

Wednesday 6 November
Roundhouse, London



GRIERSON

British Documentary Awards

2024

In association with **A113** MEDIA

griersontrust.org
#GriersonAwards



GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

2024

In association with **ANZ** MEDIA

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FREELANCE EDITORS

Welcome to Grierson 2024

The British Documentary Awards

Welcome to the 52nd annual British Documentary Awards! The Griersons spotlight the very best that the wondrously varied documentary genre has to offer, and I'm thrilled that the factual community is coming together to celebrate these fantastic films at our new venue, the Roundhouse. Congratulations to all the nominees and huge thanks to our category chairs, reviewers and jurors for giving up so much of their time to view and conscientiously consider each film entered into the Griersons before deciding on the shortlists, nominations and winners.

I'm also delighted to congratulate our 2024 Grierson Trustees' Award recipient, Stacey Dooley, who we are honouring tonight for her commitment to making ambitious documentaries and bringing them to young, diverse audiences.

The Grierson Awards would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, including our headline sponsor All3Media. We are incredibly grateful for their extended support which allows us to shine a light on the crucial role documentaries play, as well as to continue the Trust's much-needed training programmes.

This year, the Grierson DocLab training schemes have continued to evolve. The New Entrants programme returned for a 12th year with support from headline funder, The Rank Foundation, alongside industry sponsors Banijay UK, and ScreenSkills. It also had a record number of production companies on board providing bursary-supported placements. Thanks to you all for investing in these talented young people from under-represented backgrounds, who might otherwise not have had the opportunity to enter documentary filmmaking.

A new collaboration with Prime Video Pathway allowed us to launch a programme to upskill creative talent to pursue specialised roles in the increasingly significant area of archive producing. Our partnership with Netflix enabled us to support editors moving into unscripted, as well as supporting a new cohort who wanted to change careers to become documentary production managers.

We're also pleased to expand our partnership with Netflix next year to create a training initiative for those wishing to forge a career in documentary development. The programme aims to support diverse creatives with three-to-five years' experience in the sector with training, paid work placements and mentoring to hone their skills in developing documentary ideas.

We're proud that alumni from all iterations of our different training programmes continue to advance in the industry, pursuing new opportunities and supporting one another in a difficult time for many freelancers.

I would like to take this chance to thank the small team of Grierson staff and freelancers who work so hard to manage the training programmes and the awards. My gratitude also goes to the wonderful board of Trustees who tirelessly devote their expertise to steer the Trust. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Patrons: Dorothy Byrne and Louis Theroux who already support the work of the Trust in so many ways.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful host, Kerry Godliman, who will be leading the ceremony tonight.

Here's to all the nominees – and of course the winners – of the 2024 Griersons! I hope you have a wonderful evening.



Lorraine Heggessy
Chair – The Grierson Trust



GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

all3 MEDIA

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Our Host

Kerry Godliman

With her straight-talking charm and quick wit, Kerry Godliman is celebrated as one of the UK's best performers as both a stand-up comedian and actor. She's best known for her appearances on *Mock the Week*, *Live At The Apollo*, *Michael McIntyre's Big Show*, *Taskmaster*, *Hypothetical*, *The Jonathan Ross Show*, *The Royal Variety Performance* and *8 Out of 10 Cats*. She has also appeared on *Frankie Boyle's New World Order*, *A League of Their Own*, *There's Something About Movies* and *Outsiders*.

A regular on BBC Radio 4, Kerry has made appearances on *The News Quiz*, *The Now Show*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* and *Just a Minute* as well as her own series *Kerry's List* and a starring role in the hit series *The Wilsons Save The World*.

Kerry also hosts the hit podcast series *Memory Lane* alongside Jen Brister, and recently narrated the chart-topping *Stolen Hearts*, produced by US podcast network Wondery.

Kerry's acting talents have seen her receive critical acclaim for her roles in *After Life*, *Whitstable Pearl*, *Call the Midwife*, *Derek*, *Save Me*, *Bad Move*, *Triggerpoint*, *Carters Get Rich*, *Mascots* and *Adult Material*. She will also be starring in the Spinal Tap sequel *This Is Spinal Tap*.



↓ Kerry Godliman



WE ARE HONOURED TO SPONSOR THE 2024 GRIERSON AWARDS

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners!

At Picture Shop, we take pride in our talented creative and production teams, who are supported by a dedicated technical and operations team. Our experts ensure that your documentaries exceed expectations in both visual and audio quality. From concept to final cut, we collaborate closely with you at every stage, delivering a high-end, broadcast-ready program that stands out.

PictureShop.com | Follow us [@unscriptedbyps](https://twitter.com/unscriptedbyps)



Running Order

Best Science Documentary

Sky Documentaries

Best Music Documentary

Best Documentary Short

Best Arts Documentary

Best Documentary Presenter

Broadcast Sport

Best Sports Documentary

Televisual

Best Current Affairs Documentary

Best History Documentary

Channel 4

Best Popular Culture Documentary

Best Natural History or Environmental Documentary

All3Media

Best Student Documentary

Best Single Documentary – International

BBC

Grierson Trustees' Award

Best Cinema Documentary

ENVY

Best Single Documentary – Domestic

Netflix

Best Documentary Series

Food served during the drinks reception and after-party –

Menu

Cold Canapés

Seafood – Carabinero taco, avocado and sauce Valentina.

Hot Canapés

Meat – Wagyu ham and bone marrow hollandaise English muffin.

Plant – Delica pumpkin, wild mushroom and sage tartlet (VE).

Cold Bowls

Seafood – Gin cured salmon, lotus root crisp, cucumber ribbons and compressed melon.

Plant – Roast romanesco, preserved lemon, pomegranate and toasted chickpeas (VE).

Hot Bowls

Meat – Pasture raised chicken, Japanese curry, ginger choy sum and jasmine rice.

Dessert Canapés

Eton Pavlova with macerated raspberries, freeze dried raspberries and Chantilly.

Mango cheesecake cone with tropical fruit salsa.

