statistics about the "lightsaber duels" in the Star Wars series of films, including imitating the opening credits crawl. Well-researched and informative!

2nd - Matt Weber, *Reuters*, "Marvelous: Inside the Marvel cinematic universe"

3rd - Swetha Kannan, Andrea Roberson, Sean Greene and Tracy Brown, *Los Angeles Times*, "There are more women than ever in 'Star Wars.' Men still do most of the talking"

E8. Animation/Moving Graphic

Rick Adams, *Spectrum News 1*, "The History of Toilet Paper (Thanks to Hoarding in a Pandemic)"

<https://bit.ly/34YyUlx>

Judges' comment: In a hilarious, brief and terrific animation by "Virtually Rick," Adams traces the sometimes cringe-worthy human history of bottom cleaning, including the development of TP.

2nd - HollenderX2 and Ada Guerin, *TheWrap*, "Trevor Noah"

E9. Page Layout

Beatrice Alcala, *Los Angeles Collegian*, "Campus Revisits Watergate"

<https://bit.ly/33TvS15>

Judges' comment: Like any good newspaper, the Los Angeles Collegian took steps to make sure they were delivering information in a dynamic way through the use of a timeline and archival images. Great illustration in the Op-Ed section and strong staff photography throughout.

E10. Cover Art

John Mavroudis, *Alta Journal*, “Joan Didion”

<https://bit.ly/3uTgRIB>

Judges’ comment: John Mavroudis’ typographic portrait of Joan Didion is mesmerizing and on point for an issue about books. If you look closer the portrait is composed by the names of authors from all over the world.

2nd - Peter Cury and Sawdust, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Hollywood in the Terrifying Age of Coronavirus”

3rd - Alexis Cook and Mike McQuade, *Billboard*, “When the Show Won't Go On”

F. PRINT—Newspapers or Magazines

F1. General News

Vernon Silver, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, “Life in Italian Lockdown After a Tragic Coronavirus Denial”

<https://bloom.bg/35vsF9j>

Judges’ comment: The author combines rich detail through observation with strong reporting to create a compelling story that brings the reader to the onset of the Covid-19 outbreak.

2nd - Wendy Lee, *Los Angeles Times*, “An L.A. management firm says it believes in Black Lives Matter. Former employees say otherwise”

3rd - Angelique Jackson, Elaine Low, Audrey Yap and Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, “Reporting While Black: The Complexity of Covering Racial Inequality as a Black Journalist”

F2. Celebrity News

Angelique Jackson and Elaine Low, *Variety*, “The Reckoning Over Representation: Black Hollywood Speaks Out, But Is the Industry Listening?”

<https://tinyurl.com/yxvxwnvj>

Judges’ comment: Jackson and Low have penned an incisive look at the people and issues of diversity that have been rocking Hollywood. An excellent primer on the successes and struggles of black celebrities.

2nd - Janet Nepales, *Manila Bulletin*, “On the set of 'Insatiable 2' where Gloria Diaz is a special guest”

3rd - Matt Donnelly, *Variety*, “Gabrielle Union Breaks Silence on ‘America’s Got Talent,’ Works Toward a More Inclusive Hollywood”

F3. Personality Profile, Film Industry, Under 2,500 Words

Kyle Buchanan, *The New York Times*, “The Planet, The Stars and Brad Pitt”

<https://nyti.ms/3in2DYJ>

Judges' comment: Engrossing profile of the inner Brad Pitt on a human-to-human level. Great read all the way through.

2nd - Thomas Floyd, *The Washington Post*, "Edward Norton's 'Motherless Brooklyn' is a passion project both personal and professional"

3rd - Lina Lecaro, *LA Weekly*, "Blood Brother: Spike Lee Talks New Joint, the Power of Protest and Changing the World"

F4. Personality Profile, TV and Other Arts, Under 2,500 Words

Shirley Halperin, *Variety*, "The Weeknd Manager Sal Slaiby Swears He'll Be 'The Greatest Immigrant' Trump Ever Saw"

<https://bit.ly/2HvGKKa>

Judges' comment: Not only a beautifully detailed and layered profile/Q&A, the prose sings from the first paragraph: "Four months pregnant with the couple's third child, Fakhri, 33 — who in 2010 became the first Arab American to be named Miss USA — is as spry as the Swedish summer morning that's starting to peek out barely four hours since sunset."

2nd - Jenelle Riley, *Variety*, "Maude Apatow Has Comedy in Her DNA, but Says She'll Never Stop Fighting to Prove Herself"

3rd - Ramin Setoodeh, *Variety*, "Cole Sprouse on How 'Riverdale' Transformed Him from a Disney Star to a Leading Man"

F5a. Personality Profile, Film/TV Industry, Over 2,500 Words

Amy Kaufman, *Los Angeles Times*, "How befriending Mister Rogers' widow allowed me to learn the true meaning of his legacy"

<https://lat.ms/2leXvcN>

Judges' comment: This profile was delightful, hilarious and full of great detail.

2nd - Taffy Brodesser-Akner, *The New York Times*, "This Tom Hanks Story Will Make You Feel Less Bad"

3rd - Kate Aurthur, *Variety*, "Taika Waititi on Oscars, His 'Jojo Rabbit' Journey and Those 'Star Wars' Rumors"

F5b. Personality Profile, Music/Arts, Over 2,500 Words

Marc Malkin, *Variety*, "Liza Minnelli on Oscars, Mom Judy Garland, Working with Fosse and Going to Rehab"

<https://bit.ly/3igakRg>

Judges' comment: In a fascinating profile of actress Liza Minelli, Malkin combines a well-written portrait followed by a Q&A session that illuminates Minelli's family life, career on stage and screen, and addiction issues.

