



# The AIBs

2023

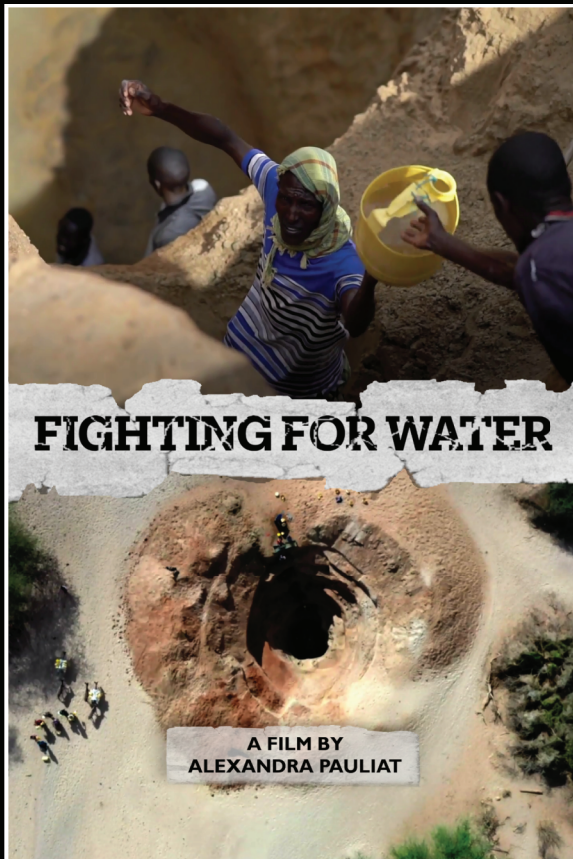
**#theAIBs**

**Winners and  
finalists**

Personal Journeys

# Off The Grid

Global Stories



Our **Off The Grid** series brings you captivating personal journeys of people affected by global turmoil

**TRTWORLD**  
Where **News** Inspires **Change**



**The AIBs**  
2023

# WELCOME

## TV/VIDEO

DOCUDRAMA  
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY  
HUMAN INTEREST  
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY  
INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY  
NATURAL HISTORY  
NEWS COVERAGE  
POLITICS and BUSINESS  
PRESENTER of the YEAR  
SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY  
SHORT FEATURE  
SPECIALIST FACTUAL  
SPORTS JOURNALISM

## RADIO/AUDIO/PODCAST

DOCUDRAMA  
HUMAN INTEREST  
INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY  
NEWS COVERAGE  
PRESENTER of the YEAR  
SPECIALIST FACTUAL

I had a dream. Conflicts the world over had been solved, humanity had woken up to the idea that much could be gained through mutual cooperation rather than destructive action. Initiatives for media freedom were no longer needed. All breaking news meant positive stories. Just as I was pondering what that would mean for the role of journalists, I switched on the day's news. No, the world had not changed.

This year the Association for International Broadcasting is staging its 19th International Media Awards, the *AIBs*. If any proof were needed of the role of journalists in our world today, the international *AIBs* competition is it. We all know about the main news stories, even if only fleetingly consumed: wars, natural disasters, big political scandals. But it is the stories in the background, on the fringes, that would not come to light without the journalists' brave and persistent probing. Stories that show us the depravity of humankind and its brilliance. You will find quite a few in this compilation of 2023 *AIBs* winners and highly commended entries.

During the shortlisting of the many entries submitted from all over the world – over 400 hours worth – one marvels at the lengths that journalists go to in order to get to the heart of the story. And what incredible stories they are. Every minute of every day, some intrepid team somewhere in the world is shining a light on something dark, hidden or amazing. And yes, their efforts do have an effect on the viewer or listener and can and do trigger tangible changes in society.

The *AIBs* are a celebration of excellence – of the best of journalism and factual programme making globally. There are always surprises in treatment and approach, even when you thought it had all been done and tried before. It was hard to choose the winner in each category as the standard of productions is extremely high. So congratulations have to go not only to the winners but to all entrants. The *AIBs* are also a platform for the exchange of ideas and inspiration. If you want to get in touch with any of the finalists let us know.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the Association cannot organise these awards without the support and involvement of the industry. So firstly, my special thanks go to the many media professionals who served on the international judging panel and gave their time and expertise so generously this year. I also extend my particular thanks to our event partner, Rti for their commitment to the cause of media excellence and their continued and much valued support of the *AIBs* in 2023. And I would like to thank our host for the evening, Simon McCoy.

The 2024 *AIBs* awards season will open in April.

