PRESS RELEASE

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TELEVISION ACADEMY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR FIRST NEW MAJOR AWARD IN NEARLY 20 YEARS

Legacy Award Will Recognize Television Programs of 'Profound and Lasting Impact'

(LOS ANGELES – Jan 7, 2026) — The Television Academy today announced the creation of the Legacy Award, which will be presented to television programs that have made a "profound and lasting impact" on audiences and remain relevant to society, culture and the industry.

The Academy last introduced an award of this significance with its Television Academy Honors Award in 2007, recognizing programming that drives positive social change.

Candidates for the Legacy Award shall be selected annually by the Governors Award committee (to be renamed the Special Awards Committee) and presented to the Board of Governors for a vote. Entries may be made by members of the Board of Governors, the Special Awards Committee or individuals who may suggest recipients in a letter to the Television Academy.

As with the Governors Award, engraved Emmy statuettes will be bestowed upon the recipients of the Legacy Award.

"The Legacy Award celebrates groundbreaking programming — programs that have stood the test of time delivering stories that continue to engage audiences and featuring iconic and timeless characters with multigenerational appeal," said Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego. "The award allows the Academy to honor more of television's rich history and acknowledge the storytellers whose work has resonated with viewers and continues to entertain legions of fans around the globe."

Legacy Award criteria highlights:

- A minimum of 60 episodes aired across a minimum of five seasons.
- Continued or sustained relevance, influence or inspiration:
  - To a genre of television.
  - To an existing or new audience.
  - To society and culture.
- Franchise properties must be considered as a whole and awarded as such.
- Award may only be bestowed on a program once.

The award may be presented during the Creative Arts Emmy ceremonies, the Emmy telecast, Televerse or the Hall of Fame ceremony.

About the Television Academy

The Television Academy strives to shape and advance the dynamic television landscape; cultivate a diverse, inclusive and accessible professional community; and advocate for the television industry while capturing the spirit of a new generation of content creators and industry professionals. Through innovative programs, publications and events, the Academy and its Foundation foster and empower storytellers. The Academy also celebrates those who excel in the industry recognizing their achievements through awards and accolades, including the renowned Emmy® Award. Membership in the Academy is open to working professionals in the television industry. For more information, please visit TelevisionAcademy.com.

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Contact:
Jim Yeager
breakwhitelight (for the Television Academy)
jim@breakwhitelight.com
818-264-6812