

# 18TH NATIONAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISM AWARDS WINNERS

## A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

### A1. Print Journalist of the Year

**Chris Willman**, *Variety*

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

<http://bit.ly/4IROvYc>

<http://bit.ly/4mRp7mT>

Judges' comment: Willman's powerful, fascinating coverage of the entertainment industry and its personalities for the print version of *Variety* is always top-notch, easily earning him the Print Journalist of the Year Award.

2nd: Katie Kilkeny, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd: Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*

### A2. Online Journalist of the Year — Tied to an Organization

**Tim Teeman**, *The Daily Beast*

<http://bit.ly/4nc0hhu>

<http://bit.ly/4mFVUeD>

<http://bit.ly/4ITlxY>

Judges' comment: Writing for *The Daily Beast* online, Teeman provides excellent exposition and criticism of entertainment and politics ranging from Broadway shows to celebrities.

2nd: Bonnie Stiernberg, *IndieHook*

3rd: Drew Taylor, *TheWrap*

### A3. Online Journalist of the Year — Independent

**Leena Taylor**, *Freelance*

<https://bit.ly/3XmuZK4>

<https://bit.ly/4n4oLsR>

<http://bit.ly/3JyvQU6>

Judges' comment: Taylor's deep dive into the lives and impact of various musical artists, from Blink-182 to Taylor Swift, makes for compelling online reading in publications from *The Hollywood Reporter* to *Spin*.

2nd: Holly Gleason

3rd: Mesfin Fekadu

#### **A4. Broadcast Journalist of the Year**

**Gizelle Fernandez**, *Spectrum News 1*

<http://bit.ly/4mP6RKR>

Judges' comment: Fernandez's pleasing demeanor puts those she interviews at ease and consequently elicits insightful comments for her stories of L.A. personalities, earning her deserved praise and this Broadcast Journalist of the Year Award.

2nd: Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*

3rd: Rollo Ross, *Reuters TV*

#### **A5. Photojournalist of the Year**

**Andy Schlachtenhaufen**, *Spectrum News 1*

<http://bit.ly/4p0hc8i>

<http://bit.ly/4fWCeR2>

<http://bit.ly/3JWmcdT>

Judges' comment: Schlachtenhaufen's work terrifically illustrates a variety of stories, whether illustrating a 15-Year-Old Accordion Champion, a 93-Year-Old Disney Imagineer, or tragedies in the aftermath of the Palisades and Eaton fires.

2nd: Paul Sanchez, *KTLA*

3rd: Osceola Refetoff, *PBS SoCal*

### **B. CRITIC — Any Media Platform (Print, Broadcast or Online)**

#### **B1. Film Critic (Over 1,000 Words)**

**Nick Schager**, *The Daily Beast*

<https://bit.ly/4nnlmGe>

<https://bit.ly/46jifsO>

<https://bit.ly/46R2SaY>

Judges' comment: With his review of "The Brutalist," Schager deftly touches upon the enormity of Brady Corbet's massive tale of art, vision, nationalism, betrayal. He writes "Corbet captures the scope and scale of Laszlo's hunger, audacity and anguish in big, bold strokes and with gentle, affecting flourishes..."

2nd: Amy Nicholson, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Divya Subbiah, *Ampersand at AnnenbergMedia*

#### **B2. Film Critic (Under 1,000 words)**

**William Bibbiani**, *TheWrap*

<https://www.thewrap.com/didi-movie-review-sean-wang-focus-features/>

<https://www.thewrap.com/materialists-review-dakota-johnson-pedro-pascal-chris-evans-a24/>

<https://www.thewrap.com/homestead-review-angel-studios-movie-post->

[apocalyptic-charity/](#)

Judges' comment: Funny, insightful and approachable, with an appreciable honesty about the craft of film critique.

2nd: Siddhant Adlakha, *Variety*

3rd: Katie Walsh, *Los Angeles Times*

### **B3. TV Critic**

**Angie Han**, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://tinyurl.com/4f73xrup>

<https://tinyurl.com/ythw65zy>

<https://tinyurl.com/47p7txs2>

Judges' comment: A TV critic must convey knowledge and opinion without dragging readers through convoluted explication. This deft critic manages the feat with smooth prose, sharp insights, commanding authority, and a sense of humor.

2nd: Aramide Tinubu, *Variety*

3rd: Alan Sepinwall, *Rolling Stone*

### **B4. Theater/Performing Arts Critic**

**Daniel D'Addario**, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/47jrU3s>

<https://bit.ly/4oV6eAO>

<https://bit.ly/4lVJI8l>

Judges' comment: Daniel D'Addario's writing is sharp, informed, descriptive and engaging. He helps you to see and feel what he experienced in the theater through his well-chosen words

2nd: Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*

3rd: David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

### **B5. Music Critic**

**A.D. Amorosi**, *FLOOD Magazine*

<https://bit.ly/46Dv4wY>

Judges' comment: Amorosi brilliantly examines the political protest songs of various musicians to illuminate the difficult times in America today.

2nd: Jem Aswad, *Variety*

3rd: Timothy Mangan, *Culture OC*

### **B6. Art/Design/Literature Critic**

**Christopher Knight**, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/4cw8kffc>

<https://tinyurl.com/3jvphh4d>

<https://tinyurl.com/3ajcez2m>

Judges' comment: Insightful and relevant.

2nd: Ben Davis, *Artnet News*

3rd: Andy Coughlan, *The Beaumont Enterprise*

## **B7. Books/Literature Critic—see B6**

### **B8. Food/Culture Critic**

**Bill Addison**, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/4hp3ufj7>

<https://tinyurl.com/yjfchxzd>

<https://tinyurl.com/279a2pn9>

Judges' comment: The best food writing tells us something about the times we're living in. And this one soars.

2nd: Ashlie Stevens, *Salon*

3rd: Ana Figueroa, *Beverly Hills Courier*

## **C. ANY MEDIA PLATFORM (Print, Broadcast or Online)**

### **C1. Celebrity Investigative Reporting (includes H4)**

**Alexandra Paul**, *The Ankler*, "Stalked: A 'Baywatch' Star's 13-Year Nightmare"

<http://bit.ly/4gLQ6OF>

Judges' comment: Stalking is the darkest consequence of stardom. This brilliant, thorough piece alternates between a gripping first-person narrative and the essentials of a first-rate investigative piece, experts, and dialogue.

2nd: Kory Grow, Jon Blistein and Tomás Mier, *Rolling Stone*, "'Brilliant, Lost, Damaged': Inside the Tragedy of Liam Payne"

3rd: ABC News Studios, ABC News, "ABC News Studios IMPACT x Nightline: Stealing Graceland"

### **C2. Multimedia Package**

**Aliza Aufrichtig, Stephanie Goodman, Alicia DeSantis, Leah Greenblatt, Josh Katz**, *The New York Times*, "100 BEST MOVIES OF THE 21st CENTURY"

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/movies/best-movies-21st-century.html>

Judges' comment: This tightly-packaged multimedia presentation has substance and it's highly interactive and layered. A reader will keep this open on their browser and return because it's useful, informative and a conversation-starter.

2nd: Tiana McGee, Daisy Chung, Dea Bankova, Travis Hartman and Julia Wolfe, *Reuters*, "Cozy Games"

3rd: Mary Pelloni and Chris O'Falt, *IndieWire*, "Career Blueprint: It All Led to 'Dune'"

### **C3. Humor Writing**

**Phil Hopkins**, *Local News Pasadena*, "Honey, There's a Russian Propagandist from Las Vegas at the Door"

<https://localnewspasadena.com/2025/honey-theres-a-russian-propagandist-from-las-vegas-at-the-door/>

Judges' comment: A flat-out funny but respectful look at a Russian propagandist's news coverage of the disastrous Eaton Fire.

2nd: Mia Galuppo, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Are You Ready for a Netflix Theme Park? We Are!"

3rd: Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "On Election Night, 'Kornacki Cam' Drives Steve Kornacki Fans Wild"

### **C4. Headline**

**Blake Hennon**, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Man Behind the Man-Child"

PDF

Judges' comment: A very strong and succinct grabbing headline that pulls you into the story. The first graph draws you in even further with the title and the reference to Paul not "playing" him (Pee Wee).

2nd: Sandro Monetti, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "The Shawshank Vacation"

3rd: Debra Birnbaum, *Gold Derby*, "The drama over 38 Down: The New York Times crossword declares 'The Bear' a 'TV drama'"

## **D. BOOK**

### **D1. Non-Fiction Book**

**Alessandra Mattanza**, *Schiffer Publishing*, "Digital Art: 20 Pioneers Redefining Its Boundaries"

<https://schifferbooks.com/products/digital-art?srsId=AfmBOorwofEnITDUI2kj1kcwL6OX3usE3N85QVPvj7LnpAsHdhbIHbQ3>

Judges' comment: Mattanza takes a deep dive in the relatively new world of digital art, where originality weds technology—proving how technology is a way to expand ideas. Mind opening.

2nd: Alessandra Mattanza, *PRESTEL/Random House*, "The World of Banksy"

## **E. PHOTOGRAPHY/ART (Print or Online)**

### **E1. News Photo**

**Louise Barnsley**, *People.com*, "Dick Van Dyke performs at age 99 wearing a Mary Poppins t-shirt."

<http://bit.ly/4lQ9CKw>

Judges' comment: An energetic portrait with great, immediate impact.

2nd: Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge and Greg Williams, *Variety*, "Emmanuel Macron Splash"

3rd: Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge and Mark Peterson, *Variety*, "Greg Gutfeld Cover"

### **E2. Portrait Photo, Film**

**Ada Guerín, Malina Saval, Irvin Rivera**, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Colman Domingo Explains Why A24 Tearjerker 'Sing Sing' Is So Personal"

<https://tinyurl.com/2px85364>

Judges' comment: Excellent use of contrasting color with beautiful framing that centers a striking, direct portrait.

2nd: Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge and Mason Poole, *Variety*, "Paul Mescal"

3rd: Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge and Greg Swales, *Variety*, "Demi Moore"

### **E3. Portrait Photo, TV**

**Robert Ascroft**, *Emmy Magazine*, "Elizabeth Debicki at the 76th Emmy Awards" PDF

Judges' comment: Incredible use of space and light to create shadow, shape and contrast, creating eye-catching interest to a soft, simple portrait.

2nd: Ash Barhamand, Alison Edmond and Simon Emmett, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Adolescence"

3rd: Christina Gandolfo, *Emmy Magazine*, "Me and My Emmy: Gabriel Villarreal (Delta Work)"

### **E4. Portrait Photo, Music/Theater/Arts**

**Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge, Jennifer Halper, Emilio Madrid**, *Variety*, "Darren Criss and Cole Escola"

PDF

Judges' comment: There's a lot to like about this photo, a complex symmetry, the angle of repose, and interesting storytelling for a portrait photo.

2nd: Brad A. Johnson, *OLTRE*, "Herve with chickens at Rancho Lola"

3rd: Ash Barhamand, Alison Edmond, Peter B. Cury and AB+DM, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "50 Cent"

## E5. Feature Photo

**Osceola Refetoff**, *PBS SoCal*, "No Pasar – Piedras Rojas, Salar del Carmen, Atacama Desert, Chile – 2024"

<http://bit.ly/4mtwnVd>

Judges' comment: There's a lot hidden in this deceptively simple landscape photo, and helps tell a larger complex story.