Simon Spanswick  
Chief Executive, AIB

EVENT PARTNERS

**Rti** 中央廣播電臺  
Radio Taiwan International





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# JUDGES

**Félix Alvarez-Garmon** – Principal, FRM Global | **Salim Amin** – Chairman, Camerapix | **Lara Ariffin** – Producer/Director, Nuvista Media | **Anna Averkiou** – Freelance Journalist/Trainer, Anna Averkiou Media | **Steve Bailey** – Broadcaster and Managing Director, Plan A Productions | **Ratan Bhardwaj** – Chief Editor (Breaking News), NDTV | **Stephanie Busari** – Senior Editor, Africa, CNN International | **Paul Bushnell** – Auckland Manager, RNZ | **Matthew Champion** – Editor-in-Chief, VICE News | **Eugen Cojocariu** – Director, Radio Romania International | **Juan Pablo Córdoba** – Producción Artística, Radio Mitre | **Linda Cullen** – CEO, COCO Content | **Craig Dale** – Deputy Chief Editor, International News & Business, Mediagroup | **Clara Dominguez** – Director of Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, Voice of America | **Lyndsay Duthie** – Chief Executive Officer, The Production Guild of Great Britain | **Mohammad El-Huseini** – Business News Editor, Al Arabiya News Channel | **Mouhssine Ennaimi** – Director/Producer – Off The Grid, TRT WORLD | **Walter Fernandez** – Editor-in-Chief & Sustainability Officer, Mediagroup | **Rajen Garabadu** – Chief Executive Producer, Network18 Media & Investments | **Mihai Gadea** – CEO, Antena 3 CNN Romania | **Peter Greste** – Professor of Journalism – Macquarie University | **Zaffarul Hadzrami Mohd Zain** – Senior Director – Live Sports, Measat Broadcast Network System (Astro) | **Ching-Ching Hai** – Chief, International News Section, Radio Taiwan International | **Ali Hobbs** – Head of Production, Candour Productions | **Antonia Howard** – Media & Communications Manager, Purposeful | **Carlson Huang** – Manager, Radio Taiwan International | **Mustafa Isaid** – Manager, Media Advisor, Berlin Center of Media | **Sam Jackson** – Controller, BBC Radio 3, BBC | **Peter James** – Vice President Global Sales – Professional Audio, Shure Incorporated | **Kathryn Jein** – Head of Production, Flicker Productions | **Amy Katz** – Senior Executive Producer – VOA News Center, Voice of America | **K Rashi Kumar** – Broadcaster, All India Radio & Faculty, Radio Journalism – University of Allahabad | **Artem Liss** – Director, Flying Fox Media | **Emmanuel Maduabuchi** – News Editor, Nigeria Info FM 95.1 | **Steve Martin** – Senior Business Development Manager, BBC | **Vuyokazi 'Joseph' Matu** – Founding President, Voice of Africa Global Media | **Greg Moyer** – Founder/CEO, Blue Chalk Media | **Nicky Ness** – Director of Broadcasting & Entertainment, BFBS | **Kate Pearson** – Managing Director of Programming and Acquisitions, Maryland Public Television | **Amanda Pike** – Director, TV & Documentaries, Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting | **Tinku Ray** – Managing Editor, The World, GBH/PRX | **Alan Rook** – Managing Director, BlackRook Media | **Pascal Seynhaeve** – Editor in Chief PANO (VRT NWS), VRT | **Peter Shevlin** – Director, C60Media | **Brett Spencer** – Director, Centre of Podcasting Excellence, City, University of London | **Joanna Spiteri** – Chief Executive, Broadcasting Authority Malta | **Gary Stevens** – Programme Leader, MA Journalism, University of Lincoln School of Film, Media and Journalism | **Kingsley Uranta** – Assistant General Manager Operations, Channels Television | **Steve Wind-Mozley** – Chief Marketing Officer, LiveU | **Xiaoying Zhang** – Deputy Head of International Relations and Diversity, Deutsche Welle



## HOST

With a career in journalism spanning 40 years, **Simon McCoy** is one of the most recognisable faces in British television news. Simon started in television at ITV in London before moving to TV-am. He was part of the launch team of Sky News in 1989 before spending 15 years at the station, firstly as Royal Correspondent and then as one of their main presenters. His move to the BBC meant working on BBC1's 'Breakfast' and the BBC News Channel. He was a regular presenter of BBC1's weekend bulletins before becoming the main presenter of the BBC News

at One. In 2021 Simon McCoy left the BBC to join GB News.

As well as breaking news, Simon is also noted for making news, often going viral for his sometimes dead-pan delivery – whether outside a hospital waiting for a Royal Baby or trying to hide his indifference to less important news stories in the studio.

Simon now works as a production consultant – most recently for Washington-based Feature Story News as part of their training project at Doordarshan News Channel in Delhi.



## VOICE

When **Alex Iszatt** is not reporting on breaking news for numerous UK and international news channels, she can be heard on commercials, continuity announcements, documentaries and everything in between. Alongside presenting and doing voiceovers she is also a behavioural criminologist, providing expert advice on the mindset of

killers, past and present, across the world. Closer to her home in London, Alex mixes her live TV and radio work with corporate videos, on-line and in-person events, media training, and acting roles.

A consummate professional, Alex brings her smile and warm personality to any project.

# NEWS COVERAGE

## TV/VIDEO

### BBC News



BBC teams have been covering ***The War in Ukraine*** extensively with reporting teams based in Kyiv and more deployed throughout the country, as well as the wider region and in Moscow. There has been a continual focus on the key city of Bakhmut by BBC teams since October 2022. Ukrainian forces still held the city but Russians were at the eastern edge when the team of Orla Guerin, Wietske Burema and Goktay Koraltan were at the frontline. In November 2022 Jeremy Bowen with Fred Scott and Kathy Long were outside of Kherson as Russia ordered its troops to withdraw from the city. Quentin Sommerville and Darren Conway achieved frontline access after much negotiation and followed units as they held back Russian forces in Donbas. Jonathan Beale continued the coverage of the battle for Bakhmut while East European correspondent Sarah Rainsford investigated the stolen children said to number over 19,000. The breach of the Kherson dam was covered by James Waterhouse, Rachael Thorn, Lee Durant and Darla Sipigina. Russia Editor Steve Rosenberg put viewers in the picture during the 24 hours of chaos created by Wagner rebellions and retreat. The judges felt this collection of very high quality news reports was the clear winner – typically powerful and comprehensive, featuring some of the most memorable reporting following the invasion.

### Highly commended

#### BBC News

##### ***Afghanistan After the Taliban***

Getting into Afghanistan is extremely difficult for foreign journalists which means there is a virtual blackout of information about the severity of the humanitarian crisis. The BBC team travelled considerable distances, often filming in secret, to show the dire economic and personal reality of people who feel abandoned by the world. The judges were impressed by the outcome of this hugely challenging assignment.

# NEWS COVERAGE

## RADIO/AUDIO/PODCAST

### ITV News



***Partygate: The Inside Story*** took listeners into the heart of the UK's biggest political scandal of our generation. For the first time, we went inside Number 10 to hear the whistle-blowers in their own words as they described what Boris Johnson really knew about Downing Street's illegal lockdown parties. The series, driven by ITV News' UK Editor Paul Brand and producer Nathan Lee, delivered important new revelations which shaped the story – for example the fact that Boris Johnson joked about “the most unsocially distanced party in the UK” which was then cited by MPs as they cross-examined the former prime minister, prior to his ultimate resignation as an MP. The podcast series has been listened to by millions, generated front page headlines on national newspapers the day after launch along with enormous coverage across the digital media. Our judges were equally impressed and declared this the clear winner. Dazzling, enthralling, editorially strong, makes maximum use of the podcast format, mobilises the audience and through fine story telling draws the listener into different angles of a story they are already familiar with – these were some of their comments.

