

Tuesday 18 November
Roundhouse, London



GRIERSON

British Documentary Awards

2025

In association with **A13** MEDIA

griersontrust.org
#GriersonAwards



GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

2025

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WELCOME TO GRIERSON 2025

Welcome to the 53rd British Documentary Awards. As we gather tonight to celebrate the very best of documentary filmmaking, I feel both honoured and a little reflective. This year marks my eleventh – and final – year as Chair of the Grierson Trust. It has been a privilege to serve this wonderful organisation that promotes and recognises excellence in all aspects of documentary-making through these annual awards.

We also help to shape the future of our industry by offering free training through our various DocLab initiatives. We've tried to live our values by embracing diversity in all its forms during the recruitment for these programmes. Since I started a total of 209 trainees have benefited from our New Entrant, Editing, Production Management, Archive Producer and Development courses. Some of my proudest moments have been seeing former DocLab trainees win Griersons and other awards. Indeed, eight appear on the credits of tonight's nominated films. They are proof of the pipeline of talent we have helped to nurture, and their success is testament to the Trust's belief in backing those who might otherwise not have gained access to our industry.

I firmly believe that now more than ever society needs the fresh perspectives documentaries can bring to a wide range of domestic, social, political and global issues. The passion of documentary-makers can illuminate dark corners, pierce echo chambers and bring new subjects to large audiences through powerful human stories. I also believe those stories improve when the documentary community embraces diversity so that the ideas are coming from people from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible.

It's because the Grierson Trust is committed to diversity, inclusion, and high ethical standards that we were the first awards body in the UK to ask entrants to provide D&I and duty of care statements, reflecting our belief that how documentaries are made matters just as much as the films themselves. We're so pleased that these efforts are proving fruitful, with more female directors than ever appearing on the credits for this year's nominated films.

Over the past decade, the Griersons have evolved alongside a rapidly changing media landscape. We have adapted by introducing new categories – such as this year's Best Crime and Justice Documentary – and remaining proudly platform-neutral, ensuring that excellence is recognised whether a documentary is released in cinemas, at festivals, on television, or via streaming or digital platforms.

I'd like to extend a huge thanks to our chairs, reviewers and jurors who watch hours and hours of documentaries to create the longlists and decide the final nominations.

During my time as Chair the BBC Grierson Trustees' Award has recognised people working on different types of documentaries behind and in front of the camera. I am particularly delighted that this year's recipient holds the torch for those working in craft. Congratulations to

the prolific, highly talented documentary editor, Rupert Houseman, who we honour with this special award tonight for the quality of his work and his commitment to championing emerging editing talent.

The awards would not be possible without the generous support of our many sponsors, including our headline sponsor All3Media. I would like to thank all the organisations that have sponsored the Trust's work during my chairmanship with special thanks to All3Media's Jane Turton and Sara Geater for their loyal support for eight years.

We know too that the sustainability of our sector depends on supporting freelancers through these challenging times, bringing in more diverse voices and building skills. Our Grierson DocLab training programmes have continued to do just that, this year supported by sponsorship from many organisations. Our thanks go to our new Headline Industry Sponsor, National Geographic, plus sponsors Banijay UK and the Rank Foundation, alongside no less than 25 independent production companies for supporting the New Entrants programme. Thank you, too, to Netflix for the partnership on our new initiative upskilling and diversifying workers in documentary development, and to Prime Video Pathway for supporting the second Archive Producers programme.

The Grierson Trust has always stood for quality, integrity, creativity, originality and overall excellence in documentary. I step down knowing that these values are stronger than ever, and that the Trust is in a brilliant position to continue shaping the future of this vital art form. I've been lucky to be supported by a tireless board of expert trustees who willingly give so much of their time to support the work of the Trust. I am thrilled that one of our former trustees and longtime Grierson supporter Tom McDonald will be taking over from me. I couldn't have wished for a better successor.

My biggest thanks of all must go to the small team of Grierson staff and freelancers who manage all of the Trust's activities. I never cease to be amazed by what they achieve with the slenderest of resources and feel privileged to have worked with such a dedicated, talented group of people, particularly our MD, Sylvia Bednarz, Director of Training Programmes, Yen Yau and Head of Marketing and Communications, Hannah Brown as well as our former MD, Jane Callaghan.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way.

Here's to all documentary filmmakers – please keep on keeping on – and of course to the nominees and the winners of the 2025 Griersons! Have a wonderful evening.



Lorraine Heggessey
Chair, Grierson Trust



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GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

Running Order

Bleeding Fingers

**Best Arts and Music
Documentary**

**Best Returning
Documentary Series**

**Best Science and Natural
History Documentary**

**Best Crime and
Justice Documentary**

Best Documentary Presenter

Broadcast International

**Best Single Documentary –
International**

Channel 4

**Best Popular
Culture Documentary**

Best History Documentary

Best Sports Documentary

All3Media

Best Student Documentary

Televisual

**Best Current
Affairs Documentary**

Best Documentary Short

Sky Documentaries

Best Cinema Documentary

BBC

Grierson Trustees' Award

ENVY

**Best Single Documentary –
Domestic**

Netflix

Best Documentary Series

Food served during the drinks reception and after-party –

Canapés

Seabass Taco

Jalapeño, burnt Asian pear,
lime (df, gf)

Ham Hock Scotch Egg

Piccalilli, mustard cress

Watermelon Radish Spiedino

Whipped tofu (ve – no nuts)

Harissa Lamb Shoulder

Roasted garlic labneh, pomegranate
ketchup, crispy lamb dukkha

Pecorino Croquette

Quince purée (v)

Aubergine Char Sui

Puffed green rice, furikake salt (ve)

Maxi Bowls

ChalkStream Trout

Smoked yogurt, apple, radish
& fennel salad, caper vierge (gf)

Tuna Poke Bowl

Spiced avocado, sushi rice, pickled
edamame beans

Brassicas & Heirloom Carrots

Waste Knot Farm wonky
vegetables, pickled blackberries,
whipped tofu, sorrel (no nuts)

Sticky Short-Rib of Beef

Porcini potato purée, tender stem,
star anise glazed carrot

Sri Lankan Squash

Roasted Squash, torched leek,
baked rice, coconut lime &
cucumber curry leaf tarka (ve, ng)

Truffle Mac 'n' Cheese

Parmesan (v)

Dessert

Vegan Chocolate Brownie (ve)

(v) Vegetarian

(ve) Vegan

(df) Dairy Free

(gf) Gluten Free

(ng) No Gluten-containing Ingredients



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KAT PENKIN (Pop)



NO MINNES



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all nominees and
the winners.**



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collective behind Planet Earth II & III, Blue
Planet II & III, Beckham, Being The Queen,
Prehistoric Planet & Secrets of the
Neanderthals. Co-founded by Hans Zimmer.