2nd - Lacey Rose, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Hillary Clinton Has a Few More Things to Say"

3rd - Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Taylor Swift: No Longer 'Polite at All Costs'"

F6. Film Industry Feature – Over 1,000 Words

Kyle Buchanan, *The New York Times*, "'Mad Max: Fury Road': The Oral History of a Modern Action Classic"

<https://nyti.ms/30m3ZwY>

Judges' comment: The author does a brilliant job taking us behind the scenes of a movie made several years ago. The story shows just what an accomplishment this film was. It reads almost like a script for a documentary. Nicely done!

2nd - John Penner, *Los Angeles Times*, "Milos Forman, Ivan Passer and their 73-Year Friendship"

3rd - Kate Aurthur and Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, "Extras on \$et: Inside Hollywood's Pricey Plans to Restart Production"

F7. TV Industry Feature – Over 1,000 Words

Meg James, *Los Angeles Times*, "Troubles at CBS Ran Deep"

<https://lat.ms/2V7Zxzs> ; <https://lat.ms/2xvxP6L>

Judges' comment: An insightful and carefully written story that digs deep and reveals how widespread sexism and sexual harassment was as part of the corporate culture at CBS. Additionally, it expands on the ongoing ramifications of sexism and sexual harassment in the media.

2nd - Gary Baum, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Perfect Crime Obsession"

3rd - Benjamin Mullin, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Jeffrey Katzenberg and Meg Whitman Struggle with Their Startup—and Each Other"

F8. TV/Film Industry Feature – Under 1,000 Words

Rick Porter, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Behind Reality Cop TV's Fall: 'It Was Like the Perfect Storm'"

<https://bit.ly/30fiW3d>

Judges' comment: An engaging and informative story that goes well beyond the surface and superficial to talk about the connection between reality and reality TV.

2nd - Brent Lang and Justin Kroll, *Variety*, “Post-Pandemic Hollywood: Inside Plans to Make Movie and TV Sets Safe Again”

3rd - Chris Palmeri, *Bloomberg*, “Bob Iger Tears Up Disney’s Playbook for High-Risk Bet on Streaming”

F9. Visual Arts/Architecture Feature – Over 1,000 Words

Makeda Easter, *Los Angeles Times*, “Slavery documents from Southern salt makers bring light to dark history”

Judges’ comment: In a fascinating story about two sets of documents and photographs, one uncovered by descendants and the other purchased by the Huntington Library, Makeda Easter reveals how a family salt production company being restarted in West Virginia used slaves in its operations in the 1800s. Easter also cites a local filmmaker who details the dangers faced by the slaves in the salt mines. A stunning article told well.

2nd - Stacey Ravel Abarbanel, *Alta Journal*, “How a Masonic Center in Koreatown Became a Home for Modern Art”

3rd - Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, “Holocaust survivor portraits at USC museum call on ‘profound’ beauty to fight hate”

F10a. Theater Arts Feature – Over 1,000 Words

Lisa Fung, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘The Wrong Man’ musical’s epic journey to the stage, with help from Team ‘Hamilton’”

<https://lat.ms/2kVaAg9>

Judges’ comment: In tracing songwriter Ross Golan’s “The Wrong Man” from its start in the tiny Skylight Theatre in L.A. to an animated film to an off-Broadway musical nurtured by two “Hamilton” creators, Fung produces a fascinating article about the unbelievable evolution of an idea.

2nd - Jessica Gelt, *Los Angeles Times*, “The spreadsheet that shook the theater world: Marie Cisco’s ‘Not Speaking Out’ list”

3rd - Simi Horwitz, *American Theater*, “Theatre’s Front Lines: For house managers and theatre service directors, the work is invisible but rewarding”

F10b. Music/Performing Arts Feature – Over 1,000 Words

Lynell George, *Alta Journal*, “Listen for the Word: Bird is Playing Tonight”

<https://bit.ly/3ri5Tdk>

Judges’ comment: Through the lens of the memorable night when famous saxophonist Charlie (“Bird”) Parker is released from jail in 1947 and plays at Jack’s Basket Room, a jazz club on L.A.’s famous Central Avenue, George explores the brief life of the club

and recent demise of the vacant building in an excellent piece that ingeniously incorporates Ray Bradbury's great sci-fi short story, "A Sound of Thunder," about the dangers of time travel.

2nd - Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Max Steiner Biographer Breaks Down How the 'King Kong' Composer 'Established the Grammar of Film Music'"

3rd - Cristina Campodonico, *The Argonaut*, "The Herb Alpert Foundation's Spirit of Giving Fortifies Art Makers and Organizations Against COVID-19"

F11. Arts Feature – Under 1,000 Words

Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "What's Next for Lockdown Live Music?"

<https://bit.ly/346iMOy>

Judges' comment: Jem Aswad's deep dive into mid-pandemic and post-pandemic concert culture reveals a billion-dollar industry forever changed, forced to find creative ways to bring music back to the isolated masses, and put money back into its pockets. Fascinating and well-reported.

