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Program Awards Special Issue

20 Pages Today

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

Volume 22 / SPECIAL

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THE BEST CABLE PROGRAM HBO'S GAME OF THRONES

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Incredible Content... Once again, we marvel at the quality of nominations for **CableFAX's** annual Program Awards. From reality to scripted to documentary and beyond, cable boasts some of the strongest content around. Congrats to all the winners and honorable mentions. We're in awe...

PLATINUM - BEST CABLE PROGRAM



Winner

Game of Thrones - HBO

It was an embarrassment of riches this year as we tried to pick the best show in all of cable. But with elaborate set pieces, incredible acting performances and a deliciously rich and character-driven plot, HBO's "Game of Thrones" simply outmaneuvered the competition to steal the crown. Perhaps most impressive was HBO's success in translating George R. R. Martin's densely complex novels into a coherent Season One to what we hope will be a long run on the premium net. Sure, purists have pointed out that the series drew from at least two books rather than one, fusing a couple of storylines and altering some chronology to bring Martin's vision to the small screen. But we say, good. Adapting a novel is hard enough. Adapting a series of them is even harder. And HBO is off to an excellent start as it goes forward, continuing to paint an alternate medieval universe in which winters last for years and political gamesmanship involves life-and-death decisions. And while dragons and mystical forest creatures make appearances from time to time, it never feels like otherworldly fantasy. Game of Thrones, at its core, is grounded in the reality of the human condition—and perhaps that's why it's so hard to stop watching.

Honorable Mentions

- Breaking Bad - AMC
- Burn Notice - USA Network
- Carlos - Sundance Channel
- Mad Men - AMC
- Rescue Me - FX
- Sons of Anarchy - FX

PLATINUM - BEST NEW CABLE PROGRAM



Winner

Shameless - Showtime

Even the most talented writers and actors can fall on their faces when attempting to create something uniquely new and innovative. It's a tough and risky adventure—and one that has tripped up many a showrunner. But Showtime's "Shameless" succeeds on so many levels that it's hard to know where to begin. The show—adapted and Americanized by John Wells from Paul Abbott's British series—follows the tragic but loveable Gallagher family as they plot, scheme, cheat, steal and railroad themselves into our hearts. It's a breakout performance for Emmy Rossum, whose Fiona takes care of the family while drunken patriarch Frank (William H. Macy) spends any extra money on booze. The trick of the show is that you don't hate the guy—partly because his family loves him so much despite his selfish and self-destructive ways. You want to hate him. You really do. But you can't. And whether it's steal-



ALL ABOUT FAMILY: With something always up their sleeves, the Gallaghers find a way to survive.

ing toilet paper from a public restroom or defrauding taxpayers in a Social Security scam, we understand that the Gallaghers are all about survival, family and unconditional love. The fact that these themes come through against a backdrop of immensely dark humor is a testament to the writing and acting skill involved.

Honorable Mentions

- Portlandia - IFC
- The Killing - AMC
- Selling New York - HGTV
- The Walking Dead - AMC

PLATINUM - BEST ACTOR IN CABLE



Winner

Edgar Ramirez – Carlos, Sundance Channel



Inside a killer's mind...

We considered some pretty big names for Best Actor this year. Bryan Cranston. Stacey Keach. Jon Hamm. But in the end, Edgar Ramirez's chilling portrayal of 1970s terrorist Carlos just spooked the hell out of us. How could a man who seems so darned likeable and "normal" be the same guy willing to chuck a firebomb into a coffee shop as if casually tossing a cigarette on the ground? Carlos is a complicated, twisted and committed murderer, to say the least. And Ramirez plays him not as a psychotic lunatic but as a calm and reasoned political activist—who just so happened to plot horrible terrorist acts in the service of his goals. Carlos is a monster, but Ramirez plays him as a sober technocrat. It's off-putting for the audience. We

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know that deep down he's just a serial killer using a cause to justify his pathology. We never root for him. But we can't help but care about him. How did Ramirez pull that off? Damned good acting.

Honorable Mentions

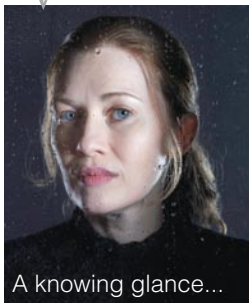
- Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad, AMC
- Peter Dinklage - Game of Thrones, HBO
- Joseph Fiennes - Camelot, Starz
- Jon Hamm - Mad Men, AMC
- Stacey Keach - Lights Out, FX

PLATINUM - BEST ACTRESS IN CABLE



Winner

Mireille Enos - The Killing, AMC



A knowing glance...

Mireille Enos is one of those actresses who won't be ignored. She tugs at our attention and doesn't let go—and yet her subtle performance in AMC's haunting "The Killing" is so understated at times that it's almost feels as if we're slipping into a trance. A look from Enos can speak volumes or nothing at all. A twist of her head can signal revelation or distress. The narrowing of an eyelid can tell us all that she's just put together another puzzle piece as she tries to solve Rosie Larsen's murder in Seattle's rain soaked and murky landscape. When it comes to Enos, one thing's for sure: We've noticed.



Don't mess with her...

Katey Sagal - Sons of Anarchy, FX

In her heyday as Peg Bundy on Fox's "Married with Children," the idea of Katey Sagal playing a ruthless biker chick in a gritty drama would have seemed like a joke. No one's laughing now. In fact, Sagal has proven after 3 seasons on this excellent show that she knows how to evoke emotion and make us sympathize

with a character whose paternal instincts are as strong as her determination to destroy her enemies. Her performance opposite Hal Holbrooke (playing her father) in the last season was heart-breaking and poignant. And Sagal looks even better in Season 4...