### Highly commended

#### BBC News Content for BBC News

##### ***The Death and Funeral of HM The Queen***

Eleven days of mourning and remembrance, an extraordinary event in modern Britain, reported and relayed with words, sounds, music and mood, day by day and hour by hour. ‘The production values make the news coverage sing’, said one of our judges – ‘pictures on the radio’, with impeccable scripting and delivery.



## SHORT FEATURE

TV/VIDEO

### ITN Productions for Channel 4 News



Guillermo and Rodrigo Galdos set off to Colombia to document every step of the journey that more and more migrants are risking, across the Darién Gap. There's been a record increase in the number of migrants making the treacherous journey across the stretch of dense jungle connecting South America with Central and North America.

**Hell on Earth: Darién Gap - The Deadly Migrant Route** looks at the migrants' ordeal through the eyes of a young Venezuelan mother with her two little girls in tow, as well as a young Chinese man and an asylum seeker fleeing war in Cameroon. With everything they needed on their backs, Guillermo and Rodrigo spent six days on the track, camping in and walking through some of the most challenging terrain on earth, a path littered with bodies, and roamed by armed gangs who rob and rape the vulnerable. Their main camera succumbed to the humidity on day two, which meant the rest of the film was captured on their iPhone. A clear winner said the judges about this utterly compelling and courageous eyewitness report that stays with the viewer long afterwards.

#### Highly commended

Deutsche Welle - DW

**We CRASHED a BMW S1000 RR Superbike while filming with LEGEND Troy Corser**

DW REV's speedster Kai takes a dive into the world of racing. Even after a horror 120mph crash, Kai gets back in the saddle. Why is racing so addictive? Could it be that if our parents were thrill seekers we will also be that way inclined? The entertaining, well-balanced piece that explores deeper issues impressed the judges.

VOA

**Eco-Warriors of Africa**

Three young eco-warriors are tackling the climate change issues in Africa by trying to reverse some of the damage. VOA reports on their work to restore lost coral, plant trees and teach young people about climate change. The judges' notes said 'innovative, refreshing, great production values and important content'.

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY

TV /VIDEO

### Lofty Sky Entertainment



In March 2002, a state TV signal in China is hacked by members of the banned spiritual group Falun Gong. Their goal is to counter the government's narrative about their practice. In the aftermath, police raids sweep Changchun City, and comic book illustrator Daxiong (Justice League, Star Wars), a Falun Gong practitioner, is forced to flee. He arrives in North America, blaming the hijacking for worsening an already violent repression. But his views are challenged when he meets the lone surviving participant to have escaped China, now living in South Korea. Combining present-day footage with 3D animation inspired by Daxiong's art, **Eternal Spring (长春)** retraces the event on its 20th anniversary, bringing to life a story of defiance through eyewitness accounts and artistry. The production is an exhilarating tale of determination to speak up for political and religious freedoms, and has helped to alert the world to issues of freedom of speech and freedom of belief in China. Judges called this a truly original entry, graphically stunning. One suggested that mixing animation and footage may even be the way forward to instruct younger generations about historical events. A deserving winner in this category.

#### Highly commended

An Oxford Scientific Films production for BBC

**Murder in the Pacific**

In 1985 French Secret Service agents tried to stop the protests by Greenpeace against the French nuclear weapons testing by fatally bombing their flagship Rainbow Warrior. 'Pure cinema', commented the judges - 'kept me on the edge of my seat'.



## Al Jazeera English



A decade ago, a devastating brain disease, CTE, had been discovered in the brains of some of the National Football League players – players who had suffered head trauma playing the most popular US sport. In 2013, bowing to public pressure, the NFL appeared to take responsibility and promised to provide money and care to retired NFL players living with CTE and other neurological diseases linked to the game. But has the NFL made good on this promise? ***Fault Lines: Bloodsport*** investigates how the league was able to deny compensation to Black players through a controversial testing practice called “race-norming”. The AJE team found that the NFL had also put pressure on doctors to change their diagnoses of retired players hoping to qualify for an award from the NFL concussion settlement. This is the story of one former NFL player, Pittsburgh Steeler Carlton Haselrig, and his struggle to get compensation from the NFL. The judges thought this a deserving winner: all sides of the story were captured and the production is able to maintain a degree of objectivity in emotionally powerful circumstances that completely take the viewer in.

## ITN Productions for Channel 5



Iraq is a country often depicted as a one-dimensional war zone, still under the shadow of Saddam and the Gulf war, where tyrants and terrorists exist after the tyranny of ISIS. When Michael Palin embarked on an epic journey into Iraq, he and his production team wanted to look beyond these stereotypes and show what daily life is like for the 40 million people who call it home. In ***Michael Palin: Into Iraq*** the reality of travelling across Iraq reveals much about the state of this country today. It was a journey full of highs and lows, from the pure joy and exuberance of the Kurdish ‘Nowroz’ celebration to meeting children in the bombed-out ruins of Mosul. In the course of Michael’s travels subjects like the role of women, food, politics, history, nature, fashion, and terrorism were all touched upon. The judges singled this series out as the winner. They praised the impressive camera work and Michael Palin’s story-telling skills which carried the series – his genuine ability to make friends everywhere opened the window for a captivating glimpse into the lesser-known side of Iraq.

### Highly commended

#### Yeti Television

##### ***Spike Milligan: The Unseen Archive***

The film tells a brand-new story of comedian Spike Milligan’s life and work – largely in his own words, using a treasure trove of never-before-seen archive unearthed by his family. It examines the more uncomfortable aspects of his work and enrolls a stellar cast to make his world come to life. The judges thought this a visually beautiful piece that uses imaginative devices and gave deep insight.