2nd - Ari Saperstein, *New York Magazine*, "Ashley Lukashevsky: The Artist Who Wants You to Know That Everyone's Going Through Something"

3rd - Marcela Davison Aviles, *Alta Journal*, "'The L Word' Gets Woke"

F12A. Celebrity Feature, TV/Film related – Over 1,000 Words

Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Robert De Niro and Al Pacino on Reuniting for Netflix's Costly Oscar Hopeful 'The Irishman'"

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ayz36p>

Judges' comment: Lang's insightful interview and portraits of the two Hollywood giants reveals many fascinating aspects of their lives and acting. Excellent piece in a category of well-done celebrity features.

2nd - Ruben V. Nepales, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, "DiCaprio's fading star character inspires his talk on how fickle fame is"

3rd - Kyle Buchanan, *The New York Times*, "Renée Zellweger Will Be Back in a Moment"

F12B. Celebrity Feature, Music/Performing Arts related – Over 1,000 Words

Mark Bergen and Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg News*, "How a 6-Year-Old Russian Girl Became YouTube's Most Popular Child Star"

<https://bloom.bg/3emgQVD>

Judges' comment: Bergen and Shaw paint a fascinating picture with humor about the improbable rise to fame and money of a child who makes funny videos with her parents and others. A delight to read about "Nastya" and her Radzinskaya family!

2nd - Ramin Setoodeh, *Variety*, "How Jennifer Lopez Learned to Dance Again"

3rd - Lisa Fung, *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Sting's 'Last Ship' musical floats on the anxieties of a worried society"

F13. Celebrity Feature – Under 1,000 Words

Gill Pringle, *The i paper*, UK, "Daniel Craig and Jamie Lee Curtis on Knives Out: 'Becoming famous is disturbing, a shock to the system'"

<http://rb.gy/3hhy3v>

Judges' comment: Despite being an interview with an ensemble, the piece managed to be intimate. It felt as though these actors were revealing previously unknown details about themselves. The atmosphere was lighthearted, but the subjects offered up a few serious comments, and the writer knows how to balance that.

2nd - Naman Ramachandran, *Variety*, "Actor Deepika Padukone on Making Her Producing Debut in Acid Attack Movie 'Splash'"

3rd - David Jerome, *Orange County Register*, "Moon Landing 50th Anniversary - Where Were You?"

F14. Columnist

Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*, "' What to do during your coronavirus home quarantine? How about: Nothing,' 'President Trump vs. Oedipus Rex,' 'Waiting for Sauvignon Blanc'"

<https://lat.ms/36bSKcn> ; <https://lat.ms/2JLiVzh> ; <https://lat.ms/3mZyG3N>

Judges' comment: The world itself is Theater, our everyday experiences are the stuff of drama or at least when viewed through the eye of McNulty's erudite columns. The writing is rich, nuanced and extremely satisfying.

2nd - Mary McNamara, *Los Angeles Times*, "' What's wrong with the New York Times?' 'Trump is as craven as the mayor in 'Jaws',' 'The coronavirus has already flattened one thing — the line between work and family'"

3rd - Caroline Framke, *Variety*, "'Tiger King,' 'Michaela Coel's 'I May Destroy You' Gives Drugging Victims Some Long Overdue Compassion,' 'Succession'"

F15. Commentary Analysis/Trend – Film

Justin Chang, *Los Angeles Times*, "'Parasite' was one of the best-acted movies of 2019. Why didn't the Oscars recognize that?"

<https://lat.ms/36glml3>

Judges' comment: Mr. Chang's writing is first rate, his analytical eye as perceptive and truthful as the cinematic achievements he scrutinizes. His work serves simultaneously as undeniable social commentary. One gets the impression that he has an world encyclopedic mind constantly screening cinema-insights.

2nd - Angie Han, *Mashable*, "How two films are changing the conversation around abortion"

3rd - Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*, "Why Did 'The Call of the Wild' Cost \$125 Million? It's a Mid-Budget Film That Caught Budget-itis"

F16. Commentary Analysis/Trend – TV

David Thomson, *Alta Journal*, "The Never-Ending Content Stream"

<https://bit.ly/3nbqRlu>

Judges' comment: Thomson brings his vast knowledge of film and TV to this outstanding and perceptive piece about the perils and promises of the huge number of shows available for streaming on TV. A thoroughly absorbing article earning it a First Place award.

2nd - Jen Yamato, *Los Angeles Times*, "For Japanese Americans, 'The Terror' is personal"

3rd - Esther Kustanowitz, *The Jewish Weekly of Northern California*, "'Our Boys' will make you uncomfortable, which is exactly why you should watch it"

F17. Commentary Analysis/Trend – Other Arts

Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*, "As Center Theater Group sputters, L.A. struggles to realize its artistic potential"

<https://lat.ms/2VascUQ>

Judges' comment: McNulty's rumination about the reliance on mainstream plays, particularly from New York, and the lack of original works in the Los Angeles theater scene are engrossing and compelling. Written before the pandemic hit, his criticism still stands as we await what will happen to stage plays and theaters in post-pandemic L.A.