Honorable Mentions

- Khandi Alexander - Treme, HBO
- Eve Best - Nurse Jackie, Showtime
- Elisabeth Moss - Mad Men, AMC

PLATINUM - BEST WRITER IN CABLE



Winner

Vince Gilligan - Breaking Bad, AMC

It doesn't really matter who you are or what kind of TV you prefer. If you've got a pulse, you love "Breaking Bad"—not because it's easy to watch (or even because you catch every single episode) but because the writing is just so bloody good. Each show peels more layers away from the souls of immensely flawed characters who seem to draw each other into a deeper pit of danger and despair every week. Is anyone looking up, trying to find a way out and back into the light? We're never sure, and that's what's so addictive about this show. The idea that a boring science teacher could transform into a pseudo-mob boss as he stumbles through a well intentioned plan to sell enough crystal meth to take care of his family after he dies of terminal cancer... well, at some point those original intentions get clouded by the karmic justice that befalls those who spread misery to protect their own. It never works out well. And Gilligan's incredible storytelling gives us a window into that ethos. It's a masterful journey that's as addictive as the drug binding together its characters. And we always need a fix.

Honorable Mentions

- Matt Weiner - Mad Men, AMC
- Neil Cross - Luther, BBC America
- Terence Winter - Boardwalk Empire, HBO
- Paul Abbott and John Wells - Shameless, Showtime

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS/HOST - COMEDY

Winner

Fred Armisen, Portlandia

We thought it might be difficult for Armisen to impress us beyond his "Saturday Night Live" sketches—notably his brilliant impression of former NY Governor David Patterson. But happily surprised we were. "Portlandia" depicts the hopelessly idealistic city of Portland, Oregon, as a place "where the '90s still exist" and "where young people go to retire." Armisen and co-star Carrie Brownstein (both co-write the series) play a collection of Portland-bred archetypes, including a proprietor of a female-owned bookstore (perhaps his best character), an extreme locavore and an ear-gauged, fixed-gear toting nonconformist—who insists on declaring trends "SO OVER" the minute he spots someone other than himself



A strange and funny land...

Continued on page 10

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Chelsea Handler**

on being inducted into the Programming Hall of Fame.

We also proudly congratulate the other members of our
E! family for being nominated this evening:

Joel McHale

Ryan Seacrest

Keeping Up With The Kardashians

E! Live From The Red Carpet

Chelsea Lately

E! News

E! News Now



GOALS

HALL OF FAME



CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

Long-running comedy series, HBO

Let's face it. We all secretly wish we could be as candid as Larry David and get away with it. Thank goodness HBO lets us live vicariously through the antics of the "Seinfeld" co-creator, who stars as a fictionalized version of his curmudgeonly self. Showing remarkable staying power, "Curb" as of 2011 has clocked 80 episodes over eight seasons. It continues to push the envelope with "Did they really go there?" story lines that devolve into subplots we have to admit are often all too relatable, and creative guest appearances by celebrities who play themselves. Though it's generally been snubbed by the Emmys—for its 34 nominations the series has received only one award, best direction for Robert B. Weide's 2002 "Krazee-Eyes" episode—we are proud to honor "Curb Your Enthusiasm" for its off-center insights, dedication to originality and most of all, the laughs.

MARK HAINES

On-air host, deceased, CNBC

The industry and legions of CNBC viewers lost a friend and trusted newsman when Mark Haines died unexpectedly in May at the age of 65. Synonymous with the cable news network for more than 22 years, the founding anchor of morning show "Squawk Box" and co-anchor of "Squawk on the Street" possessed a glorious yin-yang of professional killer instinct and personal kindheartedness that earned him universal respect. Remembered for his commanding presence during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and for calling the bottom-out of the financial market on March 9, 2009, Haines also earned a reputation around the office for famously nicknaming his colleagues. We really can't put it any better than CNBC president Mark Hoffman, who said after Haines' death, "Mark loved CNBC, and we loved him back. He will be deeply missed."



CHELSEA HANDLER

Host, "Chelsea Lately," E!

Comedian, actress, top-selling author and, perhaps above all lately television host, Handler is a ratings lightning rod for E! Her late-nite talk show "Chelsea Lately" debuted in 2007 and has been a consistent performer averaging a half-million viewers since its premiere, prompting two contract extensions that will keep her show on the air at least through 2012. Sassy and outspoken, Handler's also a clever businesswoman who knows how to develop, and sell, her image. She did, after all, snag hosting honors for the MTV Video Music Awards last year. On her show, Handler leaves few topics off the table when she interviews guests or puts her own fine point on the day's most inane headlines. And beyond her somewhat terse exterior, she has proven to be an adept interviewer, evidenced no more clearly than during her recent interview of Arianna Huffington at Fortune's Most Powerful Women Summit. We welcome her to the Hall of Fame and, yes... Chewy can come too.

JACQUELINE HERNÁNDEZ

COO, Telemundo

One of the most savvy and competent executives in cable, Hernández commands respect throughout the industry—but especially when it comes the increasingly competitive Latino market. Her instincts are sharp, her attention to detail stellar and her managerial prowess second to none. Perhaps most impressive is her ability to juggle so many aspects of Telemundo's business, including all domestic revenue and marketing; digital media and emerging platforms; mun2; affiliate relations; and even all research functions. That will no doubt come in handy as her new boss Emilio Romano takes over as Telemundo pres this month. He'll be depending on Hernández on several fronts. And she won't disappoint. In her 20 years in cable, Hernández has stayed involved and was recently even appointed to New York City's Latin Media and Entertainment Commission, where she advises the Mayor's office on business development and retention strategies for the Latin media and entertainment industry.