2nd: Michael Blackshire, *Los Angeles Times*, "Erykah Badu, Playboi Carti, MF Doom tribute, Sexyy Red and more bring the heat to Camp Flog Gnaw on Day 2"

3rd: Ash Barhamand, Alison Edmond, Naomi Pedroza, Peter B. Cury and Paola Kudacki, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Harris Dickinson"

## E6. Action Photo

**Alyson Camus**, *US Rocker*, "St. Vincent Rocks the Greek in LA on 'Born Screaming' Tour - Photos + Review"

<https://tinyurl.com/48ccvaxw>

Judges' comment: A solid collection of tight, emotive shots during a show. Great job.

2nd: Sylvia Borgo, *US Rocker*, "Green Day Fires Up Petco Park with Epic Anniversary Show - Photos + Review"

3rd: Donna Balancia, *US Rocker*, "Aloe Blacc Launches 'Stand Together' Tour Including U.S. and European Dates"

## E7. Photo Essay

**Ash Barhamand, Ava Selbach, Naomi Pedroza, Peter B. Cury, Chelsea Archer**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Postcard From the Edge: L.A. in the Line of Fire" PDF

Judges' comment: In a year of beautiful work, these images from the fires are striking for their technical accomplishments, beauty and pathos.

2nd: Chris Knight, *Emmy Magazine*, "Work/Life Talents"

3rd: Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge and Peggy Sirota, *Variety*, "Actors on Actors (Emmys)"

## E8. Illustration

**Toby Fox**, *Rolling Stone*, "The Cure"

PDF

Judges' comment: This portrait is technically beautiful as well as emotionally impactful a truly stunning piece of art.

2nd: Haley Kluge, Jennifer Dorn and Ryan Garcia, *Variety*, "NBCUniversal Pie"

3rd: Nabila Adani, *Zócalo Public Square*, "In Syria, the Caged Bird Raps"

## **E9. Graphic**

**Robert Gottenbos**, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "AI Versus Actors"

PDF

Judges' comment: The bold lines and limited color palette create a striking image.

2nd: Tiana McGee, *Reuters*, "Disney live action"

3rd: Ben Kellerman, Ally J. Levine, Tiana McGee and Travis Hartman, *Reuters*, "Met Gala looks"

## **E10. Animation/Moving Graphic**

**Tiana McGee, Daisy Chung, Dea Bankova, Travis Hartman, Julia Wolfe**, *Reuters*, "Cozy Games"

<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/VIDEO-GAMES/MENTAL-HEALTH/akpeewkqgpr/>

Judges' comment: This entry is the clear winner in this category. It was very meta playing a game to better understand cozy games. The animation, sound effects and UI are appropriately kitschy and match the mood of the content. The animation achieves its goal of being engaging and informative.

2nd: THR Art Dept, Ada Guerin and Luke Lucas, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "White Hot Lotus"

3rd: Mimi Balancia, *Mimi's Method Design News Website*, "94.7 - The Grave"

## **E11. Page Layout**

**THR Art Dept, Ada Guerin, Nicholas Brawley, Neil Davies**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Succession"

<https://bit.ly/46KgKTs>

Judges' comment: What a clever and innovative way to use Hollywood touchstones of "Succession," "The Godfather" and "Game of Thrones" to illustrate a story about the power brokers of Hollywood. Beautifully done!

2nd: Haley Kluge, Jennifer Dorn and Ted Keller, *Variety*, "Wicked"

3rd: Toby Fox, *Rolling Stone*, "Chappell Roan: Pain & Pleasure of a Supernova"

## **E12. Cover Art**

**Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge, Richard Maltz, Joe Toreno**, *Variety*, "Taylor Swift Fandom"

PDF

Judges' comment: A fun and playful way to illustrate Taylor Swift's impact on pop culture and society. Very creative.



2nd: Ash Barhamand, Peter B. Cury and Kevin Cooley, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "What We Saw. What We Lost. What We Saved. What's Next."

3rd: Toby Fox, *Rolling Stone*, "Chappell Roan Cover"

## F. PRINT/ONLINE

### F1. Obituary/In Appreciation, Film Personalities

**Owen Gleiberman**, *Variety*, "Remembering Val Kilmer, a Powerful Actor Who Remained a Reluctant Movie Star"

<https://tinyurl.com/326hasvc>

Judges' comment: This is a beautifully crafted reminder of the power Kilmer had over audiences and how his talent was evident from his long-ago work, his uncanny ability to inhabit the role of Jim Morrison and, of course, his indelible work as Iceman. Well done.

2nd: Holly Gleason, *hollygleason.com*, "MOMENT OF FOREVER: Kris Kristofferson's Love for ALL Defined His Life"

3rd: Christian Blauvelt, *IndieWire*, "David Lynch Dead at 78: The World's Most Influential Filmmaker Redefined Cinema — and Became an Adjective"

### F2. Obituary/In Appreciation, TV Personalities

**Kate Aurthur**, *Variety*, "Remembering Shannen Doherty: A Gen X Icon Who Fought Like Hell to Live"

<https://bit.ly/4bgX8rR>

Judges' comment: This is a touching, comprehensive and from the heart remembrance about an actress who will always be a part of a key TV and movie demographic. Kate reminds us why memories of our teens and young adulthoods include those who regularly inhabited our TV screens, gossip and imaginations.

2nd: Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Appreciation: Bob Newhart Was an Everyman With a Comic Voice Like No Other"

3rd: Alan Sepinwall, *Rolling Stone*, "'Twin Peaks' Was the Most Bizarre Show on TV — and David Lynch's Biggest Success"

### F3. Obituary/In Appreciation, Music Personalities

**Rob Sheffield**, *Rolling Stone*, "So Long, Marianne Faithfull: The Woman Who Refused to Go Quietly"

<http://bit.ly/4nlmxQd>

Judges' comment: Burnishing Marianne Faithfull into the annals of history, thanks to Sheffield for doing it so artfully, with such energy, her flame burns brightly. Sheffield also captures the pathos of getting older in the original culture in a way that is seldom seen.

2nd: A.D. Amorosi, *FLOOD Magazine*, "The Warmth of the Sun, The Burden of Genius: Remembering Brian Wilson"

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Brian Wilson, In Appreciation: His 20 Greatest Songs"

#### **F4. Obituary/In Appreciation, Theater and Other Arts Personalities**

**Charles McNulty**, *Los Angeles Times*, "Appreciation: Playwright Athol Fugard proved the pen could be mightier than the sword"

<https://tinyurl.com/bddc8et9>

Judges' comment: Bright, poignant and awe-inspiring life expertly rendered, gently drawing parallels to today's struggles.

2nd: Tim Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, "Farewell Gavin Creel, a Masterful, Charming—and Very Honest—Broadway Star"

3rd: Gwen Muranaka, *Zócalo Public Square*, "The Mexican American Photographer Who Captured Little Tokyo"

#### **G. PRINT — Newspapers or Magazines**

##### **G1. General News**

**Gary Baum**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Matthew Perry's 'Street Dealer' Managed High-End Rehab Where Client Died"

<https://tinyurl.com/yhxmnc8h>

Judges' comment: This very well-written and sourced piece follows another twisty trail in the death of Matthew Perry, revealing that two people connected to the actor's death were also involved with an overdose death three years earlier.

2nd: Jessica Gelt, *Los Angeles Times*, "Inside the dash to save the Getty Villa from the Palisades fire: A timeline"

3rd: Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, "Toxic Fandom: How Hollywood Is Battling Fans Who Are 'Just Out for Blood' — From Social Media Boot Camps to Superfan Focus Groups"

##### **G2. Celebrity News or Feature, One reporter or a team.**

**Jason McGahan**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "A Friend in Need: Why Matthew Perry Couldn't Make It"

<http://bit.ly/4l0nuTA>

Judges' comment: This was a fascinating read. While other outlets covered how beloved actor Matthew Perry died, this delved into the why. It showed how swanky celebrity rehab facilities don't work and are often centers of exploitation.

2nd: Lisa Friedman Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Candace Parker Powering Forward"

3rd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How Ben Shapiro Conquered the MAGA-verse"

### **G3. Business, Film**

**Brent Lang**, *Variety*, "Netflix's Origin Story: How the Streamer Killed Blockbuster Video, Snagged 'House of Cards' From HBO and Changed Hollywood Forever"

<http://bit.ly/4oYAIY5>

Judges' comment: Tight, compelling 360-degree view of the birth of a giant and how the weaknesses of an older behemoth were exploited. Great storytelling.

2nd: Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, "Inside the 'Joker: Folie à Deux' Debacle: Todd Phillips 'Wanted Nothing to Do' With DC on the \$200 Million Misfire"

3rd: Sohee Kim and Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg News*, "China's Biggest Blockbuster Has the Film Industry Depressed"

### **G4. Business, TV/Streaming**

**Katie Kilkeny**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Would You Do It Again? A Year After Strikes, Hollywood Reckons With the Aftermath"

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkdx4m>

Judges' comment: Incredible work. Highlighting the tension between workers' rights and the ever-present push to accept new technology, while explaining why it's so continuous, was such an informative and great read with a poignant closure.

2nd: Sandra McDonald, *Los Angeles Times*, "Dozens of anime piracy websites have gone dark this week. Fans are in mourning"

3rd: Todd Spangler, *Variety*, "YouTube at 20: How the Video Colossus Launched the Creator Economy and Turned From Hollywood Foe to Friend"

### **G5. Business, Music/Theater/Performing Arts**

**Anna Nicolaou**, *Financial Times*, "The making of a modern hit factory"

<https://on.ft.com/46aJRjs>

Judges' comment: This story provides a fascinating inside look at the music industry, including a meaningful analysis of the relevance of record labels today. Anna Nicolaou's behind-the-scenes access to current Interscope wunderkind John Janick gives readers an eye-opening look at how this influential music executive feels the pulse of the culture as he develops young female artists.

2nd: Sarah Bahr, *The New York Times*, "Why 'The Great Gatsby' and Other Broadway Shows Are Turning to Influencers"

3rd: Julia Jacobs, *The New York Times*, "Inside the Sean Combs Hotline: The Makings of a Mass Tort"

### **G6. Business, Tech/Design/Arts**

**Keith Underwood**, *Los Angeles Sentinel*, "Black Stunt Performers React to Oscars' Long-Awaited Recognition"

<https://lasentinel.net/black-stunt-performers-react-to-oscars-long-awaited-recognition.html>

Judges' comment: A rare perspective of behind-the-scenes workers in Hollywood craving their due. Half a dozen stunt professionals show grit as they describe indignities of the industry. Fine work.

2nd: Alex Weprin, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Creators Are Building Their Own Supersized Studio System As Hollywood Cuts Back"

3rd: Lina Lecaro, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Unwrapped: Diane von Furstenberg Reflects on Her Influence as Skirball Exhibit Opens"

### **G7. Investigative Reporting**

**Andy Greene**, *Rolling Stone*, "Eric Carmen Was a Power-Pop Legend. Then He Vanished"

<http://bit.ly/4nkCiwU>

Judges' comment: A compelling telling of how the Raspberries' Eric Carmen rose to pop music's pinnacle only to ruin it all with drugs and booze.

2nd: Stacy Perman, *Los Angeles Times*, "'It was just a free-for-all': What happened to Kanye West's Donda Academy?"

3rd: Hannah Miller, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Can Dr. Phil's Streaming Makeover Find an Audience in the MAGA Era?"

### **G8. Diversity in the TV/Film Industry**

**Mesfin Fekadu**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "In 'Fellow Travelers,' Ron Nyswaner Writes About Gay Life In the 1950s. He Also Writes About Himself."

<http://bit.ly/3VEvQoo>

Judges' comment: Movingly told in silken prose makes it memorable and relatable, and, best yet, cause for reflection.