NO MINNES





Best Science Documentary



Better Off Dead?

Liz Carr, Clive Tulloh, Nina Davies, James Routh, Georgina Nicholson

Burning Bright Productions, The Open University – BBC

Better Off Dead? is a documentary on assisted suicide, authored by actor and disability rights activist Liz Carr. Liz visits Canada where the law extends beyond the terminally ill, including disabled people, and those offered a medically assisted death as a “way out” of social deprivation. In a society where disabled people are often told they’re “better off dead,” Liz asks: should we really be giving more power to end that group of people’s lives?



Evolution Earth – Islands

Production Team

Produced by Passion Planet in association with PBS and Arte France for Love Nature – Sky Nature

At the front lines of climate change, animals have a surprising story to tell. Travelling to the far corners of the world, we discover the extraordinary ways animals are adapting to our rapidly changing planet. We witness nature’s remarkable resilience, as our perception of evolution and its potential is forever transformed.



Me and the Voice in My Head

Joe Tracini, Tom Green, Tommy Forbes, Dan Baldwin, Garry Crystal, Georgie Bayford

Hungry Bear Media Ltd – Channel 4

In this brave and uncompromisingly honest documentary, comedian Joe Tracini explores the root cause of his borderline personality disorder, which has left him suicidal. Delving into his traumatic childhood, he hopes to get a grip on his condition and revive his comedy career. From Joe’s unique perspective, this film explains and visualises the voice inside his head in a truly funny and original way – bringing to life an invisible condition that is largely unexplained.



The Jennings vs Alzheimer’s

Niamh Kennedy, Colin Barr, Arthur Cary, Rick Barker, Emma Lysaght, Jess Austin

Expectation Entertainment – BBC

When a mutant gene causing Alzheimer’s is discovered in the Jennings family, it leads scientists on a journey to develop a cure and leaves family members with a terrible dilemma.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

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Sky Documentaries congratulates all the
nominees for The Grierson Awards 2024

sky documentaries



Sky Documentaries Best Music Documentary

sky documentaries



Louis Theroux Interviews – Pete Doherty

Production Team

Mindhouse Productions – BBC

Louis Theroux meets controversial rockstar Pete Doherty, spending time with him at his home in Normandy and on-the-road with his notorious band, The Libertines. Infamous for his tumultuous relationship with drugs and romance with Kate Moss, Doherty has been a figure both celebrated and scorned in the British media. In a candid encounter, Louis joins Doherty at a transformative juncture in his life.



Milli Vanilli

Luke Korem, Bradley Jackson, Jon Michael Simpson, Hanif Abdurraqib, Kim Marlowe, Patrick Berry

Keep On Running Pictures, Fulwell 73, MRC – Paramount+

From their meteoric rise to public downfall, this captivating documentary chronicles the untold circumstances surrounding the infamous pop duo Milli Vanilli and their 1990s era lip-syncing scandal.



The Greatest Night in Pop

Production Team

A Netflix Documentary, MRC Film, Dorothy St Pictures Production in association with Makemake Entertainment – Netflix

On January 28, 1985, dozens of the biggest names in music convened at a studio in Los Angeles, checked their egos at the door and recorded a song to benefit African famine relief that would alter global pop culture history.



Wham!

Chris Smith, John Battsek, Simon Halfon, Gregor Lyon, Alex Black

A Netflix Documentary, Ventureland, Passion Pictures, Library Films, Nemperor Production – Netflix

In 1982, teenagers George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley set out to conquer the world as Wham! By June of 1986 they played their very last gig at Wembley Stadium having done exactly that. Now for the very first time, told in their own words, the amazing story of how in four years they dominated the charts around the world with timeless and classic pop songs.



Best Documentary Short



Big Moves

Sarah Grant, Sophie Chater, Jack Gemmell
[Bridging the Gap: Outsiders –](#)
[Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)

A personal short documentary about dancing as a plus size woman through the lens of pop culture. A radical and joyful reimagining of awesome dance scenes with the bodies that traditionally get pushed to the back taking up space front and centre.



Gaza 101: Emergency Rescue

Feras Al Ajrami, Mouna Ba, Mustafa Khalili,
 Mohamed Ibrahim, Julien El-Hajj, Wahal El Saadi
[BBC News Arabic, BBC Eye Investigations –](#)
[BBC World Service](#)

This film from BBC News Arabic follows four Palestinian Red Crescent paramedics in northern Gaza across the first month of the war, as they save lives in the area hardest hit by Israeli airstrikes.



Iranian Yellow Pages

Anna Snowball, Abolfazl Talooni, Christine Saab, Elisabeth Hopper, Alfred Thirrolle, Francesca Cattaneo
[Snow Films, WDM Entertainment –](#)
[Netflix Still Watching YouTube Channel](#)

Striving to build a successful life in London, Reza places an ad in a peculiar newspaper and discovers the Iranian community hidden in plain sight.



Ted & Noel

Julia Alcamo, Dan Hodgson, Mary Pattison, Sarah Keeling,
 Morgan K Spencer, Peter Edwards
[Happenstance Films – Channel 4](#)

For 50 years, iconic activist Ted Brown has fought for queer and black identities. But after his partner suffers homophobic abuse in a care home, a devastated Ted questions the true impact of his activism.



Best Arts Documentary



Arena – Coco Chanel Unbuttoned

Hannah Berryman, Janet Lee, James Gold, Gabriel Jagger
[whynow Studios – BBC](#)

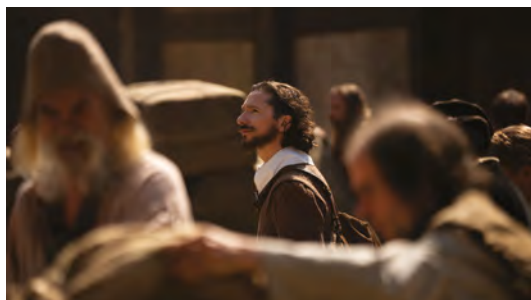
The definitive portrait of Coco Chanel: the original influencer whose iconic designs – the little black dress, the tweed suit and Chanel No 5 Perfume – remain symbols of style, sexuality and power in the 21st Century. She gave women freedom, and, in a male-dominated world, they rewarded her with adoration, wealth and celebrity. But Coco remained an enigma, until now.