HALL OF FAME

**JOHN LANDGRAF****President
FX**

It takes more than a few nips and tucks to keep a network successfully moving forward. When Landgraf joined FX seven years ago as head of entertainment, he more than rose to the challenge of nurturing existing hits, green-lighting new ones and making the tough decisions to keep the News Corp.-owned network's books balanced. Strong performers under his purview include "The Shield," "Sons of Anarchy" and "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia" just to name a few. Aside from his programming prowess, we also salute Landgraf's candor. Unlike the more typical tight-lipped exec, he doesn't shy from telling it straight, as evidenced in his "cancellation equals failure" comment at TCA, where he discussed pulling the plug on series "Terriers" and "Lights Out." (which made room for "American Horror Story"... the cycle of life). With a freshly signed contract for at least three more years at FX, we can't wait to see what Landgraf has to say next.

GARY MARSH**President/Chief Creative Officer
Disney Channels Worldwide**

Remember when Disney Channel wasn't continually cranking out multiplatform 'tween stars like Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez? Neither can we. The ascent of the network as the dominant force in an entirely new generation of programming coincides directly with the ascent of Marsh, who in 1988 joined a then tot-oriented, animation-heavy Disney Channel as executive director of original programming. His vision of expanding the definition of children's programming and immersing Disney Channel in kid culture by nurturing – and, yes, marketing the hell out of – its television stars expanded the Disney empire in the music and film realms and raised the bar for the whole genre. If you're looking for further evidence, we have three words: "High School Musical." The architect behind recent boy-focused network spinoff Disney XD and the Disney Junior programming block, which will spin into its own channel next year, Marsh was the obvious choice this fall to take over after the departure of Carolina Lightcap as chief of Disney Channels Worldwide and an obvious addition to our Hall of Fame.

**ABBE RAVEN****President & CEO
AETN**

Though we're still waiting for the day more women occupy the upper echelons of the cable industry, we're sure glad Raven's up there representing in the programming C-suite. Goal-driven, detail-oriented and always affable—she quipped recently at WICT she's proud to be a CEO who doesn't golf—veteran programming exec Raven oversees one of cable's largest portfolios. The 2009 merger of Lifetime Networks into AETN placed her at the helm of 10 networks, including two of the top five: History Channel and A&E. Together the nets are viewed in 300 million homes in 150 countries, including the distribution of History and Biography Channel in India and China as a result of deals Raven sealed last year, and are worth about \$3 billion in revenue according to SNL Kagan data. She's also the only woman to sit on the Executive Committee of the NCTA Board of Directors. She was inducted into Cable's Hall of Fame in 2010, and we're thrilled to welcome her into ours this year.

HALL OF FAME

**JOHNATHAN RODGERS****Former President/CEO****TV One**

We salute Rodgers for continually reminding us that a network can win in the business world without losing sight of its community roots. A tireless advocate for local outreach and social change, the former journalist segued to cable in 1996 when he accepted the challenge to preside over a fledgling company called Discovery Networks. When Rodgers joined Discovery, it had two networks valued at \$1 billion; when he exited in 2002, it had 11 networks valued at \$20 billion. But his greatest accomplishment was yet to come. He immediately set about developing a cable channel for Comcast and Radio One aimed at African-American adults 24-54 who may have grown beyond BET and needed a network to call home. Thus was born TV One, which became profitable after only five years, reaches 53 million homes and has won multiple NAACP Image awards for its adroit programming. The only silver lining to Rodgers' retirement in July is that he's not leaving us entirely. He joined Comcast's board of directors in September.

HENRY SCHLEIFF**President/GM****Investigation Discovery, Military Channel and Planet Green**

In the world of cable programming, few have the respect—and the track record—of Henry Schleiff. Credit Discovery for knowing a good thing when it sees him. Before being wooed in 2009 by the house that Hendricks built, the former Crown Media Holdings president/CEO catapulted Hallmark Channel to a consistent top 10 prime-time ratings performer and oversaw the network's growth by 16 million homes in just two years. He previously worked similar magic at Court TV. Schleiff has since cast his spell at Discovery, where aside from Investigation Discovery, he added oversight for Military Channel over a year ago and Planet Green in January. His successes propelled the company's reorganization of the three networks into a single discrete group with its own support structure. Schleiff, who's been in on the day-to-day at ID practically since its inception and shepherded its rise to 77 million U.S. homes, continues to have a direct hand in the network.

**KYRA SEDGWICK****Actress – The Closer****TNT**

Kyra Sedgwick clearly adheres to the adage of leaving a party while it's still good. So while we were saddened—though not surprised—when she announced her final season on TNT's "The Closer," we really can't help but understand the Emmy-winning actress' desire to shake things up artistically after seven years of embodying Deputy Chief Brenda Leigh Johnson. That Sedgwick served as the nexus of a series that's been so consistently well-written and acted earns her a spot in our Hall of Fame this year. The Closer was pivotal in raising the bar on dramatic programming on cable, and she has exemplified the work ethic of doing it right. To top it all off, Sedgwick has only one degree of separation from longtime husband Kevin Bacon. Our solace after The Closer winds down next summer? TNT's spin-off series "Major Crimes" and, of course, Sedgwick's next act.

MARK HAINES
2011 CABLEFAX PROGRAMMING
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE.

CNBC joins in celebrating the life and accomplishments of a dedicated family man, extraordinary journalist and consummate pro.



Continued from page 4

exhibiting them. Based on fact? We're not sure. But we don't think it matters much—Armisen's talent is more than enough to please.

Honorable Mentions

- Iris Bahr – Svetlana, HDNet
- Kathy Griffin - Kathy Griffin: 50 and Not Pregnant, Bravo
- Joel McHale - The Soup, E! Entertainment Television

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS – DRAMA

Winner

Idris Elba – Luther, BBC America



BROODING POWER: Idris Elba brings passion and an irresistible unpredictability to Luther.

