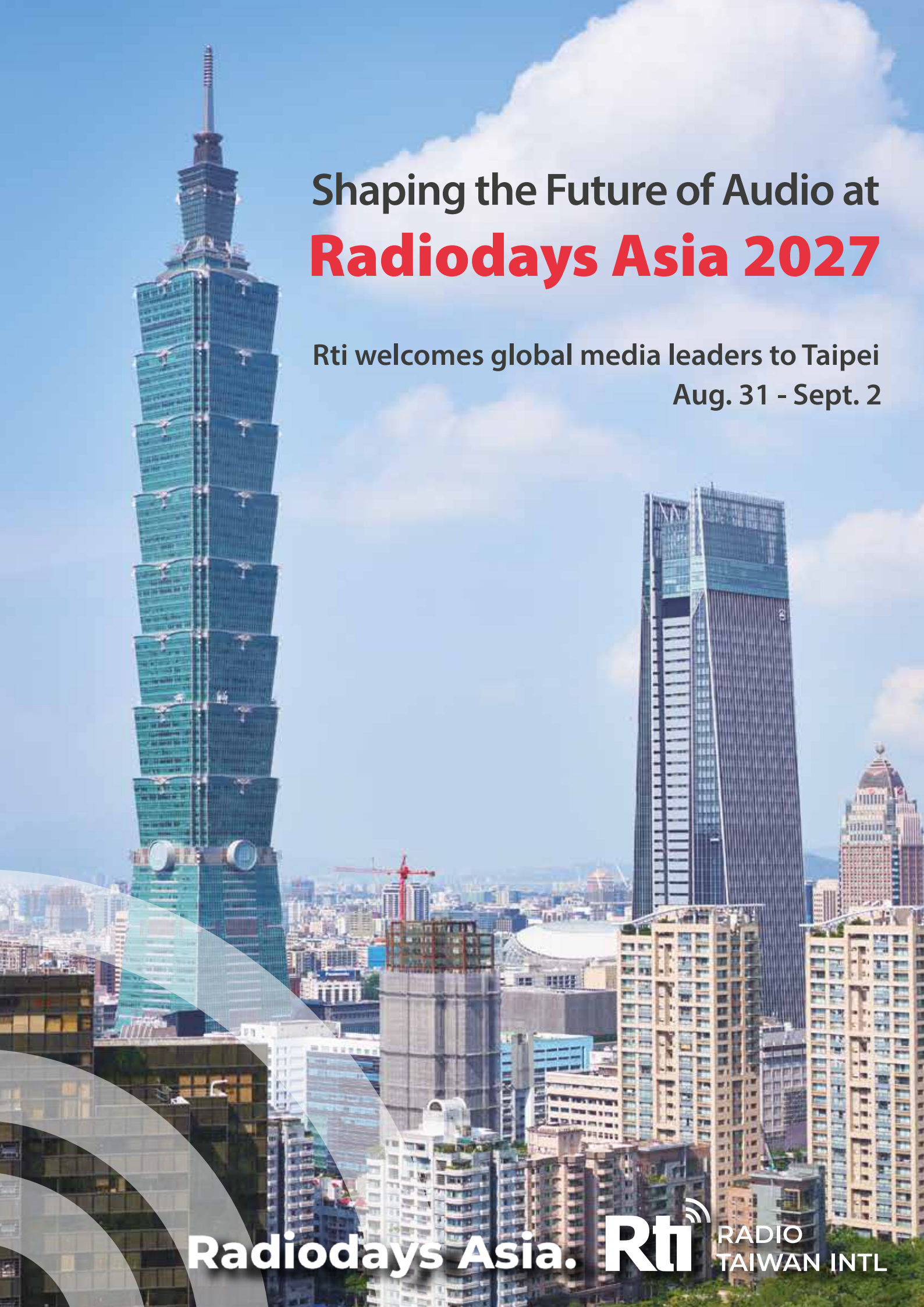


The AIBs 2026



Shaping the Future of Audio at Radiodays Asia 2027

Rti welcomes global media leaders to Taipei
Aug. 31 - Sept. 2

Radiodays Asia. Rti RADIO TAIWAN INTL

WELCOME

Welcome to the **AIBs** 2026, our 22nd celebration of excellence in journalism and factual storytelling. The winners and highly commended entries gathered in these pages give us much to admire, plenty to think about and good reason to feel confident about the creativity of our industry.

Across television, radio and digital platforms, this year's work demonstrates the extraordinary range of what we do: making sense of fast-moving events, pursuing investigations, exploring culture and history, and bringing us closer to lives very different from our own. Behind each production are people whose curiosity and persistence make those encounters possible. This book celebrates their achievements and offers an invitation to discover their work.

Reaching audiences, however, requires fresh thinking. When people feel overwhelmed by the news, how do we encourage them to engage? How do we make a demanding investigation accessible to someone who would never choose a long-form current affairs programme? And how do we build relationships with audiences whose first encounter with our journalism may be a brief film on a phone?

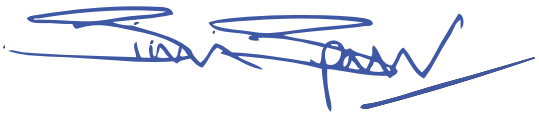
The entrants in the Broadcast-to-Digital category take up that challenge. The submissions demonstrate the ambition to bring substantial investigative journalism to people who might otherwise never encounter it. It points towards an exciting future in which editorial depth and imaginative digital storytelling work together, opening new routes into stories that deserve attention.

The renewed interest in wind-up radios has a particular resonance for me. During my time at the BBC World Service, I helped draw attention to the late Trevor Baylis's pioneering clockwork radio. Trevor understood that access to information should not depend on access to electricity or the ability to buy batteries. More than three decades later, as households are encouraged to keep radios ready for emergencies, that principle feels remarkably current. Alongside the exciting possibilities of digital storytelling, broadcasting's ability to reach people when other connections fail remains something to value and protect.

Much of the work recognised by this year's awards confronts difficult realities. Yet journalism also has the capacity to reveal possibilities. Among the darker subjects covered, there are some submissions that bring a welcome sense of optimism: they provide a reminder that exploring responses to the challenges we face can be as compelling as documenting the problems.

My warm congratulations to every winner and highly commended recipient, and my thanks to everyone who entered. I am grateful to our international judges for their care and expertise; to Shure, our Exclusive Event Partner, and Radio Taiwan International our Broadcast Partner, for their support; and to Maria Ramos, international news anchor and journalist at TRT World, who hosts our celebration in London.

I hope this book prompts you to seek out an unfamiliar programme, discover a new voice or make a connection with a fellow storyteller. The work celebrated here gives us every encouragement to keep asking questions, experimenting and reaching further.



Simon Spanswick
Chief Executive, AIB

Since 1993 the Association for International Broadcasting has provided strategic intelligence and practical support to organisations operating in the international media sector and AIB has been active in defending media freedom worldwide

AIB
Association for International Broadcasting

They carried truth through the shadows, pens lit like a flame,

Bearing witness where silence would otherwise remain.

In streets and in war zones, they told us what they saw,

Giving a voice to the voiceless, without fear or flaw.

Now as time passes their echoes must not be subdued.

With each word and picture, their courage lives through.

Without a fearless press, the truth becomes untold,

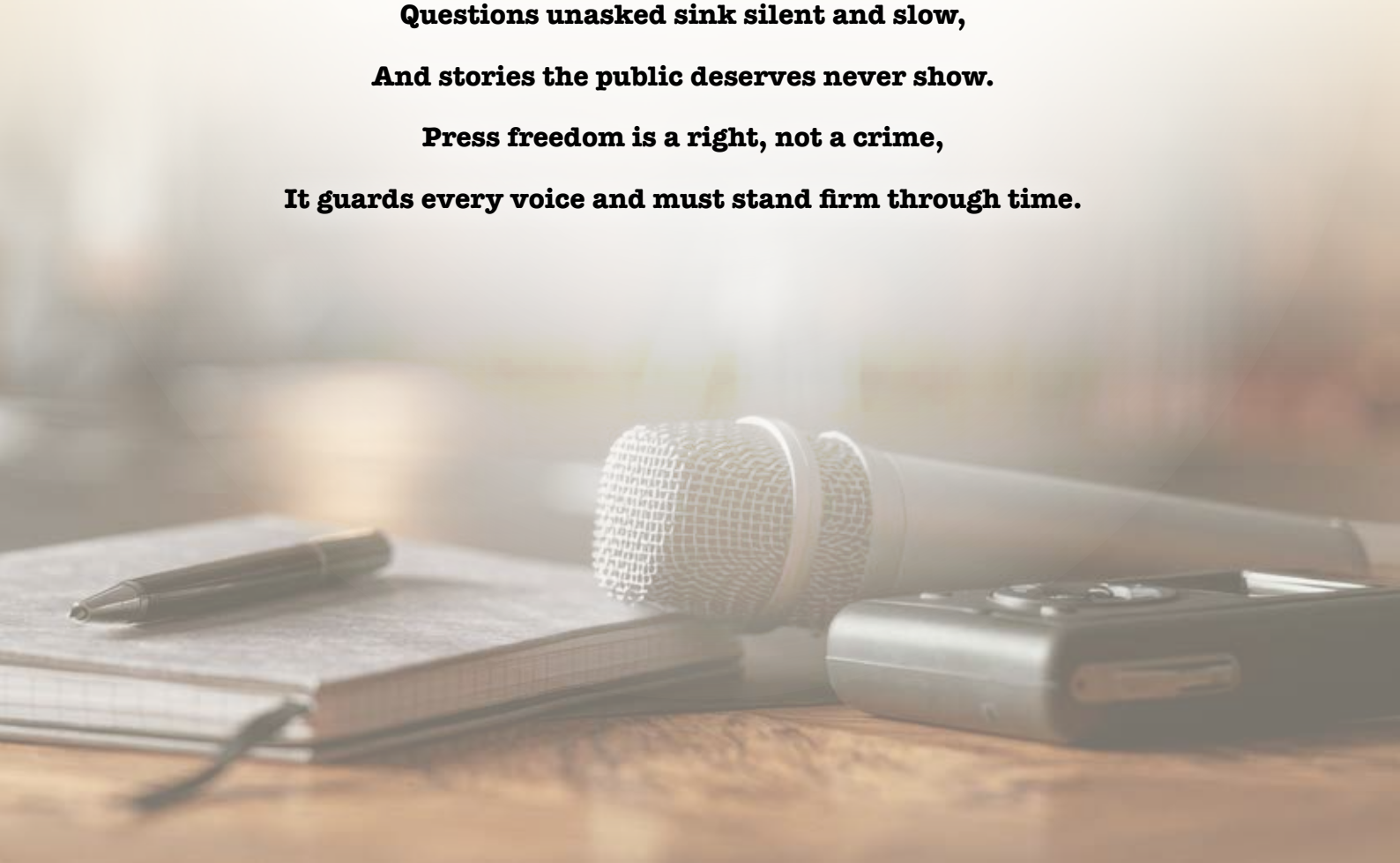
Where unchecked power leaves the truth out in the cold.

