

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **45<sup>TH</sup> COLLEGE TELEVISION AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION**

**Television Stars Presented Top Honors to Students From  
Colleges Nationwide**



*Sean Patrick Thomas (left) and London Thor (far right) with Brigham Young University students (from left) Abigail Tolley, Ryan Jones and Austin Lawrence, the Comedy Series and Chance Perdomo Legacy Scholarship winners at the 45<sup>th</sup> College Television Awards presented by the Television Academy Foundation on March 28, 2026, in Los Angeles. (Photo by Mark Von Holden/Invision for the Television Academy/AP Content Services)*

(**LOS ANGELES** – March 28, 2026) — The Television Academy Foundation announced the winners of the 45<sup>th</sup> College Television Awards, which recognize and reward excellence in student-produced programs from colleges nationwide, tonight at a star-studded awards presentation at the Saban Media Center in North Hollywood, California.

The 2026 winners were presented awards by top television stars including Samuel Arnold (*Emily in Paris*), Rhenzy Feliz (*The Penguin*), Ashby Florence (TikTok influencer), Ezra Frech (Two-Time track and field Paralympian), Robby Hoffman (*Hacks*), Jenn Lyon (*Stumble*), Billy Magnussen (*The Audacity*), Serena Page (*Love Island USA* / influencer), Dewayne Perkins (*The Upshaws*; *The Studio*), Caterina Scorsone (*Grey's Anatomy*), Sean Patrick Thomas (*Gen V*) and London Thor (*Gen V*).

“Congratulations to the winners whose work reflects the creativity, passion and originality that define the future of our industry,” said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. “Each year, these remarkable students demonstrate the power of storytelling and the impact of fresh perspectives in television and media. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and grateful for all the celebrities and sponsors who helped make this an unforgettable event for students.”

Emulating the Emmy® Awards selection process, entries for the College Television Awards were judged by Television Academy members. Top honors and a total of \$45,000 in cash prizes went to winning teams in nine categories:

### **Animation Series**

***Love & Gold*** – Brigham Young University  
Jayson Duckworth, Producer  
Connor Van Dyke, Director and Writer

### **Comedy Series/Chance Perdomo Legacy Scholarship**

**Thanksgiving** – Brigham Young University  
Ryan Jones, Producer  
Austin Lawrence, Director  
Abigail Tolley, Writer

### **Commercial, PSA or Promo**

***Ink Up. Wash Out.*** – Brigham Young University  
Mia Shumway, Writer  
Eli Rothas, Producer  
Kyle Gilmour, Director

## **Drama Series**

**Óménàlà** – Savannah College of Art & Design - Atlanta  
Sydney Brooks, Producer  
Stephanie AdaEze Byron-Ene, Director and Writer

## **News**

**San Francisco: On the Edge** – Montclair State University  
Adam Acoff, Writer  
Emily Chavarria, Producer and Writer  
Izzy Conklin, Director, Producer and Writer  
Andrew Cooper, Director, Producer and Writer  
Shannon Daly, Producer and Writer  
Nino DeNino, Producer and Writer  
Peter Guziejewski, Producer and Writer  
Bryan Jaimes, Producer and Writer  
Brandon Lang, Producer and Writer  
Sophia Lazaridis, Producer and Writer  
Dani Mazariegos, Producer and Writer  
Ivana Ragusa, Producer and Writer  
Jennifer Sanchez, Writer  
Julia Slevin, Writer  
Victoria Smith, Director, Producer and Writer  
Sean Thrunck, Director, Producer and Writer

## **Nonfiction Series**

**Unbroken Spirits** – New York University  
Paulina Ruiz, Director, Producer and Writer

## **Scripted Series**

**Trife** – University of Southern California  
Christian Yosef, Director and Writer  
Neil Zafar Haeems, Producer  
Shandaeya Caldwell, Producer

## **Sports**

**SportsDesk | The Magazine Edition | 2024** – University of Miami  
Taryn Jacobs, Producer and Writer  
Delanie Haddad, Director and Producer  
Jacob Lyons, Producer and Writer  
Jadyn Cohee, Producer and Writer  
Regina Potenza, Producer and Writer  
Shea McDonald, Writer  
Wrigley Kordt, Writer

Two special awards were also announced during the program:

- **The Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award** was presented to Savannah College of Art and Design students Danzheng Chen (producer) and Yangshiyi Liu (director/writer) for their production titled **Step Forward**. The \$10,000 award celebrates student storytellers whose work sheds light on people with disabilities and is underwritten by The Loreen Arbus Foundation.
- **The Seymour Bricker Humanitarian Award**, a \$4,000 cash prize given to a College Television Award-winning project that best highlights a humanitarian concern, was awarded to New York University student Paulina Ruiz for **Unbroken Spirits**. This award was created over 20 years ago by the late entertainment attorney Seymour Bricker.

The 2026 College Television Awards winners will also have the opportunity to screen their projects at SeriesFest, May 6–10, 2026, in Denver, Colorado.

The 45<sup>th</sup> College Television Awards show is available for video-on-demand viewing at [TelevisionAcademy.com/CTA](https://www.televisionacademy.com/CTA).

The 45<sup>th</sup> College Television Awards is supported by philanthropists and corporate partners including Amazon MGM Studios, Disney Entertainment, The Johnny Carson Foundation, The Loreen Arbus Foundation, NBCUniversal, PEOPLE, Sony Pictures Television and United Airlines.

### **About the Television Academy Foundation**

The Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to inspiring tomorrow's Emmy winners today by discovering and championing future television leaders. Through its celebrated nationwide programs — including its [Internship Program](#) and [College Television Awards](#) — the Foundation opens doors for emerging talent, empowering them to launch careers in television. The Foundation also produces [The Interviews: An Oral History of Television](#), an extraordinary archive that preserves the stories of the industry's most influential voices. Together, these initiatives inspire creativity, foster inclusion and shape the future of television. For more information on the Foundation, please visit [TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation](https://www.televisionacademy.com/Foundation).

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