Donyale Luna: Supermodel

Nailah Jefferson, Melissa Kramer, Melanie Sharee, Isoul Harris, Jonathan Chinn, Jeff Friday
[Lightbox, Jeff Friday Media, The American Black Film Festival – Sky Documentaries](#)

This feature documentary explores the life and career of Donyale Luna, one of the first Black supermodels. Today, most people have never heard of her. Born Peggy Anne Freeman in Detroit, Donyale Luna went on to revolutionize the fashion industry as the world's first Black supermodel during the 1960s and 1970s. During her modelling career, she became the muse of some of the foremost photographers of the 20th century until her untimely death in 1979.



Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius – Episode 1

David Glover, Julian Jones, Ella Gutteridge, Lisa Martinson, Alice Boorman, Luke Boneham
[72 Films – BBC](#)

For the 400th anniversary of the publication of William Shakespeare's *First Folio*, this three-part docu-drama series tells the incredible story of how a glover's son from rural Stratford became the greatest writer who ever lived.



Yellow Door: '90s Lo-fi Film Club

Kim Hyung-oak, Lee Hyuk-rae
[Broccoli Pictures Co. Ltd – Netflix](#)

This documentary revisits the era of avid film lovers who became the first generation of Korean cinephiles. Tracking the memories of Yellow Door Film Club members, they also recall their impressions of Director Bong Joon Ho's first short film.





Best Documentary Presenter



Joe Tracini

for Me and the Voice in My Head

| Hungry Bear Media Ltd – Channel 4

In this brave and uncompromisingly honest documentary, comedian Joe Tracini explores the root cause of his borderline personality disorder, which has left him suicidal. Delving into his traumatic childhood, he hopes to get a grip on his condition and revive his comedy career. From Joe's unique perspective, this film explains and visualises the voice inside his head in a truly funny and original way – bringing to life an invisible condition that is largely unexplained.



Nadifa Mohamed

for Britain's Human Zoos

| Red Bicycle with Milk & Honey – Channel 4

In the late 19th century, millions of Britons encountered non-white people for the first time in person – in spectacles called 'human zoos.' This deeply strange but once hugely popular form of "entertainment" starring trafficked people has been all but forgotten. Acclaimed Somali-British novelist Nadifa Mohamed leads us on a remarkable investigation into the past, revealing what it was really like to "perform" in a human zoo – and the dark ideas behind them.



Rose Ayling-Ellis

for Rose Ayling-Ellis: Signs for Change

| Rogan Productions – BBC

Rose Ayling-Ellis fronts a ground-breaking film challenging perceptions of the deaf community and putting audiences at the heart of the deaf experience. Following the news that British Sign Language has been recognised in law, it follows Rose on a personal journey as she explores the role the language has had in her life, the increasing role of technology for deaf children and she takes on the ultimate test of doing Shakespeare in BSL.



Zuhair 'Big Zuu' Hassan

for Big Zuu Goes to Mecca

| Acme TV – BBC

Big Zuu Goes to Mecca follows the award-winning TV chef and rapper as he visits one of Islam's holiest cities for the first time. With a mum from Sierra Leone and a Lebanese dad, Big Zuu has Islam in his heritage on both sides of his family. But as a young man born and raised in London, sticking to strict rules hasn't always been easy. Travelling to Mecca to make the pilgrimage of Umrah during Ramadan, the holiest month for Muslims, Big Zuu embarks on a journey he hopes will allow him to connect more deeply with his faith.

BROADCAST



Proof of eligibility required!

*Available to new, individual subscribers only.
After six months, monthly subscriptions will increase to £35 per month.



Broadcast Sport Best Sports Documentary

SPORT



Hatton

Paul Yoshida, John McKenna, Ian Davies, Dan Dewsbury, Sam Bergson, Emma Mason-Perrill

Noah Media Group – Sky Documentaries

Hatton is the definitive portrait of a unique, working-class hero, one of the world's greatest fighters and most beloved boxers – Ricky 'The Hitman' Hatton. Raw and authentic, *Hatton* is a cautionary tale that stretches far beyond the boxing ring; a rollercoaster of success and excess, regret, and redemption, told by Ricky and those closest to him for the first time.

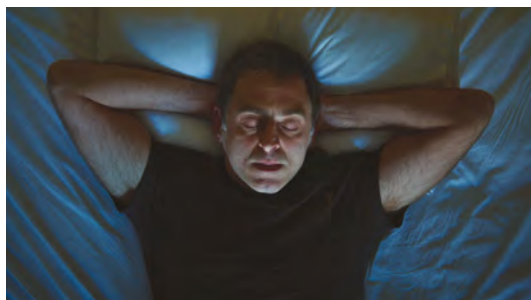


Mighty Penguins

Louis Myles, Ahmed Twaij, Smriti Keshari, John Skipper, David Kempshall, Kirin Alvi

Meadowlark, Firelight, Fever – Theatrical Release

Mighty Penguins follows the lives of a small community club for people with Down's Syndrome, the Brentford Penguins, as they embark on their mission to be guard of honour for the Brentford FC first team in a premier league game against Leicester.



Ronnie O'Sullivan: The Edge of Everything

Sam Blair, James Davidson, David Beckham, Ross Connolly, David Gardner, Nicola Howson

Studio 99 – Prime Video

In 2021, Ronnie O'Sullivan decided to allow total access to his life, opening the doors to his personal life and a remarkable cast of characters as he considered life beyond snooker. Facing the end of a wildly successful but turbulent career, the snooker legend found himself on the verge of a career-defining tournament to win the snooker World Championship for a seventh time.