Questions unasked sink silent and slow,

And stories the public deserves never show.

Press freedom is a right, not a crime,

It guards every voice and must stand firm through time.



ARTS AND CULTURE
CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY
HEALTH, SOCIAL AND WELLBEING
INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION
INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR SHURE
NEWS COVERAGE RTI RADIO TAIWAN INTL
SUSTAINABILITY

ARTS AND CULTURE
BROADCAST-TO-DIGITAL
CONTINUING NEWS COVERAGE
DAILY OR BREAKING NEWS
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY
HEALTH, SOCIAL AND WELLBEING
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARY
INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
OBSERVATIONAL DOCUMENTARY
POLITICS AND BUSINESS
SHORT FEATURE
SUSTAINABILITY

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SHURE – RELIABLE AUDIO. MEANINGFUL JOURNALISM. TOGETHER

SHARING THE CRAFT

BEYOND THE AWARDS

HOST



Maria Ramos is a journalist and international news anchor. She is a regular live news presenter at TRT World in London, and also a highly acclaimed host for United Nations and international conferences.

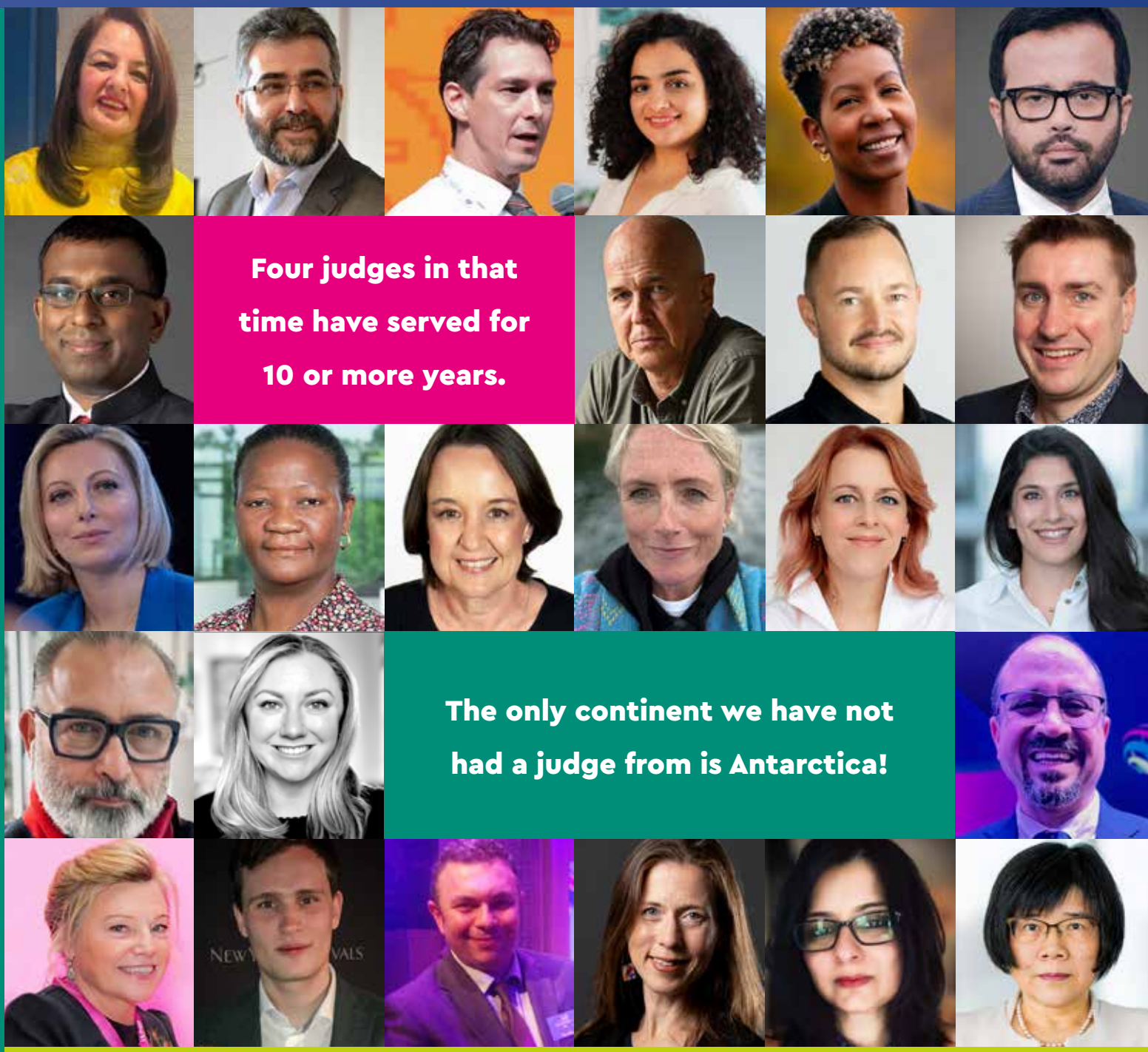
Prior to joining TRT World, Maria reported for the BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, UNICEF and Bahrain TV. She has lived in and reported from countries all around the globe with long stints in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

British-born to Spanish parents, Maria speaks five languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian, Arabic and is learning Turkish. In the business world, she worked as an advisor to the CEO of Formula E and founded an international media consultancy for European blue-chip companies. Maria graduated from King's College London.

JUDGES



Since 2013 we have had 373 different people on the AIBs judging panel from 49 different countries.



Four judges in that time have served for 10 or more years.

The only continent we have not had a judge from is Antarctica!

https://theaibs.tv/the-aibs-2026-judges/

ARTS and CULTURE

21st Century Folk

Pomona Audio



This week-long music project celebrated the power and purpose of folk music. Five listeners were paired with a songwriter to inspire five brand new songs – about stories connected to the railways, to mark 200 years of passenger train travel. Joanne grew up in care and fought cancer – now she fires giant steam locomotives. Tom was abandoned at Reading Station as a baby. Charlotte intended to end her life when train-driver David climbed down from his cab to save her – now they are married with children. These were some of the stories used to reframe the genre for a mainstream 35+ audience. The project was featured on TV, picked up by the mainstream press, and resulted in audiences giving folk music a fresh listen. Beautifully conceived, with innovative and evocative sound design, an imaginative, beautiful fusion of art and culture, said our judges – just superb and a deserving winner.

Highly commended

Wolf Biermann – The German Bob Dylan Exiled by the GDR
Munck Studios for BBC Radio 3
When East Germany stripped singer-songwriter Wolf Biermann of his citizenship after his 1976 landmark concert in Cologne, it intended to silence one of its most outspoken critics. Instead, the decision sparked one of the most significant protests by artists and intellectuals in European history and has been cited as an event that paved the way for the fall of the Berlin Wall. The judges commented on the rich layering of personal testimony, archive material, music and evocative soundscapes that show how a living legend used song to influence the course of history.

E T T Y – Audio Drama Based on the Diaries of Etty Hillesum
ORF/HR
Inspired by the diaries of the Dutch-Jewish writer Etty Hillesum (1914–1943), ETTY traces the inner journey of a young woman who, in the face of persecution, war, and impending annihilation, develops a profound commitment to humanity. Her encounter with the hand-reader Julius Spier becomes the catalyst for an intense process of self-exploration that leads her from personal crises and emotional dependency toward an ever-deeper inner independence. The judges commented on the immersive sense of reality created by the audio effects and evocative use of language.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

World of Secrets: The Darkest Web

BBC Eye Investigations



This is the story of how Specialist Online Investigator Greg Squire and his partner Pete Manning painstakingly uncover a series of some of the most prolific child abusers operating on the dark web – an encrypted corner of the internet only accessible using special software designed to make owners digitally untraceable. Disturbing images of a 12-year-old girl the team had named Lucy were being shared on the dark web but the abuser was conscious of "covering their tracks", cropping or altering any identifying features. Eventually Squire and Manning find Lucy through identifying a brick in her bedroom, one of the only details her abuser could not hide in the images he was sharing of her. A BBC World Service team spent five years working with Squire. For our judges this was the winner: brilliant journalism, expert storytelling, incredible access, an uncomfortable topic handled with professionalism, its tone spot-on without being unrelentingly grim.