As if watching Idris Elba in “The Wire” for years wasn't enough of a treat, this thespian has proven that as good as he is... he's really just getting started. Elba soars in BBC America's “Luther” as a cop willing to go to extraordinary lengths to find justice—even if that means getting in with some pretty bad people along the way. It helps that the series itself is an excellent web of mind games and double-crosses, allowing Elba to flex every muscle in his acting toolbox. But let's face it: You could cast Elba as a fry cook or mail man, and he'd find a way to make it look interesting. It's a rare actor who can combine charisma with serious acting chops. The result is pure Elba. And it's hard to imagine any other actor as Luther at this point. Maybe that's why a movie's rumored to be in the works.

Honorable Mentions

- Eva Green – Camelot, Starz
- Melissa Leo – Treme, HBO

BEST HOST – FAMILY FRIENDLY

Winner

Sarah Jessica Parker - Battle of the Nutcrackers: Dance-off, Ovation

Wait... It's a dance-off. And we're talking ballet here? Proving that if there's a way to integrate the arts into pop culture Ovation will find it, the net hit a home run with this unique and innovative competition hosted by cable

icon Sarah Jessica Parker (“Sex in the City” is in the CableFAX Programming Hall of Fame, class of 2008, after all). In this case, the idea was simple: Take perhaps the most well-known and beloved ballet routine in history and let viewers vote on the best rendition as ballet dancers compete against one another every week. The result was a series that injected excitement into the holidays—and perhaps helped a few more people appreciate the arts. We can't argue with that.

*Honorable Mentions*

- Chica the Chicken - The Sunny Side Up Show, Sprout

BEST HOST - FOOD

Winner

Zane Lamprey - Drinking Made Easy, HDNet

Not only does Zane make drinking easy, he makes it pretty darn funny. We're especially fond of his “shake face” while mixing cocktails. Zane and his drinking buddies logged more than 10,000 miles in their Season 1 pub crawl. What makes this show stand out? Lamprey says it best: “Drinking is supposed to be fun. If you're not having fun drinking, you're not doing it right...” And we suppose you could even make an argument that it's educational given Lamprey and Co's quest to find unusual drinks combined with the travelogue format. It's also interactive TV with a drinking game that includes making someone take a drink every time you catch a continuity error on the show (ie, the wrong colored shirt in the same scene). Bottoms up!



PUB CRAWLING: Zane Lamprey drinks more before 9 am than most of us... oh, just watch it.

Honorable Mentions

- Padma Lakshmi - Top Chef, Bravo
- Adam Richman - Man v Food, Travel Channel

BEST HOST – MUSIC

Winner

Mark Hoppus - Hoppus on Music, Fuse

Billed as “the only talk show on television hosted by a bona fide rock star,” Hoppus on Music gives Blink-182 vocalist and bassist Mark Hoppus the opportunity to interview his peers, as well as upcoming acts that, well... want to be his peers. Perhaps it's the fact that Hoppus “gets” his guest



STRADDLING NOTES:
Hoppus asks the questions... and never blinks.

because he comes from the very world in which they live, but something just seems to click here. The show seems more honest than other music interview shows that places a music journalist or enthusiast in the role of interviewer. Here, it's more of a conversation about music, with a fly-on-the-wall feel that comes right through the television screen and makes us feel as if we were lucky enough to be seated one table over at a restaurant—and just so happened to eavesdrop on the conversation. All in all, an excellent show for music junkies.



TAKING IT IN: For Anthony Bourdain, hosting is about the art of simple conversation. It works.

Honorable Mentions

- Dolly Parton - Dolly Celebrates 25 Years of Dollywood, Hallmark Channel

BEST HOST - NEWS/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Winner

Dan Rather - HDNet



Simply stellar...

In his 5th year as host for "Dan Rather Reports," the former CBS anchor's eagle-eye investigative reporting has not waned in the slightest—in fact, we say (and we've said it before) it's gotten even better under HDNet's purview. Rather gets a chance to embrace long-form journalism and tackle one issue at a time. And the medium suits him; in a word, he thrives. This year he's covered topics ranging from the business of counterfeiting pharmaceutical drugs, for which the show won an Emmy for Outstanding Business and Economic Reporting this year, to training Afghan soldiers to the flailing Detroit public school system. Multifaceted issues are the most challenging to report, yet Rather is clearly in his element when he tackles them.

Honorable Mentions

- Ryan Seacrest - E! Entertainment Television
- Paula Zahn - On the Case with Paula Zahn, Investigation Discovery

BEST HOST - OTHER

Winners

Anthony Bourdain - No Reservations, Travel Channel

Bourdain's skills as the host of "No Reservations" extends beyond his talent for tastes and love of exotic locales. As the show's most recent 7th season reflects, he's a fantastic

interviewer and always brings an infectious curiosity and passion to every culinary adventure he encounters. Even if we don't have the stomach to ingest what he consumes so willingly, we'll travel there with him any day.

Martha Stewart

The Martha Stewart Show, Hallmark Channel

The queen of crafty makes beautifying your home delightful, even to those who consider home-making a bit of a challenge. She presents great ideas while having fun, and that's inspiring. Oh, and did you know she's quite the rap connoisseur? Ludacris and Snoop Dogg have appeared on her show, and she even ventured to rap with the latter. Eminem and Kanye West are also rumored to be her faves as well. Eminem cooking. We'd like to see that.



Crafty goodness...

Honorable Mentions

- Joel McHale - 2011 Spirit Awards, IFC
- Jeremy Wade - River Monsters: Demon Fish, Animal Planet

BEST HOST - REALITY/GAME SHOW

Winner

Art Mann - Art Mann Presents, HDNet

If you thought Art Mann was merely "Wild On," think again. Well, OK... Actually, he is still kind of wild given that the series re-airs at 4am with an unrated version. Still, Mann's got an uncanny ability to get just about anyone to talk about anything from Pamela Anderson to swamp buggy races to partying hard. Were it not for Mann, we'd never have known that there is an annual pub crawl known as A Thousand Drunk Santas that involves reveling in the Big Man's



OPEN UP: Art Mann has a knack for getting people to talk to him... about anything.