The Deepest Breath

Laura McGann, John Battsek, Jamie D'Alton, Sarah Thomson, Anne McLoughlin, Julian Hart

An A24, Motive Films and Ventureland Production – Netflix

A champion freediver and expert safety diver seemed destined for one another despite the different paths they took to meet at the pinnacle of the freediving world. A look at the thrilling rewards – and inescapable risks – of chasing dreams through the depths of the ocean.

Delighted to sponsor the Current Affairs category at the 2024 Grierson Awards



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20 Days in Mariupol

Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath, Derl McCrudden, Vasilisa Stepanenko

FRONTLINE, PBS and The Associated Press –
Theatrical release

An AP team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggle to continue their work documenting atrocities of the Russian invasion. As the only international reporters who remain in the city, they capture what later become defining images of the war: dying children, mass graves, the bombing of a maternity hospital, and more.



Bobi Wine: The People's President

Christopher Sharp, Moses Bwayo, John Battsek, Paul Carlin, Dan Jones

Southern Films, Ventureland, National Geographic
Documentary Films – National Geographic

In Uganda's 2021 presidential election, music star, activist and opposition leader Bobi Wine, together with his wife Barbie, rallies his people in a dangerous fight for freedom from President Museveni's oppressive 35-year regime.



Evacuation – We Just Left Them

Production Team

Wonderhood Studios – Channel 4

Evacuation is a three-part documentary military thriller that tells the inside story of the perilous British campaign to evacuate Kabul. In this episode, British troops deal with the aftermath of a deadly explosion and stop processing civilians as they begin to extract their own forces, bringing the 20-year war to a tragic and unsatisfying end.



You Are Not Alone: Fighting the Wolf Pack

Almudena Carracedo, Robert Bahar, Katie Bryer, Samuel R. Santana, Almudena Sánchez

Lucernam Films – Netflix

This documentary is an incisive deconstruction of the sexual assault suffered by a young woman in 2016 at Spain's iconic "running of the bulls" (Sanfermines). From the filmmakers of the award-winning *The Silence of Others*, and through the words of two survivors and never-before-heard testimonies, the documentary sheds light on the case that led to Spain's first #MeToo reckoning which resonated across Latin America.

CONSIDERING A CAREER IN DOCUMENTARY DEVELOPMENT?

Grierson DocLab: Development, run in collaboration with Netflix, is a new training programme for ambitious creatives seeking to accelerate their careers in documentary development. The programme will provide up to eight candidates with intensive training to build and develop their skillset, mentoring from an industry professional, networking opportunities, and an eight-week paid work placement within a production company.

Applications will open in February 2025.

Register your interest to find out more at www.griersontrust.org/grierson-doclab



**GRIERSON
DOCLAB**

Development with
NETFLIX



Best History Documentary



Defiance: Fighting the Far Right – Episode 1

Production Team

Rogan Productions and GroupM Motion Entertainment in association with Left Handed Films – Channel 4

Defiance examines how Britain's Asian community was targeted with a campaign of violence and murder between 1976 and 1981, as National Front activity became increasingly prominent. Exploring seminal events such as the 1979 Southall protests and the Bradford 12, the ground-breaking documentary series shows what happened when the British Asian community decided to fight back.



Miners' Strike: A Frontline Story

Production Team

The Garden – BBC

The story of 15 men and women and one life changing year, on the frontline of the most divisive conflict of a generation. In deeply personal testimony, striking and working miners, their families and police – many speaking for the first time, often with extraordinary candour – tell the epic story of this conflict at eye level. It divided communities, families and the country. Forty years on, the feelings are still just as raw.



Stamped from the Beginning

Roger Ross Williams, David Teague, Alisa Payne, John Fisher, Francesca Sharper, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

A Netflix Documentary, One Story Up Production – Netflix

Using innovative animation and expert insights, this documentary based on Ibram X. Kendi's bestseller explores the history of racist ideas in America.



The Space Shuttle That Fell to Earth – Episode 1

Production Team

Mindhouse Productions – BBC

This three-part series combines first-hand testimony alongside previously unseen archive footage to chart the in-depth story of the Columbia space shuttle tragedy. Those people who lived through it all reveal in unprecedented detail how and why the disaster happened. Extensive self-shot video footage taken during preparation for the 16-day mission and filmed whilst the astronauts are in space – including tape miraculously rescued from the shuttle debris – bring to life an era that seemed to herald a routine human presence in space.



At Channel 4 we're unafraid to tackle the difficult stories. From *Evacuation* to *The Push: Murder On The Cliff*, *Spacey Unmasked* and *Me and the Voice In My Head*, our documentaries exist to expose the truth, no matter how shocking.

E V A C U A T I O N





Channel 4 Best Popular Culture Documentary



Arena – Being Kae Tempest

Production Team

Bohemia Films, The Open University – BBC

Poet, rapper, playwright and recording artist Kae Tempest is one of the most viscerally exciting artists working in Britain today. In July 2020 they came out as non-binary, announcing that they would publish and perform under the name Kae. This unique Arena film delves deep into their creative process and gains rare, intimate insights into Kae's life throughout a period of profound personal and artistic change.



Big Zuu Goes to Mecca

Zuhair 'Big Zuu' Hassan, Kiz Hoque, Ross Cameron, Adnan Ahmed, Jaimie D'Cruz

Acme TV – BBC

Big Zuu Goes to Mecca follows the award-winning TV chef and rapper as he visits one of Islam's holiest cities for the first time. With a mum from Sierra Leone and a Lebanese dad, Big Zuu has Islam in his heritage on both sides of his family. But as a young man born and raised in London, sticking to strict rules hasn't always been easy. Travelling to Mecca to make the pilgrimage of Umrah during Ramadan, the holiest month for Muslims, Big Zuu embarks on a journey he hopes will allow him to connect more deeply with his faith.



Milli Vanilli

Luke Korem, Bradley Jackson, Jon Michael Simpson, Hanif Abdurraqib, Kim Marlowe, Patrick Berry

Keep On Running Pictures, Fulwell 73, MRC – Paramount+

From their meteoric rise to public downfall, this captivating documentary chronicles the untold circumstances surrounding the infamous pop duo Milli Vanilli and their 1990s era lip-syncing scandal.