Highly commended

Pirate Predator
RTÉ Documentary On One
Eamon Cooke, one of Ireland's most prolific child sexual abusers who was at large for four decades, was a man of many faces. Known as 'the Captain', he was revered as the head of Radio Dublin, one of the most popular radio stations in Ireland at the time. He used his position to lure children to his house where he groomed them and abused them. The judges called this a 'standout listen' – gripping, technically brilliant and creating deep listener engagement.

HEALTH, SOCIAL and WELLBEING

Jesus in a Shop Doorway

BBC World Service



Mick Fleming turned to drugs to numb the trauma of a childhood shaped by violence and fear. What followed was a life of escalating crime. Then, in the midst of committing a serious offence, Mick experienced an overwhelming light that stopped him in his tracks. That moment marked a profound turning point and the start of a long and difficult journey that eventually led him to the priesthood and later to becoming a bishop. Reporter Shiroma Silva travels to Burnley in the north of England to meet a man who draws inspiration from his own lowest point, when the kindness that sustained him did not come from within the church, but from a homeless man sleeping in a shop doorway. "I was hooked from the start", said one of the judges. The narrative is carried along by the main character who is also the main narrator in this thought-provoking deeply intimate portrayal of trauma, anguish and forgiveness. A deserving winner.

Highly commended

About The Girls
Whistledown
Based on 27 hours of conversation with over 150 girls and young women from 14 locations, aged between 11 and 21, 'Girls' was designed to allow contributors to explain what life is really like for them. The programmes didn't draw neat conclusions, instead they could be used to start conversations within families, schools, youth organisations and those with influence over policy. Our judges thought the simplicity of the treatment made for a powerful and timely piece, with excellent use of field audio.

Viva La Vida: Love Confession of a Survivor of Suicide
Fishery Radio Station
A single suicide can cause profound distress among those left behind. Recent research suggests that each person who dies by suicide leaves close to 60 people grieving their loss. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in Taiwan, and with the number of suicides rising year on year the number of "survivors" is rising 60-fold. Viva La Vida tells survivors' stories and the hardships they face. Our judges liked the angle on an under-explored subject and the strong mix of powerful vignettes.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

Stuff Matters with Ed Conway

Sky News



Stuff Matters takes an ordinary object and uses it as the gateway into the hidden systems shaping the modern world. The episode on LEDs opens inside an NFL stadium, where thousands of synchronised LED wristbands create an overwhelming spectacle. That's the starting point for an investigation stretching from Victorian economics and Jevons Paradox to the extraordinary story of Nobel Prize-winning inventor Shuji Nakamura and the invention of the blue LED. Listeners experience a process of discovery as Ed Conway follows his own curiosity, allowing genuine moments of uncertainty, surprise and revelation to shape the narrative. The layered structure continually reframes what the audience thinks they are listening to: a story that appears to be about LEDs becomes an exploration of economic theory and climate policy. This is the winner, voted the judges: the production turns the mundane into a genuine deep dive, appealing to different listener segments while staying relevant for a broad audience – it is scientific discovery made to feel human, personal, relatable.

Highly commended

abandoned: The All-American Ruins Podcast
All-American Ruins
Recorded live before an audience, the episode unfolds as a sonic investigation into the present-day reverberations of the decision to deny Linda Brown entry to the all-white Sumner School in Topeka, Kansas, because of her race and the subsequent 1954 landmark Supreme Court ruling that made segregation in US public schools illegal. The judges commented that sound genuinely drives the story in this experimental piece which effectively blurs the lines between broadcast, podcast, and live performance.

30 Acres
RTÉ Documentary On One & RTÉ Drama On One
This 4-part black comedy is set in a sprawling ghost estate – a failed housing project called 30 Acres. The series follows the lives of its three remaining inhabitants, as they go to remarkable lengths to resist eviction orders from a government-appointed liquidator. Satirising the concept of 'the embedded journalist,' this 'mockumentary' about Ireland's housing crises echoes real-life stories from Ireland's abandoned ghost estates. The judges commented on the quality of the sound design and audio craft which create a visual sense of the space.

INVESTIGATIVE

The Dictator's Swedish Warriors

Sveriges Radio



Swedish Radio reporters receive a tip that one of the Assad regime's most brutal torturers has sought refuge in Sweden — his name is Ibrahim. When the reporters travel to Syria to investigate, they discover that more of Assad's fighters are in Sweden: militiamen from military units that tortured, murdered and raped on behalf of the dictatorship. One militia leader described as particularly dangerous can be traced to a small Swedish town. Several other militiamen have been granted Swedish citizenship and then returned to the war in Syria while supporting themselves on Swedish social benefits. As for Ibrahim, the reporters discover he has been walking freely through the streets of Damascus while waiting for a Swedish residence permit. Our judges marked this harrowing investigation as the winner: meticulous in its research and reporting across borders, with responsible handling of distressing testimony, effective use of foreign language content, and producing tangible positive consequences in the real world.

Highly commended

The House at Number 48
BBC Long Form Audio
After his father's death, Antony Easton finds a suitcase filled with cryptic clues which leads him on a ten-year quest to uncover the truth about his family's history. He discovers that many of his relatives were murdered by the Nazis and a vast fortune was stolen from his grandparents – factories, property and art. With BBC journalist Charlie Northcott and art detective Yana Slavova, Antony manages to track down the descendants of those who looted his family's assets and continue to live off their wealth today. "Feels like a true thriller", said the judges, superbly constructed, exceptional quality of storytelling.

Al Jazeera Investigates – Hasina: 36 Days in July
Al Jazeera English
This is an account of how ordinary students brought down one of the most entrenched leaders in South Asia. The "July Uprising" in Bangladesh ended when Sheikh Hasina was finally driven out of power. From the start, students vowed that July wouldn't end until she left office. When it finally happened on 5 August 2024, they rebranded the day "36 July." Our judges commented on the effective scene setting, the unique access to leaked recordings of phone calls, and powerful eyewitness testimony.

JOURNALIST of the YEAR

Mishal Husain

Bloomberg



Mishal Husain is Editor at Large for Bloomberg Weekend and host of the weekly podcast, The Mishal Husain Show. Mishal joined Bloomberg from the BBC, where she presented its leading news programme Today on BBC Radio 4 for over a decade and was a familiar face on the national TV news. Prior to that she was an anchor on the international channel BBC World News, including periods based in Washington and Singapore. Mishal has covered elections and referendums, including Brexit in 2016, chaired the 2024 Prime Ministerial Debate, and has commentated on Royal occasions, including the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III. On location, her assignments have included New York after 9/11, Washington on the night the Iraq war began in 2003, Beijing for the 2008 Olympics and Pakistan after the killing of Osama Bin Laden. She covered the 2011 uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East and the elections that brought Prime Minister Modi to power in India in 2014. Mishal has presented several critically acclaimed documentaries including a series on Mahatma Gandhi, a profile of Malala Yousafzai, and "The Longest Reign," about Queen Elizabeth II. As an interviewer she is known for high-profile and insightful conversations, with an impressive list of interview partners. She is a recipient of the Charles Wheeler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism, has delivered the prestigious Romanes Lecture at the University of Oxford, and written two books.
The judges felt Mishal was the deserving winner. They said she demonstrates an exceptional command of the art and craft of serious journalism. Authoritative yet warm on-air presence, composure, formidable breadth of knowledge, editorial judgement, deftness of touch, confidence to scrutinise powerful voices while allowing the conversation to retain its humanity and substance – Mishal possesses it all.

Sponsored by SHURE

NEWS COVERAGE

Coverage of the Iran War: The Mishal Husain Show

Bloomberg



In October 2025 Bloomberg launched The Mishal Husain Show, with the slogan "Make sense of the world with one essential conversation, every weekend". The global podcast is part of Bloomberg Weekend – Bloomberg's weekly ideas and culture section – and each episode features a single in-depth conversation with a newsmaker, leader, cultural figure or thinker. In March and April 2026 developments in the US/Iran war and their ramifications dominated the conversations between Mishal Husain and her interview partners. This entry set a high benchmark and was a clear winner for our judges: the guest line-up is balanced and genuinely knowledgeable, spanning all perspectives; Husain's presence and professionalism allows sober analysis and leads to real insight; the sound design frames the conversations with polish and elegance; overall, every element seems carefully considered.

Highly commended

Electoral Dysfunction
Sky News
Across a year of political upheaval, the podcast consistently broke news and secured major exclusives to help audiences understand the stories shaping British politics as they happen. Months before Peter Mandelson's appointment as UK ambassador to the US became a political crisis, the team led by Beth Rigby questioned Keir Starmer's judgement and examined the implications of the decision. Listeners are part of the reporting process via the show's WhatsApp "Burner Phone" community. Judges commented that the podcast "invites non-insiders into the tent with genuinely characterful hosts" and helps listeners build their own critical perspective on events.

Inside Iran: The US/Israeli Airstrikes from All Perspectives
Times Radio
An internet blackout made reporting voices from within Iran incredibly difficult, but throughout the war the production team for Times Radio Breakfast with Kate McCann and Stig Abell used their extensive contacts to get voices from within Iran to offer a unique insight into the conflict. Allowed into Iran for the seven days of Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral, Times World Affairs Editor Catherine Philp broadcast live on Times Radio Breakfast. Our judges thought it a genuine reporting achievement to bring diverse voices from inside Iran, including those speaking against the regime.