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Bleeding Fingers Best Arts & Music Documentary



In My Own Words: Alison Lapper

Victoria Holden, Poppy Goodheart, Kira Phillips, Kate Spankie

[Chalk Productions – BBC](#)

Alison Lapper, artist, muse and mother, explores her life through art and archive in this visually rich and powerfully intimate film. Born with no arms and short legs, she is a formidable character, who defies preconceptions and breaks down barriers. As Alison works towards a new exhibition of her work, she confronts the most difficult aspects of her life: the loss of her son Parys, her disability and the challenging relationship with her own mother.

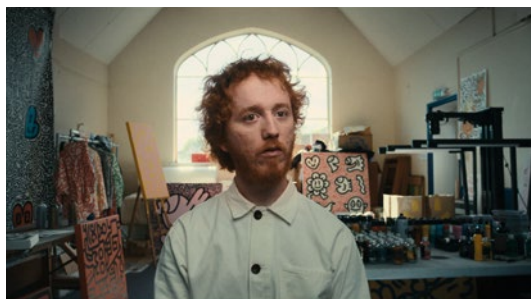


Music by John Williams

Steven Spielberg, Darryl Frank, Justin Falvey, Justin Wilkes, Meredith Kaulfers, Laurent Bouzereau

[Lucasfilm Ltd, Amblin Documentaries, Imagine Documentaries – Disney+](#)

A fascinating and insightful look at the prolific life and career of the legendary composer, featuring interviews with artists and filmmakers whose lives have been touched by his timeless music. From his early days as a jazz pianist, the documentary takes an in-depth look at his countless contributions to film.



The Trouble with Mr Doodle

Jaimie D'Cruz, Ed Perkins, Andrew Hulme, Kevin Pollard, Andrew Stirk, Simon Chinn

[Acme in association with Lightbox – Theatrical release](#)

Sam Cox was born to draw. By the time he went to school he was drawing all day every day, and all night too. As his life became an unstoppable stream of doodling, Sam created a fantasy world so compelling he couldn't find his way out. This is the story of an extraordinary boy from an unremarkable English town and how a childhood passion threatened to take over his life, his home and his mind.



Two Strangers Trying Not to Kill Each Other

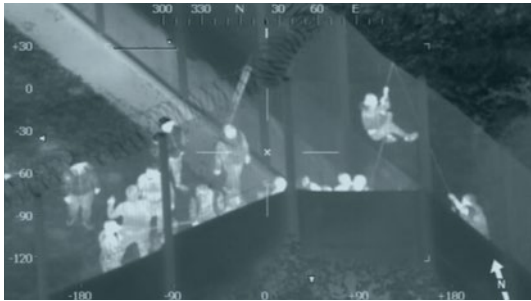
Jacob Perlmutter, Manon Ouimet, Signe Byrge Sørensen, Mandy Chang, Joslyn Barnes, Estephan Wagner

[Manon et Jacob, Final Cut For Real, Fremantle, Louverture Films – Theatrical release](#)

When artist Maggie Barrett breaks her femur, her husband Joel Meyerowitz, a world-famous photographer, becomes her caregiver. In the shadow of mortality, each with a long and dramatic life behind them, the hard truths of life together provoke in Maggie and Joel an attempt to find a shared inner peace while there is still time.



Best Returning Documentary Series



24 Hours in Police Custody

Simon Ford, Amber Ronowicz, Georgie Emary,
Jermaine Blake, Tess Mawle, Carys Laws
The Garden – Channel 4

The landmark documentary series that captures real life drama at its most intense, following police detectives around the clock as they investigate major crimes.



Life and Death Row

Production Team
BBC Studios Documentary Unit – BBC

Life and Death Row returns for a new series in a changed world, exploring the uniquely modern issues now relevant to capital punishment. Editorial neutrality enables exploration of how true-crime podcasts, the latest neuroscience and even celebrity endorsements influence individual cases, with the potential to alter the course of justice.



Murder Trial: Girl in the River

Iain Scollay, Vari Innes, Matt Pinder, Kirsty MacFarlane,
Audrey McColligan, Maxene Purdie
Firecrest Films – BBC

One of the nation's biggest cold cases – the murder of Caroline Glachan, a schoolgirl who never came home. Three suspects stand accused of brutally killing the teenager, more than two decades after her body was found in the River Leven. Shocking and chilling revelations unfold for the first time.



Surgeons: At the Edge of Life

Production Team
Dragonfly Film & Television Productions – BBC

The surgeons of NHS Lothian perform high-risk procedures for patients across Edinburgh and beyond, bearing the ultimate responsibility for transforming and saving lives.



Best Science & Natural History Documentary



Apollo 13: Survival

Production Team

A Netflix Documentary, Insight TWI Films Presents in association with Fee Fie Foe – Netflix

Just nine months after Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, NASA faced its greatest crisis – three astronauts stranded halfway to the moon on a spacecraft that had suffered a catastrophic explosion.



Britain's Nuclear Bomb Scandal: Our Story

Simon Rawles, Esella Hawkey, Steve Williams, Susie Boniface, Liz Knowles, Alex Booth

Hardcash Productions – BBC

Investigating the hidden legacy of Britain's Cold War nuclear tests, this film draws on archival footage, expert analysis and intimate testimony to uncover the consequences of exposing thousands of people to dangerous levels of radiation. Scientific evidence of harm was ignored or suppressed by authorities, leaving veterans, descendants and Indigenous communities to suffer the fallout.



Nocturnes

Anirban Dutta, Anupama Srinivasan, Greg Boustead, Jessica Harrop

Metamorphosis Film Junction, Sandbox Films – Theatrical release

In the dense forests of the Eastern Himalayas, moths are whispering something to us. In the dark of night, two curious observers shine a light on a secret universe.