2nd - Evelyn McDonnell, *Billboard Magazine*, "It's Time for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to Address its Racial and Gender Imbalances"

3rd - Heather John Fogarty, *Los Angeles Times*, "United We Read"

F18. Commentary Diversity/Gender

Kim Masters, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Has #MeToo Gone Too Far? No, It Hasn't Gone Far Enough"

<https://bit.ly/3bM4Omc>

Judges' comment: Critically examining the state of the entertainment industry, Masters casts doubt that the culture of misogyny and sexual harassment has been accountable enough. A sobering assessment in this important article.

2nd - Evelyn McDonnell, *Billboard Magazine*, "It's Time for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to Address its Racial and Gender Imbalances"

3rd - Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg News*, "The Music Industry Wants to Fight Racism. Will It Look Inward?"

F19. Headline

Steven Gaydos, *Variety*, "In One Era and Out the Other/Score and song choices for films set in bygone days don't always put a period on it"

<https://bit.ly/30gPvxN>

Judges' comment: In a clever twist of one word, Gaydos was able describe how a film composer can make music work while not adhering to the time period of a film.

2nd - Thomas Floyd, *Washington Post Express*, "A dungeon of dragging"

3rd - Ryan Gajewski, *Playboy*, "Daveed Diggs Isn't Throwing Away His Shots"

F20. Entertainment Publication – magazine or supplement.

Rob Levine, *Billboard*, "Africa Now"

<https://bit.ly/3ni3E7i>

Judges' comment: The Billboard team lifted the veil on a region of the world much misunderstood, teaching us that there's much more to Africa and its arts and music scene than we've been led to believe.

2nd - *Variety*, "The Great Depression"

3rd - *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Black Lives Matter"

G. TV/ VIDEO/FILM

G1. Anchor/Host

Bianca Rae and Melvin Robert, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Hollywood Dream: Chasing Oscar"

<https://vimeo.com/475677441>

Judges' comment: Rae and Robert bring enthusiasm and illumination as hosts of programs, including an excellent narrative about various individuals in film crafts pursuing their Hollywood and Oscar dreams.

2nd - Jenn Harris, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Bucket List"

3rd - Amrit Singh, *Spectrum News 1*, "Music Diaries"

G2. News (N/A)

G3. Personality Profile

Seth Katz, Giselle Fernandez, Tony Carrasco, Michelle Benoit and Stacy Strazis, *Spectrum News 1*, "Freedom Riders"

<https://bit.ly/36U0Nec>

Judges' comment: Through historical footage of the 1960s' "Freedom Riders" and interview with Robert and Helen Singleton, who traveled from UCLA to join the riders in the South for racial justice, Fernandez and her team have made a terrific, poignant profile of the compelling couple.

2nd - L.A. Stories with Giselle Fernandez team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Vijay Gupta"

3rd - Cher Calvin and Kimberly Cornell, *KTLA 5 News*, "Breaking Bias through History"

G4. Hard News Feature — Under 5 Minutes

Itay Hod, *Spectrum News 1*, "Surviving #MeToo"

<https://bit.ly/3oZOw02>

Judges' comment: Hod's poignant report about a woman who alleged sexual abuse by a celebrity, and then faced further social media bullying, threats, break-ins, and a job loss, casts an empathetic light on the plight of a victim.

2nd - Tiffany Taylor, Mike Palmesino, Jason Bass, Lee Schneller and Lauren Alvarez, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Beyonce, Alicia Keys and More Honor Kobe and Gigi Bryant During Emotional Memorial"

3rd - George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *ABC7*, "Kobe Bryant: Dream Big"

G5. Hard News Feature — Over 5 Minutes

Eric Weinrib, Kelly Kendrick, Jared Perez, Lyle Kendrick, Alzo Slade et. al., *Investigations by VICE on Hulu*, "Russia's War on Hip Hop"

<https://bit.ly/32gzHN5>

Judges' comment: The dreamy slow mo' open and music, the intimate photography, flash editing, and driving pace of the story were awesome. The authors had a great,

informative delivery about the view of Putin and Russia towards the performers Husky and Face and more broadly all of hip hop and rap.

2nd - Kristin Fraser, Dexter Thomas, Sarah Svoboda, Jeff Mercado, Mark Apicella et. al., *VICE News Tonight*, "George Floyd's Impact on Houston's Hip-Hop Scene Is Still Being Felt"

3rd - Inside the Issues with Alex Cohen Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Scott Z. Burns"

G6. Soft News Feature, TV/Film/Music – Under 5 Minutes

George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *ABC7*, "Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr."

<https://youtu.be/yR1v5oLU4mE>

Judges' comment: Pennacchio and Diano's story about the 50-year music span of the original Fifth Dimension singers is an inspiring piece that covers the struggles for equal justice for blacks and their ongoing careers, demonstrating how to cover a subject well in a brief amount of time.

2nd - The SoCal Scene Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Green Book | Great Migration"

3rd - George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *ABC7*, "Kobe Bryant: Dream Big"

G7. Soft News Feature, Arts/Culture – Under 5 Minutes

Itay Hod, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Street Artists Turn Boarded Up Windows Into George Floyd Tributes"

<https://bit.ly/2TZIT4S>

Judges' comment: Itay Hod's piece on the Mural Queen is excellent. With scene setting editing and clever personality development, Hod made the Mural Queen empathetic quickly.