2nd: Lisa Friedman Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Candace Parker Powering Forward"

3rd: Abbey White, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How 'Survival of the Thickest,' 'Mo' and 'Shrinking' Are Helping Destigmatize Therapy for Men of Color"

### **G9. Diversity in the Music/Performing Arts/Arts Industry**

**Holly Gleason**, *HITS*, "Shaboozey's Evolution"

<http://bit.ly/4lYrrqW>

Judges' comment: Congratulations to Ms. Gleason who clearly has an amazing instinct for the details that the reader will find fascinating and memorable, leading to an even greater appreciation of the artist's talent.

2nd: Andy Coughlan, *The Beaumont Enterprise*, "AMSET show challenges cowboy masculinity"

3rd: Nicole Fell, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "K-pop Has Its Ellen Moment"

### **G10. Personality Profile, Film Industry (Over 2,500 Words)**

**Gary Baum**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Most Powerful Woman in Hollywood You've Never Heard Of"

<https://tinyurl.com/2vc9vuaz>

Judges' comment: This well-written, descriptive and multi-sourced story features a nice lead and a great ending. It's an enjoyable and revealing profile of a Hollywood "nice person" who goes against type.

2nd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Todd Phillips Tells All on Making 'Joker 2': Musical Numbers, Method Acting and Joaquin Phoenix's Broadway Dream That Started It All"

3rd: Susan Karlin, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, "The Producer as Problem Solver"

### **G11. Personality Profile, TV/Streaming Industry (Over 2,500 Words)**

**Stephen Rodrick**, *Rolling Stone*, "Jimmy Kimmel: 'Now I See Myself More as a Place to Scream'"

<http://bit.ly/46NptVU>

Judges' comment: In addition to being prescient, this profile illuminates a man with an interesting career arc -- and family and friends who participate in his act.

2nd: Mikey O'Connell, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Tina Fey on Her New Netflix Series: 'It Saved Me From Just Shrinking Up Like a Little Granny Apple Head'"

3rd: Trish Deitch, *Variety*, "The Confessions of Keri Russell: On 'The Diplomat,' Falling in Love With Matthew Rhys and the Night Hillary Clinton Made Her Cry"

### **G12A. Personality Profile, Music Industry (Over 2,500 Words)**

**Andre Gee**, *Rolling Stone*, "Clique Are Dropping an Album and Headed on a National Tour"

<http://bit.ly/42HUE2q>

Judges' comment: An entertaining and insightful profile of a rap luminary and the lengths to which Mr. Gee went from the interview.

2nd: Brian Hiatt, *Rolling Stone*, "My Brother, Eddie Van Halen: Alex Van Halen Tells All"

3rd: Angie Martoccio, *Rolling Stone*, "Stevie Nicks: 'I Believe in the Church of Stevie'"

### **G12B. Personality Profile, Theater, Culture and Other Arts (Over 2,500 Words)**

**Shana Nys Dambrot**, *Palm Springs Life*, "Local Artist Cristopher Cichocki Provides

a Glimpse Inside The Elemental"

<https://bit.ly/4nG1spx>

Judges' comment: Wonderfully descriptive article on a unique artist. Dambrot hits the right balance of Cichocki's background and his art.

2nd: Kevin Dolak, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Milo Yiannopoulos Makeover: The Alt-Right's Fallen Poster Boy Is Back for Trump 2.0"

3rd: Ashley Carman, *Bloomberg News*, "The True Story Behind MrBallen's Crime Podcasts"

### **G13. Personality Profile, Film Industry (Under 2,500 Words)**

**Sarah Bahr**, *The New York Times*, "Who Makes the Red Carpet? Steve."

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/26/style/red-carpet-grammys-oscars-emmys.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.cE8.eDby.GgZ\\_4F0gnB7S&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/26/style/red-carpet-grammys-oscars-emmys.html?unlocked_article_code=1.cE8.eDby.GgZ_4F0gnB7S&smid=url-share)

Judges' comment: This was a fun but informative piece that differed from the usual Oscar story. The writer wasn't afraid to go to the ground to get this different perspective.

2nd: Carlos Aguilar, *Los Angeles Times*, "For 20 years, he's played 'Saw's' boogeyman. He doesn't see it as a trap"

3rd: Seija Rankin, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Ethereal Power of Elizabeth Olsen"

### **G14. Personality Profile, TV/Streaming Industry (Under 2,500 Words)**

**Mesfin Fekadu**, *The New York Times*, "Why Beyoncé and BET Keep Calling Jesse Collins"

<http://bit.ly/46POWx4>

Judges' comment: An engaging and well-written behind-the-scenes look of a notable TV producer and his work to make the stars of the show shine.

2nd: Trish Deitch, *Variety*, "'Handmaid's Tale' Star Bradley Whitford Wants His Old Boss Jeff Bezos to 'Speak the F— Up' Against Donald Trump"

3rd: Tim Teeman, *Town & Country*, "Michael Strahan and Daughter Isabella Got Through Her Cancer. Now the Real Work Begins."

### **G15. Personality Profile, Music Industry (Under 2,500 Words)**

**Anna Nicolaou**, *Financial Times*, "Super-producer Jack Antonoff: 'Don't make anything you wouldn't die for'"

<https://on.ft.com/3VonnW2>

Judges' comment: An engaging and easy-to-read profile about a man who, as the story spells out, is famous if not necessarily recognizable.

2nd: Jenelle Riley, *Variety*, "'Thelma' Star June Squibb on Being Called 'The

Dirtiest Mouth on Broadway'"

3rd: Candace Hansen, *Los Angeles Times*, "Beverly Glenn Copeland's triumphant debut coincides with forthcoming doc about his dementia"

#### **G16. Personality Profile, Theater, Culture and Other Arts (Under 2,500 Words)**

**Kaitlyn Huamani**, *Los Angeles Times*, "Alden Ehrenreich's mission to make L.A. a 'theater city' involves a 119-year-old trolley station"

<https://tinyurl.com/mrbyhynv>

Judges' comment: Great illustration of how busy this young actor is and alludes to why he is finding time to create this new playhouse. The article weaves in all his career highlights, leaving the deep background to the near end. Then the writer deftly brings back what is happening at the playhouse. It felt very genuine, with good information from other sources. Nice close to all of this, too.

2nd: Thomas Floyd, *The Washington Post*, "Jake Gyllenhaal is the inner-demon actor of his generation"

3rd: Joanie Harmon, *Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper*, "Odie Hawkins: A Life That's One for the Books"

#### **G17. Film Industry Feature (Over 1,000 Words)**

**Joshua Rothkopf**, *Los Angeles Times*, "Meet the proud parents of 'M3GAN,' Adrien Morot and Kathy Tse, who welcome us to their design shop"

<https://tinyurl.com/4x7np5za>

Judges' comment: This piece tells a great story that moves and breathes, moving the readers along and helping them understand the magic behind movie making.

2nd: Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "How Hollywood Finds Its Stars: Behind the Scenes With Casting Directors, the Most Important and Least Understood Job in Movies"

3rd: Mia Galuppo, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Big Squeeze: Why Everyone in Hollywood Feels Stuck"

#### **G18. TV Industry Feature (Over 1,000 Words)**

**Meg James**, *Los Angeles Times*, "A small New York town played host to Hollywood. Then something terrible happened"

<https://tinyurl.com/3w7a6fds>

Judges' comment: Well-written story on tragedy that occurs when Hollywood comes to a small town. Sourcing is excellent and key to telling the story.

2nd: Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, "HBO Says 'Harry Potter' Series Will 'Benefit' From J.K. Rowling's Involvement: She 'Has the Right to Express Her Personal Views'"

3rd: Rene Chun, *Emmy Magazine*, "How the 'Oner' Became a Television Art Form"



### **G19. Music/Performing Arts Industry Feature (Over 1,000 Words)**

**David Browne**, *Rolling Stone*, "'I Was Taken Hostage': How an American Metal Rocker Landed in Russian Prison"

<http://bit.ly/4nASxWi>

Judges' comment: An intriguing story about a Californian computer geek with a Russian dream turning into a nightmare.

2nd: Anna Nicolaou, *Financial Times*, "The making of a modern hit factory"

3rd: Mankaprr Conteh, *Rolling Stone*, "How the Inseparable Lijadu Sisters Fought for Afropop as We Know It"

### **G20. Visual Arts/Architecture Feature (Over 1,000 Words)**

**Andy Coughlan**, *The Beaumont Enterprise*, "Gauguin's World"

<http://bit.ly/4lQz9TR>

Judges' comment: The writer weaves the story of Gauguin's life and artistic journey beautifully with the story of Gauguin's art, providing an excellent overview of the exhibit, the artist, and the artist's impact.

2nd: James Tarmy, *Bloomberg Pursuits*, "Hidden for Half a Century, Ancient Roman Treasures Return to the Spotlight"

3rd: Michael Goldstein, *Forbes.com*, "The Nova Festival Exhibit In Los Angeles Is Beautiful And Terrible"

### **G21. TV/Film Industry Feature (Under 1,000 Words)**

**David Rooney**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Jaws': The Prototype Summer Blockbuster Turns 50, Losing None of Its Bite"

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9rn3n4>

Judges' comment: Reads like a tone poem, pressing all the right notes on those iconic blockbuster moments.

2nd: Lina Lecaro, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Robert Eggers Sinks his Cinematic Teeth Deep Into 'Nosferatu'"

3rd: Ryan Gajewski, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Hollywood Flashback: When Clint Eastwood Saved the Day"

### **G22. TV Industry Feature (Under 1,000 Words)-- see G21**

### **G23. Music/Performing Arts Industry Feature (Under 1,000 Words)**

**Tim Teeman**, *The Times of London*, "'Prince Faggot' Is the Gay Royal Play Blowing Up in New York"

<http://bit.ly/47STcxB>

Judges' comment: Grace, wit and courage on display here. The writer knows how to cut butter with a hot knife, so to speak.



2nd: Holly Gleason, *HITS*, "Shaboozey's Evolution"

3rd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Nicole Scherzinger on Bringing 'Sunset Boulevard' to Broadway: 'I'm Gonna F—ing Go Out There Every Single Night Coming for Blood'"

## **G24. Visual Arts/Architecture Feature (Under 1,000 Words)**

**Leslie Katz**, *The New York Times*, "Visions of A.I. Art From OpenAI's First Artist in Residence"

<http://bit.ly/41EyU74>

Judges' comment: Excellent exploration of an artist using AI to make pieces truly worthy of being called art instead of the inane videos associated with AI. Katz makes the technology easy to understand and interesting.

2nd: Andrew Travers, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Did the Beanie Baby Founder Destroy a Bauhaus Masterpiece?"

3rd: Andy Coughlan, *The Beaumont Enterprise*, "Art exhibition comes to Beaumont after showings in 'poles'"

## **G25. Columnist**

**Esther Zuckerman**, *Bloomberg Businessweek*

<https://tinyurl.com/2f96zdam>

<https://tinyurl.com/4etyaanz>

<https://tinyurl.com/mwsrt636>

Judges' comment: Columns crackle with energy and fresh insight, shedding some light on this moment in history with humor and heart -- memorable!

2nd: Thom Geier, *Musicals Magazine*

3rd: Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*

## **G26. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Film**

**Brent Lang**, *Variety*, "How Steven Spielberg's 'Jaws' Endured a Hellish Production to Become Hollywood's First Summer Blockbuster"

<http://bit.ly/46c8jB0>

Judges' comment: Brent Lang details how unlikely it was that "Jaws" was even finished and Spielberg not fired and how "Jaws" invented and shaped the notion of a summer blockbuster. Its influence on Spielberg's career, along with movie release schedules, promotions and audience expectations is recounted with telling, descriptive details.

2nd: Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*, "I Wanted My Four-Year-Old to Love Moviegoing. How Hard Could It Be?"