Pangolin: Kulu's Journey

Production Team

A Netflix Documentary, An Anonymous Content, Dog Star Films, Water Creature Film Production – Netflix

A man finds new purpose when he helps rescue a baby pangolin, one of the most trafficked animals in the world, in a sting operation in South Africa. He leaves the city and embarks on a heartfelt mission to rehabilitate and prepare the vulnerable animal for a life of freedom in the wild.



Best Crime & Justice Documentary



Bibaa & Nicole: Murder in the Park – Episode 1

Alex Thomas, Sian Guerra, Lindsay Konieczny,
Jane Greenwood, Ian Watts, Brian Woods
True Vision Productions – Sky Documentaries

This film unravels the shocking killings of sisters Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman. Featuring interviews with their mother, loved ones, and detectives, it reconstructs the sisters' final hours, the desperate search for their killer, and the police misconduct that followed. With never-before-seen evidence and police recordings, the series offers a unique insight into the investigation, institutional racism, and the injustices which the case exposed.



Shoot to Kill: Terror on the Tube – Episode 1

Charlie Russell, Andrew Slater, Dov Freedman, Faye Planer,
Charlie MacDonald, Yasmin Heidary-Milic
Curious Films – Channel 4

A groundbreaking and critically acclaimed documentary series, twenty years after one of the most significant periods in British public life: the July 2005 London bombings and their aftermath. At the centre of the series is an extraordinary testimony from the Metropolitan Police specialist firearms officer who shot and killed Jean Charles de Menezes, who has never publicly spoken about the most controversial moment in British policing history.



The Wrong Man: 17 Years Behind Bars

Jemma Gander, Fran Robertson, Danny Collins,
James Pounce, Shona Thompson, Kevin Macdonald
Two Step Films – BBC

Filed over three years, *The Wrong Man* tells the shocking story of how Andrew Malkinson was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for a horrific crime he didn't commit – and of his 20-year fight for justice.



Zurawski v Texas

Production Team
HiddenLight Productions, Story Force, Out Of Nowhere –
Eventive – Together Films

Women denied abortions under Texas' ambiguous and unforgiving abortion bans band together with a fearless attorney to sue Texas. The extent of their traumatic experiences is revealed as they wrestle to regain their reproductive futures and set a precedent for millions of other women and families. *Zurawski v Texas* reveals the dire impact of losing access to healthcare and the extraordinary efforts of the women and men fighting on the frontline to regain those rights.



Best Documentary Presenter



Rose Ayling-Ellis

for *Rose Ayling-Ellis: Old Hands, New Tricks*

Teresa Watkins, James Rogan, Dan Hall, Simon Gilchrist,
Soleta Rogan, Camilla Arnold

Rogan Productions – BBC

This heart-warming and thought-provoking series follows Rose Ayling-Ellis as she embarks on an incredible experiment teaching a group of retirees British Sign Language. Rose takes on this mission impossible with the help of her friend and teacher, recruiting a group of self-described “recycled teenagers” at a retirement village. Together they go on a riotous and laugh-out-loud journey complete with bingo trips, deaf raves and signed karaoke.



Mobeen Azhar

for *Small Town, Big Riot – Episode 2*

Production Team

Forest – BBC

Mobeen investigates how a protest outside an asylum seeker hotel turned into a riot, uncovering a blueprint for a national wave of violence that eight months later would affect us all.



Blindboy Boatclub

for *Blindboy: The Land of Slaves & Scholars*

Blindboy Boatclub, James Cotter, Sally Roden,
Amelie De Buyl Pisco, Emer O’Clery, Mark Bennett

Connla’s Well Productions – RTÉ

Writer and podcaster Blindboy Boatclub explores the evolution of Irish society during the spread of Christianity in this lyrical and unique documentary.



Poppy Jay

for *Young, British and Anti-Abortion*

Poppy Jay, Nicole Kleeman, Vari Innes, Grace Kirkwood,
Audrey McColligan, Naomi Buchanan

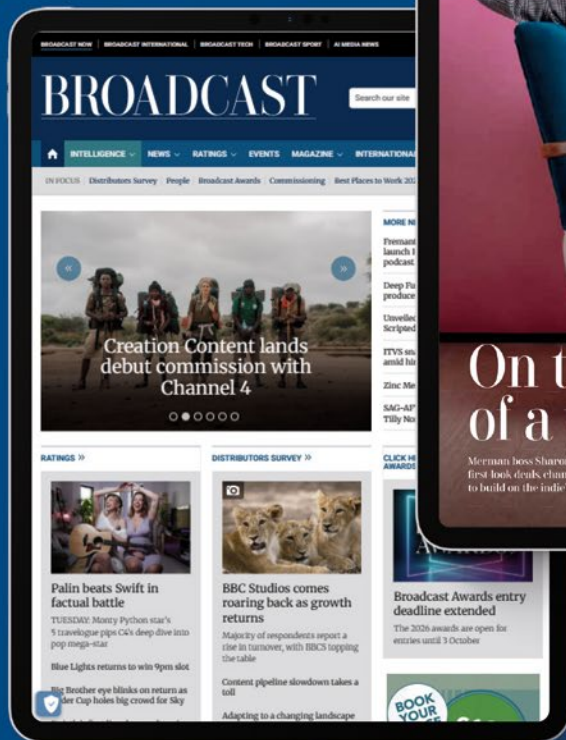
Firecrest Films – BBC

The abortion rate in Britain is at the highest on record. While opposition to abortion remains a minority view, a recent British poll found nearly 90% of respondents saying they were pro-abortion. Filmmaker Poppy Jay wants to explore whether there is a new demographic galvanising the UK anti-abortion movement: Gen Z. Poppy meets the young British people leading anti-abortion campaigns, asking difficult questions and fighting to end access to abortion.

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Black Box Diaries

Shiori Ito, Eric Nyari, Hanna Aqvili
Hanashi Films, Cineric Creative & Star Sands
Production – Theatrical release

Black Box Diaries follows director and journalist Shiori Ito's courageous investigation of her own sexual assault in an improbable attempt to prosecute her high-profile offender. Unfolding like a thriller and combining secret investigative recordings, verité shooting and emotional first-person video, Shiori's quest becomes a landmark case in Japan, exposing the country's desperately outdated judicial and societal systems.