2nd - Tom Walters and Liam Hyland, *CTV - Canadian Television*, "Mockingbird"

3rd - Jon San and Marcus Errico, *Yahoo Entertainment*, "How a retired New York City garbage man collected 45,000 'treasures in the trash'"

G8. Soft News Feature – Over 5 Minutes

Maral Usefi, Dexter Thomas, Michael Shade, Anthony Mariotto et. al., *VICE News Tonight*, "The Secret to the Gruesome Sounds in Mortal Kombat Is Exploding Vegetables"

<https://bit.ly/3p0nWUR>

Judges' comment: Very visceral and conversational, the reporter gets the audience involved, funny with intensity.

2nd - Karen Lopez and Andy Schlachtenhaufen, *Spectrum News 1*, "Kobe Bryant Mural"

3rd - Brady Welch, Elle Reeve and Dan Cain, *VICE News*, “Celebrities Will Say Almost Anything on Cameo for the Right Price”

G9. Documentary or Special Program, Short

Seth Katz, Giselle Fernandez, Tony Carrasco, Michelle Benoit and Stacy Strazis, *Spectrum News 1*, “Chaz Guest”
<https://bit.ly/3ZpqfQ>

Judges’ comment: Outstanding portrait of L.A. black painter/social activist Chaz Guest. Interviewer Giselle Fernandez movingly draws out Guest’s emotional distress over the loss of two nephews to gun violence as she explores his history and rise to prominence in the world of art.

2nd - Nani Sahra Walker and Claire Hannah Collins, *Los Angeles Times*, “Game changers: Women in sports”

3rd - Joe Skrebels and Dale Driver, *IGN*, “The Lie That Helped Build Nintendo”

G10. Documentary or Special Program, Feature

Tom Donahue, *STARZ*, “This Changes Everything”
<https://bit.ly/2ShreEs>

Judges’ comment: This terrific documentary produced by actress Geena Davis and directed by Tom Donohue shows through interviews, documents and news clippings how women have been discriminated in Hollywood film and TV productions historically. Davis and her gender media institute proved through data how the Hollywood industry turned a blind eye toward discrimination, pointing the way to changes happening today.

2nd - Brad Pomerance, CJ Eastman and Glenn Grant, *KVCR Television*, “Uncovered in the Archives — Episode 11: Henry Jekel Homes”

3rd - Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, “Vision 2030: Future of SoCal”

H. RADIO/PODCASTS

H1. Anchor/Host

Marc Malkin, *Variety*, “The Big Ticket with Marc Malkin”
<https://ihr.fm/3lcuLAp>

Judges’ comment: Malkin’s easy-going rapport with the celebrities he interviews results in incisive podcasts. He is effective in combining self-deprecating humor and empathy as he illuminates the work and life of those celebrities.

2nd - Fabiola Kramsky, *La Vida Today*, “La Vida Today”

3rd - Gordon Cox, *Variety*, “Variety Stagecraft Hosted by Gordon Cox”

H2. News or Hard News Feature

Sharon Waxman, Daniel Goldblatt and Trey Williams, *TheWrap*, “The Wrap-Up: The Complexities Black Journalists Face This Week Covering Protests”

<https://bit.ly/36XtsR5>

Judges’ comment: This is a smart and accessible conversation. The audience gets tough and uncomfortable questions and answers about being a black journalist covering protests about racial injustice.

2nd - Ari Saperstein, *KPCC*, “The Frame: A Show That Demands 'Close' Listening”

3rd - SoCal in 17 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, “Ava DuVernay”

H3. One-on-One Interview, Film Personalities

Robert Scheer, *KCRW*, “Interview with Janet Yang: The Power and Pain of Being Asian American During the Coronavirus Crisis”

<https://kcrw.co/37Ld6Kj>

Judges’ comment: This is a beautiful “act of journalism” where the host sets up the conversation and gets out of the way when interviewing such a relevant and impactful interviewee like Janet Yang.

2nd - Jessi Hempel, *Hello Monday*, *LinkedIn News*, “Laura Linney on What Makes Good Criticism”

3rd - John Horn, *LAist Studios*, “Hollywood, The Sequel: “Big Checks and Band-aids Won’t Do It” with Ava DuVernay”

H4. One-on-One Interview, TV Personalities

John Horn, *LAist Studios*, “Hollywood, The Sequel: ‘The Personal is Political’ with Kerry Washington”

<https://apple.co/3em1OPA>

Judges’ comment: Host and interviewee make the listeners comfortable enough to truly absorb an uncomfortable subject. This is especially displayed in the casual, yet serious interactions.

2nd - Lesley Goldberg and Dan Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “‘TV’s Top 5’: A Conversation About Police and Hollywood with the ‘Law & Order: SVU’ Showrunner”

3rd - Michael Schneider, *Variety*, “Julia Louis-Dreyfus on Playing ‘Lovable Assholes,’ and Tony Hale on That ‘Veep’ Finale Gut Punch”

H5. One-on-One Interview, Other Arts Personalities

Madeleine Brand (host) and Angie Perrin (producer), *KCRW*, “Yahoo! It's a Celebration - Celebration Turns 40”
<https://tinyurl.com/y278tk3j>

Judges' comment: A well-produced and well-paced interview that keeps a tight focus on the subject and with a light touch.

2nd - Kenny Holmes, Robert Kraft, Matt Schrader and Carol Kuswanto, *Score: The Podcast*, “Rockstar Maestro: Danny Elfman's Journey from Oingo Boingo to Hollywood Hero”

3rd - Andrea Gutierrez, *The Frame*, *KPCC*, “Dorian Wood Remembers Chavela Vargas”

H6. Soft News Feature

Andrea Gutierrez, *The Frame*, *KPCC*, “Mayes Rubeo, Costume Designer for ‘Jojo Rabbit’”
<https://bit.ly/3noT6U5>

Judges' comment: Well-reported profile that illuminates an artist's approach to her craft.