Spacey Unmasked – Episode 1

Katherine Haywood, Dorothy Byrne, Colin Moxon, Patrick Strudwick, Janet Nripe, Ben Steele

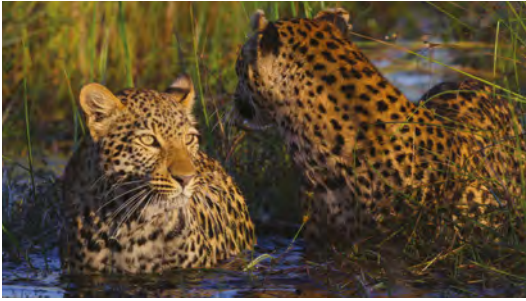
Roast Beef Productions in association with All3Media International – Channel 4

Spacey Unmasked is a forensic look at Kevin Spacey's life, featuring unseen interviews and archive footage. It covers his rise from Broadway to stardom and his fall amid allegations of inappropriate sexual behaviour. In 2023, Spacey was acquitted of sexual offences in the UK. This two-part series investigates his conduct, featuring new testimonies from men with experiences with Spacey, many speaking out for the first time.





Best Natural History or Environmental Documentary



Living with Leopards

Production Team

A Netflix Documentary, Wild Space Production in association with Natural History Film Unit Botswana and Freeborne Media – Netflix

An incredible coming-of-age tale of a pair of leopard cubs born into one of the most dramatic landscapes on earth.



Planet Earth III – Heroes

Michael Gunton, Matt Brandon, Jonny Keeling, Steve Greenwood, Abigail Brown, Estelle Cheuk

BBC Studios Natural History Unit, co-produced by BBC America, ZDF, FTV and The Open University – BBC

Sir David Attenborough tells the stories of six environmental heroes around the world who are doing incredible work to try and halt the global biodiversity and climate crisis. Stories range from going undercover to catch criminals in the ivory trade to Indigenous Community leaders in the Amazon protesting new laws destroying their rainforest. The powerful and positive conclusion shows the vital importance of the ballot box in saving the environment.



Silverback

Miles Blayden-Ryall, Andrew Zikking, Guy Gilbert, Sam Dawe, Tanwen Hughes, Amy Freeman

An Off the Fence Production for BBC in co-production with France Télévisions in association with Featuristic Films – BBC

Silverback is a feature-length documentary following wildlife cameraman Vianet Djengué as he joins the effort to protect the critically endangered eastern lowland gorillas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Born in the neighbouring Republic of the Congo, Vianet has been invited by the Kahuzi-Biega National Park to document this often challenging but vital conservation work. However, with the DRC still suffering the impacts of war, can the planet's largest primates be rescued from extinction?



Tigers on the Rise

Production Team

Wildstar Films – Disney+

Narrated by Blair Underwood, DisneyNature's *Tigers on the Rise* celebrates the remarkable comeback of one of the world's most iconic animals. Tiger populations have rebounded so successfully, many of the big cats are venturing from India's forest reserves into farms and villages – a monumental challenge for both people and animals. The heroes in this story are the vets, scientists, and those who run the community patrols dedicated to ensuring that tigers and people can coexist.



GRIERSON
British Documentary Awards

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Congratulations
to all nominees
and the winner
of **Best Student
Documentary**

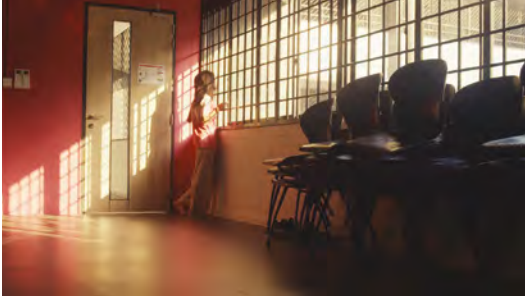
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All3Media Best Student Documentary



Beyond These Walls

Christine Seow, Jolinn Ang, Clare Maleeny, Nicholas Smyth, Diogo Chaves, Ellen Yu

National Film and Television School –
University/college screening

Beyond These Walls offers a rare insight into a secured girls' home in Singapore, delving into the lives of its residents. Through observational footage and intimate interviews, it illuminates the diverse circumstances and challenges faced by these girls. From struggles with familial relationships to navigating personal growth, the film provides a rare glimpse into their world, highlighting resilience and the quest for hope amidst adversity.



Hungry for Freedom

Rachata Thongruay, Athena Vlachos, Andy Sowerby, Olivier Sarrailh, Marcin Mazurek

National Film and Television School –
University/college screening

Boong and Baipor are two activists from Thailand who got arrested for criticising the Thai monarchy. They are put in prison and denied their right to bail. They have to embark on a hunger strike to confirm their innocence and demand their release.



milk

Miranda Stern, Ashionye Ogene, Yiwei Pu, Liam Sharpe, Rotem Frimer, Carl Mason

National Film and Television School –
University/college screening

A cinematic work around maternity, loss and addiction, focused on life and healing. One filmmaker sets out on a journey to discover the mother she never knew. Like the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi, the act of piecing back together all the scattered, jagged and broken bits of her mother's life somehow helps her to make sense of her own. But, like the act of filmmaking itself, it is a journey that will never feel complete.



The Waiter, the Scientist and Jenny

Joe Snelling, Ben Sales, Omar Gabriel Delnevo, Nir Perlman, Carl Mason, George Philip Blake

National Film and Television School –
University/college screening

Once an exceptionally promising scientist, Marc Esposito now works as a waiter in Hastings, where he attempts to live an unusually free and unencumbered life, whilst simultaneously battling a severe mental health condition.

A massive congratulations to all the outstanding nominees and winners of the 2024 Grierson Awards.

From all of us at Blueberry

Since 2002 we have been developing our roster of freelance factual and documentary editors and we're proud of the journeys and careers we've helped build.

And, we're also proud to support the Grierson DocLab's incredible talent. For 9 years, we've delivered bespoke one-to-one workshops, helping trainees transition from the DocLab programme to taking their first industry steps.