No Other Land

Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor, Fabien Greenberg, Bård Kjølge Rønning
Antipode Films, Yabayay – Channel 4

For half a decade, Basel Adra, a Palestinian activist, films his community of Masafer Yatta being destroyed by Israel's occupation, as he builds an unlikely alliance with an Israeli journalist who wants to join his fight.



The Remarkable Life of Ibelin

Production Team
A Netflix Documentary. A Medieoperatørene
Production and VGTV – Netflix

When gamer Mats Steen died at age 25, his parents mourned what they thought was an isolated life. It was only once they had access to his blog that they discovered the deep friendships he created virtually before passing away from a degenerative muscular disease. *The Remarkable Life of Ibelin* is a transformative journey proving how community can transcend the physical world.



Sugarcane

Julian Brave NoiseCat, Emily Kassie, Kellen Quinn, Christopher LaMarca, Nathan Punwar, Maya Daisy Hawke
Kassie Films, Hedgehog Films, Impact Partners, Fit Via Vi – National Geographic

A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, *Sugarcane*, the debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning.



From *One Day in Southport* to *Undercover: Exposing The Far Right*, *Shoot to Kill: Terror on the Tube*, and *24 Hours in Police Custody*. At Channel 4 we're uncompromising, unfiltered and unafraid to tackle difficult stories.

ONE DAY IN SOUTHPORT





Channel 4 Best Popular Culture Documentary



Boyzone: No Matter What

Production Team

Curious Films – Sky Documentaries

They were one of the most successful and iconic boybands of all time, but behind-the-scenes conflict and rivalry, betrayal and tragedy led to their falling apart. Now, thirty years on, all four remaining members – Ronan, Keith, Shane and Mikey – plus estranged manager Louis Walsh reveal the truth of what really happened, the extraordinary highs of their meteoric rise to fame, and the huge costs that being in a boyband had on each of them.



Grand Theft Hamlet

Pinny Grylls, Sam Crane, Julia Ton, Rebecca Wolff, Mark Oosterveen

Rebecca Wolff, Julia Ton – Mubi

Amid COVID-19, two out-of-work actors, Sam and Mark, face a bleak future. Desperate for purpose, they stumble upon an idea: stage Shakespeare's *Hamlet* within the ultra-violent world of *Grand Theft Auto Online*. This engaging documentary examines how ancient cultural narratives can resonate in new, virtual spaces, raising questions about the digital world's potential for storytelling.

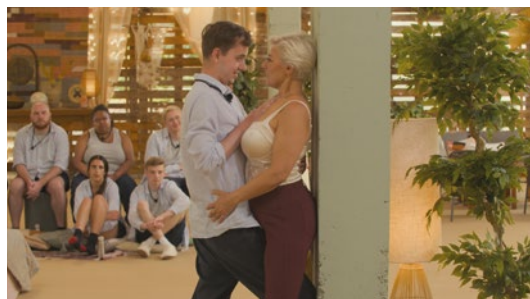


Rose Ayling-Ellis: Old Hands, New Tricks

Teresa Watkins, James Rogan, Dan Hall, Simon Gilchrist, Soleta Rogan, Camilla Arnold

Rogan Productions – BBC

This heart-warming and thought-provoking series follows Rose Ayling-Ellis as she embarks on an incredible experiment teaching a group of retirees British Sign Language. Rose takes on this mission impossible, with the help of her friend and teacher recruiting a group of self-described "recycled teenagers" at a retirement village. Together they go on a riotous and laugh-out-loud journey complete with bingo trips, deaf raves and signed karaoke.



Virgin Island – Episode 6

Rob Davis, Tom Garland, Joe Wildman, Mel Walden, Matt Bailey, Sarah Carnie

Double Act Productions – Channel 4

In this groundbreaking series, *Virgin Island* follows twelve adult virgins as they attend a unique intimacy course at a luxury retreat to help them overcome the fears that are holding them back. The age young people are losing their virginity is higher than ever due to social media, pornography and loneliness. Through therapy from world-leading sexologists, this heartwarming and thought-provoking series explores these young people's issues as they take their first steps towards sex.



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ceremony or past years.**



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Best History Documentary



Atomic People

Benedict Sanderson, Megumi Inman, Morgan Matthews, Otto Burnham, Sonia Khan, Emma Alldis

Minnow Films – BBC

Combining their personal accounts with archive footage, *Atomic People* features a significant number of voices from the only people left on Earth to have survived a nuclear bomb, whilst exploring how their experiences continue to affect them to this day.



Children of the Cult

David Modell, Ben Ferguson, Maroesja Perizonius, Alice McShane, Victoria Hollingsworth, Ella Newton

DM Productions – ITV1

Children of the Cult is an investigation into the Rajneesh movement, the world's biggest cult. Until now, a central truth about the organisation has remained hidden. Filmmaker Maroesja Perizonius, herself a child of the communes, has decided to change that. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh built a society with its own moral code, where terrible crimes against children were normalised. Maroesja unmaskers perpetrators and demands answers from the closest members of the Cult's inner circle.



What They Found

Sam Mendes, Simon Chinn, Jonathan Chinn, Andy R. Worboys, Gaby Aung, Pippa Harris

Lightbox in association with Neal St and Imperial War Museums, distributed by All3Media – BBC

Directed by Sam Mendes, *What They Found* follows two soldier-cameramen from the British Army's Film and Photographic Unit who filmed the liberation of Bergen-Belsen in April 1945.



The Zelensky Story – Episode 1

Michael Waldman, Jecca Powell, Louis Lee Ray, Martin McDonnell, Ben Brown, Jonathan Smith

72 Films, Open University – BBC

With unique access to Volodymyr Zelensky and Olena Zelenska, this is the extraordinary journey of a comedian playing the president who became the real president of his country.



Best Sports Documentary



Four Kings – Rise of the Kings

Rick Murray, Kevin Macdonald, Jared Wright, Hassan Ghazi, Stewart Kyasimire, Benjamin Hirsch

[Workerbee – Prime Video](#)

This is the definitive story of the golden age of British Boxing – through the eyes of those who were wearing the gloves: Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn, Chris Eubank and Lennox Lewis. Featuring unprecedented access to the boxers and their families, the film charts the highs and lows in their quest to out-do one another, battling for their place on the throne.