THREE POINTER: The trio of Breen, Jackson and Van Gundy could very well be the perfect combo.

suit (Yes, we're passing on that information now—just in time for the holidays). By the way, that's need-to-know info, whether or not you're on the naughty or nice list.

Honorable Mentions

- Heidi Klum - Project Runway, Lifetime
- Jerry Springer – Baggage, GSN
- David Tutera - My Fair Wedding with David Tutera, WE tv

BEST HOST – REGIONAL

Winner

Paul Lisnek - Comcast Chicago



A Chicago man...

Every year, we review several regional shows. And yet Paul Lisnek's passionate delivery and painstaking research simply trumps the competition. This year he stands alone in this category. Lisnek excels when he's face to face with interesting subjects, whether they are ordinary folks with potentially extraordinary stories or, as in one recent show, former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley as he was leaving office to make room for former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. Lisnek has been following the Chicago scene for years, and his institutional knowledge shines through with every probing question and a sharp, confident delivery that tells the audience they are in exceedingly good hands.

BEST HOST - SPORTS

Winner

Mike Breen, Mark Jackson and Jeff Van Gundy NBA on ESPN - ESPN

This special and seasoned triumvirate works exceedingly well together, playing off one another's distinct perspective and presentation like a well executed pick and roll. Basketball games with this crew are always entertaining and informative. Breen's play-by-play talent is evident night after night, Jeff Van Gundy brings coaching acumen and

welcome levity, and former baller Mark Jackson toted a player's perspective while dishing out excellent rapport with Van Gundy. Sadly, Jackson will end a truly enlightened era when he takes over as the coach of Golden State once pro basketball resumes. But while ESPN will have its work cut out in trying to match the magic of its erstwhile broadcast team, Breen, Van Gundy and Jackson have no doubt provided a workable blueprint for success.

Honorable Mentions

- Michael "The Voice" Schiavello - The Voice Vs., HDNet

BEST HOST - TALK SHOWS

Winner

Michael Kay - CenterStage, YES Network

There's a reason Michael Kay's Emmy noms number in the double digits: Yankees play-by-play is not his only talent. As host of YES Network's CenterStage, Kay's affable, disarming style makes interviewing A-listers in sports and entertainment—from Paul Simon to Jay-Z to Patrick Ewing...oh yeah, and few Yankee greats—look pretty darn effortless. You know he's having fun up there, and it's contagious. In-depth interviews are guaranteed, as he dedicates a full hour to their musings.



NO STAGE FRIGHT: Whether it's Adam Sandler or a baseball great, Michael Kay makes the interview process look deceptively easy.

Honorable Mentions

- Andy Cohen - Watch What Happens Live, Bravo
- Lynn Doyle - It's Your Call with Lynn Doyle, The Comcast Network
- Graham Norton - The Graham Norton Show, BBC America

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - ANIMALS/NATURE*Winner***Great Migrations - Nat Geo Wild**

Remember the old saying: It's not where you go but how you get there. Actually, we may have just made that up. It doesn't really matter because NatGeo proved with its stunning "Great Migrations" series that animals get from place to place in the most interesting of ways—and often facing perilous danger at every step, swim, flap, waddle or crawl. Mother Nature can be an unforgiving highway, but the incredible footage compiled here makes it one worth traveling (at least virtually through the TV screen). Wildebeests. Butterflies. Crabs. It doesn't matter who you are as long as you keep moving. And this fabulous series is nothing if not nature in motion, conveying perfectly the wonder and determination of these migrating creatures.

Honorable Mentions

- Whale Wars: To the Ends of the Earth - Animal Planet

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - ANIMATED*Winner***My Little Pony Friendship is Magic - The HUB TV Network**

How do you revive a classic? By making the remake infinitely better than the original—fresh, vibrant animation combined with a modern day edge. A child watching this series would have no idea that her mother likely grew up watching "My Little Pony" as well. There is also a really nice moral lesson here: Twilight Sparkle is sent to Ponyville to learn the importance of friendship. Those are the same lessons the show's kid audience is navigating in real life. But it isn't just young girls who are enjoying the tales... This summer, Wired ran a feature on "Bronies," adult males who have fallen head



PONY POWER: These little ponies might just teach your child some life lessons in this modern reboot.

over pony tail for the series and have created some awesome MLP-themed mashups. This is not your mom's My Little Pony.

Honorable Mentions

- Archer - FX
- Transformers Prime - The HUB TV Network

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - CHILDREN'S*Winner*

HEY MICKEY! Never one to stand still, Disney takes classic characters to new heights.

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse - Disney Channel/Disney Junior

Kudos to Disney for taking its classic characters and moving them into a rich, state-of-the-art CG animated world filled with fanciful creations that only a Mouseketeer could imagine. That eye-popping animation stops almost any kid (and many adults) in their tracks. Gizmos, helping hands and Toodles help preschoolers with early math skills, shape identification and more—all

with a touch of Mickey. And brilliant move to have They Might Be Giants write and perform the theme songs so that even Mom and Dad will sing along. We know more than one person in the over 18 crowd with "Hot Dog!" on their iPods.

Honorable Mentions

- Jake and the Never Land Pirates - Disney Channel/Disney Junior
- R.L. Stine's The Haunting Hour: The Series - The HUB TV Network

BEST SHOW OF SERIES - COMEDY*Winners***Louie - FX**

We're not sure how he does it, but Louis C.K., comedian and star of FX's new original series "Louie" is able to make badmouthing his own 2-year-old daughter funny. Now that takes talent. The Emmy-nominated series is a mix of stand-up vignettes and scenes from his life as a newly single father. We find ourselves laughing out loud at his self-deprecating, observational brand of humor, that leaves no one—least of all himself—free from mockery.