Sponsored by RTI RADIO TAIWAN INTL

SUSTAINABILITY

Politok – The Day the Taro Stopped Growing

ABC Radio Australia



Giant swamp taro is a staple crop with deep cultural significance in the Palau archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. When the plant began rotting from the inside out, it signalled more than an agricultural problem. Journalist Scott Waide follows Pacific farmers, scientists and community leaders as they investigate the causes and confront the consequences. The episode reveals how rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion are damaging traditional taro pits, while broader pressures from climate change and imported food systems are reshaping diets and livelihoods across the region. At the heart of the story are the women working to protect and sustain both their crops and cultural heritage – food security is both an environmental and cultural issue. To achieve sustainable futures, modern science needs to find solutions that also take ancestral knowledge into account. Our judges chose this entry as the winner: they called it a strong and memorable piece of storytelling that addressed a sustainability issue they knew little about; they liked the strong focus on local voice and the wide range of disciplinary perspectives highlighted; and they said it stayed with them long after listening for the enduring sense of resilience and hope which it conveys.

ARTS and CULTURE

The Seodaemun Prison

Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC)



In 1908, the Japanese Empire built the first modern prison in colonial Korea – a symbol of colonial domination and a system designed to monitor a nation, suppress resistance, and reshape human beings according to the needs of the empire. Behind the iron bars were not criminals, but people who refused to surrender their beliefs. Separated in solitary cells, independence activists created a secret communication method by tapping on prison walls. As the empire expanded its war efforts, the prison became part of the machinery of total mobilisation. The documentary combines archive material, expert testimony, cinematic reenactments, on-location storytelling, and eight original musical numbers created exclusively for the series which are inspired by actual prison records and the lives of independence activists. Our judges were captivated by this highly crafted artistic approach to a historical subject, with its layers of revelations, excellent transitions in visual and narration, and music sequences which added another dimension.

Highly commended

Stuff the British Stole (S3)
Wildbear, Wooden Horse and Artemis Media for ABC Australia
The third series of *Stuff The British Stole* investigates the contested histories of museum objects connected to the British Empire. In *Fire Star Rock*, journalist Marc Fennell follows the extraordinary journey of the Cranbourne Meteorite. Once the largest meteorite of its kind known to science, it was removed from Bunurong Country in colonial Victoria (Australia) and today sits, somewhat incongruously, inside one of the gift shops of London's Natural History Museum. "A great example of how solid and balanced reporting can also be made highly entertaining", said our judges.

Free Words – A Poet from Gaza
TRT World
The documentary explores the life and artistry of poet Mosab Abu Toha whose voice resonates from the heart of Gaza. Detained by the Israeli military, Mosab's imprisonment sparked an outcry from the international literary community, highlighting the impact of his work and the power of poetry as a tool for resistance. The film reveals the resilience of a young artist determined to express his truth as he navigates the complexities of living in oppression. The judges praised the superb cinematography and called it "a visual tour de force of captivating storytelling".

BROADCAST-to-DIGITAL

The Darkest Web

BBC Storyville/BBC Eye Investigations/BBC World Service Impact Team/BBC News Social



The 90-minute BBC Eye documentary followed an international network of undercover investigators working in secret to identify and disrupt child sexual abuse networks operating across the dark web. Given the sensitivity of the subject, and the wider challenge of news avoidance, the team's ambition was to make this investigation accessible to audiences who might not normally engage with long-form current affairs. Rather than simply cutting down the broadcast film, the team identified five distinct stories within the investigation and rebuilt them as individual social films which were released as a TikTok playlist, allowing audiences to discover individual stories while also creating a route through the wider investigation. This created multiple entry points into the journalism, reflecting how audiences now discover and engage with stories online. By transforming a single documentary into a connected social series, they generated significant audience engagement: 108m views via BBC News and BBC World Service language platforms, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube Shorts. Our judges marked this as the winner: beautifully narrated, the story held their attention from beginning to end and was easy to consume on digital platforms with solid connection/invitation to related content – perfect for a traditional viewer shifting to digital channels.

Highly commended

Go for Gold: Bringing Sports Science Beyond Radio
Jhost Studio, Radio Taiwan International
To answer the question 'What actually makes elite performance possible?', the team produced three TV documentaries, a 15-episode radio series and 30 platform-specific vertical videos created specifically for YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. Digital platforms became the first point of discovery rather than the final destination. The judges thought this a very well-designed and executed project that reflects the future of journalism.

CONTINUING NEWS COVERAGE

Afghanistan

BBC News



The BBC has consistently been on the ground in Afghanistan covering the spiralling humanitarian crisis, and the systematic oppression of Afghan women, since the Taliban seized power in 2021. In one of the most hostile and controlled media environments in the world, the BBC's team – Yogita Limaye, Sanjay Ganguly, Imogen Anderson, Aakriti Thapar and Mahfouz Zubaide – have operated with courage and commitment, despite the Taliban's attempts to block them at every step and the very real risks involved in producing reports that displease the Taliban. To cover the humanitarian situation in the country, the BBC team navigated complex Taliban bureaucracy and significant logistical hurdles to reach the hardest hit provinces. Throughout, they worked in an environment of constant surveillance and unpredictability. Over the years, the BBC has built trust and contributors are willing to give first-hand testimony despite the dangers they face. Our judges declared this entry the winner: raw and remarkable, they said, superbly filmed under extremely restrictive conditions, with editorial integrity, contextualisation, and great impact.

Highly commended

Jomana Karadsheh Covers Iran: The Iranian Voices the Regime Tried to Silence
CNN
This series of reports covers the arc of the Iranian story across several months from protests to the start of the war through to the ebbing of hope for a change in regime by piecing together multiple evidence sources. A wide range of voices provide depth and context, including those from Iranians in London. Our judges said this was a masterclass in providing sustained, detailed coverage with limited on-the-ground access – in their view it offered the best context and understanding of the issue available in the news market.

Exposed: Inside Britain's Cosmetic Wild West
5 News, ITN
5 News' year-long investigation into the rapidly expanding world of cosmetic procedures exposed dangerous practices, regulatory gaps and emerging trends that place consumers at risk both in the UK and overseas. It was centred around practitioner Luyen Vu who carried out invasive cosmetic procedures from residential properties despite having no recognised UK medical qualifications. A key strand of reporting examined what government and regulators are doing to address these concerns. The judges called this an eye-opener, with strong use of undercover footage and a call to action.

DAILY or BREAKING NEWS

Myanmar Rebels

BBC News



The military seized control in Myanmar in a coup in February 2021, plunging the country into a civil war as rebel groups attempt to overthrow the regime. Thousands of civilians fled their homes after the Burmese military launched an intense campaign of air strikes and a ground offensive in rebel-held areas, aimed at recapturing territory ahead of the elections being held from 28 December 2025 – an election widely criticised as a sham designed by the junta to legitimise its grip on power. The BBC's Yogita Limaye, Sanjay Ganguly and Aamir Peerzada gained exclusive access to civilians and rebel fighters in western Chin State ahead of the election. The judges were impressed by the strong and brave on-the-ground reporting and eye-opening access that produced hard to watch footage and powerfully captured the human impact of an almost forgotten war.

Highly commended

Bondi Massacre
News24 (formerly Sky News Australia)
Within minutes of the worst ever terror attack on Australian soil, Sky News Australia began six hours of live rolling news coverage – breaking the news of the shooting on Bondi beach on the evening of December 14, bringing eyewitness accounts and initial reactions and continuing live coverage until 1am. 'An outstanding job covering a very tough story', commented the judges who said the way the story was broken was particularly compelling.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Give Me Back My Name

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service



The documentary tackles one of the most painful realities of contemporary Ukraine: the thousands of soldiers listed as missing in action and the families left waiting for answers. Through the reporting of frontline correspondent Maryan Kushnir, the film follows the painstaking journey from battlefield recovery to forensic examination, DNA analysis, and, ultimately, identification. It reveals the immense national effort required and risks involved in the context of an ongoing war to return names to the unnamed and provide certainty to families living in limbo. It's a portrait of a country confronting loss while fighting to preserve the dignity of its dead. "It's the kind of filmmaking which, when it finishes, makes you feel that there are no words", said one of the judges. Brilliant, deeply moving with restrained and respectful filming, great aerial shots, powerful from beginning to end.

Highly commended

The Hunt for the Last Nazis
Mint Pictures & SBS Australia
Filmmaker Dan Goldberg has followed the story of alleged Nazis living in Australia for 25 years. Successive governments from the 1940s to the '80s turned a blind eye, even declaring an amnesty to Nazi war criminals in 1961. That decision was reversed in 1987 but now time is running out for the pursuit of justice, and the nation faces the consequences of waiting too long to confront its dark past. "Impressive archive research", "a riveting historical true crime re-investigation with exclusive access to unseen material", commented the judges.

Our Girls: The Southport Families
BBC Breakfast
In July 2024 three young girls were murdered in a frenzied knife attack at a children's dance club in Southport, UK. The documentary follows the families of Elsie, Bebe and Alice over nine months as they try to create lasting legacies for their daughters and channel their grief into something positive. The judges remarked on the filmmakers' ability to build trust with interviewees, handle grief with real sensitivity, and inject an uplifting note of hope.

HEALTH, SOCIAL and WELLBEING

Pano: Between Hope and Despair

VRT NWS Pano



The documentary explores one of the most difficult questions in modern healthcare: where is the line between offering hope and exploiting desperation? Pano investigated a growing phenomenon: patients with stage IV cancer travelling abroad for experimental or controversial treatments that can be unproven, unavailable or not recommended by their own doctors. Many spend tens of thousands of euros, frequently financed through crowdfunding campaigns and donations from family, friends and strangers. Combining personal stories with investigative journalism, Pano shows how hope has become a cross-border industry. Clinics market treatments directly to patients who often have few remaining options. Intermediaries facilitate access to expensive procedures, while scientific evidence for some treatments remains limited or contested. Our judges decided this entry was the winner: they said it was well researched with good investigative angles and gripping storytelling that thoroughly engages the viewer – a difficult and relevant topic handled with sensitivity and great production quality.