3rd: Ethan Shanfeld, *Variety*, "'Her' Is Here"

## **G27. Commentary Analysis/Trend, TV**

**Jason Zinoman**, *The New York Times*, "Johnny Carson and the Fantasy of America"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/arts/television/johnny-carson.html>

Judges' comment: Zinoman expresses so much in this tightly-woven piece about Carson and his history, using an interesting anecdote to bookend the whole essay.

2nd: Mary McNamara, *Los Angeles Times*, "Commentary by Mary McNamara"

3rd: Dan Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: 'The Handmaid's Tale' and Trump, Reunited"

## **G28. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Music**

**Chris Willman**, *Variety*, "Stop Blaming 'Celebrity Endorsements' for Kamala Harris' Loss: We Need to Hear From Artists Now More Than Ever"

<https://bit.ly/41pLuWW>

Judges' comment: An interesting take on the "shut up and play ball" demand some people make when celebrities make political remarks or show activism. The writer ably makes the point that blaming celebrities for Kamala Harris' loss in the presidential race is short-sighted and incorrect.

2nd: Holly Gleason, *HITS*, "Country At A Crossroads"

3rd: Jeff Benjamin, *Billboard*, "Is Seunghan's Exit From RIIZE Setting an Impossible Precedent for K-Pop Stars?"

## **G29. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Other Arts**

**Sheryl Turner**, *Local News Pasadena*, "The Rose Queen and Court Need a Raise"

<https://localnewspasadena.com/2024/the-rose-queen-and-court-need-a-raise/>

Judges' comment: Unexpected, interesting local issue, elegantly penned.

2nd: Lorraine Ali, *Los Angeles Times*, "Elon Musk's courtship with MAGA has driven X into misinformation abyss"

3rd: Kirsten Chuba, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How TikTok Can Make (or Break) L.A.'s Restaurants"

## **G30. Entertainment Publication**

**Jasmin Rosemberg, Ada Guerin, Irvin Rivera, the LA Mag Team**, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "The Movie Issue: The Leading Men of 2024"

<http://bit.ly/4gOCQZw>

Judges' comment: In its "Movie Issue," *Los Angeles Magazine* executes a thematic issue without beating the reader over the head with it. Adhering to its typical structure, the magazine touches on movie culture and the year's "leading men" in each of its sections, such as Shop's guide to dressing like a leading man and Eat's analysis of the effect of the movie *Sideways* on wine country. The mix and pacing offer an experience that doesn't grow stale. The

writing is sharp and engaging, and the design is well-executed across the issue and each of its three covers.

2nd: Juan Morales, Maura Weber, Sarah Hirsch, Stephan Horbelt and Rich Bleiweiss, *Emmy Magazine*, "Emmy magazine Issue no. 8 2025 / Michael C. Hall"

3rd: Gold Derby Staff, *Gold Derby*, "Severance Reverence (Emmy special edition)"

## **H. BROADCAST (Radio, Podcast, TV, Streaming)**

### **H1. Business, TV/Film**

**Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team**, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez - 'Tony Vinciguerra'"

<https://vimeo.com/1038752066/2fce3e8641?share=copy>

Judges' comment: Giselle Fernandez' preparation makes all the difference in delving into how Sony succeeded while others failed.

2nd: Sarah Welch, Cher Calvin, Micah Ohlman, Scott Mantz and Nick Greitzer, *KTLA*, "Hollywood shaken as President Trump calls for 100% tariff on films made overseas"

3rd: ABC News Studios, *Hulu*, "ABC News Studios IMPACT x Nightline - Tracy Anderson: Fitness, Fame and Hollywood"

### **H2. Business, Music/Theater/Performing Arts**

**Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Jaime Morgan Muñoz, Nic Cha Kim, Suzanne Méjean Pinney**, *PBS SoCal*, "PST ART: Fusing Art & Science: Energy Fields: Vibrations of the Pacific"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/pst-fusing-art-science/episodes/energy-fields-vibrations-of-the-pacific>

Judges' comment: This impressive piece explains how music is really science with a human touch.

2nd: Rollo Ross and Allysyn Landrum, *Reuters*, "Striking US video game actors say AI threatens their jobs"

3rd: Robert Garrova, *LAist* 89.3, "After losing his home in the Eaton Fire, this Altadena musician is helping others build back their gear"

### **H3. Business, Tech/Arts**

**Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Jaime Morgan Muñoz, Nic Cha Kim, Suzanne Méjean Pinney**, *PBS SoCal*, "PST ART: Fusing Art & Science: Counter Surveillance"

<https://www.pbs.org/video/counter-surveillance-ekerx1/>

Judges' comment: A fascinating look at an exhibition on counter surveillance, a hot topic today but also one that has spanned generations.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz and Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez - 'David Nussbaum'"

3rd: Rollo Ross, *Reuters*, "Issa Rae immerses in classic Hollywood for 'Black Mirror' episode"

#### **H4. Investigative Reporting – see C1**

#### **H5. Obituary/In Appreciation, TV/Film Personalities**

**ABC News Studios**, ABC News, "ABC News Studios: The Last Days of Gene Hackman"

<https://bit.ly/3V5tcrv>

Judges' comment: While not presented as a typical obituary, this piece dives deep into the deceased and provides a full and complete portrait, while also detailing the death and the investigation that followed.

2nd: Mo Rocca, Kay M. Lim and Joseph Frandino, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "CBS Sunday Morning: Here's Desi ..."

3rd: Mo Rocca, Jay Kernis, Emanuele Secci and Rand Morrison, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "CBS Sunday Morning: Gene Hackman Remembrance"

#### **H6. Obituary/In Appreciation, Music and Other Arts Personalities**

**John Lee, Lauren Barnello, Young Kim, Rand Morrison**, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "Appreciation: Corky Lee"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lCf\\_nZXIAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lCf_nZXIAA)

Judges' comment: Illustrative, succinct and important tribute.

2nd: George Pennacchio and Cheryl L. Diano, ABC7, "Mitzi Gaynor's Marvelous Life"

3rd: ABC World News Tonight with David Muir, ABC News, "Remembering Brian Wilson"

### **I. TV/VIDEO/FILM**

#### **I1. Anchor/Host**

**Nathan Masters**, *PBS SoCal*, "Lost LA: Animation"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/lost-la/episodes/animation>

Judges' comment: Warm, genuine personality. Clean conversational question. Naturally curious.

2nd: Lisa McRee, *Spectrum News 1*, "Lisa McRee Interviews"

3rd: George Pennacchio, ABC7, "George Pennacchio - Entertainment Reporter"

## 12. News

**ABC News**, ABC News, "The Sean 'Diddy' Combs Verdict"

<http://bit.ly/4ULRRy>

Judges' comment: ABC News for seamlessly produced, well-paced breaking news of the Sean Diddy Coombs verdicts, with clear and insightful reporting

2nd: Tiffany Taylor, Kyle Desiderio, Lesley Corral and Jason Rovou, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Creative Coalition Unites Hollywood & Business Leaders to Fight for Arts Funding"

3rd: Sarah Welch, Cher Calvin, Micah Ohlman, Scott Mantz and Nick Greitzer, *KTLA*, "Hollywood shaken as President Trump calls for 100% tariff on films made overseas"

## 13. Diversity in the Film Industry

**ABC News Studios**, ABC News, "ABC News Studios - Latinos in Hollywood: Owning Our Destiny"

<https://bit.ly/420FR2H>

Judges' comment: This segment told a powerful story about the rise and resilience of Latinos in Hollywood. Anchored by astute narration and interviews from John Quiñones, the segment deftly weaved personal stories of stars such as Eva Longoria and Rita Moreno into a compelling piece about representation and creative opportunities for Latinos both on screen and behind the camera.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz and the Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez - 'Pablo Larrain'"

3rd: PBS SoCal, *PBS SoCal*, "2024 Media Access Awards"

## 14. Diversity in the TV/Streaming Industry

**Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team**, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez - 'Sheryl Lee Ralph'"

<https://vimeo.com/997991540/63ee046980?share=copy>

Judges' comment: The reason this entry shines is how the interview connected the actress' journey to issues happening right now across the country. It wasn't just a celebrity chat; it was genuinely emotional and relatable for the viewer. You could tell the entrant did their homework—the research and the delivery were spot-on. They really nailed the core criteria by effectively showing the issues of diversity, acceptance, and obstacles through Ralph's powerful experience.

2nd: Rae Williams, *Spectrum News 1*, "Couple redefines Black love with authentic stories"

3rd: Joe Maxfield and George Pennachio, *ABC7*, "2024 Emmys mark historic

year celebrating diversity in nominations"

### **15. Diversity in the Music Industry**

**Carlos Saucedo, Paul Sanchez**, *KTLA*, "Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles, the 1st LGBT mariachi group, celebrates 10 year anniversary"

<https://bit.ly/3E6P54H>

Judges' comment: Blends together well the story of the Hispanic culture, mariachi traditions, and LGBT individuals who bring its vibrant music to appreciative crowds.

2nd: George Pennacchio, *ABC7*, "The Young Female songwriting duo behind *Moana 2*"

3rd: ABC News Nightline, *ABC News*, "Chappell Roan"

### **16. Diversity in the Arts Industry**

**Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team**, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez - 'Debbie Allen'"

<https://vimeo.com/1063756112/ca794a8696?share=copy>

Judges' comment: Excellent story. Nice editing with beginning, middle and end.

2nd: Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Matt Bass and Suzanne Méjean Pinney, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: The Legacy of the Paul Robeson Players in 1970s L.A. Black Theater"

3rd: Michael Brownlee and Sean Browning, *KNBC*, "The Asian Girl with the Long Hair"

### **17. Personality Profile, Film Industry**

**Scott Evans**, *Summer Break Studios*, "Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande Wicked Pact"

<http://bit.ly/44cy5V8>

Judges' comment: Engaging and fun way to interview Erivo. It felt like a hangout, where we were really getting to meet her together.

2nd: Varda Bar-Kar, Nic Cha Kim, Alessandra Pasquino, Tamara Gould and Angela Boisvert, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: The Cheech"

3rd: ABC News Nightline, *ABC News*, "One on One with Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson"

### **18. Personality Profile, TV/Streaming Industry**

**Jane Pauley, Jay Kernis, Mike Levine, Rand Morrison**, *CBS News Sunday Morning*, "Sunday Morning: Connie Chung"

[https://cbsnews.cimediacloud.com/r/w5t\\$Rq7DsgC1](https://cbsnews.cimediacloud.com/r/w5t$Rq7DsgC1)

Judges' comment: Excellent pacing and great use of archival imagery, with a

relaxed tone so you feel like you're at a class reunion, listening in as two TV titans catch up on a life-long working relationship and friendship.

2nd: ABC News Nightline, ABC News, "Eric Dane Speaks: The Diane Sawyer Interview"

3rd: Tiana DeNicola, *Variety*, "'Bob's Burgers' H. Jon Benjamin Tries Voicing the Entire Belcher Family and Discusses His Career"

## **I9. Personality Profile, Music Industry**

**ABC News Nightline**, ABC News, "Missy Elliott on Tour"

<http://bit.ly/47YGai9>

Judges' comment: Wonderful profile of Missy Elliott. Funny, insightful, super interesting. It was beautifully edited too, and it felt like every editorial decision was the right one. Just really well done overall.