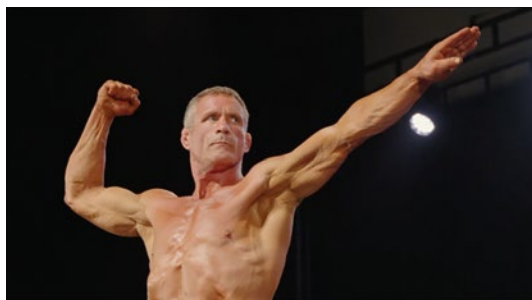


Sven

Claudia Corbisiero, Chris Grubb, Drew Masters, James Quinn, Jamie McIntosh

[Whisper and Up&Away Film Entertainment – Prime Video](#)

Think you know everything about Sven-Göran Eriksson? Think again. This is the revealing and heart-warming story about one of football's most enigmatic yet recognised characters, following the rise (and tabloid-emblazoned fall) of the first foreign manager of the England National Team. Intertwined with moving and intimate personal insight, and a portrait of the man by those closest to him, Sven comes to terms with his terminal cancer diagnosis.



Unbreakable: England 2003

Chris Hay, Andrew Hewitt, James Leith, Nichola Adams, Tom Boswell, James Turner

[TNT Sports, Buzz 16 – TNT Sports](#)

Unbreakable: England 2003 is a powerful, intimate exploration of untold stories from England's Rugby World Cup-winning squad. Through exclusive access and unseen archive footage, the documentary offers an unflinching portrayal of masculinity, mental health, and male friendship – unveiling a side of these national heroes the public has never seen before. The result is a deeply original piece of journalism, sparking national conversation and inspiring personal change.



Unforgotten: The Bradford City Fire

Andy R. Worboys, George Grafton, Jaimie D'Cruz, Miriam Walsh, Luke Flight, Oliver Schofield

[Acme – BBC](#)

In 1985 a fire ripped through the stand at Bradford City's Stadium, claiming 56 lives. And then, as the years passed, the story of one of the worst disasters in footballing history faded quietly away. Now, to mark its 40th anniversary, the Bradford City fire is remembered, and its victims and survivors commemorated, through the compelling personal testimony of those who were there and who won't let it be forgotten.



GRIERSON

British Documentary Awards

2026

In association with



Entries Open: 11 March 2026
Entries Close: 22 May 2026
Ceremony: 10 November 2026

Documentaries must have been made available to a UK audience between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 to be eligible for Grierson 2026: The British Documentary Awards.

→ [**www.griersontrust.org/grierson-awards**](http://www.griersontrust.org/grierson-awards)



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GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards



All3 Media Best Student Documentary



Hooked

Bettina, Carrie Penn, Tom Moss, Domantas Jakubauskas,
Carmen Boettcher, Glen Fulthorpe

National Film and Television School

Hooked follows Glen as he deals with the aftermath of his father's heroin addiction and overdose. Through honest conversations with people connected to his father's life, Glen faces the confusion, anger, and grief caused by addiction, while also reflecting on how it has impacted his own life. The film is a personal journey exploring pain, forgiveness, and the search for meaning in a life shaped by addiction.



One More Cup of Coffee for Ambe'

Shinta Retnani, Angela De Souza Torresan, Andy Lawrence,
Andarias Parapak, Ferry Adita Purnama

University of Manchester

One More Cup of Coffee for Ambe' offers an intimate glimpse into a Torajan family's daily life as they continue to share space with their late father's body, awaiting the funeral. They are deeply rooted in a culture where death is not seen as an end, but as extension of life itself. The film quietly observes love, loss, and the cultural entanglement between traditional Aluk to Dolo beliefs and Christian practices in contemporary Indonesia.



Two Days on the Interstate

Tatiana Stark, Esther Thompson, Dominique Del Fuego,
Tanya Singh, Blanca Romeo de la Higuera, Benet Serra

National Film and Television School

As thousands of people travel to see the total solar eclipse in Texas, one woman drives from Dallas to New Mexico in search of a legal abortion. Concurrently, people in a town off the interstate she is driving along decide whether to crack down on 'abortion traffickers' like her.



Welcome Home Freckles

Huiju Park, Benjamin Kodboel, Clare Maleeny,
Edoardo Vella, Levi Giger, Nathan Hendren

National Film and Television School

After four years apart, a daughter returns home to confront the unresolved family conflicts and deep-rooted domestic violence that plagued her childhood. She discovers the generational cycle of abuse and realises that only she can break it.

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Televisual Best Current Affairs Documentary

TELEVISUAL



Dead Calm: Killing in the Med?

Mike Radford, Ben Steele, Lucile Smith,
Farah Karim, Alex Fry

BBC Current Affairs – BBC

Are EU agents killing migrants at sea? Powerful new evidence suggests masked state operatives may be responsible for the deaths of people who reach Europe before they can officially register as migrants.



Life and Death in Gaza

Natasha Cox, Lara El Gibaly, Haya Al Badarneh,
Sarah Keeling, Simon Cox, Mustafa Khalili

BBC Eye, BBC Storyville – BBC

A film made by four Palestinians living through extraordinary times, documenting their lives as they endure bombing raids, evacuations, family separations and reunions, deaths, and even the birth of a new life amidst the chaos. Self-shot over the course of a year, the film captures the fight for survival through direct, personal experiences, interwoven with observational scenes filmed on the ground, and personal archives from before the war.

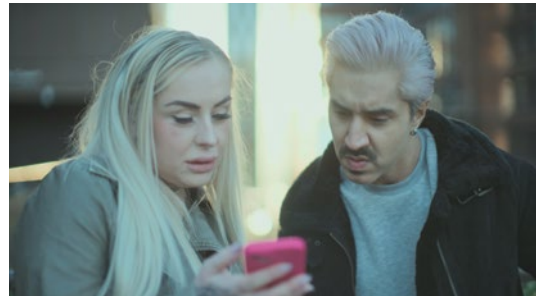


Maternity: Broken Trust

Laura Warner, Tom Keeling, Becky Southworth,
Charlotte Stordy, Rosie Taylor, Scott Holland-Jones

Pulse Films (part of VICE Studios) – ITV1

Maternity: Broken Trust exposes failures in – and asks questions about – maternity care at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, through the experiences of a group of bereaved and harmed families fighting for justice.