We love to help people thrive and grow!

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Best Single Documentary – International



My Name is Happy

Nick Read, Ayse Toprak, Adam Bullmore, Mahmut Kaya, Meryem Yavuz, Anna Price

[October Films](#), [Red Zed Films](#), [Horovel Films](#) – [Channel 4](#)

My Name is Happy is the inspirational redemption story of teenage Kurdish singer Mutlu Kaya, for whom stardom beckons when she reaches the finals of *Turkey's Got Talent*. Days later she is shot by a man trying to abduct her. Miraculously, Mutlu survives, but with life-changing injuries and a bullet in her brain. As she battles to heal her haunting voice, the shocking femicide of her sister compounds her tragedy. Undaunted and unbreakable, Mutlu intensifies her fight for women's rights in Turkey.



To Kill a Tiger

Nisha Pahuja, Cornelia Principe, David Oppenheim, Mrinal Desai, Mike Munn, Dave Kazala

[Notice Pictures Inc.](#) and [The National Film Board of Canada](#) – [Netflix](#)

When his teen daughter survives a harrowing crime, a humble farmer embarks on a remarkable pursuit of justice, defying deep intolerance in their village.



Storyville – Total Trust Surveillance State

Jialing Zhang, Knut Jäger, Michael Grotenhoff, Saskia Kress

[Film Tank](#), [Witfilm and Interactive Media Foundation](#), [B8](#), [ZDF](#), [Arte](#), [NTR](#) – [BBC](#)

A look at state surveillance and digital social control in China through the experiences of two families and a journalist. While Zijuan Chen is fighting for the release of her husband, the journalist Sophie Xueqin Huang is at constant risk of arrest.



Ukraine: Enemy in the Woods

Jamie Roberts, Kate Spankie, Maryna Kotsyubenko, Stanislav Strilets, Claire Walker, Jonathan Smith

[HOYO Films](#), distributed by [All3Media International](#) – [BBC](#)

A single Ukrainian infantry company find themselves in a life-or-death battle to defend the eastern front against intense Russian attacks. This is an extraordinary portrait of lives compromised by the turmoil of a bloody war, filmed by Ukrainian soldiers.



Louis Theroux Interviews – Pete Doherty



Miners' Strike: A Frontline Story



Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius



Ukraine: Enemy in the Woods



Big Zuu Goes to Mecca



Total Trust: Surveillance State



Rose Ayling-Ellis: Signs for Change



Better Off Dead?



Silverback



The Space Shuttle That Fell to Earth



Proudly Supporting British Documentary Makers



BBC

Grierson Trustees' Award



Stacey Dooley receives the prestigious Grierson Trustees' Award this evening, which recognises her outstanding contribution to the art and craft of documentary.

Stacey Dooley is one of Britain's most prolific documentary makers and presenters and is the youngest person to receive the Trustees' Award. She first appeared on television screens in 2008, as a contributor to the BBC Three series *Blood, Sweat and T-Shirts*. Her strong on-screen presence and her passion to expose how children were being used as forced labour led to a commission for the first series of *Stacey Dooley Investigates*. Since then, she has made more than 100 documentaries, exploring a wide range of subjects including pollution in the fashion industry, domestic violence, slavery, mass rape and murder, and the illegal narcotics trade.

The trustees were impressed by the way Stacey, who had previously worked as a shop assistant and had no background in journalism or broadcasting, managed to forge a career as a successful documentary presenter in what is a notoriously competitive field. She brought a fresh perspective to the genre and has built an impressive body of work over the past 15 years, never shying away from tackling difficult subjects.

Lorraine Heggessey, Chair of the Grierson Trust said: *"Stacey Dooley has brought a refreshing new voice to documentary making and has consistently brought challenging subjects to new audiences, especially younger viewers and children. Her films and series have fearlessly tackled the big issues that affect young, diverse and marginalised people around the world. Her emotional intelligence enables her to build a natural rapport with her interviewees and she is also willing to challenge those in authority by asking direct, difficult questions. This has earned her respect from audiences and peers alike, and she has regularly been mentioned by our Grierson DocLab trainees as the inspiration for wanting to become a documentary maker. We are all thrilled to recognise Stacey's contribution to documentary making with this year's Trustees' Award."*

Congratulations, Stacey!





GRIERSON

British Documentary Awards

2025

In association with



Entries Open: March 2025

Entries Close: End May 2025

Documentaries must have been made available to a UK audience between 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025 to be eligible for Grierson 2025: The British Documentary Awards.

→ www.griersontrust.org/grierson-awards



Best Cinema Documentary



20 Days in Mariupol

Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath, Derl McCrudden, Vasilisa Stepanenko

FRONTLINE, PBS and The Associated Press –
Theatrical Release

An AP team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggle to continue their work documenting atrocities of the Russian invasion. As the only international reporters who remain in the city, they capture what later become defining images of the war: dying children, mass graves, the bombing of a maternity hospital, and more.



American Symphony

Production Team

Higher Ground, Mercury Studios, Our Time Projects –
Theatrical Release

While composing an original symphony for Carnegie Hall, Jon Batiste receives 11 Grammy nominations and is at a career high. But this trajectory is upended when his life partner – author Suleika Jaouad – learns that her long dormant cancer has returned in this portrait of two artists at a crossroads.



Kokomo City

D. Smith, Harris Doran, Bill Butler

Couch Potato Company, Madison Square Films –
Theatrical Release

Directed by two-time Grammy nominee D. Smith, *Kokomo City* takes up a seemingly simple mantle – to present the stories of four Black transgender sex workers in New York and Georgia. Shot in striking black and white, the boldness of the facts of these women's lives – and the earthshaking frankness they share – complicate this enterprise, colliding the everyday with cutting social commentary and the excavation of long-dormant truths.



Queendom

Agniia Galdanova, Igor Myakotin, David France, Jess Search, Arnaud Borges

Sundance Institute, Doc Society, Inmaat Productions –
Theatrical Release

Gena, a queer artist from a small town in Russia, stages radical performances in public that become a new form of art and activism – and put her life in danger.

