



## THE BRITISH ACADEMY TELEVISION CRAFT AWARDS

### WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**\*\* Strictly embargoed until 21:30 hours May 19 2006 \*\***

Today, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts announced the winners of this year's British Academy Television Craft Awards, held at The Dorchester on Park Lane. Now in its seventh year, the glittering ceremony was hosted by Jon Culshaw and attendees and presenters included Bill Nighy, Ashley Jensen, Kim Cattrall, Charles Dance, Geraldine James, Jodhi May, Rufus Sewell, Sarah Lancashire, David Threlfall, Denis Lawson, Andy Serkis, Julian Rhind-Tutt and Diane Abbott.

Five new awards were introduced this year; with newcomer Lee Phillips winning two of them. He was recognised in the new *Break-through Talent* category for writing, producing and directing the series **How To Start Your Own Country** – a series that took him ten years to get commissioned, just before his thirtieth birthday. The same programme brought him victory in the *New Media Developer* category together with Julian Pearson and Patrick Cameron for the series' complementary website **citizensrequired.com** and its live interactive **Citizen TV**. The *New Media Developer* award acknowledges individual creative or technical achievement across any new media.

The *Writer* category was fiercely contended by Andrew Davies, Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Russell T Davies and Peter Kosminsky. In his debut as a solo television screenwriter, Peter Kosminsky won for **The Government Inspector** - his sensitive dramatisation of the last months in the life of Dr David Kelly, caught in the crossfire over the war in Iraq. The *Director* award went to Brian Percival for **Much Ado About Nothing**.

The final new award went to the **BBC Open Earth Archive** which received the *Interactive Innovation* award in the gift of the Academy; its innovative natural history archive enables ordinary people to explore nature through access to video footage and then create their own videos.

**Bleak House** was victorious in three categories; for his reconstruction of Victorian England, Simon Elliott claimed the BAFTA for *Production Design*, Paul Knight took home the award for *Editing Fiction/Entertainment*, and Andrea Galer's creative talents were recognised in the *Costume Design* category.

**Tsunami: 7 hours on Boxing Day** collected two BAFTAs; in the *Sound Factual* category the award was collected by Ben Baird (who won last year for *The Genius of Mozart*), Gregor Lyon & Brian Howell. Paul Otter's work was recognised in the *Factual Photography* category and Red Vision, who won last year for *Battlefield Britain*, was victorious again, together with Mike Tucker and Gareth Edwards, for the *Visual Effects* on **Hiroshima**. In the *Titles* category, Mick Connaire's artistry was honoured for his work on **Life in the Undergrowth** and Paul Binns won the *Editing Factual* award for **The Year London Blew Up: 1974**. **The Girl in the Café** brought Chris Seager the BAFTA for *Photography and Lighting Fiction/Entertainment* for the second year running.

Vanessa White and Neill Gorton picked up the *Make up & Hair Design* BAFTA for their work on the contemporary **Help**, bringing them victory over their costume drama rivals (*Elizabeth I*, *Casanova* and *Bleak House*). Rob Lane was honoured in the *Original Television Music* category for **Elizabeth I** and the Sound Team behind **Colditz** won for *Sound Fiction/Entertainment*.

This year's Special Award went to Production Designer Eileen Diss whose prodigious credits include **Longitude**, **Jeeves & Wooster**, **Porterhouse Blue**, **A Handful of Dust**, **Sweet William** and **Up The Junction**.

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