Portlandia - IFC

The characters of Portlandia take dumpster diving, locavore tendencies and fixed-gear urban biking to new—and scary—heights. Writer/creators Fred Armisen (“Saturday Night Live”) and Carrie Brownstein (of indie rock band “Sleater-Kinney” fame) play a series of characters who take West Coast urban naturalism to an extreme—and it’s simply awesome. Their take on the quirkiness of the Portland scene pokes gentle fun while not ridiculing the city—and that’s a tough balancing act they pull off wonderfully.

Honorable Mentions

- Gavin & Stacey: Season Three - BBC America
- Eddie Izzard: Live at Madison Square Garden - EPIX
- It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia - FX
- Svetlana - HDNet

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - DOCUMENTARY*Winner***Sundance Channel - Brick City**

BOOK 'EM! Newark Mayor Cory Booker isn't messing around when it comes to turning around Brick City.

This doc series follows the lives of colorful characters living in Newark, NJ. It spotlights real people, with compelling stories. We're talking former gang members, activists, policemen and the city's charismatic mayor, Cory Booker. Watching the latter's attempt at turning around his metropolis is riveting stuff.

Restrepo - National Geographic Channel

“Restrepo” is an extraordinary account of two photo-journalists, Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington, who in 2007 were embedded with American troops at a highly dangerous outpost in Afghanistan. Tragically, Hetherington was killed during the 2011 uprising in Libya, after the film's release. The pair co-directed and starred in the film, an unflinching portrayal of the soldiers' and photogs' heroic experience that is truly not to be missed.

Honorable Mentions

- The Facebook Obsession - CNBC
- Dan Rather Reports: A National Disgrace - HDNet
- OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network - “Becoming Chaz”
- The Style Network - Too Fat for 15

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - DRAMA*Winner***Justified - FX**

“Justified” admirably bears FX's bold dramatic colors comprised of multi-dimensional characters, spot-on casting and an unvarnished, sometimes raw presentation of a compelling world that's foreign to most viewers. In “Justified” it's the rural Kentucky mountains, a shady locale inhabited by a felonious and back-stabbing clan led by Maggs Bennett. Margo Martindale earned a Best Supporting Actress Emmy for her portrayal of Bennett, who sadly yet deliciously killed herself at the end of last season. The show has more than enough solid characters/actors to move forward with gusto, however, including Walton Goggins as Boyd Crowder and Natalie Zea as Winona Hawkins. Yet the series is unmistakably and firmly anchored by Deputy US Marshal Raylan Givens, who just may be the baddest character on TV owing to a superb portrayal by Timothy Olyphant, whose Emmy nomination for the show was—what else?—absolutely justified.

Honorable Mentions

- Breaking Bad - AMC
- The Glades - A&E
- Luther - BBC America
- The Secret Life of the American Teenager - ABC Family
- The Walking Dead - AMC

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - EDUCATION/INSTRUCTIONAL*Winner***In-Fisherman TV - Sportsman Channel**

Fishing tips and gorgeous scenery from the editors of In-Fisherman magazine. And it's so good that the show has produced 42 seasons. That is not a typo! In-Fisherman has spawned hundreds of one-off books and videos and has a loyal following who take note whenever a new bait or procedure gets screen time. This really is a go-to place for the hardcore fisherman (or fisherwoman), tackling everything from lures to sound and vibration for big fish. We can't promise that merely watching will guarantee hooking a whopper, but it might give you some new ideas for casting your line.

Honorable Mentions

- Color Splash Miami - HGTV
- The Antonio Treatment - HGTV

BEST SHOW OR SERIES FAITH BASED/RELIGIOUS

*Winner***Christmas with a Capital C - GMC**

C FOR CONTROVERSY? GMC took a risk in tackling the debate over how to recognize Christmas.

Billed as a Christmas movie about Christ instead of Santa, the GMC flick tackles the controversy from a Christian perspective of town nativity scenes and replacing Christmas with a generic "holiday." Who knew a song—by contemporary Christian band "Go Fish"—could prove to be enough fodder for an entire movie? This movie isn't for everyone, which should be obvious by the title, but it makes good use of Daniel Baldwin and Ted McGinley.

Honorable Mentions

- The Way Home - GMC

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FAMILY FRIENDLY

*Winner***Downsized - WE tv**

The economic downturn hasn't been easy on any of us. Try having 7 kids and 2 homes in foreclosure. In WE tv's "Downsized," a rather supersized family struggles to remain afloat and keep relationships intact while economic challenges rock the boat. Financial issues and the ensuing



BIG FAMILY, SMALL BUDGET: Downsized follows one family as it changes its spending ways amid the economic downturn.

sacrifices are the brunt of the family's troubles, but there's plenty real-world high school drama and dating (7 kids, after all) to keep it spicy. All in all, this show resonates in these tough times, and kudos to WE tv for recognizing the need for a reality show that features real-world problems and the struggles that ensue. It's powerful TV.

Honorable Mentions

- Smooch - Hallmark Channel
- House Hunters - HGTV

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FOOD

*Winner***The Best Thing I Ever Ate - Food Network**

Food through the eyes of people obsessed with food. What



CLEAN YOUR PLATE: It's all about learning from the best.

more could a foodie ask for? Food Network found a way to further utilize its stars by giving us a glimpse of what they and other famous foodies consider rare culinary gems. It's no wonder what started out as a one-time special became a popular series for the channel. The series has spawned apps mapping out the restaurants featured on the program (keep that in mind for the next time you travel). It also has inspired various plays on the idea by newspapers interviewing local chefs. Hmm... maybe we should add that question to our list for CableFAX 100 recipients.