2nd: Nic Cha Kim, Tadashi Nakamura, Quynh Nguyen-Le, Akira Boch and Evan Kodani, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement"

3rd: Tiana DeNicola, *Variety*, "Tate McRae Takes Us Behind the Song 'Sports car'"

## **I10. Personality Profile, Arts and Culture**

**Andy Schlachtenhaufen**, *Spectrum News 1*, "15-Year-Old Accordion Champion"

<http://bit.ly/47Uj2RT>

Judges' comment: Beautiful story, wonderfully told.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz and the Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez : Dr. Jane Goodall"

3rd: Martha Teichner, Chad Cardin, Young Kim and Rand Morrison, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "Without a Net: Phillippe Petit"

## **I11. Hard News Feature (Over 5 Minutes)**

**ABC News Studios IMPACT x Nightline**, *Hulu*, "IMPACT x Nightline: What Happened to Matthew Perry?"

<http://bit.ly/41ya3Sy>

Judges' comment: This is a strong entry that effectively captures the viewer's attention. The storytelling is engaging, moving beyond simple reporting to offer a thoughtful analysis. The pacing is well-managed for a story over five minutes, maintaining interest throughout without feeling drawn out.

2nd: Dennis Ackerman and Andy Schlachtenhaufen, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Times Today: Nearly everything Tommy Hawkins cherished in life was destroyed in the Palisades fire"

3rd: Norah O'Donnell, Sara Kugel, Julie Morse, Rand Morrison and Carol Ross,



CBS Sunday Morning, "CBS Sunday Morning: The Kennedy Center"

### **I12. Hard News Feature (Under 5 Minutes)**

**Susana Quintero-Chamberlin, George Pennacchio, Cheryl L. Diano, Lawrence Faulkner**, ABC7, "Richard Cabral - Healing From The Flames"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOcQoChEhtQ>

Judges' comment: Sweet story. Wonderfully conveys the real impact to one victim of a mass tragedy that affects thousands.

2nd: Lydia Pantazes Garcia, *Spectrum News 1*, "Ozomatli concert paused, but the rhythm of resistance plays on"

3rd: Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, "Blood of the Nopal"

### **I13. Soft News Feature, Film (Over 5 Minutes)**

**Jaime Morgan Muñoz, Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Ben Boyd**, PBS SoCal, "PST ART: Fusing Art & Science: Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/pst-fusing-art-science/episodes/color-in-motion-chromatic-explorations-of-cinema>

Judges' comment: Excellent, captivating, cinematography. The documentary style was seamless and educational.

2nd: Michael Brownlee and Scott Weber, *KNBC*, "Bob's Brush With Fame"

3rd: Tiffany Taylor, Lesley Corral and Jason Rovou, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Inside the Archives: Celebrating 100 Years of Columbia Pictures"

### **I14. Soft News Feature, TV/Streaming (Over 5 Minutes)**

**ABC News Studios IMPACT x Nightline**, *Hulu*, "ABC News Studios IMPACT x Nightline: Inside the Kim Kardashian Heist"

<https://bit.ly/4mtb3yO>

Judges' comment: Really well done piece! The timeline flows smoothly and keeps you interested the whole way through. The interviews are strong and feel genuine — they pull you right into the story. The editing ties everything together nicely, with great pacing and visuals that keep it moving without feeling rushed. Overall, it's a solid, engaging story that's both well thought out and well executed. Great job!

2nd: Alison Martino, Make Fresh Productions and the SoCal Scene Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "SCS Funky Junk Farms"

3rd: Scott Hays, *OC World*, "Giving Days in the OC"

### **I15. Soft News Feature, Music/Culture/Arts (Over 5 Minutes)**

**Abby Narishkin, Nikita Grant, Mark Adam Miller, Bethany Johnson, Clancy Morgan**, *Business Insider*, "Why A Ballet Team Spends \$1 Million A Year On Shoes"



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn1rN0tu1Ro>

Judges' comment: Surprising, enlightening article about the extensive use of ballet shoes, highlighted by outstanding writing, editing, and videography.

2nd: Lee Cowan, Deirdre Cohen and Ed Givnish, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "Finding his Voice"

3rd: Andy Schlachtenhaufen, *Spectrum News 1*, "93-Year-Old Disney Imagineer"

#### **I16. Soft News Feature, TV/Film (Under 5 Minutes)**

**Michael Brownlee, Sean Browning**, *KNBC*, "The Asian Girl with the Long Hair"

<https://vimeo.com/nbcla/review/1122962090/e6b4a6028c>

Judges' comment: This story demonstrates many layers of cultural nuance, insight and understanding while also remaining thoroughly entertaining until the very last frame. An absolute pleasure to watch!

2nd: George Pennacchio, Cheryl L. Diano and JJ Zavalla, *ABC7*, "Harlan Boll's Harrowing Loss"

3rd: Amanda Salas, Jasmin Sani and Tshaka Armstrong, *KTTV FOX 11*, "Marvel Prop Master Brings Smiles to Pediatric Cancer Patients"

#### **I17. Soft News Feature, Music/Culture/Arts (Under 5 Minutes)**

**Scott Hays**, *OC World*, "Down for Dance"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubB\\_HDDR5NM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubB_HDDR5NM)

Judges' comment: This excellent feature is concise and heartfelt. It perfectly delivers an inspiring story about "Down for Dance" empowering people through arts and culture, making it a polished and moving piece of journalism.

2nd: Cheryl L. Diano and Coleen Sullivan, *ABC7*, "Best in Drag Show: Fun and Frivolity for a Good Cause"

3rd: Luke Burbank, Chad Cardin, Young Kim and Rand Morrison, *CBS Sunday Morning*, "A spirited take on maple syrup"

#### **I18. Documentary or Special Program, Short**

**Mark Potts**, *Los Angeles Times*, "How We Printed the Paper: The Closing of a Printing Plant"

<https://tinyurl.com/3v3b996u>

Judges' comment: With an accolade for its past and a lament for the future of journalism, this outstanding documentary tells the history of the printing of the L.A. Times along with compelling interviews with newspapermen and its printing personnel.

2nd: Bobby Gonzalez, Carly Armendariz, Megan Telles, Carlos Saucedo and Paul Sanchez, *KTLA*, "Honoring Hispanic Heritage"

3rd: Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Nathan Masters and Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*,

"Lost LA: Animation"

### **I19. Documentary or Special Program, Feature**

**Nic Cha Kim, Tadashi Nakamura, Quynh Nguyen-Le, Akira Boch, Evan Kodani,** *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/episodes/nobuko-miyamoto-a-song-in-movement>

Judges' comment Through rare archival footage, this absorbing documentary about the life of a revered musician, dancer and activist illuminates her cultural significance.

2nd: Tamara Gould, Angela Boisvert, Nic Cha Kim, Richie Kulchar and Daniel Baghdasarian, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Blended Worlds: The Fusion of Art & Science at JPL"

3rd: ABC News Studios, ABC News, "Will Reeve: Finding My Father"

## **J. RADIO/PODCASTS**

### **J1. Anchor/Host**

**Lisa Niver**, *Make Your Own Map Podcast*, "Make Your Own Map: Are YOU Ready to be BRAVE?"

<https://bit.ly/43ovRBQ>

Judges' comment: The lighthearted approach to some potentially sensitive subjects makes this podcast an easy listen.

2nd: Jeff Goldsmith, *The Q&A with Jeff Goldsmith*, "The Q&A with Jeff Goldsmith"

3rd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Disney earworm about global unity getting a new lease on life"

### **J2. News or Hard News Feature**

**ABC Audio**, ABC News, "ABC Audio - Bad Rap: The Case Against Diddy"

<http://bit.ly/462QiE0>

Judges' comment: ABC Audio's "Bad Rap" investigation provides a compelling and harrowing look at the allegations against Sean Combs. This episode expertly pieces together the tale of how one woman's career and life was upended in the process. The narrator tells Cassie's story in an incredibly empathetic and thorough manner.

2nd: Megan Jamerson, *KCRW*, "Hollywood's animation union wants to end a gender pay gap"

3rd: Cynthia Littleton, *Variety*, "How COVID Changed TV Production Forever"

### **J3. Diversity in the Entertainment Industry**

**Kelsey Ngante**, *KCRW*, "Trans Athletes Find a Home at T-Boy Wrestling"

<https://bit.ly/42hm5A5>

Judges' comment: This report showcases how an arts organization created a vibrant, theatrical wrestling space that transforms athletic competition into joyful community building and self-expression for trans men who were previously excluded from traditional sports.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "How a unique combination of dancing and disability is inspiring the next generation"

3rd: James Baker, *Texas Public Radio*, "Momentos Musicales explores indigenous languages and classical music"

#### **J4. One-on-One Interview, Film Personalities**

**Jeff Goldsmith**, *The Q&A with Jeff Goldsmith Podcast*, "White Lotus - Season 3 Q&A - Jason Isaacs"

<http://bit.ly/42S8zD8>

Judges' comment: The host has a brilliant knack for knowing when to get out of the way and let the guest run the show. A rare talent that lets listeners get so much more out of the story.

2nd: Jim Hemphill, *IndieWire*, "An Action Classic Turns 30: Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, and Jan de Bont on 'Speed'"

3rd: Marc Malkin, *Variety*, "Barbra Streisand on Her New Album, Not Being Paid Enough for 'Meet the Fockers' and if She'll Ever Direct or Perform Live Again"

#### **J5. One-on-One Interview, TV/Streaming Personalities**

**Sarah Shachat, Mary Pelloni, Trevor Wallace**, *IndieWire*, "Why Netflix's 'Adolescence' Had a 'No Dicks' Policy"

<http://bit.ly/46cazbF>

Judges' comment: The listener can almost see the host's eye contact that encourages the guest to expand on the most interesting moments, without interruption. Great skill set for a host!

2nd: Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "'The Daily Show's' Ronny Chieng on Recently Becoming a U.S. Citizen: 'It's a Weird Time to Do It'"

3rd: Matt Wilstein, *The Daily Beast*, "Why 'Borat' Director Stopped Speaking to Sacha Baron Cohen and Larry David"

#### **J6. One-on-One Interview, Music Personalities**

**Brian Hiatt**, *Rolling Stone*, "My Life with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers: Mike Campbell Looks Back"

<http://bit.ly/3KdVYny>

Judges' comment: Nice host handling of a sensitive book, an interviewee who needed a little encouragement, and taking the listener on a journey worth hearing.

2nd: Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Awards Chatter Podcast With Bruce Springsteen"

3rd: John Rabe, *Classical California*, "Notes from the Fires: The violin helps Nina Evtuhov rebuild her life"

### **J7. One-on-One Interview, Arts/Culture Personalities**

**Austin Cross**, *LAist*, "A Beloved Character From Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe Turns 80"

<https://tinyurl.com/yukw22nj>

Judges' comment: Host produces a fabulous journey into culture, art, politics, and nostalgia.

2nd: Lisa Niver, *Make Your Own Map Podcast*, "Tara Schuster Isn't Afraid to Go There—And You'll Be Glad She Did"

3rd: Justin Chapman, *Apple Podcasts*, "Well Read with Justin Chapman (featuring Gerry Adams)"

### **J8. Soft News Feature**

**Josie Huang**, *LAist*, "Charlie Chaplin. Kermit the Frog. John Mayer?! A brief history of The Jim Henson Company in Hollywood"

<https://tinyurl.com/ytnbszyc>

Judges' comment: Descriptive, relevant, well-produced news story that puts the property in perspective. Excellent, compelling historical account.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Mane attraction: The therapy horses with a Hollywood connection bringing joy to seniors"

3rd: Lance Orozco, *KCLU AM/FM*, "World War II Was Over, But The Holocaust Wasn't"

### **J9. Best Arts or Entertainment Regular Podcast**

**Rico Gagliano, Tim Robey, MUBI Podcast team**, *MUBI Inc.*, "MUBI Podcast S7: BOX OFFICE POISON"

<https://mubi.buzzsprout.com/1788738/episodes/16255296-synecdoche-new-york-charlie-kaufman-s-movie-of-a-lifetime>

Judges' comment: The narrative style and top-notch production values made it so engaging – there was always something sonically interesting to hold my attention. The pacing was outstanding, and it felt so much more immersive than a standard Q&A podcast.