#### Hungry Jay Media for Channel 5

##### ***The East End Through Time with Jay Blades***

This three-part series explores the history of London’s East End, presented by proud East Ender Jay Blades. Retracing the steps of the people who have come to call the East End their home through the ages, he makes some shocking discoveries and uncovers forgotten stories. The entertaining and educational mix that makes the historical topic sparkle impressed the judges.



## BBC Long Form Audio



20 years ago the US and Britain took one of the most controversial and far-reaching decisions in recent history and went to war in Iraq. Saddam Hussein's regime was ousted but the ramifications of that decision are still rippling out today.

**Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On** sought to re-examine that decision and the legacy of the conflict on security, politics, intervention and, importantly, on Iraqis. The BBC's Security Correspondent Gordon Corera was a young reporter 20 years ago, speaking to spies, defectors and politicians in the frenetic build-up to war. Since then it has been a personal obsession of his to find out more about what was really happening and why. It has taken him two decades to persuade some of the key players to speak, to find some of those who haven't talked before and to track down Iraqis who had to live with the consequences. Our judges said the presenters and journalists have created an incredible podcast series that does not leave the listener wanting a visual version, such was the richness of the content. With its high calibre cast of contributors, consistent high quality sound and excellent use of effects to build a dramatic soundscape, this production was the clear winner.

### Highly commended

#### RTÉ

##### **Finding Samantha**

A young girl found wandering the streets of Dublin turns out to be an Australian woman who created more than 100 identities, was imprisoned for child stealing and lives a life of lies, fraud and deceit. The judges were captivated by this fast-paced, excellently crafted piece based on solid research with its compelling detailed and descriptive narrative style.

#### Pipi Films for Audible Australia

##### **First Eat with Nakkiah Lui**

Who has the right to source food from land? Host Nakkiah Lui leads us through a deeply personal exploration of food politics, power, and body sovereignty, asking how our meals would look different if First Nations people owned the land from where the food comes. Powerfully written and presented, with an image-conjuring soundtrack, each moment flowing into the next effortlessly, said the judges.

## BBC Eye/BBC World Service



Just days old and very vulnerable, baby monkey Mini was taken from her mother in the forest and sold to a YouTuber. She became a celebrity in a global online monkey torture ring. And Mini was just one of thousands of monkeys being abused and filmed. **The Monkey Haters** by the BBC World Service's investigation unit, BBC Eye, uncovers a global monkey-torture ring stretching from Indonesia to the United States. The yearlong investigation found hundreds of customers in the US, UK and other countries, paying people in Indonesia to torture and kill baby long-tailed macaques on film. The torture ring began life on YouTube before moving to private groups on the messaging app Telegram. BBC journalists went undercover in one of the main groups and were able to tell the story of the torturers, the amateur sleuths who hunted them, and the fate of Mini. An amazing piece of journalism, commented the judges, a chilling and eye-opening documentary that sheds light on the disturbing link between the dark corners of the internet and mainstream sites like YouTube and Telegram. The winner in this category.

### Highly commended

#### Flicker Productions for Channel 5

##### **Wayne Couzens: Killer in Plain Sight**

In the UK, serving Metropolitan police officer Wayne Couzens abducted, raped, and murdered 33-year-old Sarah Everard who was walking home from a friend's house. Using the Couzens story as a thread throughout, the film uncovers a much bigger story of sexual violence in the police force where sexual predators and domestic abusers can hide in plain sight. Brilliant investigative work, powerful and unflinching, commented the judges.



## BBC News Long Form Audio



*The Shamima Begum Story* is the culmination of eight years of work. In 2015, three school girls fled London to join ISIS in war-torn Syria. Four years later, Shamima Begum emerged from the ashes of ISIS, pregnant and desperate to come home. The British government labelled her a threat and took away her citizenship leaving her in a Syrian detention camp. Josh Baker has been following her story since the day she left and recorded interviews with her spanning more than a year. He's meticulously retraced her journey from a London bus stop, through Turkey and into the heart of what ISIS called its caliphate, to see if she is telling the truth. But the story is about far more than a 15-year old girl who vanished from London. It encompasses issues of race, religion, security, migration and British identity. It also raises the question – what should we do with people who joined ISIS? This is the winner, decided the judges. A brilliant piece of work with a beautifully crafted script, location recordings and creative sound design that allows the listener to fully participate in the investigative process.

### Highly commended

#### **Project Brazen/Goat Rodeo**

##### ***The Sound: Mystery of Havana Syndrome***

In 2016, US diplomats in Cuba started reporting mysterious symptoms. They were later diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries but all that had happened to them was hearing a sound. Today over 2,000 cases of the so-called Havana Syndrome present one of the most mystifying national security stories of the last 25 years. The beautiful structure of the piece, great opening, subtle use of music and lightness of touch impressed the judges.

## Nicky Woolf



What makes a great radio or audio personality? It's probably someone who is knowledgeable and interested, as well as being interesting, and who has a passion for the medium that comes across very clearly to the listener. Just listening to a voice establishes a very personal, almost intimate relationship and the nature of the voice itself plays an important part. The judges felt that Nicky Woolf was deserving of the accolade of Presenter of the Year in this category.

After taking a degree in English Literature at the University of York and winning a student media award, Nicky Woolf joined the Guardian as a freelance writer and sub-editor. He was then hired by British GQ magazine, first as features editor and then as a contributing editor. In 2012 he moved to the US to cover the presidential election for the New Statesman. After the election he attended Columbia University, attaining a masters in journalism and neuroscience. In 2014 he joined the Guardian's US office as a reporter, developing a specialism in writing about the intersection of politics and digital subculture. In 2018 he launched New Statesman America, a US sister-site for the New Statesman. During the pandemic he was approached by Tortoise Media to write and present an investigative podcast series about the conspiracy theory known as "QAnon" for Audible. After the release of that show, Finding Q, he wrote and presented a number of episodes for Tortoise's weekly podcast, the Slow Newscast. In 2022, he was commissioned to make *The Sound: Mystery of Havana Syndrome* for Project Brazen and PRX.