Small Town, Big Riot – Episode 2

Leo Fawkes, Stefan Mattison, Michael McGill,
Mobeen Azhar, Jeremy Lee, Catey Sexton

Forest – BBC

Mobeen investigates how a protest outside an asylum seeker hotel turned into a riot, uncovering a blueprint for a national wave of violence that eight months later would affect us all.





Best Documentary Short



Chernobyl: My Promised Land

Mark Dominic Devlin, Kateryna Voropai,
Bruce Fletcher, Anton Short

Story Films – Sky Documentaries

This film follows Vadim, an eccentric engineer and refugee who, after losing his home to Russian airstrikes in 2015, starts anew in the last place anyone expects – Chernobyl. With big plans, he clashes with the village mayor and powerful locals while trying to transform the area. But when war returns, Vadim doesn't flee. This time, he takes the Russians head-on in battle and unites with the village locals after years of conflict.

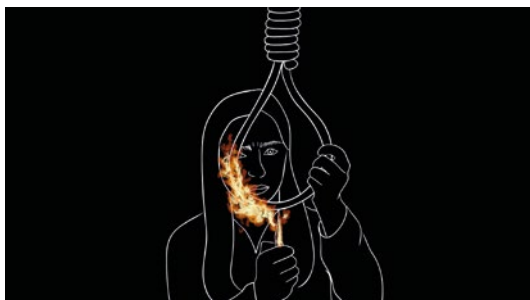


Equal Play

Lily Ahree Siegel, Robert Ford, Laura Spini,
Calum Campbell, Barnaby Spurrier, Jack Thorne

Harder Than You Think – Channel 4

Equal Play explores the transformative power of sports for disabled people through the stories of two British children. Marley discovers confidence through boxing, and Tammy is inspired by a Paralympian to explore wheelchair racing. Both face discrimination in their access to sports and PE, and the film follows their fight against these systemic barriers. By capturing the joy and empowerment that sport brings to disabled individuals, *Equal Play* highlights the positive change that inclusion creates.



Songs from Inside

Production Team

BBC 100 Women, BBC World Service – BBC

Thousands of Iranian women have been arrested for protesting for women's rights since the Woman, Life, Freedom movement began. Evin Prison is one of the jails where women are sent. Despite torture and threats of execution, they continue to fight, finding courage and camaraderie in the face of oppression. Pieced together from multiple reliable accounts, this is the story of three women – Nasim, Rezvaneh, and Vida – and the life inside these walls, that the world never sees.



This Is Endometriosis

Georgie Wileman, Matt Houghton, Harriette Wright,
Lauren Frankfort, Anna MacDonald, Vanbur

Fee Fie Foe – Minute Shorts 'Minute Shorts P
resents' Playlist

Combining deeply private, self-documented material, intimate family archive, observational footage and a collection of reconstructive memories, *This Is Endometriosis* is an intimate, expressive story of a young photographer's battle to stay in the present while facing a wall of disbelief. Seen through the lens of Georgie's beautiful, brutal photography, the film is a human insight into the realities of living with the disease and a story about the power of community.

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF **sky** documentaries



Sky congratulates all the nominees of the
2025 Grierson British Documentary Awards.

sky



Sky Documentaries Best Cinema Documentary

sky documentaries



Agent of Happiness

Noémi Veronika Szakonyi, Máté Artur Vincze,
Arun Bhattarai, Dorottya Zurbó

Match Frame Productions, Sound Pictures –
Theatrical release

Amber, a happiness agent, travels the Bhutanese Himalayas surveying people's happiness. On his remote mountain journey, he searches for fulfilment.



Mediha

Hasan Oswald, Mediha Alhamad, Annelise Mecca,
Fahrinisa Oswald, Alexander Spiess, Stephen Nemeth

LoveWorld Media, Enderby Entertainment, Rhino Films,
People in The Park, Together Films – Theatrical release

A powerful testament to the human spirit, *Mediha* turns her camera on herself to process her trauma while rescuers search for her missing family members, revealing the strength and determination of a young survivor.



Motherboard

Victoria Mapplebeck, Debbie Manners, Oli Bauer,
Jamie Perera

OKRE, First Person Films, Outlook Film Sales,
Tull Stories – Theatrical release

At 38, film director Victoria Mapplebeck found herself single, pregnant, and broke. That was 20 years ago – she's been filming her life ever since. Victoria captures a life where she and her son Jim survive two generations of absent fathers, her breast cancer diagnosis and Jim's rollercoaster teen years. *Motherboard* is an honest, funny and relatable film for anyone who wants to see a portrait of love and family life in all its unfiltered glory.



No Other Land

Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor,
Fabien Greenberg, Bård Kjøge Rønning

Antipode Films, Yabayay – Theatrical release

For half a decade, Basel Adra, a Palestinian activist, films his community of Masafer Yatta being destroyed by Israel's occupation, as he builds an unlikely alliance with an Israeli journalist who wants to join his fight.



What They Found



Young, British and Anti-abortion



The Search for Nicola Bulley



Life and Death in Gaza



Unforgotten: The Bradford City Fire



In My Own Words: Alison Lapper



The Zelensky Story



Small Town, Big Riot



Rose Ayling-Ellis: Old Hands, New Tricks



Murder Trial: Girl in the River



Proudly Supporting British Documentary Makers

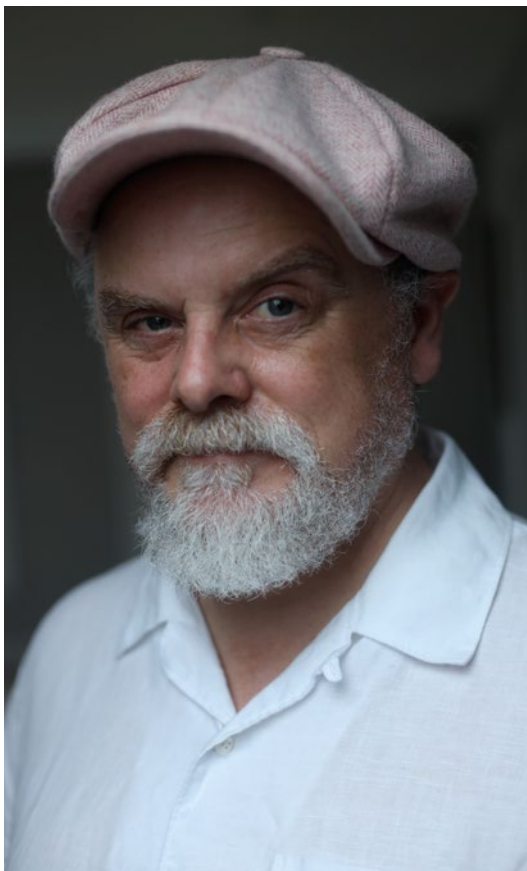


BBC

Grierson Trustees' Award



Rupert Houseman receives the prestigious Grierson Trustees' Award this evening, which recognises his outstanding contribution to the art and craft of documentary in the UK and internationally.