Highly commended

101 East – Philippines: Speak of the Devil
Al Jazeera English
A film about exorcism in Asia's largest Catholic nation, featuring extraordinary access to Catholic exorcists in the Philippines, including the country's most senior exorcist, Father Jose "Jocis" Syquia. The spiritual battle of his patient, Mary Rose, is featured throughout and the film culminates with her exorcism. The judges commented on how the filmmakers manage to deal respectfully with a subject at the intersection of religion and mental health to create a fast paced, well produced and transfixing piece.

Dirty Business
Halcyons Heart Films
Dirty Business follows the true story of a retired detective and an Oxford professor who embark on a 10-year investigation which takes them to the heart of what may be the greatest corporate scandal in UK history: England's water companies who, having extracted £145 billion since privatisation, illegally dump raw sewage into rivers and seas 790 times every day – without being prosecuted for these crimes. Excellent production with high production values, said the judges, great mix of reconstruction, footage and conversations.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inside Unit 731: Japan's Secret Human Experiments

CNA, Mediacorp Pte Ltd



Filmed across Japan, China, Singapore, the UK and the USA, the series combines original reporting, extensive archival research, declassified intelligence records and eyewitness testimony to reconstruct the history of Unit 731 – one of the 20th century's most secretive biological warfare programmes. Hideo Shimizu, one of the last surviving former members of Unit 731, breaks a lifetime of silence to describe what he witnessed as a teenage recruit inside the Unit 731 complex outside Harbin. The series investigates not only the crimes themselves, but also how Cold War politics shaped global understanding of Unit 731 for decades after the war, and explores why this history remains relevant today. Our judges were disturbed and impressed in equal measure by this documentary: "first-rate filmmaking that moves across time, place, and the breadth of human experience", "enormously impactful and confronting journalism", "ambitious", "beautifully shot with a strong narrative", "a film that will stay with you", were some of their comments. A clear and deserving winner.

Highly commended

Witness – Tehran War Diary
Al Jazeera English
When war erupted in Iran, acclaimed photojournalist Majid Saeedi found himself documenting a conflict unlike any he had covered before: one unfolding in his beloved city of Tehran. Always facing the risk of interrogation or arrest, he captured both the destruction and emotional toll of war while working alone amid internet outages and isolation, shooting on a mobile phone in short clips that could be sent despite restricted access. "A gem", said our judges, original, courageous, compelling, intimate and immersive.

Under an Olive Tree
TRT World
This is the story of Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi, a young Turkish-American activist who left her home in the US to support the Palestinian people in the West Bank. She was killed on September 6th 2025 by an Israeli sniper under an olive tree while witnessing the struggle against the illegal settlement expansion in Beita, a Palestinian village near Nablus. The judges thought this a tender and moving piece with powerful testimony, which highlights the importance of human rights warriors.

INVESTIGATIVE

Panorama: Undercover in the Police

BBC Panorama



When *Undercover in the Police* aired in 2025 it revealed evidence of racism, misogyny and officers revelling in the use of force. Working as a Designated Detention Officer, reporter Rory Bibb spent seven months undercover at Charing Cross, one of London's busiest Metropolitan Police stations and the focus of an 2022 Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) report. Three years on, the investigation revealed that many problematic behaviours had not been eradicated but driven underground, while misogynistic comments were still made openly and remained largely unchallenged. Panorama's footage shows officers aware of the Met's culture-change efforts, yet collectively resisting them. Since transmission officers have been suspended or dismissed, while IOPC investigations into other officers continue. A clear winner for our judges: brilliant and high-risk investigative work, well edited showing multiple angles of the same event, great story flow with skilful blending of footage.

Highly commended

Myanmar Scam Factory
Off The Grid/TRT World
This investigation into the hidden world of cyber slavery shows how, in a country fractured by civil war, criminal networks exploit the chaos to run scam centres built on human trafficking, torture, and kidnapping, making tens of billions of dollars per year. A French master craftsman is conned until his life falls apart, a Pakistani worker is sold as a slave across borders – there's a staggering human cost while a cross-border fight goes on to free those enslaved and forced to scam others. The judges found the way the story moves between locations and characters compelling.

Separation: Declassified
CNA, Mediacorp Pte Ltd
What really happened in the pivotal 100 days surrounding 9th August 1965 when Singapore separated from the Federation of Malaysia? CNA obtained access to previously classified top-secret documents kept in the vaults of the UK's National Archives, all relating to Singapore's independence. Confidential correspondence between political leaders and top diplomats tells of covert deals, political chess moves and assassination plots. Dynamic editing and great use of archive material made for a riveting watch, said the judges.

JOURNALIST of the YEAR

Yogita Limaye

BBC News



Yogita Limaye is the BBC's International Correspondent and over her two-decade long career she has broken stories from some of the most underreported regions in the world – journalism for which she has won three Emmy awards, and been a finalist at the Peabody, Orwell and AIB awards. She is one of only a handful of foreign journalists to consistently report from Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. Despite the risks involved in producing reports that displease the Taliban, Yogita has never shied away from holding the Taliban to account for their repression of women. Her reputation for honesty is a key reason why women choose to speak to her despite the risk of reprisal. Her dignified, non-intrusive reporting style allows families to feel comfortable speaking to her in their most vulnerable moments. Yogita has also consistently been reporting from Myanmar. Last year her she was the first foreign journalist to enter the country undercover after the earthquake. Yogita's reporting has visible impact: after her Afghanistan reports aired the BBC received hundreds of offers of help, and her work has been cited by the UN and aid agencies. For our judges, Yogita was the clear winner. "This is journalism that simply needs to exist", said one – "None of Yogita's subjects are just statistics in a remote country, she introduces them in such a way that we as viewers want to take action and help", said another. It is a winning package of powerful, courageous journalism, superb videography, live reporting and interviews handled with exceptional skill and deep social responsibility.

OBSERVATIONAL DOCUMENTARY

Born in Bethlehem

Renegade Stories & BBC World Service Eye Investigations



Bethlehem is known globally as the birthplace of Christ. It also sits in the Occupied West Bank at the heart of one of the world's most intractable conflicts. Following the October 7th Hamas-led attack on Israel, this film follows staff and mothers through a year at the Holy Family Hospital, run by the Catholic Order of Malta, which serves all women regardless of religion or ethnicity. Since the war began the hospital has faced increasing pressure: checkpoints and roadblocks hamper movement, stress can induce premature births, missiles fly overhead with Gaza just 50 miles away, nurses of the hospital's mobile clinic navigate dangerous roads to villages surrounded by illegal Israeli settlements. "This is what an observational documentary should be", said one of the judges – it takes the banal/everyday onto a different level, is moving and sensitively crafted.

Highly commended

My Father's Hair

Keyi Productions and Arte G.E.I.E.

In India, 86 rapes are officially reported every day. Yet the true figure is likely far higher, as most women remain silent and the authorities often refuse to register complaints. Kinjal, a young girl from the so-called "Untouchables" community, was raped by the son of a wealthy landowner from a higher caste. In a rare act of courage her father chose to take the case to court and vowed not to cut his hair until his daughter obtains justice. Beautifully shot and explored, said the judges, the narrative arc stays with the viewer.

POLITICS and BUSINESS

Will AI Take My Job? Dispatches

Kalel Productions/Channel 4



Man was pitched against machine in this Channel 4 film to see which does our jobs better. TV Reporter Aisha Gaban took viewers on an informative, sometimes unsettling, journey into how AI is going to affect UK jobs. And then in the final moments she stated: "...I'm not real. In a British TV first, I'm actually an AI Presenter. Some of you might have guessed: I wasn't on location reporting this story. My image and voice were generated using AI." Besides the stunt, the film's central experiment had a doctor, a solicitor, a fashion photographer, and a music composer compete against an AI counterpart doing their exact same job. The results were judged by experts who didn't know which of the results were AI-generated and which were created by humans. Our judges said the originality of its approach and the relevance and intriguing treatment of the subject set this entry apart from the other entries in this category: they felt it was the deserving winner.

Highly commended

Gen Z Under Fire
BBC Eye Investigations
The investigation reconstructs how on 8 September 2025 Nepal's former police chief authorised the use of lethal force against thousands of unarmed young protesters, resulting in 19 deaths and contributing to the collapse of the national government. The film examines the deadliest day in Nepal's recent democratic history, providing a forensic account of how a peaceful youth-led demonstration escalated into violence. The judges commented on the team's tremendous effort in gathering thousands of pieces of evidence and their rigorous analysis.

SHORT FEATURE

A Matter of Life or Death: Giving Birth in Sierra Leone

On Our Radar, Fuller, Channel 4 News



Sierra Leone once had the third-highest maternal mortality rate in the world but since 2000 maternal deaths have fallen by nearly 80%. Foreign aid has been credited with helping more women and children survive childbirth, but that progress is under threat due to drastic cuts to foreign aid. Over the course of one week, the team follows round-the-clock the medical teams at Ola During Children's Hospital and Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Sierra Leone. The special care baby unit at Ola During's was built and run through the UK-funded 'Saving Lives in Sierra Leone' programme. By late 2025 it was reported that Saving Lives had been axed; its remaining funding reduced to just £1 million. For our judges this was the winner – a compelling look at the front-line consequences of cuts to foreign aid. Great access and cinematography in challenging circumstances, with a powerful narrative that delivered on the promise of the subject in a short time span, immersive, intimate and completely absorbing.

Highly commended

Marketplace: The Sextortion Network
CBC
Sexual extortion which targets children, coercing them into a sexually compromising situation then blackmailing them, has exploded in Canada since 2021, often leading to suicide. CBC exposed a global human rights crisis, talking to children that had been targeted and parents whose children had taken their own lives, and went undercover to pursue the perpetrators. The judges said the film had all the ingredients of a great investigation and commented on the 360-degree approach.