2nd: Matt Brennan, Mark E. Potts, Yvonne Villarreal, Mark Olsen and Kelvin Washington, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Envelope Podcast"

3rd: Lyndsey Parker, *Totally '80s*, "The Totally 80s Podcast - Desperately Seeking: Madonna's Punk Roots"

## **J10. Best Arts or Entertainment Limited Series Podcast**

**Charlotte Silver, Joe Adalian, Rebecca Alter, Bilge Ebiri, Chris Lee**, *Vulture*, "The Disney Dilemma"

<https://www.vulture.com/article/land-of-the-giants-the-disney-dilemma-podcast.html>

Judges' comment: *Vulture* for its outstanding and unsparing in-depth look at the evolution of all things Disney -- how the company revived, expanded but then in many respects lost its way.

2nd: Lawrence Lanahan, *Osiris Media*, "Rearranged: a podcast about musical reinvention"

3rd: Holly Gleason, Rachel Bonds and Dub Cornett, *Audible*, "The Boar's Nest: Sue Brewer & the Birth of Outlaw Country"

## **J11. Best Use of Sound**

**Evan Jacoby**, *LAist*, "The race to save historic Altadena fireplace tiles"

<https://tinyurl.com/5bprxm7n>

Judges' comment: This story masterfully uses the steady rhythm of hammer and chisel to create an intimate sonic portrait of community resilience, letting listeners hear the painstaking work of salvaging beauty from devastation.

2nd: Andrea Gutierrez and Ravenna Koenig, *NPR*, "1931 film *Dracula* gets its first film score, just in time for Halloween"

3rd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Musical tradition with its roots in slavery is revived to celebrate emancipation"

## **K. ONLINE (Content Exclusive to the Internet)**

### **K1. Hard News, Film**

**Matt Donnelly**, *Variety*, "Mike De Luca and Pam Abdy Under Fire at Warner Bros. Amid Box Office Flops: 'We Didn't Want to Fail' David Zaslav (EXCLUSIVE)"

<https://bit.ly/45HtgDU>

Judges' comment: An engaging piece that exemplifies strong, old-fashioned reporting. The writer weaves together insider perspectives, corporate tension, and the broader creative stakes at Warner Bros. Pictures. The writing remains compelling throughout.

2nd: Drew Taylor, *TheWrap*, "Animated Films Dominate the Box Office, So Why Aren't Their Directors Allowed Into the DGA?"

3rd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Controversy Swirls, Legal Threats Fly After Sundance Documentary 'The Stringer' Questions Origin of Iconic 'Napalm Girl' Photo"

### **K2. Hard News, TV/Streaming**

**Michael Schneider**, *Variety*, "L.A. Reporters Cover Devastation in Their Own Neighborhoods During Wildfires: 'Feels Like a Nightmare' and 'Fatigue Is Setting In'"

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

Judges' comment: The story offers an insightful behind-the-scenes look at how local TV newsrooms rose to the challenge of covering the Los Angeles wildfires. Engaging throughout and rich with firsthand perspective.

2nd: Lucia Moses and Geoff Weiss, *Business Insider*, "Netflix is eyeing video podcasts and once courted 'Call Her Daddy' star Alex Cooper"

3rd: Kayla Cobb, *TheWrap*, "Why Adult Animation Might Be Saving TV"

### **K3. Hard News, Music/Arts**

**Anna Nicolaou**, *Financial Times*, "Michael Jackson estate says accuser is trying to extract \$213mn"

<https://on.ft.com/47OC4ZU>

Judges' comment: The reporting is sharp, well-sourced, and balanced, guiding readers through a complicated and controversial situation with clarity and context.

2nd: Emilie Hagen, *Instagram*, *Substack*, "Paid Protestors: Everything is a Psyop"

3rd: Anneta Konstantinides, *Business Insider*, "'Literal hell': Coachella festivalgoers say they've been waiting in traffic for 12 hours to get into the campgrounds"

### **K4. Soft News, Film**

**Alexei Barrionuevo**, *TheWrap*, "Hollywood Workers Grapple for a Foothold in an Industry at a Crossroads"

<https://shorturl.at/SOBbO>

Judges' comment: A thoughtful and empathetic piece that captures an important shift in the entertainment industry. The profiles are heartfelt and well-crafted.

2nd: Rebecca Rubin and Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, "Moviegoers Tune Out Election By Going to 'Venom: The Last Dance,' 'Juror #2' and More: 'We Need a Break Before the Storm'"

3rd: Phoebe Eaton, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Harvey Weinstein's Life Behind Bars: 'He's Still Running Sh\*\*'"

### **K5. Soft News, TV/Streaming**

**Beatrice Verhoeven**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Hollywood TV Writer Morenike Balogun Was Reeling From the Writers Strike. Then She Lost Her Home in the Palisades Fire."

<https://tinyurl.com/t7zp8vcv>

Judges' comment: This article presents Morenike Balogun's story with both

sensitivity and strength. The reporting is detailed and fair, giving readers insight into the personal cost and the broader implications of Palisades Fire. There's a resilience in this story that the writer gives voice to in such a delicate way.

2nd: Lucas Manfredi, *TheWrap*, "'The White Lotus' Halo Effect Blooms for Tourism and Local Economies"

3rd: Ethan Shanfeld, *Variety*, "What Jon Stewart Told 'The Daily Show' Audience After Cameras Stopped Rolling on Election Night"

#### **K6. Soft News, Music/Arts**

**Gail Mitchell**, *LMU Magazine*, "L.A.'s Mexican Melody"

<http://bit.ly/3VkZm2d>

Judges' comment: What a beautiful and immersive feature, with vivid, lyrical writing layered with resonant video and photography that really brings the Mata family to life. With themes of heritage, tradition, education, and accessibility, this story evokes both nostalgia and renewal.

2nd: Joseph Hudak, *Rolling Stone*, "The Hit Song About Cannibalism Written by a Yacht-Rock King"

3rd: Katya Kazakina, *Artnet News*, "Porcelain Virtuoso Blows Up at the Frick"

#### **K7. Business, Film**

**Kristen Lopez**, *Variety*, "SoCal Soundstage Owners Fear They Won't Survive Till 2025: 'We Have Maybe Four or Five Months Stored and Then That's It'"

<http://bit.ly/46lbAhH>

Judges' comment: Lots has been written about a runaway production and fewer shoots in California, but this story takes a unique and comprehensive look by focusing on soundstages.

2nd: Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*, "Moguls Take Aim at Zaslav's Vision of WBD as Company Splits: 'It Was a Failure'"

3rd: Ashley Cullins, *The Ankler*, "Fighting for a Greenlight: The Art of Selling an Original Film in '25"

#### **K8. Business, TV/Streaming**

**Kayla Cobb**, Tess Patton, *TheWrap*, "Why a Half-a-Trillion-Dollar Creator Economy Is Just the Beginning"

<https://shorturl.at/AE9CZ>

Judges' comment: This is a detailed, insightful, and well-written look at the growing "creator economy" that's beginning to reshape much of the entertainment industry.

2nd: Kayla Cobb and Adam Chitwood, *TheWrap*, "Kids TV Is Dead, Long Live Kids TV"



3rd: Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "CBS Put 'Evening News' Through Massive Overhaul. Now It Needs People to Watch"

### **K9. Business, Music/Theater/Performing Arts**

**Leena Taylor**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Lucrative Business of Becoming Taylor Swift: Tribute Acts Are Saving Lives, Pocketing Paychecks and Finding Fame"

<http://bit.ly/3JyvQU6>

Judges' comment: This thoroughly delightful piece represents a creative take on the Taylor Swift phenomenon.

2nd: Philip Boroff, *Broadway Journal*, "Jujuamcyn Profit Revealed in Rare Disclosure"

3rd: Joel Beers, *Culture OC*, "Ticket Trauma: How Local Performing Arts Organizations are Affected"

### **K10. Business, Tech/Design/Arts**

**Lucia Moses, Geoff Weiss, Dan Whateley**, *Business Insider*, "What MrBeast can teach Hollywood"

<https://www.businessinsider.com/mrbeast-business-lessons-hollywood-media-future-tv-movies-creator-economy-2025-2>

Judges' comment: An interesting take on what Hollywood can learn from Mr. Beast, raising questions about whether online success can translate to the mainstream.

2nd: Katya Kazakina, *Artnet News*, "Millennials and Gen Zers Are Coming Into Great Fortunes. What Art Do They Want to Buy?"

3rd: Susan Carpenter, *Spectrum News*, "Is it live or is it AI?"

### **K11. Investigative Reporting**

**Olivia Carville, Cecilia D'Anastasio**, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Roblox's Pedophile Problem"

<https://tinyurl.com/2eapbws8>

Judges' comment: A clear winner showing exhaustive reporting that details how Roblox, a digital sandbox aimed at children, has grappled with pedophiles – with mixed success.

2nd: Phoebe Eaton, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Anonymous No More: Inside the Complicated Life of Harvey Weinstein's Key Accuser"

3rd: Anneta Konstantinides, *Business Insider*, "Inside the self-destruction of Miss USA"

### **K12. Diversity in the Film Industry**

**Kristen Lopez**, *Variety*, "Disabled Performers Advocate for Allies in Hollywood: 'Inclusion Needs to Be a Movement and Not a Moment'"



<https://bit.ly/4pDKN7N>

Judges' comment: A vital narrative about the importance of inclusion at every level of the industry.

2nd: Ryan Gajewski, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Lilo & Stitch' Live-Action Remake Ignites Debate Over 'Harmful' Changes to Original's Story"

3rd: Tare Ebimami, *AnnenbergMedia*, "USC African American Cinema Society reflects on DEI at F.R.O. Festival"

### **K13. Diversity in the TV/Streaming Industry**

**Raquel Harris**, *TheWrap*, "With DEI Rollbacks, the Business of Hollywood May Take a Hit"

<https://shorturl.at/BHwrF>

Judges' comment: Good story with excellent supporting data about creative decisions based on politics rather than good business practices. A consistently interesting read.

2nd: Naman Ramachandran, *Variety*, "Lee Sang-il, Stars Detail Grueling Kabuki Journey on Cannes, Shanghai Film 'Kokuho': 'I Could Not Hear Anything Except My Own Heartbeats and Breath'"

3rd: Abbey White, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Heartstopper' Creator and Stars on Season 3 Love Story: 'We're Breaking Boundaries'"

### **K14. Diversity in the Music/Performing Arts Industry**

**Leena Tailor**, *Grammy.com*, "How Indian Artists, Beats & Collabs Are Taking Over Mainstream Music, From Coldplay To Coachella"

<http://bit.ly/4n4oLsR>

Judges' comment: A timely spotlight on music loved by billions of listeners around the world, finally breaking through in Europe and North America.

2nd: Abbey White, *Variety*, "Disabled Comedians Speak Out on Performance and Career Barriers Due To Widespread Industry Inaccessibility: 'I Want There to Be More of Us'"

3rd: Joshua Crutchmer, *Rolling Stone*, "Being Trans in Country Is Dangerous. It Didn't Stop This Singer From Coming Out"

### **K15. Celebrity News**

**Ruben V. Nepales**, *Rappler*, "At 62, Demi Moore finally feels 'liberated' from her own self"

<https://bit.ly/4gQjmTA>

Judges' comment: Three photos of her side by side gives a sense of her transition. The headline provides a strong sense of the value of the story. The lead graphs pull you in with a personal story.