Rupert Houseman has been editing award-winning documentaries and series for more than two decades. His extensive body of work includes *Hell Jumper*, *Antidote*, *Otto Baxter: Not a F**king Horror Story*, *Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes*, *Grayson's Art Club*, *Gun No. 6*, *The Detectives*, *Life and Death Row*, *Bedlam*, *7/7: One Day in London*, and *The Year the Town Hall Shrank*. Recognised for his distinctive editing approach, Houseman's work has been widely regarded as both stylistically innovative and culturally impactful.

In addition to his creative achievements, Houseman has played a pivotal role in developing opportunities for emerging editing talent. In 2012, in collaboration with Jonathan Smith, *The Garden*, and Channel 4 – and leveraging the success of *24 Hours in A&E* – he co-founded a groundbreaking editor training scheme. He continues to champion the next generation of editors through his ongoing mentorship and involvement with initiatives such as Grierson DocLab: Editing, which ran in partnership with Netflix.

The Grierson Trustees lauded Houseman for the breadth, quality and diversity of the documentary projects he has worked on over many years in the industry. At the helm of developing a distinct style for documentary formats in the UK, as well as having worked on award-winning singles, Houseman's versatility, skill and experience has made him an influential figure in the sector. Combined with his commitment to developing the next generation of editing talent and nurturing those with aspirations to contribute to this vital craft, Houseman's track record makes him a deserving recipient of this year's Trustees' Award.

Congratulations, Rupert!

ENVY



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Envy

Best Single Documentary – Domestic

≡ N
V Y



Groomed: A National Scandal

Anna Hall, Luke Rothery, Nicola Addyman, Imaan Labad, Mark Stokes, Joanna Wilcock

Candour Productions – Channel 4

Groomed: A National Scandal is a powerful new film authored by filmmaker Anna Hall on the explosive issue of gang grooming, which puts the experiences of five women who have survived unimaginable abuse at the heart of a story spanning more than 20 years.



The Search for Nicola Bulley

Rachel Rob Levyt, Mark Hedgecoe, James Rogan, Soleta Rogan, Xinlan Rose

Rogan Productions – BBC

The inside story of the search for Nicola Bulley told by her family and the police who investigated her disappearance.



Undercover: Exposing the Far Right

Havana Marking, Natasha Dack, Fiona Stourton, Siobhan Sinnerton, Tom Turner, Tara Creme

Tigerlily Films, Marking Films Inc, HiddenLight, Doc Society – Channel 4

A thrilling feature documentary goes undercover with the UK's leading antifascist group as they undertake a secret investigation. Hidden cameras reveal how far right activists aim to radically shift mainstream politics, how vulnerable communities are targeted, and how a new generation of well-funded and media-savvy influencers are using discredited "race science" to legitimise prejudice. Things get even more dangerous when they discover a million-dollar money trail to Silicon Valley.



Witches

Elizabeth Sankey, Manon Ardisson, Chiara Ventura, Jeremy Warmesley, Chloë Thomson, May Davies

Ardimages UK, Montgomery Avenue, Mubi, Garden Studios – Mubi

Witches is a profound exploration of the unexpected yet compelling connections between postpartum mental health and the portrayal of witches in western society and popular culture. Using her own experiences, Elizabeth Sankey intertwines personal narrative with historical and cinematic footage, featuring interviews with medical professionals, historians, and fellow sufferers, offering a multifaceted perspective on how women with mental health issues have been stigmatised and misunderstood over time.

NETFLIX

PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR 2025

GRIERSON AWARD NOMINEES

APOLLO 13 **SURVIVAL**

SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY DOCUMENTARY

PANGOLIN **KULU'S JOURNEY**

SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY DOCUMENTARY

THE **REMARKABLE LIFE** **OF IBELIN**

SINGLE DOCUMENTARY INTERNATIONAL





Netflix Best Documentary Series

NETFLIX



Bibaa & Nicole: Murder in the Park

Alex Thomas, Sian Guerra, Lindsay Konieczny,
Brian Woods

True Vision Productions – Sky Documentaries

Bibaa & Nicole: Murder in the Park unravels the shocking killings of sisters Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman. Featuring interviews with their mother, loved ones, and detectives, it reconstructs the sisters' final hours, the desperate search for their killer, and the police misconduct that followed. With never-before-seen evidence and police recordings, the series offers a unique insight into the investigation, institutional racism, and the injustices which the case exposed.



Chimp Crazy

Jeremy McBride, Eric Goode, Lissa Rivera,
James Liu, Tim Moran, Evan Wise

HBO Documentary Films presents A Goode Films
Production – Sky Documentaries

Former nurse-turned-exotic animal broker Tonia Haddix spends her days caring for animals in captivity. However, her limitless love for one chimpanzee in particular spins into a wild cat-and-mouse game with authorities and an animal rights group. Through the experiences of Tonia and other "chimp moms", *Chimp Crazy* reveals the singular bonds that form between owners and their highly intelligent great ape pets.



Kill List: Hunted by Putin's Spies

Production Team

Passion Pictures, Bellingcat Productions – Channel 4

A gripping, urgent series telling an unfolding, inside story of journalists targeted by Russian spies; Christo Grozev, revealer of multiple assassination plots, faces a kill threat himself. The hunters become the hunted.