Coffins for the Living
Fantástico – TV Globo
In Hong Kong, one of the richest megacities in the world, thousands live in homes the size of coffins – that's the devastating reality of a global housing crisis. What is life like for these coffin dwellers? Our judges were impressed by the cinematography – finding ways to shoot these small spaces – and called it a strong example of how creative visual storytelling and compelling journalism can come together to make an unfamiliar subject accessible and memorable.

SUSTAINABILITY

Cultiver Sans Engrais

Radio-Canada/La semaine verte



For decades, a North Dakota farming couple, the Lozenskys, was forced to buy and apply ever-increasing amounts of synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides to maintain their yields. Finally, accepting that this was both economically exhausting and ecologically destructive, they made a radical choice: to shut off almost all chemical inputs and instead trust plants to actively attract, cultivate, and absorb nutrients directly from microscopic soil bacteria. A growing movement of agricultural pioneers in Quebec is now putting these beneficial microbes to work. By pampering their soil microbiomes, these farmers are making their crops naturally resilient against disease and unpredictable weather patterns. In a rapidly warming world, this underground ecosystem is proving to be agriculture's most powerful, climate-resilient shield. "Not a single boring moment", the judges said. Inspiring, constructive journalism, accessible explanation of the underlying science, immersive and captivating – this was the clear winner for them.

Highly commended

People & Power – Forever Chemicals: A Toxic Legacy
Al Jazeera English
PFAS – known as Forever Chemicals – have been used in countless products, lauded for their heatproof, waterproof and greaseproof qualities. They're in cooking utensils, cosmetics, raincoats, and thousands more. And now they're in our bodies too. They don't biodegrade and are toxic. P&P reports how a single group of chemicals poisoned the entire planet and meets the men and women fighting to bring those responsible to justice. The judges were impressed by the excellent mix of clear scientific explanation alongside shocking case studies and a landmark court case.

The Pacific: Tuvalu – We're Not Fleeing
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
People living in Tuvalu are threatened by rising sea levels. A world-first climate and migration agreement with Australia promised, among other things, a pathway for Tuvaluans to live and work in Australia. But what happens to a nation when climate change threatens not only its land, but its people's ability to remain together, and with that, the viability of their culture, language and future as a nation? The judges commented that this strong human story gets to the heart of the climate crisis for climate refugees.



The AIBs 2027

We're looking forward to our 23rd annual competition for factual television, radio and online productions.

Here are the key dates to note

5 April | The AIBs launch

2 July | Closing date

July-August | Shortlisting

Mid-September | Judging

19 November | Awards night

If you would like to support the **AIBs** 2027 or be one of our judges then please contact us to discuss further.

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



Photo credit: Anthony Ravera



AIB Lifetime Achievement Award

Marie-Christine Saragosse

For Marie-Christine Saragosse, international broadcasting is about more than delivering news across borders. It is about building bridges between societies, giving a voice to the unheard and making the world more intelligible in all its complexity. Since 2012, as President and CEO of France Médias Monde, she has championed this vision at the head of an international public-service media group which encompasses RFI, France 24 and Monte Carlo Doualiya. The first woman to lead a French public-service audiovisual and international group, she has placed editorial independence, cultural diversity and digital innovation at the heart of its development.

A graduate of Sciences Po Paris and the École nationale d'administration, Marie-Christine began her career in international affairs before becoming Director General of TV5MONDE in 2008. At France Médias Monde, she has since overseen a profound transformation, extending the group's reach while bringing its journalism closer to the people it serves. In 2025, FMM's programmes reached 278 million people every week, supported by 128 million social media followers and nearly five billion digital video views and audio plays.

Her ambition goes beyond audience figures. Through digital-native platforms such as InfoMigrants, ENTR and ZOA, she has helped develop journalism tailored to the needs of migrants, young Europeans and young French-speaking Africans. Regional digital hubs in Dakar and Beirut further embody this commitment, producing content closer to local communities, in their languages and in formats that reflect their everyday realities.

This approach rests on a fundamental principle: trust begins with understanding. With more than 60 nationalities represented among its staff, France Médias Monde draws strength from a plurality of cultural backgrounds and perspectives. For Marie-Christine, this diversity enriches journalism, challenges assumptions and helps ensure that international news is never confined to a single worldview.

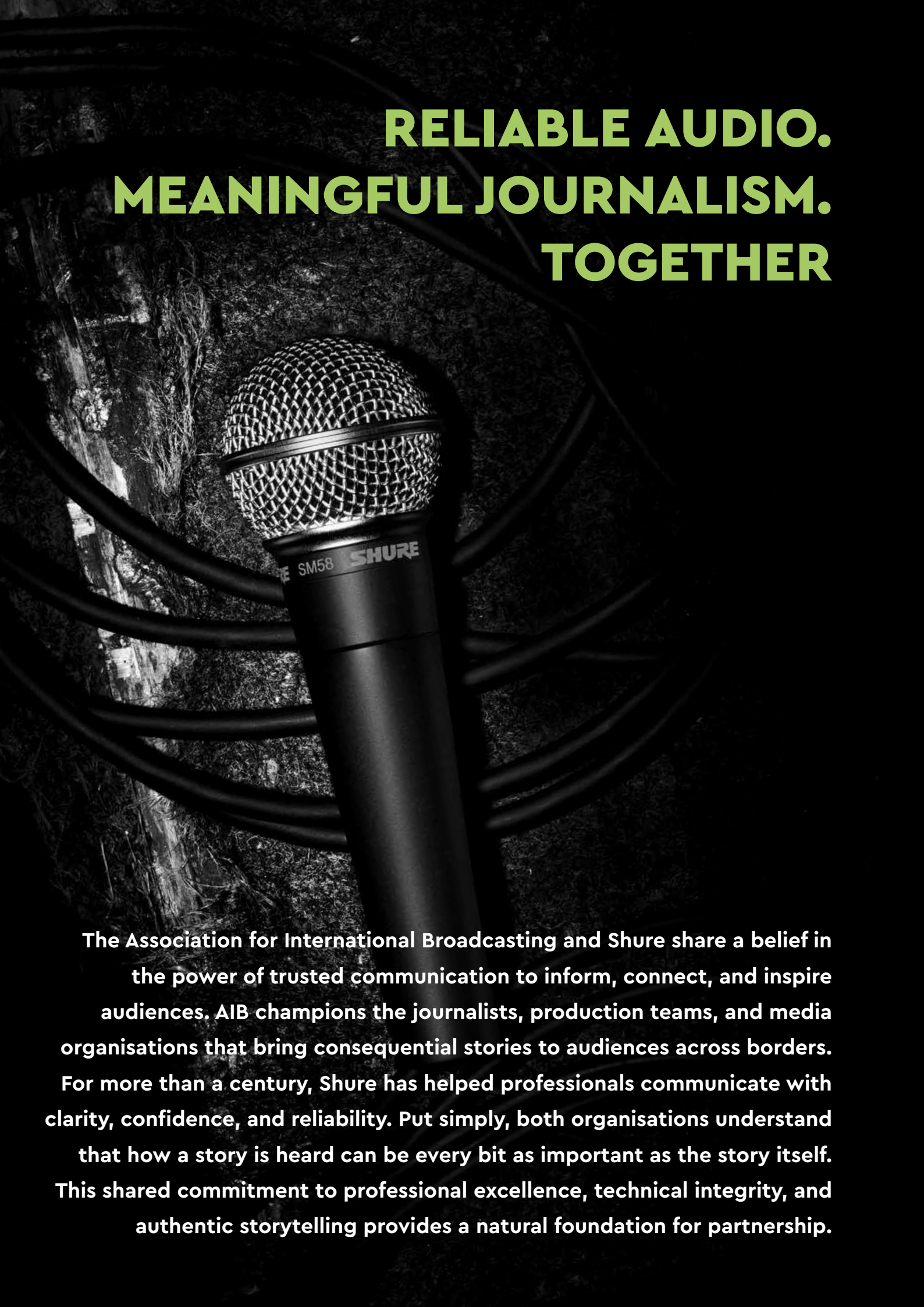
In a media landscape increasingly shaped by disinformation and geopolitical tensions, she regards independent, reliable and pluralistic journalism as essential to democracy. Its purpose is not to impose a narrative, but to equip citizens with the information they need to think critically and form their own opinions freely. The defence of press freedom is also a deeply personal issue for Marie-Christine, following the murder of RFI journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon in Mali in 2013. Her commitment to giving a voice to those too often overlooked also informs her advocacy for gender equality. Through initiatives such as TV5MONDE's Terriennes and her engagement against female genital mutilation, she has consistently defended women's rights, visibility and participation in public debate.

For Marie-Christine Saragosse, the challenge is no longer simply to bring the world to audiences, but to build a genuine connection with them—across languages, cultures and borders, in the service of independent journalism, equality and mutual understanding. In an era of disinformation and geopolitical tensions, independent and pluralistic journalism is not merely a professional standard but a democratic necessity. Under her leadership, France Médias Monde has pursued an international vision that combines global reach with local insight, technological innovation with editorial rigour, and public service with a deeply human purpose.

Beyond the world of media and international affairs, Marie-Christine is the author of two novels that explore her family's history.

In presenting Marie-Christine Saragosse with the 2026 AIB Lifetime Achievement Award, the Association for International Broadcasting honours her exceptional contribution to international public-service journalism. Her leadership has expanded access to trusted news across languages and borders, championed editorial independence and created opportunities for voices too often unheard. She has demonstrated how broadcasters can embrace change while remaining faithful to their public purpose, helping audiences understand one another and make informed choices about their lives. She has led by example in a new media age – an inspiration to all those shaping the future of international broadcasting.