ENVY

VY

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Envy

Best Single Documentary – Domestic

≡ N
V Y



Accused: The Hampstead Paedophile Hoax

Emily Turner, Simon McMahon, Tomasz Frymorgen, Lorenzo Levrini, Peter Beard, Adam Hopkins

Story Films, All3Media International – Channel 4

In February 2015, two children appeared to accuse parents and teachers at their North London primary school of leading a baby-eating satanic paedophile cult. Their claims had been made under duress and were not true – but when videos of their testimony went online, conspiracy theorists believed it. With exclusive access to the accused mothers at the centre of this story, the film explores the real-world impact of an outrageous conspiracy theory.



Ellie Simmonds: Finding My Secret Family

Jasleen Kaur Sethi, Colleen Flynn, Lucy Wilcox, David Thompson, Nick Underhill, Catherine Harte

Flicker Productions – ITV

Just ten days after she was born, gold-medal winning Paralympian Ellie Simmonds was placed for adoption. Was this decision influenced by her dwarfism? At a new stage in her life, Ellie wants to reach out and find her birth mother in a bid to understand why children from diverse backgrounds are more likely to be placed for adoption.



Me and the Voice in My Head

Joe Tracini, Tom Green, Tommy Forbes, Dan Baldwin, Garry Crystal, Georgie Bayford

Hungry Bear Media Ltd – Channel 4

In this brave and uncompromisingly honest documentary, comedian Joe Tracini explores the root cause of his borderline personality disorder, which has left him suicidal. Delving into his traumatic childhood, he hopes to get a grip on his condition and revive his comedy career. From Joe's unique perspective, this film explains and visualises the voice inside his head in a truly funny and original way – bringing to life an invisible condition that is largely unexplained.



Otto Baxter: Not a F*ing Horror Story**

Daisy Allsop, Peter Beard, Bruce Fletcher, Evie Sangale, Rupert Houseman, Otto Baxter

Story Films, Archface Films – Sky Documentaries

*Otto Baxter: Not a F***ing Horror Story* follows Otto Baxter, a 35-year-old man with Down's Syndrome over six years, as he writes and directs a foul-mouthed, autobiographical comedy-horror-musical set in Victorian London.

NETFLIX

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GRIERSON AWARD NOMINEES

**AMERICAN
NIGHTMARE**

BEST DOCUMENTARY SERIES

AMERICAN SYMPHONY

BEST CINEMA DOCUMENTARY

THE
DEEPEST
BREATH

BEST SPORTS DOCUMENTARY

THE **GREATEST
NIGHT IN POP**

BEST MUSIC DOCUMENTARY

Iranian
Yellow
Pages

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

LIVING WITH LEOPARDS

BEST NATURAL HISTORY OR
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

STAMPED FROM
THE **BEGINNING**

BEST HISTORY DOCUMENTARY

To Kill a Tiger

BEST SINGLE DOCUMENTARY
- INTERNATIONAL

WHAM!

BEST MUSIC DOCUMENTARY

YELLOW DOOR

'90s Lo-fi Film Club
BEST ARTS DOCUMENTARY

**YOU
ARE NOT
ALONE**

Fighting the
Wolf Pack

BEST CURRENT AFFAIRS
DOCUMENTARY

N



Netflix Best Documentary Series

NETFLIX



American Nightmare

Production Team
RAW – Netflix

After a home invasion and abduction, a young couple's recounting of the events is too far-fetched for the police to believe. This docuseries unravels the consequences of our cultural rush to judgment, and the damage done when law enforcement decides the truth can't possibly be true.



Evacuation

Production Team
Wonderhood Studios – Channel 4

Evacuation is a landmark documentary series about the British Military's evacuation of Kabul, an incredibly complex and perilous military operation which became Britain's biggest airlift since WWII. With top-to-bottom access to the British Military and never-seen-before combat footage, this groundbreaking series focuses on the personal stories of the British servicemen and women, and Afghan citizens, who found themselves in the middle of a humanitarian crisis.



Lockerbie

Nancy Strang, John Dower, Claire McFall, Barnaby Fry,
Dejan Cancar, Charlie Hawryliw
Mindhouse Productions – Sky Documentaries

Lockerbie is a gripping and emotional four-part series that documents the deadliest terror attack on UK soil – the 1988 bombing of flight Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, with 270 deaths. From the horror of the bombing itself, and the grief of victims' relatives, the series turns to follow the lengthy worldwide investigation into who carried out the attack. One Libyan man was convicted at trial in 2001, but doubts persist over his guilt.



The Push: Murder on the Cliff

Anna Hall, Luke Rothery, Josephine Besbrode,
Tom Whitaker, Kate Reid
Candour Productions – Channel 4

The Push is a gripping two-part documentary series following a British murder trial. A husband stands accused of pushing his wife to her death. The series allows viewers to experience the courtroom drama first-hand. Did she fall or was she pushed?



GRIERSON DOCLAB '24



Our Supporters



The Grierson Trust is proud to support new and existing documentary and factual filmmaking talent through our Grierson DocLab initiatives. This year the roster of training programmes expanded with the introduction of new collaborations and the continuation of established partnerships.



New Entrants

In association with



The Grierson DocLab: New Entrants training scheme, now in its 12th year, focuses on documentary enthusiasts aged 18–25 from diverse backgrounds who aspire to break into the industry.

Twelve trainees from across the UK were selected for the intensive hybrid programme which included: sessions about working with vulnerable contributors and sensitive topics; how to illustrate the use of archive; an overview of a post-production workflow; research methods; casting; development and more.

The trainees were able to consolidate what they learnt with the extraordinary opportunity to pitch a documentary idea to industry professionals representing various broadcasters and production companies.

Further wrap-around support has come through a trip to Sheffield DocFest, personalised career planning, a CV writing masterclass, access to the wider alumni network, and a mentor to guide them through their first steps into the industry. Currently, the trainees are completing their bursary-supported placements at the production companies that generously sponsor the programme.

