EMMYS

HOW AN EMMY IS WON

WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?

FOUNDER
Syd Cassyd

FIRST PRESIDENT
Edgar Bergen

THE TELEVISION ACADEMY

Established in 1946 by Syd Cassyd, with five charter members, to help industry professionals develop the art and science of television.

THE TELEVISION ACADEMY INCLUDES | OVER 25,000 VOTING MEMBERS*

within **31 peer groups**, each representing specific television industry professions.

*AS OF JUNE, 2026

The Television Academy considered 47 proposals before choosing television engineer Louis McManus's design concept:

EMMY AND HER WINGS REPRESENT THE MUSE OF ART
THE ATOM AND ITS ELECTRONS REPRESENT THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF TELEVISION

Today, each precious statuette is cast in a precise mold, and once cooled and buffed, is coated in copper, nickel, silver, and gold; the process takes over five hours.

The first Emmy went to ventriloquist and KTLA personality Shirley Dinsdale and her sidekick "Judy Splinters."

The name Emmy comes from "immy," a nickname for the image-orthicon camera tube that was instrumental in the technical development of television.

The first Emmys were presented in 1949 at the Hollywood Athletic Club in Los Angeles. Tickets were $5.

1. DETERMINING NOMINEES

SUBMISSIONS

A PROGRAM, PERFORMER, OR INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE NOMINATED

If you're eligible, you can (and should!) submit yourself for consideration.

Don't be shy!

2. VOTING BEGINS

ONCE SUBMISSIONS ARE IN

VOTERS DETERMINE THE NOMINEES BY VOTING FOR THE ENTRIES THEY FEEL EXEMPLIFY EXCELLENCE IN THEIR CATEGORIES

CATEGORIES

PROGRAM

ALL VOTING MEMBERS MAY VOTE ON ALL 15 CATEGORIES, INCLUDING:

- Drama Series
- Comedy Series
- Limited Series
- Television Movie
- Talk Series
- Scripted Variety Series
- Reality Competition
- Short Form Series

PERFORMER

PERFORMERS VOTE ON:

- Lead Actress
- Lead Actor
- Supporting Actress
- Supporting Actor
- Guest Actress
- Guest Actor

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

SPECIFIC PEER GROUPS VOTE ON:

- Directing
- Writing
- Other areas of achievement

This year, the Television Academy has received 6,600 entries in 121 categories. The number of nominees per category is determined by the number of submissions in each category, and both Comedy and Drama Series have eight nominees each.

PROCESS

Nominations-round ballots are tallied.

Ernst & Young LLP accountants check ballots.

July 8
Emmy nominees are announced.

THIS YEAR'S ANNOUNCERS

Liza Colón-Zayas

Jeff Hiller

3. FINAL-ROUND VOTING

EMMY VOTERS PICK THEIR FAVORITES IN ALL THE PROGRAM CATEGORIES AND IN THE NON-PROGRAM CATEGORIES FOR WHICH THEIR PEER GROUP CAN VOTE

WHAT DO THEY JUDGE?

PERFORMERS & INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Nominees choose their best work of the season.

PROGRAMS

Each show's producers choose their best episodes of the season.

Comedy, Drama Series – 6 episodes
Variety, Documentary, Reality Series – 1 episode
Limited Series – complete series
Animated Series – 1 episode

OVER THE YEARS, WHERE HAVE VOTERS WATCHED NOMINATED WORK?

1949 - 2001

Voting members watched submissions at the Television Academy and at local hotels.

2002 - 2014

Members applied to be in "Blue Ribbon Panels" to judge categories; they watched submissions on DVDs at home.

2015 - present

Secure, online platform viewing is introduced in 2015, and in 2020, DVD mailers are eliminated, with all eligible content viewed online.

FINAL-ROUND VOTING IS OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE MEMBERS BASED ON THEIR PEER GROUP

They cast online votes for their favorite nominees.

They verify they've watched the content.

Votes are cast by the August 26 deadline.

4. THE ENVELOPES, PLEASE

Final-round ballots are tallied.

Ernst & Young LLP accountants check ballots.

EMMYS
+ MATH
= the coolest accounting job ever!

WINNERS' NAMES ARE KNOWN ONLY BY ERNST & YOUNG LLP UNTIL THE ENVELOPES ARE OPENED DURING THE EMMY CEREMONY

NBC PRESENTS

EMMYS

LIVE **MON SEPT 14**

8ET/5PT

NBC | streaming on peacock

Hosted by

MARISKA HARGITAY

78TH EMMY AWARDS (CREATIVE ARTS)

SEPTEMBER 12

FX 8 ET|PT

THE EMMY AWARDS

Celebrating the passion, art, and craft of television.

SHARE YOUR #EMMYS EXCITEMENT

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