Thank you, Marie-Christine.



RELIABLE AUDIO. MEANINGFUL JOURNALISM. TOGETHER

The Association for International Broadcasting and Shure share a belief in the power of trusted communication to inform, connect, and inspire audiences. AIB champions the journalists, production teams, and media organisations that bring consequential stories to audiences across borders. For more than a century, Shure has helped professionals communicate with clarity, confidence, and reliability. Put simply, both organisations understand that how a story is heard can be every bit as important as the story itself. This shared commitment to professional excellence, technical integrity, and authentic storytelling provides a natural foundation for partnership.

Shure is honoured to be the Event Partner for this year's AIB Awards and help celebrate the broadcasters and creators whose work advances journalism and strengthens communities worldwide. More than a recognition of outstanding achievement, the AIB Awards reflect the resilience, ingenuity, and public purpose of an industry in continual evolution. By supporting AIB and its global community, Shure is proud to stand with broadcast professionals everywhere and help ensure that the voices and stories that matter are heard clearly, reliably, and without compromise.

A CENTURY OF TRUST: THE SHURE STORY

Since Sidney N. Shure founded the company in Chicago in 1925, Shure has built a reputation that extends far beyond microphones and audio equipment. Although known for pioneering advances in sound, the company's enduring success rests on principles that have remained remarkably consistent for more than a century: integrity, reliability, quality, and an unwavering commitment to customers. Technologies may change; those expectations do not.

> ***In broadcasting, there are rarely second takes***

Shure began as a supplier of radio parts in the early days of consumer electronics, when radio itself was still reshaping how the world connected. As the company grew into a microphone manufacturer, it quickly established itself as a technology leader. In 1939, Shure introduced the Unidyne® Model 55, the world's first single-element unidirectional dynamic microphone. The breakthrough helped shape the future of audio and produced one of the most recognizable microphone designs ever created.

World War II marked a defining chapter in Shure's history. The company designed, developed, and delivered microphones and headphones that met rigorous military manufacturing standards. The responsibility of producing such equipment reinforced a culture of precision, durability, and accountability. After the war, Shure carried those exacting standards into its commercial products, strengthening a reputation for ruggedness and reliability that remains a hallmark of the brand.

Over the decades, Shure introduced products that became industry standards, among them the SM58® handheld vocal microphone and the SM57, widely used for vocals, guitar amplifiers, drums, and more. Both earned enduring recognition for dependable performance in demanding environments, and more than a few hard miles along the way. From concert stages and broadcast studios to corporate boardrooms and classrooms, people have trusted Shure products whenever clear communication and reliable audio matter most.

A values-driven culture underpins this record of achievement. Shure's commitment to ethical business practices, fairness, and products of exceptional quality, reliability, and durability has guided generations of associates and leaders. That philosophy is captured in a well-known observation by founder S.N. Shure: "We know very well that absolute perfection cannot be attained, but we will never stop striving for it."
As Shure enters its second century, the company continues to innovate across wireless systems, conferencing solutions, software, and connected audio ecosystems. The tools are more sophisticated and the possibilities broader, but the foundation remains unchanged: earning customer trust through products that perform when it matters most and conducting business with integrity at every step.





ADVANCING BROADCAST AUDIO IN A CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPE

Over the past two decades, Shure has helped broadcasters navigate a media landscape that rarely stands still. As radio and television expanded into digital distribution, streaming, podcasting, and remote production, Shure continued to develop technologies that address new operational demands without compromising the reliability and audio quality on which broadcasters depend.

> ***In mission-critical productions failure is not an option***

Central to this evolution is Axient® Digital, a wireless platform engineered for mission-critical productions in which failure is not an option. Building on decades of wireless expertise, Axient Digital offers capabilities including interference detection, frequency diversity, remote monitoring and control, and sophisticated spectrum management. These tools support broadcasters in demanding RF environments, from anchor studios and remote news operations to major sporting events and red-carpet productions.

Whether working in a fixed broadcast facility or on location, where the unexpected often arrives right on cue, modern production teams need systems that can scale efficiently while preserving operational flexibility. The ANX4 Scalable Wireless Receiver represents a significant advance in this regard. Its scalable architecture allows broadcasters to adapt their wireless infrastructure as production requirements change while retaining the performance and operational confidence associated with Axient Digital and ULX-D®.

Microphone innovation remains equally important. The Plex family of lavalier (lapel) and headset microphones – including TwinPlex® and DuraPlex – was developed for applications that demand discreet, high-performance sound capture, including television, broadcast journalism, theatre, film, and live presentations. Designed for natural vocal reproduction and consistent performance, TwinPlex helps anchors, reporters, commentators, and on-air talent deliver clear, intelligible audio while remaining unobtrusive on camera. DuraPlex brings Shure-quality sound to an IP57-rated lavalier engineered to resist water, dust, dirt, and the rigours of professional use.

And most recently, the DCA901 broadcast array microphone exemplifies Shure's innovative approach to audio challenges, transforming complex broadcast capture into a more efficient, flexible workflow. With digitally steerable pickup zones, multi-channel audio, integrated DSP, and single-cable connectivity, it empowers engineers to capture more sound, with greater control, from less hardware.

> ***More sound, with greater control, from less hardware***

> ***Systems that can scale efficiently while preserving operational flexibility***

Together, these technologies show how Shure's role in broadcasting has expanded beyond individual microphones and wireless systems. Today's broadcasters need integrated solutions capable of supporting everything from the controlled rhythm of an anchor desk to the unpredictability of a field report, live sports coverage, or a high-profile interview. By combining advanced wireless management, scalable infrastructure, and innovative microphone design, Shure helps audio professionals capture the voices, stories, and moments that define modern broadcasting.

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO INFORM

For broadcast audio professionals, from RF coordinators and A2s to field producers, sound mixers, and studio engineers, performance begins long before the red light comes on. Shure conducts extensive product testing and relies on input from across the broadcast audio chain to understand real-world pressures and workflows. The goal is straightforward: to create thoughtful, dependable solutions that help professionals work more efficiently, respond more quickly, and achieve greater consistency.

Shure wireless systems are designed to reduce complexity and instil confidence throughout the workflow. Reliable RF performance, intelligent spectrum management, remote monitoring, and scalable architecture help teams identify potential issues earlier, coordinate frequencies more efficiently, and respond quickly as production demands shift.

With greater system visibility and fewer operational distractions, audio professionals can spend less time troubleshooting and more time supporting the people, stories, and moments at the heart of the broadcast.

Shure microphones bring the same practical advantages to sound capture. Consistent pickup, natural vocal reproduction, durable construction, and discreet form factors help engineers position microphones efficiently and capture intelligible audio with precision, whether the source is a studio anchor, a sideline reporter, a remote guest, or talent moving through a live event. In broadcasting, there are rarely second takes. Together, Shure microphones and wireless technologies enable teams to work more easily, move faster, make better-informed decisions, and deliver accurate, dependable audio from setup through transmission.

SIGNING OFF

Broadcast audio has undergone profound change over the past century, and Shure has evolved alongside it. From radio to television, analogue to digital, and cable and satellite to today's on-demand streaming platforms, change has remained the constant in the art and science of keeping the world informed. The next decade, and even the next century, will bring challenges and possibilities that cannot yet be fully imagined. Shure looks forward to meeting them in collaboration with organisations such as AIB and with audio professionals who share a commitment to excellence, technical integrity, and authentic storytelling. Whatever the future holds, Shure is certain to play a part in how the world hears what comes next.

> ***Ruggedness and reliability are a hallmark of the brand***



SHARING THE CRAFT

On 29 October 2026 journalists, producers and technical specialists got together to look closely at what goes into the making of a great programme – sharing experience, examining challenges and exploring what makes journalism and factual storytelling work

In a rapidly changing media environment, there is enormous value in creating space for practitioners from different countries, organisations and disciplines to talk openly about how they work – what succeeds, what proves difficult and what others can learn from their experience.

That was the thinking behind the AIB-Shure Masterclass, staged at the Rose Shure Experience Centre in London as part of Shure's partnership with the **AIBs** 2026.

It was deliberately not a conventional conference. Shortlisted **AIBs** entrants, past winners of the **AIBs** competition, journalists, producers and audio specialists joined an interactive conversation with participants in London and online around the world.

The starting point was straightforward. The **AIBs** recognise the finished programme; the Masterclass goes "behind" it.

TRUST BEFORE TECHNOLOGY

That quickly became apparent in a discussion involving shortlisted work from the Financial Times, Tortoise Media, CBC and independent filmmaker Fiona Lloyd-Davies.

Whether investigating large-scale corruption, foreign influence, historical injustice or the experiences of people who survived the Bosnian war, one subject repeatedly surfaced: trust.

Nicky Woolf described months spent developing relationships with contributors while remaining clear about the boundaries of journalism. The journalist cannot promise someone how they will eventually appear, he said, but can promise to represent what they say "honestly and accurately".

For Fiona Lloyd-Davies, trust is inseparable from time and presence. When working in communities where she does not speak the language, choosing the right local colleague is critical. Equally important is spending

"If the industry wants sustainable journalism, it must look after the people producing it"



"Technology can help the process but human judgement remains decisive"



Clockwise from left: Nicky Woolf, Dr Zahera Harb, Hannah Storm, Elisabeth Weilenmann, Kellie While, Mary Steffenhagen

time with people and returning – rather than arriving, swiftly extracting an interview and leaving.

Her experience offered a useful reminder in an era of increasingly sophisticated production technology: sometimes the most valuable journalistic tool is time.

MAKING COMPLEXITY ACCESSIBLE

Another recurrent theme was finding human routes into complex subjects.