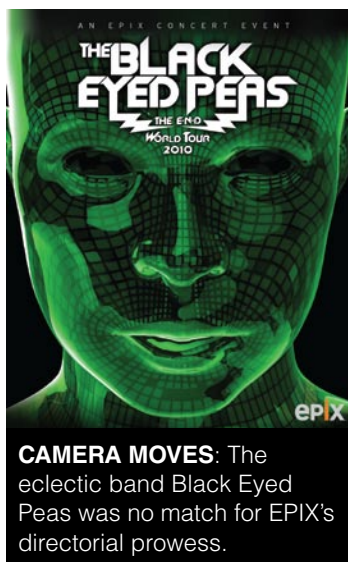
Honorable Mentions

- Top Chef - Bravo
- Extra Virgin - Cooking Channel
- Good Eats - Food Network

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - MUSIC

*Winner***The Black Eyed Peas: The E.N.D. World Tour - EPIX**

It's never easy to judge concert shows. After all, most rely



on a pretty simple formula: Set up multiple cameras (one on each musician, a couple roving stage cams, a sweeping crane for full stage shots and audience reaction, and a couple of cameras in the rafters for those big shots of the entire venue). But when it comes to directing the shots and cutting it all together, few bands present a challenge quite as daunting as the Black Eyed Peas, whose concerts really amount to outrageous performance art, complete with cos-

tures, choreography and constant motion as the 4 band-mates and countless other performers run around stage, taking turns in the spotlight. Unlike a traditional 4-piece band, directing an event around the Black Eyed Peas looks exhausting. But EPIX pulled it off by making it look effortless. We know it wasn't. Bravo!

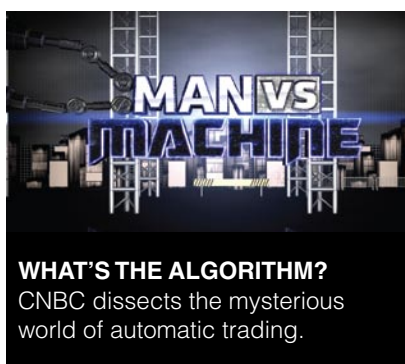
Honorable Mentions

- Hip Hop Shop - Fuse
- 42nd Annual GMA Dove Awards - GMC
- Dolly Celebrates 25 Years of Dollywood - Hallmark Channel

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - NEWS

Winner

Man vs. Machine - CNBC



In underscoring how CNBC is much more than just tickers, traders and touts, "Man vs. Machine" comprehensively spotlights an important trend affecting the US financial markets and investors large and small. The issue of computerized or algorithmic trading and its effect on the markets—

remember the so-called "flash crash"—is approached from myriad angles to make a somewhat nebulous topic easily digestible. The palatability is also enhanced by the feature of several distinct segments including various CNBC personalities instead of a force-fed hour or two. Trading days are often fast and furious, and the net's highlight of a financial zeitgeist that demands attention fit nicely with that usual pace. Some say computerized trading leaves smaller and individual trading interests at a severe disadvantage, and CNBC was importantly there to tell the story.

Honorable Mentions

- E! News - E! Entertainment Television
- HDNet World Report - HDNet

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - OTHER

Winners

Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations - Travel Channel



In its 7th season, this popular travel show could conceivably rest on its laurels—with few complaints from viewers. But it doesn't. A case in point is Bourdain's visit to Haiti, where he explores the rich history of the palatial, hilltop Grand Hotel Oloffson, surveys the ubiquitous rubble of Port-au-Prince and ponders the development challenges faced by Sean Penn's relief organization JP/HRO. His plate was filled to the brim—with far more than food, in fact—and yet the show was all the more compelling. We look forward to more explorations of this kind, and applaud the program for embarking—and reporting poignantly—on the road less traveled.

Amanda Knox: Murder on Trial in Italy - Lifetime

The murder trial of 23-year-old Amanda Knox remains an enigma to this day. Kudos to Lifetime for tackling a case laden with real-life incongruities and managing to side with neither the accusers nor the accused. But then again, it's those uncertainties that often make the best stories. And even with Knox's subsequent acquittal in Oct, the controversial debate over whether this American college student could have committed the crimes in question is unlikely to abate any time soon.

Honorable Mentions

- E! Live from the Red Carpet - E! Entertainment Television
- Attack of the Show! - G4
- Whale Wars: To the Ends of the Earth - Animal Planet
- Atrial Fibrillation - RLTV

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Winner***Political Update - Richard M. Daley Special - Comcast - CN100 - Chicago**

Host Paul Lisnek probes top decision-makers for their opinions on policy issues important to the constituents in Comcast's footprint. Kudos to the cable op for bringing quality local programming to its customers—on topics they truly care about. The Richard M. Daley Special shined at this, as Lisnek pitched hard-hitting questions about gun violence, family values and the former Chicago mayor's predecessors.

Honorable Mentions

- Political Connections - Bay News 9
- Prime Votes National Forum - RLTV

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - REALITY/GAME SHOW

*Winners***Beyond Scared Straight - A&E**

FRIGHTENING: Wanna commit a crime, kids? Not after you see this show...

Now that 30 years have passed, A&E dusted off Scared Straight and revamped it for today. Audiences responded to the jail-based show with the January premiere going down as the most-watched original series debut in network history. Sometimes reality series is seen as fluff. And sometimes, as is the case here, it's a sobering window into a world few of us can imagine.