The judges all commented on Nicky's voice, calling it interesting, intense, hypnotic, easy to listen to with brilliant articulation. They called his radio persona a 'judicious blend of courage, calm and authority', his presentation skills impressive and effective and his content rich and intelligent. A thoroughly professional radio voice that easily builds a strong rapport with its audience.



## HUMAN INTEREST

RADIO/AUDIO/PODCAST

### BBC World Service and CBC Podcasts by Antica Productions and Telltale Industries



Online scamming is part of everyday life now – con artists are present on most dating and social media sites. In Britain alone, romance scams are believed to have robbed victims of nearly £100 million in 2021. The 7-part true crime series **Love, Janessa** delves into the murky world of online romance scams to find an adult entertainment star who is the unwitting human face of a digital con. Her name is Janessa Brazil. But who is the real woman behind the ‘cam girl’ persona? Does she have any idea that her photos are being used in this way? Who are the scammers and why do the victims fall for the fraudsters’ lies? Hosted by journalist Hannah Ajala, the investigation takes listeners from the UK to Italy, and from West Africa to the United States. She speaks to victims who have fallen prey, and individuals who run romance scams for a living, many based in West Africa. There’s even a scamming manual. Hannah’s team finally finds the real Janessa Brazil... and victim Roberto gets to talk to her. The judges picked this entry as the winner as it took the listener on a compelling journey: gripping, addictive, great pace, superb writing, first class presentation, giving real insight into the subject matter.

#### Highly commended

##### Radio Workshop NPC

###### *This Coal Life*

Renewable energy is set to replace coal in a transition that will dramatically reduce carbon emissions in South Africa but what will happen to the people who have built their lives on coal? This story of a family in the coal-belt town of Kriel impressed the judges with its story telling, soundscapes and strong contributors.

## HUMAN INTEREST

TV/VIDEO

### Erica Starling Productions for Channel 4



**Lyra** is an intimate journey through ‘post-conflict’ Northern Ireland, authored by the murdered journalist Lyra McKee. Lyra, 29, was shot dead by the New IRA on the eve of Good Friday, April 2019, whilst observing a riot in Derry, Northern Ireland. Directed by her close friend, documentarian Alison Millar, the film seeks answers to her senseless killing. Born in a tough working-class area that was ravaged by the conflict, Lyra was at the time of her murder already an internationally renowned journalist and author. She had been published in newspapers and magazines all over the world and her TED Talk on issues surrounding gun violence, religion and LGBTQIA+ suicide rates went viral. Her first book, ‘The Lost Boys’, was a story about the disappearance of young boys at the height of the conflict and she had just signed a book deal with Faber & Faber. Using Lyra’s personal archive, recordings and writing the film was crafted with three layers: taking the audience back to what happened the night she was killed, bringing her back to life in her own words, and highlighting the ongoing quest for justice for her murder. This gritty and raw documentary was a clear winner for the judges – excellent in every way.

#### Highly commended

##### 649 Media for Channel 4

###### *Nazanin*

Part love story, part political thriller, this is the story of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who was arrested at Tehran airport in 2016, charged with spying, separated from her daughter and thrown into Tehran’s notorious Evin prison. The production caught the judges’ attention – excellent and fully engaging, they said.

##### BBC Arabic, BBC Current Affairs

###### *Murder in Mayfair*

In 2008, Norwegian student Martine Magnussen was killed after a night out in Mayfair. The murder suspect is Farouk Abdulhak, the son of one of Yemen’s richest men – he evades justice by fleeing to his home country. BBC Reporter Nawal Al-Maghafi tracks down Farouk, still in hiding, and secretly records their conversations. The judges thought this was superbly made with clear timelines and effective use of visual devices.



## BBC News Arabic



**Under Poisoned Skies** uncovers the deadly impact of the oil giants' toxic air pollution on children and the planet, from the frontline of climate change in Iraq. The film exposes the poisonous practice of gas flaring, burning waste gas during oil extraction. The investigation follows environmental scientist Shukri Hassan as he carries out the first ever pollution monitoring in Iraqi communities engulfed by gas flaring, with test results indicating high levels of harmful and carcinogenic chemicals in the air and in the bodies of children living near the oil fields. As requests to film in Rumaila oil field were turned down by the Iraqi government, the BBC team went in undercover. We meet 18-year-old Ali who uses video diaries to document life in his small town and his fight to get compensation from the global oil giants and Iraqi government. He like many other children is a victim of leukaemia, a type of cancer closely linked to benzene, a chemical released by gas flaring. Calls for the Iraqi government to end flaring and enforce Iraqi laws limiting dangerous pollution go unheeded as major oil companies are using a loophole to avoid declaring flaring emissions. The judges thought this masterful investigative piece deserved to win as it married strong story craft with a compelling mix of sources.

### Highly commended

**Electric Eel Studios for BBC World Service**  
**TechXplore Japan**

Paul Carter goes on a sustainability journey as he travels the country exploring cutting-edge green technologies that combat climate change. Slick presentation and a strong graphics package made the subject come to life, commented the judges.

**Very! for CNA, Mediacorp Pte Ltd**  
**We Can Do Hard Things**

In an offshore research facility near Singapore, marine scientists have embarked on a project that attaches fragmented corals collected from the seabed onto Lego bricks for regrowth. These bricks are just a small piece of a bigger and more complicated puzzle. Our judges liked the engaging mix of science and personalities and commented on the strong macro photography.

## Artemis Media and Matter of Factual for ABC and Love Nature



Ningaloo – or Nyinggulu as its First Peoples call Western Australia's global treasure – is one of the Earth's last truly wild and intact places. Its special geography has helped Ningaloo sustain humans for over 40,000 years, and today, thanks to its natural defences, its passionate protectors and its exemplary conservation management, this desert-maritime wonderland endures and thrives. Once fated to be yet another piece of northern Australia to drill and quarry and mine, Ningaloo is the grand exception that can serve as a kind of global lifeboat for ancient, living cultures and a suite of massive and intact ecosystems. In **Ningaloo Nyinggulu** author and conservationist Tim Winton celebrates some of Ningaloo's many secrets and wonders, introduces us to its protectors and custodians, goes in search of new knowledge about its three mighty ecosystems, and showcases the region's role as a beacon of hope amid our extinction crisis and climate emergency. This production wowed the judges. They praised the stunning cinematography and beautiful music score, the pace and balance of the piece, the tone – poetic, hopeful and also light-hearted and funny at moments – which created a real sense of personal connection with the viewer. They noted that it would appeal to all age groups. A deserving winner.