CBC producer Mary Steffenhagen explained how The *Devil You Know*, exploring the Satanic Panic of the 1980s, sought unfamiliar voices and personal experiences rather than simply revisiting well-established analysis. Finding those individual points of entry made a complicated historical phenomenon immediate and relevant to contemporary audiences. Nicky Woolf offered a similarly useful prescription for subjects that audiences may think they already understand: bring them something "new and true" – a new source, new information or a different way of telling the story.

When audiences are surrounded by information and quickly become fatigued even by significant stories, that something "new and true" is a challenge for both producer and audience.

SOUND IS PART OF THE STORY

The partnership with Shure allowed the Masterclass to examine something that is often undervalued in factual production: sound not simply as a technical requirement, but as an editorial and creative element.

For ORF radio documentary maker Elisabeth Weilenmann, there was no separation between the two. "Everything starts with the sound," she said. "There is no programme without sound for me."

Kellie While of Pomona Audio described using music and location to create an emotional layer in storytelling. Her *21st Century Folk* project for BBC Radio 2 pairs people with songwriters who create new music inspired by their lives – demonstrating that a music genre that may be considered 'specialist' can reach a mainstream audience when the underlying human story is compelling.

Sound specialist Phil Wright took the discussion further. "The world as we experience it is immersive," he observed. Capturing the character of a space – whether a concert hall or a claustrophobic location – can place audiences inside a story rather than leaving them outside listening in.

It reinforced a simple point central to Shure's involvement with the AIBs: high-quality audio is not an embellishment. It is the catalyst, it engenders meaning, emotion and authenticity.

JOURNALISM UNDER PRESSURE

The Masterclass also examined two very different kinds of reporting: Runako Celina's two-and-a-half-year BBC Eye investigation *Death in Dubai*, and Press Association coverage of violent disorder in Belfast. Both demonstrated how verification, safety and editorial judgement remain inseparable.



"The AIB has shared knowledge through its Masterclasses for the past two decades, including this event in 2017"

For Press Association, speed can never trump certainty. Its journalists know that customers rely on material from the agency having been checked. Technology can help the process, but human judgement remains decisive: "Nothing leaves PA's gates without a human looking at it."

Runako Celina described *Death in Dubai* as a hybrid open-source investigation, combining digital investigative techniques with traditional relationship-building. Transparency can itself build audience trust, she argued, by showing people how evidence has been assembled.

But amid enthusiasm for new investigative tools, she cautioned: "Don't lose the human in the journalism."

THE PEOPLE WHO TELL DIFFICULT STORIES

That human dimension carried directly into the final discussion on mental health, trauma and journalism. Hannah Storm, who works with journalists and production teams on psychosocial safety, stressed that strong reactions to deeply distressing material can be entirely normal. Vicarious trauma can affect not only people reporting from conflict zones but those repeatedly viewing disturbing footage, listening to traumatic testimony or working on difficult stories over long periods.

She also emphasised the protective value of purpose: feeling that work has meaning and is valued can help people deal with difficult experiences – provided it is accompanied by sensible boundaries.

Dr Zahera Harb brought her own experience of journalism and trauma to the discussion, while raising an important industry issue: freelancers often lack the psychological support available within larger organisations.

Hannah Storm put the challenge succinctly: if the industry wants sustainable journalism, it must look after the people producing it. "We want people to be brilliant journalists," she said. "The only way we can do that is by ensuring the sustainability of our people."

That statement perhaps captured the essence of the Masterclass.

Great journalism depends on ideas, technology, editorial standards and production craft. But ultimately, it depends on people – trusting one another, learning from one another and sharing experience across organisations, platforms and borders.

Creating opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas is an important part of the AIB's work – and something that the AIB-Shure partnership will continue to develop. | www.shure.com | www.aib.org.uk |

The AIBs 2026 team

Clare Fuller
Producer, The **AIBs**

Simon Spanswick
CEO, Executive Producer, The **AIBs**

Gunda Cannon
Editor

Sophia Nasif
Social Media Editor

Neil Stainsby
Live Director, The **AIBs**
www.moment-digital.co.uk

Ben German
Video Editor

Tony de Simone
Print and Stage Graphics Design
www.desimone.co.uk

AIB
Association for International Broadcasting

AIB | PO Box 112 | Downham Market | PE38 8DX | UK
+44 (0) 20 7993 2557
contactaib@aib.org.uk
www.theaibs.tv

BEYOND THE AWARDS

Intelligence, practical support and international connections: AIB CEO Simon Spanswick on what the AIB does when it's not awards time



The work celebrated in this Winners Book begins long before an awards ceremony: with an editorial decision, a difficult commission, a carefully planned assignment or a story someone believes deserves to be told. Behind it are organisations and production companies navigating financial pressures, technological change and an increasingly complicated international environment.

Helping those media entities understand and respond to a constantly changing environment is central to the work of the Association for International Broadcasting.

Founded in 1993, the AIB is a not-for-profit association that brings together broadcasters, media companies and industry partners across borders. The awards are its most visible gathering. Throughout the year, the AIB connects people and expertise, provides specialist intelligence and addresses issues that individual organisations benefit from tackling together.

AIB

tion for International Broadcasting

AIB MEMBER BRIEFING
INVISIBLE REACH: HOW RUSSIA EMBEDS INFLUENCE IN GLOBAL MEDIA



AIB

n for International Broadcasting

BER BRIE
NDING
L MEDIA

AIB

ssociation for International Broadcasting

AIB SAFETY GUIDE



THE BIGGER PICTURE

Who is investing in international media influence? How are partnerships, distribution networks and professional relationships changing the information available to audiences? And what does that mean for other broadcasters?

These questions underpin the AIB's high-level intelligence briefings for members.

In 2026, *Invisible Reach: How Russia Embeds Influence in Global Media* examined Russian approaches to extending media influence. A companion study explored China's expanding international media architecture, looking beyond its best-known channels to the wider system of content partnerships, distribution, journalist training and broadcast infrastructure.

Drawing on the AIB's long experience of monitoring international media, these studies connect developments across countries and platforms. They give senior leaders and their teams a broader basis for assessing competition, partnerships, audience access and strategic risk. They help AIB members see developments in context, ask better questions and make informed decisions.

HELPING TEAMS PREPARE

Sometimes that support addresses an immediate operational need.

Ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the AIB produced a safety briefing for journalists and crews travelling to the United States, Mexico and Canada. It addressed border scrutiny, device searches, digital security, crowd safety and differing local conditions.

It also flagged up that sports reporters, producers and technical teams can encounter risks more commonly associated with news assignments. Familiarity with covering major tournaments does not necessarily prepare someone for questioning at a border or the inspection of a phone containing sensitive material.

Working with the Committee to Protect Journalists, the AIB also brought specialist advice directly to the industry through an online safety briefing, helping teams prepare before departure.

EXPERIENCE ACROSS BORDERS

Other challenges require sustained exchange between colleagues.

The AIB's work in its Cyber Security Working Group centres on a practical question: what can broadcasters learn from one another that will help them protect their operations? The focus is on useful connections and exchanges about vulnerabilities, preparedness and response, shaped by the needs of participating organisations.

The AIB's Sustainability Working Group provides another forum for members to exchange experience, compare approaches and discuss the challenges of making media operations more sustainable. Organisations work in different markets and under different constraints but can still learn from the decisions and experience of their peers. Across both areas, the value lies in access to colleagues facing similar questions elsewhere in the world.

FREE AND SAFE

Media freedom is a central tenet of our work.

Through its participation in the Consultative Network to the Media Freedom Coalition, the AIB contributes an international broadcasting perspective to discussions about the ability of journalists and media organisations to work freely and safely.

That perspective connects the safety of individuals with the wider conditions in which journalism operates: whether organisations can maintain their independence, reach audiences and sustain their work.

The AIB also brings members' concerns into policy discussions, including the debate about fair payment for journalism as artificial intelligence changes how news content is accessed and used.

LEARNING CURVE

The AIB Media Awards also provide a starting point for sharing professional experience.

On 29 October, the AIB-Shure Masterclass brought programme makers and journalists together at the Rose Shure Experience Centre in London, with colleagues joining online internationally.

Staged with Shure – Exclusive Event Partner of the **AIBs** 2026 – the event explored editorial craft, production and sound, alongside the pressures of working in the media environment and the potential impact on mental health. Insightful and practical, the Masterclass provided a space to discuss the decisions, difficulties and techniques behind compelling journalism and factual storytelling.

PART OF THE CONVERSATION

Membership of the AIB connects organisations and their staff with this wider programme of intelligence, discussion and practical support. It's always a two-way street: our members help shape the questions the AIB will examine next.

If you have entered the **AIBs** 2026 or attended the culmination of this year's competition, the awards gala, the conversation need not end here. Get in touch and see how you as a broadcaster, production company or industry partner can contribute to and benefit from our work throughout the year.

www.aib.org.uk



AIB Executive Committee



Chair
Craig Dale
Chief Editor
CNA TV International, Mediacorp



Deputy Chair
Nesryn Bouziane
Manager International Services,
Australian Broadcasting Corporation



Ahmet Görmez
Deputy Director General,
TRT



Chris Liu
Vice President,
Radio Taiwan International



Chris Loweth
Commercial, Rights & Business
Affairs (CRBA) Director, BBC News



Serge Schick
Director of International Development
and Commercial Resources – EVP,
Member of the Board,
France Médias Monde



CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

To this evening's winners and shortlisted nominees: congratulations! Through our partnership with AIB, Shure supports the people behind powerful broadcasting, helping media professionals around the world tell authentic stories with trusted audio, insight, and collaboration. Tonight, we celebrate honored winners and everyone who has dedicated their career to keeping the world informed.

SHURE

© 2026 Shure Incorporated