2nd: Marc Malkin, *Variety*, "Lieke Schreiber Opens Up for First Time About Trans Daughter Kai: 'It's Important That She Goes, "I Am Trans, Look at Me"' (EXCLUSIVE)"

3rd: Madeline Berg, Laura Italiano and Natalie Musumeci, *Business Insider*, "Rapper unraveled: How Diddy's world fell apart in one year"

#### **K16. Personality Profile, Film Industry**

**Naman Ramachandran**, *Variety*, "Deepa Mehta on 30 Years of Boundary-Breaking Cinema: Facing Down Protests, Hanging Up on George Lucas and Her \$1 Deal With Salman Rushdie"

<https://tinyurl.com/7nsyrt7>

Judges' comment: Ramachandran showcases Deepa Mehta's extraordinary filmmaking career (which includes the "Elements" trilogy) and her fearless approach to work that challenges norms both social and political. A well-constructed tribute.

2nd: Jason Guerrasio, *Business Insider*, "Growing Up Marvel"

3rd: Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Karolyn Grimes, Zuzu in 'It's a Wonderful Life,' Looks Back on a Life That Wasn't Always Wonderful"

#### **K17. Personality Profile, TV/Streaming Industry**

**Bonnie Stiernberg**, *InsideHook*, "Michael Ian Black Is Just Trying to Figure It Out"

<https://bit.ly/3K8ogzV>

Judges' comment: Excellent profile that really allows the reader to get to know the subject. Also helps that the subject is open and interesting. Seems to be a dream interview.

2nd: Ky Henderson, *Rolling Stone*, "The Slings and Arrows of Being Tony Hale"

3rd: Ryan Lattanzio, *IndieWire*, "Sarah Polley on Her 'The Studio' Cameo, the Myth of the 'Mad Unwieldy Genius,' and Alice Munro's Complicated Legacy"

#### **K18. Personality Profile, Music Industry**

**Richard Stellar**, *TheWrap*, "Music Beyond the 'Silo': Composer Atli Örvarsson's Emotional Connection to the Apple Series"

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

Judges' comment: This profile doesn't just help us get to know the subject; it offers genuine and valuable insights — into the man, the music, and the series. It's a nice blend of objective reporting and the reflections of someone clearly knowledgeable about the genre. Lovely language, excellent scene-setting that helps us connect with Atli, very descriptive, terrific context — and deftly weaves the theme throughout.

2nd: Anna Nicolaou, *Financial Times*, "Super-producer Jack Antonoff: 'Don't make anything you wouldn't die for'"

3rd: Jayson Greene, *Vulture*, "Since Dorian Died"

### **K19. Personality Profile, Performing and Other Arts**

**Kathryn VanArendonk**, *Vulture*, "'I'm Not Letting You Laugh at Me. I'm Perfect.'"

<https://www.vulture.com/article/anthony-jeselnik-bones-and-all-stand-up-comedy-profile.html>

Judges' comment: Excellent profile of someone who is committed to his comedy, and doesn't care what people think. Jeselnik is not interested in putting on an act and it is refreshing.

2nd: Victoria Thomas, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, "Doyenne of the Diaspora"

3rd: Lina Lecaro, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "How Pamela Des Barres Finally Transcended 'The Band'"

### **K20. Film Feature, Actors**

**Hanh Nguyen**, *Salon*, "'What second chances mean': Ke Huy Quan's career love story as a sidekick no more"

<https://bit.ly/42Hd1Wg>

Judges' comment: Hanh Nguyen examines Ke Huy Quan, along with the roles given to -- and lost by -- Asian actors through the years. This is a deep dive about an actor who many remember as a sidekick to Indiana Jones but who recast his career and eventually, deservedly landed leading roles and handprints in Hollywood cement.

2nd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Fernanda Torres Has Already Won"

3rd: Ethan Alter, *Gold Derby*, "'What balls!' 'Apollo 13' star Kathleen Quinlan on firing off notes to Ron Howard, secret dinner with Tom Hanks, and why her Oscar-nominated role was more than just 'the wife'"

### **K21. Film Feature, Filmmakers**

**Drew Taylor**, *TheWrap*, "'Midnight Rider' Director Randall Miller Breaks His Silence on the Deadly Set Accident That Sent Him to Prison (Exclusive)"

<http://bit.ly/4pKFOSM>

Judges' comment: Just a fabulous story. Well done, with every aspect of this tragic story covered: the accident, the imprisonment, his release from prison, to the present. The writer let Miller tell his own story, stepping back as a narrator and structuring it so readers would want to read it all the way to the end.

2nd: Matthew Frank, *The Ankler*, "AI Wars Hit Film School: Profs Teach It, Students Rage. 'What About Our Jobs?'"

3rd: Jeff Goldsmith and Danny Munso, *Backstory Magazine*, "Oscar Lessons: The Writer-Director - Anora"

### **K22A. Film Feature, Production/History—Above-the-line Creatives**

**Leo Barraclough**, *Variety*, "'Mr. Nobody Against Putin' Director on Lifting the Lid on Kremlin Pro-War Propaganda in Sundance Documentary"

<https://bit.ly/3HWZ7qY>

Judges' comment: A timely and fascinating journey into a globally relevant subject.

2nd: Leila Jordan Berger, *IndieWire*, "Netflix Canceled the Release of a Gore Vidal Biopic Eight Years Ago — for the Filmmakers, the Story Isn't Over"

3rd: Todd Gilchrist, *Variety*, "'Pulp Fiction' Turns 30: How Quentin Tarantino's Masterpiece Saved Careers, Conquered Film Festivals and Changed Cinema Forever"

### **K22B. Film Feature, Production/History—Below-the-line Creatives**

**Michaela Zee**, *Variety*, "How Alexandre Desplat Crafted the Score for Wes Anderson's 'The Phoenician Scheme' — With a Nod to Stravinsky"

<https://bit.ly/4pDOFFV>

Judges' comment: An entertaining trip into movie making and music history.

2nd: Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, "How 'Sinners' Cinematographer Pulled Off That Surreal Juke Joint Music Sequence and Made History By Shooting on 65mm Imax Film"

3rd: Katie Grant, *Cinemontage Magazine*, "Cutting Through the Noise: How Toj Mora and Other Deaf Editors are Giving Hollywood a New Lens"

### **K23A. TV/Streaming Feature, Creatives**

**Katie Kilkenny**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Saving the Sword: An L.A. Fire Victim's Quixotic Quest"

<https://tinyurl.com/4wrs69bd>

Judges' comment: Kilkenny's compelling piece, along with a poignant short documentary, shows the agony of two entertainment artists searching the rubble of their fire ravaged Altadena home in search of a grandfather's WWII Japanese sword.

2nd: Kate Aurthur and Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "Variety TV Editors Recount What It Was Like Shooting a Cameo for the 'Hacks' Premiere: 'I Went Into a Fugue State'"

3rd: Lauren Huff, *Entertainment Weekly*, "Raising the stakes: Natasha Lyonne bets on 'Poker Face' season 2 with her Rolodex of famous friends"

### **K23B. TV/Streaming Feature, Shows**

**Lily Ford**, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Rage of 'Adolescence': Inside the Single-Shot Sensation Blowing Up the Manosphere"

<https://tinyurl.com/39r68wms>

Judges' comment: Thank you for taking readers inside the inner workings of Netflix's most popular UK show in this stellar profile where actors admit it's too intense for them to watch the finished product.

2nd: Leena Taylor, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Inside 'Bluey's World': How a Cute Aussie Puppy Became an Estimated \$2B Juggernaut"

3rd: Daniel D'Addario, Kate Aurthur, William Earl, Selome Hailu and Variety Staff, *Variety*, "The 100 Greatest TV Performances of the 21st Century"

#### **K24. Theater Feature**

**Chris Rovzar**, *Bloomberg Pursuits*, "Greg Nobile Is Big on Broadway. Now He Wants to Go Small"

<https://tinyurl.com/56kmppuc>

Judges' comment: Detailed and revealing.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "'Randy Newman's Faust,' the Songwriter's Brilliant but Rarely Produced Stage Musical, Rises Again for a Weekend in L.A. at the Soraya"

3rd: John Lavitt, *The Hollywood Times*, "Doña Perón and the Detailed Deconstruction of Historical Trauma by Ballet Hispánico"

#### **K25A. Music Feature, Individual Artists**

**Chris Willman**, *Variety*, "How Taylor Swift's Eras Tour Took Over the Entire World"

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

Judges' comment: The writer really takes you into the TaylorVerse for his trip to see the singer in Ireland, setting the stage well with fans and detractors alike, and helping explain the Fenom that is Taylor Swift, especially addressing the many who might just not "get it." Well done.

2nd: Lyndsey Parker, *Gold Derby*, "Sean Ono Lennon on his 'Mind Games' Grammy nomination and stewarding his family's legacy: 'I'm trying to do good by my own father'"

3rd: Jonathan Landrum Jr., *The Associated Press*, "Jon Batiste's reimagined Super Bowl anthem highlighted wife's painting and set stage for new music"

#### **K25B. Music Feature, Group/Industry Artists**

**Chris Willman**, *Variety*, "Shania Twain and Brandi Carlile on Teaming Up for an All-Female-Headliner Festival, and Why Women Supporting Women Is Always 'Right on Time'"

<https://bit.ly/4gFF9ht>

Judges' comment: A fun-to-read article full of '90s country-pop nostalgia that takes readers backstage with two stars, as if they are there.

2nd: Julius Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, "Coachella may be 'notorious,' but Kneecap just needs '12 Irish' to get the crowd going"  
3rd: Leena Taylor, *Spin*, "Blink-182: All the Big Ways 'All the Small Things' Still Resonates 25 Years Later"

#### **K26. Visual Arts/Design/Architecture Feature**

**Leslie Katz**, *Forbes*, "The Novel Way AI Is Helping Immigrants Keep Their Heritage Alive"

<http://bit.ly/40Yu7gM>

Judges' comment: Captivating unusual use of AI.

2nd: Matthew Ponsford, *Bloomberg CityLab*, "A Vast Wetland Park Seeks to Slake a Thirsty Megacity"

3rd: Katya Kazakina, *Artnet News*, "How a Young Woman Built Her Dream Art School Into an \$1.85 Billion Empire"

#### **K27. Literature/Food/Culture Feature**

**Natalia Molina**, *Zócalo Public Square*, "Making Guisados of Our Grief"

<https://bit.ly/4j92Hef>

Judges' comment: The connection between shared food and shared grief stays with you.

2nd: Whitney Friedlander, *Salon*, "The cautionary tale of the real-life Snow White who lived among us in Hollywood"

3rd: Jennifer Mercieca, *Zócalo Public Square*, "What Happens When You Trade Doomscrolling for Hopescrolling"

#### **K28. Celebrity Feature**

**Ruben V. Nepales**, *Rappler*, "Colin Farrell opens up on his son's Angelman syndrome, starts a foundation"

<https://bit.ly/4guUyk5>

Judges' comment: A wonderful in depth, intimate interview with Collin Farrell and his work on behalf of those afflicted with Angelman Syndrome, including his son.

2nd: Ethan Shanfeld, *Variety*, "Bill Burr on Adapting His 'A--hole Vibe,' Wanting a 'Hostile Crowd' for New Hulu Special and How a Rabbi Changed His Perspective on Censorship"

3rd: William Earl, *Variety*, "Sophie Thatcher in Control: The 'Yellowjackets' Star on Her 'Companion' Robot and How the Film's Toxic Relationship Goes 'Far Deeper Than I Ever Imagined'"

#### **K29. Columnist**

**Chris Willman, *Variety***

<http://bit.ly/4bF1p8R>

<http://bit.ly/45HgCET>

<http://bit.ly/423PttI>

Judges' comment: Clear-eyed music criticism that often finds a POC near the intersection of music and politics - a point of view that's unafraid to explore the messy ideologies of our musical icons and the complicated machinations of public perception. Chris Willman's columns are informed, refreshingly curious and unpack how music lives on the charts and in the culture.