### Highly commended

**Wild Pacific Media for ABC and Arte France**  
**Australia's Wild Odyssey**

The series carries the viewer on three continental journeys through Australia's wildest landscapes in search of answers to the most fundamental questions: what makes life possible, and how does it all work? It uncovers the incredible connections that link all creatures on earth. Beautifully shot, said the judges, delicate storytelling and great flow of music.

**Al Jazeera English**  
**101 East: Mining the Pacific**

Trillions of rocks called polymetallic nodules on the Pacific Ocean floor contain metals that could power electric cars and green energy. Deep sea mining could begin in 2024 – but will it create another environmental disaster? Well-researched and presented, said the judges, with good access to vital sources.



## BBC Current Affairs



**India: The Modi Question** investigates the troubling past of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leader of the world's largest democracy. His premiership has been dogged by persistent allegations about the attitude of his Government towards India's Muslim population as many now fear that Modi and his supporters are seeking to turn a diverse and pluralistic country into one where Muslims and other minorities are effectively second-class citizens. Using unseen archive and new documents, the film investigates the most controversial episode in Modi's rise to power – the role he played in the events of 2002 when a train carrying Hindu pilgrims was set on fire, Muslims were blamed for the act, and in the ensuing days of violence hundreds of people, mostly Muslims, died. These events have been the subject of a number of judicial enquiries, the most recent of which acquitted Modi of the offence of criminal conspiracy. The BBC team set out to report the story accurately and reflect where facts are disputed. Within days of its release in the UK, the film was banned by the Indian Government. The judges thought this was the clear winner. 'One of the finest documentaries I have watched in the past two years', said one. It married superbly archive material with context, and the narrative, direction, editing and powerful interviews kept the viewer in a constant state of alert.

### Highly commended

#### CNN Worldwide

##### ***Sudan and the Long Reach of Russia's Ukraine War***

Nima Elbagir draws clear links between the Sudanese military and Russia's Wagner mercenary group and investigates the plundering of Sudan's gold by Russia, taking real risks on this assignment. Strong journalism, commented the judges, with deep emotional impact on the viewer.

#### Al Jazeera I-Unit

##### ***The Labour Files***

This four-part investigation based on the largest leak of confidential documents in British political history examines hundreds of thousands of emails, internal files and social media messages to reveal how senior Labour officials ran a coup by stealth against the elected leader of the party, Jeremy Corbyn. Gripping from start to finish, said the judges – the listener is totally engaged and ready for more.

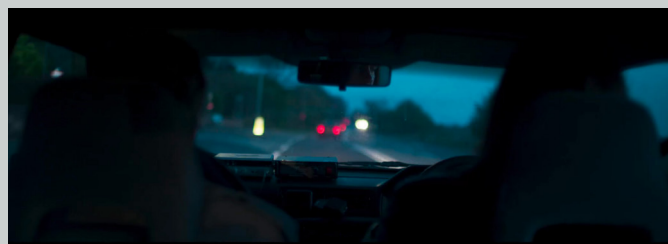
## Swedish Radio Drama



'Before-After' is Swedish Radio Drama's series for radio which dramatises turning points in Sweden's history that changed the country forever. ***Before-After: Anna Lindh 2003*** is inspired by the events surrounding the murder of Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Anna Lindh. Active in politics from a young age, Anna Lindh became one of the most influential figures in modern Swedish politics and a leading campaigner in Sweden's referendum on the adoption of the euro. She was fatally stabbed the day before she was due to take part in a televised debate on the referendum, and three days before the referendum took place. In the series, the listener follows the lives of six fictitious people who are shaken to the core when Anna Lindh is attacked at the NK department store in Stockholm, and the police hunt for the perpetrator. Great idea and brilliant execution, sums up the judges' comments – an impressive cinematic-style rendering of the story that is exciting, serious, bold, original and entertaining at the same time. The rich sound design and natural feel of dialogue created an ambience as if we were 'watching through our ears'. A deserving winner.



## ITN Productions for Amazon Prime Video



### Search for wife's body resumes

POLICE have reopened a search for the body of a woman who disappeared mysteriously eight months ago. But the Crown Prosecution Service has found insufficient evidence for any inquiries are continuing into the death of Mrs Hall, which police believe is suspicious. Now special constables, backed by regular officers, are being drafted in for further fingertip searches of dense undergrowth in woods. The hunt, expected to last weeks, was dead and pledged that he would not allow the investigation to drop. "Anyone with the slightest scrap of information ought to get in touch with us. It might help find the car at their home in Drive, Pudsey. When she did it home the following reported her miss her car was found at the Blue

The disappearance of Patricia Hall from her home in Pudsey in 1992 was a little-known British true crime story which ITN Productions felt had huge potential for a powerful docudrama. The real people at its heart deserved a forensically accurate, journalistically rigorous retelling that did not sensationalise events. So stylistically, in ***The Confession***, the documentary and drama would need to be seamless, with interviews shot on period sets, and drama shot by the same crew, immediately immersing the viewer in this very specific world. With no voiceover and only those directly involved with the story offering testimony, the result was a first-hand account of events from all perspectives. The family found the accuracy of the drama heartbreakingly poignant, and the marriage of documentary materials such as family photos and archive material with the premium drama proved incredibly powerful. In the process the ITN team also identified bigger issues raised by this personal small-town story: around the justice system, guilt and innocence, forgiveness and loss, memory and grief. This is the epitome of an excellent docudrama, said one of the judges. The arc of the film is riveting, a seamless production and the clear winner in this category.