2nd - Brandon Reynolds, Sonya Geis, Steve Chiotakis, Ray Guarna and Christian Bordial, *KCRW*, “Immersive Theater”

3rd - Ari Saperstein, *The Pulse (WHYY)*, “Inside the World of Foley Artists”

H7. Best Arts or Entertainment Podcast

John Horn, *LAist Studios*, “Hollywood, The Sequel”
<https://bit.ly/3emsW0Z>

Judges' comment: This is a creative and revealing podcast with just the right host!

2nd - Jen Yamato, Frank Shyong, Rina Palta, Abbie Fentress Swanson and Mike Heflin, *Los Angeles Times*, “Asian Enough”

3rd - Fabiola Kramsky and Maria Estevez, *La Vida Today*, “La Vida Today”

I. ONLINE

I1. Hard News

Ryan Parker, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Aurora Shooting Victims Voice Fears Over ‘Joker’ in Letter to Warner Bros”
<https://bit.ly/3erX9vp>

Judges' comment: Parker's piece about the debate on whether violence in films, such as the *Joker*, incites real-world violence is explored through the lens of the suffering families of those killed in the 2012 Colorado theater massacre. This outstanding article is both illuminating and heart-wrenching.

2nd - Brent Lang, Adam B. Vary and Gene Maddaus, *Variety*, "Show Stopper: Coronavirus Sends Hollywood into Unprecedented Crisis"

3rd - Phoebe Eaton, *Air Mail*, "The Making of a Predator: A three-part series"

I2a. Soft News, Film/TV

Terry Flores, *Variety*, "Brad Bird Shares His Classic Film Picks as Guest Curator on TCM's 'The Essentials'"

<https://wp.me/pc8uak-1lycwA>

Judges' comment: Flores nicely highlights Brad Bird's film knowledge and passion as he names 20 essential films for TCM viewers to watch. As "Guest Curator," Bird shows his enthusiasm for films in this well-done piece.

2nd - Matt Donnelly, *Variety*, "Pornhub to Release First Ever Non-Adult Film, About Black Lesbian Strip Club Culture (EXCLUSIVE)"

3rd - Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "How One Movie Theater Owner Is Selling Curbside Popcorn to Pay His Employees"

I2b. Soft News, Music/Other Arts

Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, "Singing Surgeon: Dr. Elvis cuts EP to Aid COVID-19 Fund"

<https://bit.ly/2VRLmyc>

Judges' comment: In a warm-hearted article about a singing doctor, Fekadu portrays "Dr. Elvis" - his real first name - and his sudden stardom with an album of songs. A terrific, feel-good piece of writing.

2nd - Josh Rottenberg, *Los Angeles Times*, "As celebs shelter at home, paparazzi hustle to find new angles"

3rd - Chris Willman, *Variety*, "The Mom Also Rises: Phoebe Bridgers' Mother, Jamie Bridgers, Finds Her Own Voice Doing Alternative Comedy"

I3. Celebrity News

Manori Ravindran, *Variety*, "U.K. Government Sidestepping Media Inquiry Around 'Love Island' Host Caroline Flack's Suicide"

<https://tinyurl.com/y5b976gz>

Judges' comment: Alarming story about a potential pattern of suicides associated with that TV production that deserved coverage.

2nd - Allie Jones, *VICE*, "Rag Time: What's Up with Drake Texting Teens?"

3rd - Kate Aurthur and Ramin Setoodeh, *Variety*, "Ronan Farrow Book Alleges Matt Lauer Raped NBC News Colleague"

I4a. Personality Profile, TV/Film Personalities

John Penner, *Los Angeles Times*, "Milos Forman, Ivan Passer and their 73-Year Friendship"

<http://bit.ly/FormanPasser>

Judges' comment: Colorfully, engagingly written profile full of important historical information.

2nd - Jase Peeples, *Healthline*, "Actor Mark Patton: Living with HIV Is About 'More Than Taking Medication'"

3rd - Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "Stefanie Powers on Cancer, Hart to Hart, Natalie Wood, and Being a Friend to the Royals (Well, Most of Them)"

I4b. Personality Profile, Other Arts Personalities

Chris Willman, *Variety*, "The Mom Also Rises: Phoebe Bridgers' Mother, Jamie Bridgers, Finds Her Own Voice Doing Alternative Comedy"

<https://bit.ly/2HtWFZU>

Judges' comment: Unique, insightful and didn't make the pandemic angle the focus.

2nd - Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "Patti LuPone on Leaving America, Drugs, Sex, Broadway's Return, and Her Basement"

3rd - Stephanie Mendez, *She Shreds Media*, "'Punk Has Always Been Black': Vishinna Turner Creates Through Trauma"

I5a. Film Feature

Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Could Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx's 'Just Mercy' Set a New Standard for Inclusion?"

<https://tinyurl.com/yy499fjf>

Judges' comment: This story richly explores every possible angle of 'Just Mercy,' from its real-life inspiration and gifted cast to its TIFF debut, groundbreaking inclusion rider and ability to entertain, enlighten and jolt watchers with questions about race, justice and Death Row.