2nd: James Hibberd, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd: Alison Herman, *Variety*

### **K30. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Film**

**Leila Jordan Berger, *The AV Club***, "The awards story of Emilia Pérez illuminates Hollywood's fragile politics"

<https://bit.ly/4p0mxMW>

Judges' comment: Leila Jordan Berger's article on the drama surrounding "Emilia Perez" leading into the 2025 Oscars is a comprehensive, realistic, no-holds-barred take on the Hollywood film industry in all its gory glory. An interesting read, the piece provides the reader with valuable information and a nuanced understanding of the popular movie's various drawbacks while skewering the Academy and the film making business. She really does "expose the raw mechanisms that turn an idea into a film, a film into a symbol, and symbol into an embarrassment."

2nd: Elena Smolina, *Zócalo Public Square*, "Why I Saw Russian Dissident Alexei Navalny in 'Snow White'"

3rd: Coleman Spilde, *Salon*, "Netflix's current Christmas slate has left us cold. What went wrong after its promising start?"

### **K31. Commentary Analysis/Trend, TV**

**James C. Cobb, *Zócalo Public Square***, "How Television Made Willie Mays a Star"

<https://zps.la/3Y3iW5G>

Judges' comment: We learn a lot about television coverage about baseball and the impact it had on players of color.

2nd: Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "The L.A. Fires Proved the Urgent Need for Local News in an Age of Social Media Conspiracies and Outright Lies"

3rd: Jackie Manky, *Zócalo Public Square*, "Do Fires on Film Have Anything to Teach Us?"

### **K32. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Music**

**Rashida Z. Shaw McMahon, *Zócalo Public Square***, "Why Beyoncé Is Carving a



Route Along the 'Chitlin' Circuit'"

<https://zps.la/3EP9j3j>

Judges' comment: This piece managed to bring light to a fascinating aspect of an otherwise media-saturated tour and album. It was well researched and argued, seamlessly weaving together pop culture with storied history. The topic would be interesting to a large swath of readers, and the writing is rhythmic, eloquent, and engages the senses.

2nd: Alex Galbraith, *Salon*, "Bro-country has curdled"

3rd: Bonnie Stiernberg, *InsideHook*, "The Great Pop Star Realignment"

### **K33. Commentary Analysis/Trend, Other Arts**

**Clayton Davis**, *Variety*, "Tony Hinchcliffe Called Puerto Rico a 'Floating Island of Garbage': His Hate Disguised as Comedy Wasn't Funny or a Joke"

<https://bit.ly/4ITEQRa>

Judges' comment: An impassioned look at the responsibilities that come with free speech. Yelling "free speech" does not excuse liability for hateful, divisive language. Good comedy punches up, not down. Good strong commentary.

2nd: Steve Ammidown, *Zócalo Public Square*, "Happily Ever After Is for Everyone"

3rd: Ainsley Ferrell, *AnnenbergMedia*, "OPINION: Plugged in or left out? Exploring the struggle to escape the algorithm's toxicity while still participating in pop culture"

### **K34. Entertainment Website**

**TheWrap Staff**, *TheWrap*, "TheWrap.com"

<https://thewrap.com/>

Judges' comment: The Wrap provides a clean, yet powerful set of images and text. The graphics (in this case, the CNN In Flux story, offered intrigue and perspective. It showed there was something menacing. Story layouts were within easy eyesight and didn't overwhelm, but had the power to draw you in.

2nd: IndieWire Staff, *IndieWire*, "IndieWire.com"

3rd: Kevin Fallon, *The Daily Beast's Obsessed*, "TheDailyBeast.com/obsessed"

### **K35. Entertainment Blog by an Individual Not Tied to an Organization**

**Rick Ellis**, *AllYourScreens.com*, "AllYourScreens.com"

<http://bit.ly/45Y3gTD>

Judges' comment: A terrific global view of everything tv related--great stories and news items.

2nd: Alex Ben Block, *BlockandTackle.biz*, "Will Israel's Oct. 7 Hero Ever Be Seen In America?"



3rd: Lyndsey Parker, *Lyndsanity.com*, "Lyndsanity"

### **K36. Entertainment Blog by an Individual or Group Tied to an Organization**

**Sharon Waxman**, *TheWrap*, "WaxWord"

<https://shorturl.at/8IUHo>

<http://bit.ly/4gGbh4p>

<http://bit.ly/3KgNts1>

Judges' comment: The writer employs a unique voice to tackle bold topics with confidence. The engaging leads bait readers, compelling them to move from one paragraph to the next. The writing is strong and captivating from start to finish.

2nd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "Only IN Hollywood"

3rd: Jackie Strause, Rick Porter, James Hibberd, Etan Vlessing and Tony Maglio, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Live Feed"

## **L. SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **L1. Best Journalistic Use of Social Media to Tell or Enhance a Story by an Individual Not Tied to an Organization**

**Emilie Hagen**, *Substack*, *Instagram*, *TikTok*, "Paid Protestors: Everything is a Psyop"

[https://open.substack.com/pub/emiliehagen/p/paid-protestors-everything-is-a-psyop?r=2aypv0&utm\\_medium=ios](https://open.substack.com/pub/emiliehagen/p/paid-protestors-everything-is-a-psyop?r=2aypv0&utm_medium=ios)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJupPfAp6qh/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/general-news/free-puff-t-shirts-diddy-trial-may-be-paid-protest-1236223890/>

Judges' comment: Destroyed in the Palisades fire, the Theatre Palisades had brought together the community for 60 years, and its staff and supporters hope to rebuild as related in this tragic, well-written story.

2nd: Michael Blackshire, *Twitter*, "Asap Rocky Trial Coverage"

3rd: Scott Hays, *OC World*, "Early IMAX Camera"

### **L2. Best Journalistic use of Social Media to Tell or Enhance a Story by an Individual or Group Tied to an Organization**

**Rachel Cohn, Jack Newsham**, *Business Insider*, "Artists use Covid taxpayer grants for private jets and shopping sprees"

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDuUcKRq7WG/?igsh=MTdkcnQxbmU4ZHM1eQ%3D%3D>

Judges' comment: The Business Insider expertly used social media to highlight its hard-hitting reporting about celebrities who exploited Covid relief funds for their own enrichment. Excellent mix of visuals, reporter interviews and public documents gives extra umph to this report.

2nd: Ryan Fish, Anaja Smith, Lucie Soares, Jason Rovou and THR Staff, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “The White Lotus”

3rd: On the Red Carpet Staff, ABC7, “Maia Kealoha dishes on landing the role of Lilo”

## **M. STUDENT JOURNALISM — Any Platform**

### **M1. Best Arts or Entertainment News Story**

**Warren Riley**, *Daily Bruin*, “Theatre Palisades continues legacy of community, creativity after LA County fires”

<https://bit.ly/46ibjvR>

Judges' comment: Theatre Palisades Continues Legacy by Warren Riley is significant in that it covers the tragic news while local history. The topic went beyond the news, the story captured the human side of terrible disaster. Very good work!

2nd: Maddie Sims, *Lamar University*, “Finding Joy in Creation”

3rd: Tare Ebimami, *AnnenbergMedia*, “Kaufman dancers grapple with racism and a canceled gala performance”

### **M2A. Best Arts or Culture Feature**

**Lauren Benson**, *Long Beach Current*, “Southeast Asian refugee experiences told through art in ‘Pink Donut Boxes’”

<https://lbccurrent.com/artslife/2024/10/09/southeast-asian-refugee-experiences-told-through-art-in-pink-donut-boxes/>

Judges' comment: Remarkable storytelling on a rare and unique subject in the arts. Fantastic reporting written and presented with great empathy.

2nd: Athena Cheris, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, “Spilling the tea: A guide to LMU's tea options”

3rd: Sidra Ganni, *University Press*, “Exploring the Unseen”

### **M2B. Best Entertainment Feature**

**Kaitlyn Han**, *el Don*, “The Nobödy's are bringing back Santa Ana's music culture one intersection at a time”

<https://bit.ly/46hUwsR>

Judges' comment: The first-place entry had everything a consumer of music news wants: A great story, beautiful photos and poignant writing.

2nd: Nicholas Corral, *AnnenbergMedia*, “USC alum put his career on hold to chase ‘Survivor’ dream”

3rd: Katherine Contreras Hernandez, Valeria Macias and Sara Alvarez, *Dímelo at*

*AnnenbergMedia*, "Homies, Healing and Harmony: The unofficial story of Homeboy Industries takes center stage"

### **M3. Best Arts or Entertainment Profile**

**Liam Wady**, *AnnenbergMedia*, "Dancing for them: the making of the dance short film 'Baraye'"

<http://bit.ly/47v4RTm>

Judges' comment: This piece is an intensive look at the making of a film and a movement. The profile goes beyond what is required to place first in this category.

2nd: Kami Greene, *University Press*, "Fruit City to Big Apple"

3rd: Emma Russell and Grace McNeill, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Lyrics of letting go in Los Angeles — Remy Smith's ('22) pursuit of authenticity in music"

### **M4. Best Arts or Entertainment Photo**

**Kat Hampton**, *Los Angeles Collegian*, "Hunchback Rings Bells"

PDF

Judges' comment: Hampton provides fascinating insights into the play production of the "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" on a small stage. A picture that tells a story.

2nd: Marissa Ding, *AnnenbergMedia*, "Suki Waterhouse: A mesmerizing night at The Roxy Theater"

3rd: Jeremy Ruiz, *The Crown*, "Paint Steel and Subversion"

### **M5. Best Commentary/Critique**

**Arianna Chavarria**, *el Don*, "I'm glad club culture died"

<https://bit.ly/4nAhUrX>

Judges' comment: This compelling critique represents consistently relevant and earnest topics from *el Don* journalism. Not only does the writer not push her opinion, but she guides the reader to reevaluate their own position.

2nd: Delfino Camacho, *Long Beach Current*, "Crude meets clever as comedy musical Urinetown makes a splash"

3rd: Maddie Sims, *University Press*, "Review: 'Constellations' is out of this world"

### **N. THE DAVID ROBB INVESTIGATIVE \$5,000 CASH PRIZE — Any Platform**

**Kory Grow, Jon Blistein, Tomás Mier**, *Rolling Stone*, "'Brilliant, Lost, Damaged': Inside the Tragedy of Liam Payne"

<http://bit.ly/46lwPKp>

Judges' comment: This comprehensive investigation of the death of Liam Payne revealed the singer's struggles with addiction plus wider issues about the pressures of fame and a lack of support for people in the spotlight.

2nd: Olivia Carville and Cecilia D'Anastasio, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Roblox's Pedophile Problem"

3rd: Stacy Perman, *Los Angeles Times*, "'It was just a free-for-all': What happened to Kanye West's Donda Academy?"

**O. NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, \$500 CASH AWARD — Any Platform**

**Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Ben Boyd**, *PBS SoCal*, "PST ART: Fusing Art & Science: Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology"  
<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/pst-fusing-art-science/episodes/future-imaginaries-indigenous-art-fashion-technology>

Judges' comment: This report beautifully showcases how the past is still influencing Native American artists of the future. We watched native culture collide with new technology, seeing how it is creating a new world for young artists. This is a visually interesting, informative and even slightly edgy look at Indigenous excellence.

2nd: Martha Ross, *Bay Area News Group*, "Dugan Aguilar, California's famed Native American photographer, found the beauty in his people"

3rd: Sarah Clothier, *American Film Institute*, "The Daughter of Dawn"