The continued success of Grierson DocLab is made possible by our principal funding partner, The Rank Foundation, whose investment and commitment to supporting under-represented young people in our industry is deeply appreciated. Our industry sponsor, Banijay UK and funding from the ScreenSkills Contestable Fund have allowed us to expand the travel, networking and training opportunities for the group.

A record number of production companies generously offered trainee placements including BBC Studios, KEO Films, Passion Pictures, Nutopia, Dorothy Street Pictures, Blast! Films, Box to Box, Dragonfly, The Garden, Lightbox, Minnow Films, RAW, Rogan Productions, True North, TwentyTwenty, Wall to Wall, Wise Owl Films (part of All3Media), and Wonderhood Studios.

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, Blueberry Creatives, Creators Counsel and Talented People.



“Grierson DocLab has completely changed the course of my career, and I couldn’t be more grateful. I learned so much from the training, DocFest, my work placement and from all of the wonderful people we met throughout the programme. The Grierson team are so committed to helping turn our passion for docs into a sustainable career.”

Alice Stewart, New Entrant 2024 trainee



GRIERSON DOCLAB

Unscripted Editing & Production Management

with
NETFLIX



This year, we were delighted to continue our partnership with Netflix to offer two specialist training programmes designed to address key skills gaps in our industry, Grierson DocLab: Unscripted Editing and Production Management.

The editing programme was aimed at experienced Avid editors looking to pivot to large-scale, unscripted shows. Trainees took part in an intensive programme featuring sessions with creators, producers and editors of some of the biggest unscripted formats in the world, spanning *The Traitors*, *Squid Game: The Challenge*, *My Mum Your Dad* and *Love is Blind UK*. The training examined dealing with volume; the reality of being an unscripted editor; adapting the editing workflow to the format; unpacking new formats in the edit; and finding the stories and contributors that stick.

Now in its third iteration, the production management programme offered training to eight career-changers looking to transfer valuable skills from outside of the TV and film sector into the world of documentary. The training included an overview of documentaries; practical exercises and group work; a site visit to Shift4; an overview of post-production; a session about production roles and progression; international shoots; an overview of rig shows; the importance of making productions accessible; and managing large scale projects.

Trainees across both programmes were offered placements on Netflix productions.



GRIERSON DOCLAB

Archive Producers

With
PATHWAY
prime

“

It was really empowering seeing how kind the archive community is. I don't think I'll ever be able to put into words how grateful and honoured I feel to be a part of this and to have learnt everything I have from the most amazing speakers. I will forever be thankful to Sam and the Grierson team.”

Maia Adelia, Grierson DocLab: Archive Producer Trainee

Our new partnership with Prime Video Pathway sets out to nurture a new generation of archive producers. The initiative equips eight individuals already working in the industry – in roles such as researchers, assistant producers and production managers – with the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to develop a career in archive.

The inaugural programme covered key topics such as the archival landscape; production fundamentals; soft skills for negotiation; working to a project brief; organising workflow; different approaches to research; securing personal archive; navigating social media archive; plus, budgeting, feedback, and negotiating ethical challenges and sensitive subjects. The trainees also heard from a range of archives including Associated Press, Kino Library, Getty Images, and the Huntley Archive.

Each trainee was paired with an industry mentor and received two five-week bursary supported placements. Trainees also visited various archives with guided tours to the BFI National Archive; Imperial War Museum; BFI Mediatheque and Reuben Library and film restoration company R3Store Studios.

CASE STUDIES

Mia Versluvs – New Entrants Trainee

This summer I had the privilege of spending a 4-week placement with The Garden working on *24 Hours in Police Custody*. From the minute I arrived to my last day, I felt incredibly welcomed by the team.

A particular highlight came with the opportunity to join two producers on location. Observing them was a fantastic learning experience, I was particularly struck by the way in which they engaged with the local community with a tremendous degree of sensitivity and care.

I was also invited to attend two online viewings for an episode ahead of its broadcast. Whenever you are the most junior person in the room, it can initially feel daunting to make your voice heard. However, I quickly realised that my opinion was equally valued and respected, I felt listened to, and some of my suggestions were even actioned.

In the final days of my placement, I attended a court hearing for a case that the show is following. When working at a distance from the action, observing through a screen, it can sometimes feel easy to forget that these are not fictional stories, but the lives of real people. It was during this moment, I was reminded that this is a show that has the opportunity to make a real change in the world, and this is something I feel immensely proud to have been a part of.

Words cannot express my gratitude to The Garden for this opportunity. My time working on *Police Custody* was invaluable, offering me diverse experiences across areas of production and post production. I gained valuable insight into the process behind creating a TV show as well as clarifying the areas of the industry I would like to pursue further.

“**Grierson DocLab is a great scheme for any company. By virtue of explaining our practices to someone so bright and genuinely curious we were encouraged to look beyond how we have done things and embrace the ever-changing television climate. Mia would be an asset to any documentary making team.**”

Amber Ronowicz – Executive Producer,
The Garden on hosting Mia as a trainee



Mia (above) and
Scarlet (right)



Scarlet Moore – Archive Producers Trainee

I heard about the Grierson scheme not long after returning from maternity leave. Getting a place on the programme has boosted me and fast-tracked my career move from being a producer towards becoming an archive producer in ways I couldn't have imagined a year ago.

The in-depth and inspiring training, led by Sam Dwyer, laid a solid foundation in terms of specialist knowledge and opened up the world of archive – with talks and masterclasses by an array of brilliant archive producers, directors, editors, post houses, libraries, lawyers, and case studies from Sam's own projects.

It not only championed the role of diligent, passionate, creative archive producers but allowed me to better understand how I could adapt the skills I've developed over my 11 years in editorial. I went on to do a placement working in pre-production on an Asif Kapadia / George Chignell archive-led series, where I got stuck in under the guidance of archive producer Bea Read. I'm delighted to be staying on with this brilliant team. As we move into production and I take these next steps in my career, I'll also benefit from having the wonderful Jo Stones as a mentor.

Thank You

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