2nd - Simi Horwitz, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: 'Marriage Story' and the Evolution of the Divorce Film"

3rd - Steve Pond, *TheWrap*, "How 'Parasite' Director Bong Joon Ho Created the Year's Most Dangerously Charming Film"

I5b. TV Feature

Alison Foreman, *Mashable*, “TV cops know their job is changing. Some are more ready than others”

<http://bit.ly/tv-cops>

Judges’ comment: Foreman’s thoughtful exploration of the impact on TV police shows of racial injustices in real life is a compelling, well-written, and well-researched article.

2nd - Patricia Puentes, *CNET*, “How TV and movies are seducing us to Mars”

3rd - Beatrice Verhoeven, *TheWrap*, “How Hollywood Actors Are Weathering the Pandemic: No Auditions, No Side Jobs, a Lot of Hustle”

I5c. Theater/Performing Arts Feature

Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, “Broadway’s Women of Color: Confronting Racism, Reshaping Theater”

<https://bit.ly/2Vb6ZJG>

Judges’ comment: For information, relevance, engagement and presentation, Tim Teeman’s online feature on Women of Color on Broadway had no equal. It was fact-filled and anecdotal - an immersive thesis on an urgent subject. It also had the draw of star power and was accompanied by strong images that speak for themselves, even as words and numbers told the story of underrepresentation and the powerhouse women who are fighting the good fight.

2nd - Simi Horwitz, *American Theater*, “Theatre’s Front Lines, for house managers and theatre services directors, the work is invisible but rewarding”

3rd - John Lavitt, *The Hollywood Times*, “Anne Frank Restored in Heartbreaking “Anne, A New Play” at the Simon Wiesenthal Center”

I6. Music/Arts/Entertainment Feature

Tatiana Cirisano, *Billboard*, “The Real TikTok Challenge? Turning Influencer Status into Hitmaker Clout”

<https://bit.ly/38NJo9A>

Judges’ comment: TikTok is such a driving force in pop culture today, but for many, still remains unfamiliar or seen as something for younger audiences only, not to be taken seriously. Talking with Charli D’Amelio and other TikTok stars, Cirisano shows just how powerful of a platform it is to raise everyday people into viral stars and media powerhouses seemingly overnight. Cirisano’s focus on how the music industry and marketers use TikTok and partner with influencers like D’Amelio drive home the point that this is very much a serious business.

2nd - Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, “In prison, music producer finds new voice for inmates and himself”

3rd - Carren Jao, *KCET*, “Riots, Love Fests, Buried Secrets: Griffith Park's Hidden Histories”

I7. Celebrity Feature

Jase Peeples, *Healthline*, “Actor Mark Patton Living with HIV is About ‘More Than Taking Medication’”

<https://bit.ly/3lnrdLq>

Judges’ comment: In a moving portrait of actor Mark Patton, who is gay and rose to fame in *Nightmare on Elm Street 2* only to be shunned during the AIDS epidemic and then disappearing from Hollywood for two decades, Peeples traces how Patton made a comeback through documentaries, survived a medication addiction, and became a passionate advocate for HIV care. A stirring article on survival during tough times.

2nd - Danielle Turchiano, *Variety*, “Pamela Adlon on Rooting ‘Better Things’ Season 4 in Reality But Leaving Room for ‘Magic’”

3rd - Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, “The Wild Life of Harry Hamlin: Sex Symbol, Rebel, Gay Icon, and Not-So-Quiet Housewives’ Husband”

I8. Commentary Analysis/Trend – Film

Richard Newby, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Protest Backlash and the Failings of a Superhero Culture”

<https://bit.ly/33xQJXF>

Judges’ comment: Enjoyable and thoughtful piece on over-simplification of justice narratives in superhero films. Drawing on BLM, this is both informative and a call to action.

2nd - Mary Murphy and Michele Willens, *TheWrap*, “‘Clemency,’ ‘Just Mercy’ Shed Light on Prisoners’ Plights”

3rd - Patricia Puentes, *CNET*, “Greta Gerwig’s Little Women gives us the ending the book deserved”

I9. Commentary Analysis/Trend – TV

Cate Young, *Ampersand*, “America Has a Policing Problem”

<https://bit.ly/3aQvGBn>

Judges’ comment: A thoughtful, detailed piece on the representation of policing. This comparative essay explores an issue that is front and center of the national narrative, leaving the reader with much to ponder.

2nd - Matt Brennan, *Los Angeles Times*, “Michael Jordan docuseries ‘The Last Dance’ is more than a TV show. It’s a cultural event”

3rd - Dan Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Critic's Notebook: The End of 'Baskets' and the Struggle of Loving Niche TV”

I10. Commentary Analysis/Trend – Other Arts

Elizabeth Wagmeister, *Variety*, “What I Learned Covering The Harvey Weinstein Trial”
<https://bit.ly/31D5bws>

Judges’ comment: A nice insight into the reporter’s experiences covering the Weinstein trial that relates how the job can lead to personal growth beyond simply reporting facts. This was a strong, diverse category overall.

2nd - Mary Murphy and Michele Willens, *TheWrap*, “Will the Troubadour, Site of So Many Classic Music Moments, Survive the Pandemic?”