## Top Hat Productions/ Hayloft Productions



The war in Ukraine has largely been told from "the outside-in" by foreign journalists reporting about military movements with personal stories covered in short clips. ***Panorama: Mariupol – The People's Story*** set out to tell the story of the war from the "inside-out," from the perspective of the people of Mariupol. But how do you make a film about a city which is under Russian control, where journalists have fled, and the residents risk death or torture if they help the media? The production team scoured Europe and Ukraine for people who had escaped Mariupol and were prepared to be filmed; combed through and verified hours of mobile phone footage; and searched archives in Russia and Eastern Europe for material about the city. The war in Ukraine has overwhelmingly been told by men; by contrast here the main contributors are women and children who create an extraordinary narrative of how they survived in the most horrific conditions. Authentic storytelling that goes above and beyond, said the judges who lauded the documentary's unique perspective, its remarkable picture research and the brave and successful move to do without a presenter.

### Highly commended

#### International Current Affairs, BBC

##### ***Our World – I Call Him by His Name***

The sole survivor of the massacre of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, joins the wives and mothers of his dead comrades to tell an extraordinary story. The judges were moved by this powerful account of love in the face of destruction, beautifully scripted and filmed.

#### CNN Worldwide

##### ***The Whole Story with Anderson Cooper***

##### ***The Trek: A Migrant Trail to America***

Reportage following migrants making the tortuous, impossible journey through the Darién Gap to reach a – possibly – better life in the US. The CNN team trekked with hundreds of migrants over days in appalling conditions. An almost flawless, memorable treatment of a story we are generally aware of, but rarely see, said the judges.



# DOMESTIC AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY

TV/VIDEO

## France 24 and Nicolas Bertrand



The documentary takes the audience on a journey through Saudi Arabia's transformation from a nation with a decades-long ban on cinema – theatres only reopened in 2018 – to a burgeoning hub of cinematic creativity. ***Saudi Arabia Wields Cinema as a Tool of Soft Power*** examines the how and why Saudi Arabia is investing huge sums in the film industry in the country. Tens of sound stages are being built in the new Neom area – a futuristic megacity and special economic zone. The regime is also encouraging Saudi youth to study film and television. All this is part of the drive to seduce investors and boost tourism in order to diversify the economy. Accompanied by minders during the filming of this documentary, the France 24 team and Nicolas Bertrand explore how the Saudi regime aims to open up society while cracking down on dissent. Our judges called this production outstanding with its compelling storytelling and artistic style that is both engaging and visually captivating. They said it captures the essence of the struggle between opening and tyranny, opportunities and despotic rule.

### Highly commended

#### TRT WORLD

##### ***Kenya – Fighting for Water / Off The Grid***

The Off The Grid series travels across Kenya where climate change is a harsh reality, meeting Kenyan people who face the challenges of drought and competition for scarce water resources. The judges said the piece excels visually and manages to transport the viewer into the heart of the crisis.

# PRESENTER of the YEAR

TV/VIDEO

## Clive Myrie



In this category the judges are searching for the most engaging, passionate and knowledgeable presenter in TV and digital video on our screens around the world: a regular on-screen presenter, authoritative without being overbearing, who the audience can rely on to tell them the facts or get to the heart of the story when interviewing, and not afraid to ask challenging questions. The competition in this category was strong but our judges felt that Clive Myrie stood out as the clear winner.

Clive Myrie is a journalist, broadcaster and writer. He's one of the BBC's most experienced foreign correspondents, having been the Corporation's Washington, Africa, Asia and Europe Correspondent. His reporting has included the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the COVID pandemic in the UK. Clive has been a news anchor/presenter for well over a decade, anchoring major events and special reports for the BBC News at One, Six and Ten, including from Washington on the elections of both Donald Trump and Joe Biden, the Coronation of King Charles, and the war in Ukraine. After the death of Queen Elizabeth II Clive gave a flawless display, for two hours on the night of her passing and in the days leading up to the funeral service.

'Gets the tone just right', was a comment that we heard from the judges. It is this ability to be versatile, calm, clear and personable that makes Clive Myrie special. The judges highlighted the fact that he has proven credentials and a towering presence on screen yet Clive's way of telling and explaining the story captures the audience's attention in a particular way, almost like listening to a friend, with appropriate compassion and warmth shining through even when he is dealing with the grimmest of stories. Clive Myrie is a worthy winner in this category.



An aerial photograph of Taipei, Taiwan, at dusk. The Taipei 101 skyscraper is the central focus, illuminated with blue and yellow lights. The city's dense urban landscape is visible, with numerous other buildings and residential areas. The background shows distant mountains under a soft, orange-hued sky.

# Reversing the Global Retreat of Democracy

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Taiwan is one of  
the most severely  
affected countries  
globally by external  
disinformation

”

In recent years, the global retreat of democracy and the escalation of geopolitical crises have been affecting international order and security. It's not just about military aggression and intimidation, it also encompasses non-military warfare, including cognitive warfare, disinformation, and cyber attacks. These tactics are continuously disrupting people's minds, dividing societies, and interfering with the functioning of democratic systems, causing significant damage to the media ecosystem.

**Rti remains the most important platform for freedom of speech in the Chinese-speaking world**

#### EXTERNAL DISINFORMATION

Taiwan stands at the forefront of safeguarding democracy worldwide, facing not only the threat of authoritarianism but also enduring more frequent and severe information warfare and disinformation attacks than other countries. According to the recent V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) research report by the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, Taiwan has been identified as one of the most severely affected countries globally by external disinformation for ten consecutive years. Despite the significant challenges posed by such "gray zone conflicts" to Taiwan's democracy, we do not succumb to fear or resort to the closure of information channels to restrict freedom of speech.

#### A 95 YEAR MILESTONE

This year marks Radio Taiwan International's 95th anniversary. As one of the oldest international public broadcast media in Asia, Rti has lived through the technological transformation from psychological warfare propaganda since World War II to serving the public interest and the diverse needs of various communities in today's world. We understand that freedom of speech is hard-won. Over the past century, Rti has remained the most important platform for freedom of speech in the Chinese-speaking world. Despite the challenges posed by digitization and information warfare, we continue to collaborate with democratic partners, fulfilling the responsibilities of a public media organization. Only by actively expanding cooperation and tackling challenges can we continue to deliver authentic and reliable information to partners worldwide who care about Taiwan's democracy and regional developments, making contributions to regional peace and stability.

#### STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Similarly, for the past 30 years, the Association for International Broadcasting has continued to bring together many outstanding media professionals from around the world through various means, such as awards, conferences, and training



courses. Over the decades, we have collectively experienced new challenges in the media industry. Whether in digital transformation, information security, sustainable development, journalist safety, media freedom, and other important issues, AIB has always been a supportive partner for media professionals.

these efforts, we aim to consolidate the development of democracy and continue to safeguard the value of media freedom.

Cheryl Lai  
Chairperson - Rti

**These tactics cause significant damage to the media ecosystem**

#### FACING THE CHALLENGES

In such a challenging media environment, we will continue to collaborate with AIB and other international partners, fostering a spirit of openness to strengthen cooperation across information domains. By sharing and exchanging experiences, we aim to achieve mutual benefits and enhance the resilience of public media in the face of these challenges. Through



On 19 September 2023 Radio Taiwan International (Rti) celebrated its 95th anniversary with an event attended by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and other dignitaries, including Legislative Speaker You Si-kun and Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Taiwan Andrea Bowman. In her speech, President Tsai said that Rti has witnessed important events in the development of Taiwan's democracy over its 95-year history and has during those years carried out its responsibilities by continuing to cover Taiwan's growing engagement with the world.

Rti Chairperson Cheryl Lai pointed out in her address that Rti is Taiwan's only public media company to broadcast in 20 languages across multiple platforms. Lai said that Rti has been an important channel for people in Southeast Asian countries to understand Taiwan. The Indonesian, Vietnamese and Thai language services have a long history at Rti and are important resources for Taiwan's new immigrants and migrant workers.

Following the outbreak of the Russo-Ukrainian war, a Ukrainian language social media service was added to the language portfolio. Ambassador Bowman stressed that reaching 95 years of service is not an easy milestone to achieve and praised Rti as a role model for spreading the message of democracy and peace across the globe.

# INTRODUCING THE AIB

**Established in 1993, AIB is the trade association for international TV, radio, and digital broadcasting.**

AIB provides its members with advocacy, intelligence, networking, promotion, and a range of other key services.

Our members operate television, radio and digital services in multiple languages that, every week, reach over one billion people in almost every country on the planet. We also have companies that support media houses among our Membership.

A key area of work is our media freedom initiative. AIB is a Member of the Consultative Network to the intergovernmental Media Freedom Coalition. This places AIB at the heart of global work on media freedom. The annual AIBs support our media freedom work, allowing us to demonstrate the importance of fair and impartial journalism and factual storytelling to key influencers in the Coalition.

Other areas of work include:

- **Artificial Intelligence** – providing the platform for members worldwide to share intelligence and experiences on the fast developing role of AI in news and production, alongside ethics, union relations, translation and audience perception.
- **Big Tech** – working with Members on relationships with Big Tech companies in markets globally.
- **Cyber security** – helping Members exchange information and engage with suppliers to protect their businesses.
- **Sustainability** – working with Members to make their businesses net zero and to engage audiences on issues around sustainability.
- **Content sharing** – facilitating Members' access to the output of colleagues around the world.

The AIB draws on 30 years of knowledge gathering and intelligence sharing in the international media market to deliver outstanding support to our members.

The Association's work is entirely centred on, and devoted to, the needs of our members.

Please talk to us about how joining the AIB can help you and your colleagues.



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[www.theaibs.tv](http://www.theaibs.tv)

# The AIBs 2024

We're looking forward to our 20th annual competition for factual television, radio and online productions.

Here are the key dates to note

**8 April** | The *AIBs* launch

**5 July** | Closing date

**July-August** | Shortlisting

**Mid-September-October** | Judging

**15 November** | Awards night

If you would like to **support** the *AIBs* 2024 or be one of our **judges** then please contact us to discuss further.

Full information will be available on the dedicated website **theaibs.tv**

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## The AIBs 2023 team

### Clare Fuller

Producer, The *AIBs*

### Simon Spanswick

CEO, Executive Producer, The *AIBs*

### Craig Hobbs

Director, Multilateral Relations

### Gunda Cannon

Editor

### Neil Stainsby

Live Director, The *AIBs*

### Tony de Simone

Print and Stage Graphics Design

### Ian Carley

Motion Graphics

### Sophia Whitestone-Nasif

Social Media Editor







## Association for International Broadcasting

With AI rapidly transforming the media landscape, the AIB recognises the urgent need for broadcasters to comprehend and effectively harness the power of AI in newsrooms and production to deliver high-quality journalism and enhance audience engagement.

Our newly formed **AI Working Group** serves as a platform for industry professionals, technologists, and AI experts to share insights, best practices, and practical guidance, enabling AIB member companies to navigate the complex world of AI. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the AIB aims to ensure that its members remain at the cutting edge of AI implementation in newsrooms and production, while upholding ethical standards and preserving the core principles of journalism.

Key areas of focus for the Working Group include:

- **AI-driven content generation:** Exploring the use of AI algorithms and machine learning in automating news content creation, from generating scripts to producing video packages, while maintaining journalistic integrity and editorial control.
- **Audience analytics and personalisation:** Understanding how AI-powered analytics can provide broadcasters with valuable audience insights, enabling personalised content recommendations and enhancing the overall viewing and listening experience.
- **Fact-checking and misinformation:** Addressing the role of AI in combating the proliferation of misinformation and fake news, leveraging advanced algorithms and natural language processing to verify and validate news sources.
- **Ethical considerations:** Examining the ethical implications of AI adoption in newsrooms, including bias detection and mitigation, data privacy, and the impact on employment and diversity within the media industry.

**Join us - talk to the AIB Secretariat on  
+ 44 20 7993 2557 to find out more.**



Al Arabiya proudly supports the  
**AIB Awards 2023**