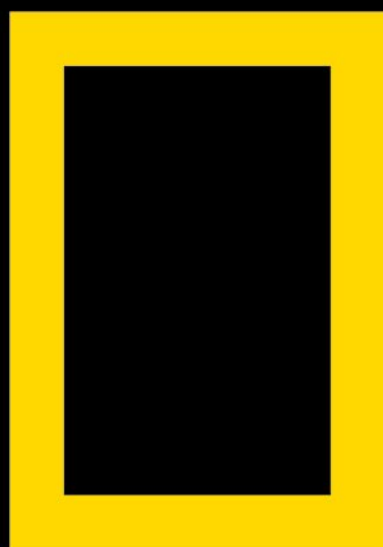
Tsunami: Race Against Time

Daniel Bogado, James Parris, Tanya Winston,
Danny Horan, Laura Miller, Siobhan Harvey

Blast Films – National Geographic

A massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean sets off a tsunami that, within minutes, arrives in the bustling city of Aceh, causing unprecedented havoc and devastation. This film follows the desperate struggle to survive for city-dwellers in Indonesia and tourists in Thailand caught in the unfolding catastrophe.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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GREEN 2009
THE BRITISH DOCUMENTARY
AWARDS

The Green Award
BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM

INSIDE OUR ARTISTIC MINDS
EPISODE 1



In association with



New Entrants

Our Supporters



Archive
Producers



Development



The Grierson Trust is proud to support new and emerging documentary talent through our Grierson DocLab training programmes. This year the roster of initiatives evolved with the continuation of established partnerships, fresh collaborations and a brand-new programme.



Special thanks to trainers, Carol Nahra, Debbie Lowe and Sam Dwyer for delivering these programmes.



New Entrants

In association with



Now in its 13th year, the Grierson DocLab: New Entrants training scheme focuses on UK-based 18–25-year-old documentary lovers who want to take their first steps into behind-the-scenes roles in the industry.

The programme always seeks out those under-represented in the sector, with a particular focus this year on people from working-class backgrounds.

Twelve trainees from up and down the UK were selected for an intensive programme of training, a trip to Sheffield DocFest, a work placement at a production company and much more.

Training included sessions on genres and formats; workshops with industry representatives; lessons in life as a freelancer; how to navigate sensitive topics and care for contributors; an overview of post-production workflow; research methods; development and casting to name a few. A practical exercise then consolidated their learning, as their training culminated with the opportunity to pitch a documentary idea to industry professionals representing a breadth of broadcasters and production companies.



“

Our trainer Carol Nahra's pitch session was a timely pep talk and a nudge to shed the presentation skills we learn in school and present like the storytellers we are. The advice was clear: tell a story – don't deliver an academic report. We learnt that a good pitch shouldn't overwhelm with facts; it should be immersive.”

Khadijat Ajonbadi – New Entrant trainee

Continued professional development and support is provided in the shape of personalised career planning; CV clinics; access to the wider alumni network; legal and clearance discussions; and a mentorship match to help sustain and develop their career objectives as they take their first steps into the industry.

The continued success of Grierson DocLab is made possible by our new Headline Industry Sponsor National Geographic, lead industry sponsor Banijay UK, and funder the Rank Foundation.

A record 25 production companies generously offered support via trainee placements, including – new for this year – 22 Summers, 72 Films, Candour Productions, Curious Films, Mindhouse Productions, Orchard Studios, Twofour, Ventureland and Purple Productions (as part of Objective Media Group, an All3Media Company). Returning partners were BBC Studios, Blast Films, Box to Box, Dorothy Street Pictures, Dragonfly, The Garden, KEO Films, Lightbox, Minnow Films, Raw TV, Rogan Productions, True North, TwentyTwenty, Wall to Wall, Wonderhood Studios and Passion Pictures.

Huge thanks to the industry speakers who led workshops and sessions, to the Grierson DocLab Alumni who shared their insights with the new trainees, and to our valued supporters Clear Cut Pictures, Creators Counsel and Talented People.



“Our speaker was refreshingly honest about freelancing, travel, and the unpredictability of this career. I asked her about the lack of fixed roots and the challenges of moving around for work. She didn’t gloss over it – but made it feel doable, even exciting.”

Ollie Clay, New Entrant trainee



Development with NETFLIX



This year, we were delighted to continue our partnership with Netflix, this time moving to support those with three-to-five years’ experience focussing on a documentary development career path.

With a hybrid training programme of intensive online sessions and in-person training at Netflix HQ, the trainees learned about: responding to commissioning briefs; how to find standout ideas with Jonny Taylor and Ross Goodlass (Raw TV); working with the police and sensitive access with Becky Ford and Grierson DocLab Alum, Eleanor Wight (Candour Productions); what makes a good sizzle and deck; different routes to market, and much more.

Trainees have now begun placements at production companies, embedded in structured development teams, giving them the opportunity to build on their established experience and put into practise what they learnt on the programme.

We’d like to extend enormous thanks to all the speakers and industry representatives who lent their time and expertise to shaping these talented documentary development execs of the future.



“

The training was an intense but hugely rewarding experience. Like packing a whole career's worth of development knowledge into just two weeks. Hearing from such inspiring people, who so generously gave up their time to speak to us, was incredible. It was also a real highlight to spend those two weeks with the rest of the cohort and gain some new peers in the industry. I now feel part of the Grierson family!”

Yasmin Bowen, Development trainee



“

It's hard to fully express the value and quality of training we received – nor the extent of my gratitude for it. The training week – so carefully and generously put together by Sam and the Grierson team – has felt like more than training. Rather, the first step of a process through which we are being enabled to grow and develop, in our own way.”

Georgia Sawyer, Archive Producer trainee



Archive Producers



Launched last year, our partnership with Prime Video Pathway continues for its second iteration as we look to expand our support for a new generation of archive producers.

The initiative will equip eight individuals already working in the industry – in roles such as senior researchers, assistant producers and producers – with the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to develop a career in archive for documentary.

Trainees were selected last month, with training taking place throughout the late autumn. Key topics included: the archival landscape; production fundamentals; soft skills for negotiation; working to a project brief; organising workflow; different approaches to research; securing personal archive; dealing with social media archive; plus, budgeting, feedback, and navigating ethical challenges and sensitive subjects.

The group will also hear from and visit key archives including Associated Press, Kinolibrary, Getty Images, Shutterstock, BFI National Archive in Berkhamsted, Imperial War Museum and film restoration company R3Store Studios.

As with our other programmes, each trainee will be matched with an industry mentor and receive two five-week bursary supported placements.



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With thanks to the staff at the Roundhouse.





GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

2025

In association with **A13** MEDIA