3rd - Chris Willman, *Variety*, “Taylor Swift’s ‘Miss Americana’ May Be the Great Protest Song of Our Time (Column)”

I11. Commentary Diversity/Gender

Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, “Let’s Call ‘Religious Freedom’ by Its Real Name: Poisonous, Anti-LGBTQ Bigotry”
<https://bit.ly/2Jfgsx4>

Judges’ comment: Teeman’s impassioned commentary about prejudice disguised as “religious freedom” is tough, convincing, and worthy of this First Place Award. The piece is a stark warning about the imminent dangers of religious intolerance of LGBTQ people.

2nd - Trey Williams, *TheWrap*, “Why #BlackLivesMatter Matters: Because of How Little Has Changed for People Like Me”

3rd - Swetha Kannan, Andrea Roberson, Sean Greene and Tracy Brown, *Los Angeles Times*, “There are more women than ever in ‘Star Wars.’ Men still do most of the talking”

I12. Entertainment Website

Variety, *Variety.com*
www.variety.com

Judges’ comment: *Variety* stands out among its contemporaries for its commitment to in-depth coverage of the arts and entertainment industry on a global scale. They’ve got what it takes to inform an industry insider and attract and inform the casual reader.

2nd - Tom Seeley, *THR.com*

3rd - Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap.com*

I13. Entertainment Blog by an Individual Not Tied to an Organization

Joanie Harmon, *Making Life Swing*, “Gene Cipriano: Hired ‘Gunn’ Looks Back at Some Very Good Years”

<https://bit.ly/3mW4QgH>

Judges’ comment: Harmon’s interviews with a little-known, octogenarian jazz musician who has played on many famous film and TV soundtrack themes for decades are a delightful surprise, making her blog a fascinating read.

2nd - Devra Maza, *DevraMaza.com*, “Angels in Lockdown”

3rd - Brad A. Johnson, *Brad A. Johnson, Food & Travel*, “Hotel Review: Lo Sereno, Troncones Mexico”

I14. Entertainment Blog by an Individual or Group, Tied to an Organization

Aaron Couch and Borys Kit, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Heat Vision”

<http://bit.ly/2uMXgvS>

Judges’ comment: The “Heat Vision” team have combined well-written pieces with photos and videos into a compelling blog on *The Hollywood Reporter* Web site. In a highly competitive category, they stand out.

2nd - Sharon Waxman, Thom Geier and Daniel Goldblatt, *TheWrap*, “The Decade When Hollywood Cracked Open – In Praise of the 2010s,” “WaxWord”

3rd - Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “The Race”

J. SOCIAL MEDIA

J1. Best Journalistic Use of Social Media to Tell or Enhance a Story, by an Individual Not Tied to an Organization (N/A)

J2. Best Journalistic use of Social Media to Tell or Enhance a Story, by an Individual or Group Tied to an Organization

Meg Zukin, *Variety*, “Power of Young Hollywood 2019”

<https://bit.ly/37o3aYz>

Judges’ comment: A great mix of voices through video, stunning photos and links to the heart of the content on the website. Each post is compelling to watch or want to read more. Well packaged.

2nd - Mary Kate Metivier, Justin Ray and Christina Schoellkopf, *Los Angeles Times*, “Harvey Weinstein's conviction and what it means for the #MeToo movement”
3rd - Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, “AP music articles told through Instagram Stories”

K. STUDENT JOURNALISM — Any Platform

K1. Best Arts or Entertainment News Story

Julia Terbeche and Celeste Huecias, *Daily Forty-Niner*, “An Evening With’ SoulPancake co-founders Rainn Wilson and Shabnum Mogharabi”
<https://bit.ly/3mUHc4I>

Judges’ comment: Great interview that tells an insightful story.

K2. Best Arts or Entertainment Feature

Stephanie Bell, *StephB Productions*, “Defending Our Crowns”
<https://bit.ly/36y9B9p>

Judges’ comment: Excellent piece on a topic that is ever timely and important.

2nd - Riley Runnells, *The Post Athens*, “Athens does the 'Time Warp' again”
3rd - Kate Bustamante, *El Don*, “DTSA Open Mic Gives Voice to Local Creatives”

K3. Best Arts or Entertainment Profile

Riley Runnells, *The Post Athens*, “Sustainably Creative”
<https://bit.ly/36YHkJC>

Judges’ comment: Inspiring and innovative subject matter and great presentation.

2nd - Anika Ljung, *Dig Magazine*, “All it Takes is Courage”
3rd - Paris Barraza, *Daily Forty-Niner*, “A Future Superhero and Friends founder Yuri Williams swings through all 50 states”

K4. Best Arts or Entertainment Photo

Ashley Ramynke, *El Don*, “The Coolab Project”
<https://bit.ly/3maP8NM>

Judges’ comment: Excellent use of light and environment.

2nd - Beatrice Alcala, *Collegian Times*, “Private Dancers”
3rd - Alexandra Apatiga, *Dig Magazine*, “Huntington Beach Drum Circle in Photos”

K5. Best Commentary/Critique

Carrie Graham, *El Don*, "Tourists and tears: Disneyland's last day open before closing for coronavirus"

<https://bit.ly/3oAe3Mm>

Judges' comment: Great feature that hits at the heart of our shared experience.

2nd - Carter Fife, *Stereovision*, "Jay Electronica: Man or Myth? "A Written Testimony" Album Review"

3rd - Steven Vargas, *USC Annenberg Media*, "'The Winter's Tale' presents more problem than solutions"