The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills - Bravo

Just when it looked like the franchise was slipping following a lackluster D.C. spinoff, Bravo infused new life into the series by going to 90210. With decadent mansions and even a Maloof, Beverly Hills answered



LIVING IN BEVERLY HILLS: America just can't get enough of these Real Housewives as Bravo takes its popular series to new levels.

complaints that the women featured weren't wealthy enough. And it definitely supplied the drama—particularly in the infamous "Dinner Party from Hell" episode featuring "Medium" inspiration Allison DuBois and that electronic cigarette.

Honorable Mentions

- The Vanilla Ice Project - DIY Network
- Keeping Up with the Kardashians - E! Entertainment Television
- Worst Cooks in America - Food Network
- Swamp People - History
- Braxton Family Values - WE tv

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - REGIONAL PROGRAM

*Winner***Farm Show 2011 - PCN-Pennsylvania Cable Network**

A lively week-long showcase comprehensively highlights the annual PA State Farm Show, an event bursting with regional flair. It's all here: horse pulls, square dancing, carriage racing, and rodeo events, plus educational fare covering topics such as food production and safety measures. While other nominees in this category no doubt featured some important and compelling issues, PCN's 140 hours+ of show coverage is truly regional and of clear importance to many Keystone Staters. The net takes pride in bringing the show home to people who are unable travel to the event due to inclement Jan weather, and perhaps said it best when calling Farm Show "regional television that matters—connecting residents, culture and education in a complete entertainment package."

Honorable Mentions

- Day of Honor - Comcast-Chicago
- This One's For You: St. Louis Cardinals Telecast to Afghanistan - Fox Sports Midwest

BEST SHOW OR SERIES – SCI FI*Winner***Doctor Who: Season 6 - BBC America**

TIME MASTER: Doctor Who continues to dazzle fans with time-traveling adventures as he saves us all from nasty villains.

It's truly dazzling to consider what BBC America has done with this age-old franchise about a time-traveling scientist. In fact, the show is so good that fans don't even mind (and even welcome) the conceit that Doctor Who can regenerate himself as a new person—meaning that new actors can constantly take over the lead role and thus create new storytelling possibilities for the character at every turn. Season 6's Matt Smith is the 11th actor to play the iconic character, and he has truly taken the portrayal to new levels. Meanwhile, Doctor Who's overall production quality just keeps getting better and better every year, as BBC America challenges the crew to push the envelope in the pursuit of great TV. Fans couldn't be more happy that the excitement around this franchise has become, uh... timeless.

Honorable Mentions

- Being Human Season Three - BBC America
- Eureka - SyFy
- Warehouse 13 - SyFy

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - SPORTS*Winner***Take a Seat: Sharing a Ride Across America - Universal Sports Network**

Cycling provides the sports angle, but "Take a Seat" is far more a moving tribute to the human spirit. Brit-

ish adventurer Dominic Gill accomplishes a 104-day trek from CA to NY with help on his tandem bike from 10 companions, all of whom suffer from different physical disabilities including Parkinson's Disease, Cerebral Palsy and Chronic Progressive Primary Multiple Sclerosis. Each segment delves deeply into the day-to-day and ride-induced struggles of the companions, and the show's compassionate yet unvarnished storytelling and participants' uplifting determination against daunting challenges are equally good and make for a truly compelling whole. Gill's trek would be hard on anyone, but the human spirits that shine along the way provide much more than physical aid.

Honorable Mentions

- The Journey: Big Ten Basketball 2011 - Big Ten Network
- 2011 Western Conference Finals - ESPN

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - TALK SHOWS*Winner***Chelsea Lately - E! Entertainment Television**

NEVER BORING: Chelsea Handler kicks back with Jennifer Aniston.

The sharp-tongued Chelsea Handler leaves no pop culture stone unturned—or unscathed. Her self-deprecating brand of humor makes us like her, and her brash opinions are, frankly, quite refreshing. Most importantly, she's hilarious. The program is a mixture of monologues, roundtable commentary and sketches, and her frequently updated blog remains brilliantly funny. She appears to draw her strength from making fun of pop icons, and she does it oh so well. Keep up the snark, Handler.

Honorable Mentions

- Watch What Happens Live - Bravo
- The Suze Orman Show - CNBC
- Taking Care with Joan Lunden - RLTV

BEST ONLINE/MOBILE EXTRAS FOR A LINEAR SHOW

*Winner***Braxton Family Values - WE tv**

As added TV extras like show-themed Twitter feeds, Facebook conversations and online mashups become the norm, those that do it best now are way ahead of the game. WEtv's "Braxton Family Values," a reality show about R&B singer Toni Braxton's colorful family, is one such show. Online extras like polls about which Braxton sister you're most like, live chats and articles like "10 tips for avoiding family drama" help build a community around the show across several platforms. They certainly do have great source material.



STRIKE A POSE: Who knew that we'd get so sucked into a show about the Braxtons? Apparently, WE tv did. And it has used social media and online extras to great effect.

Honorable Mentions

- Good Night Star - Sprout.

BEST ONLINE-ONLY/MOBILE-ONLY SHOW

*Winner***Waiting For Superman Virtual Town Hall - EPIX**

The film "Waiting For Superman" elevated the deteriorating state of the American public education system to new levels of awareness. In conjunction with the film's expanded distribution, EPIX hosted an informative and educational virtual town hall, moderated by media maven Arianna Huffington and including the doc's director, producer and former Chancellor of NYC schools Joel Klein. Mimicking the countless conversations in coffee shops the film likely inspired, online viewers could engage in separate discussions in online viewing rooms—in addition to posing questions to panelists via Twitter and Facebook. The special attracted more than 2,000 participants, who visited Epixhd.com, huffingtonpost.com and the "Waiting for Superman" site.

Honorable Mentions

- E! News Now - E! Entertainment Television
- Feedback - G4

- The Jump on NBA.com

BEST OPENING SEQUENCE

*Winner***Investing in America: A CNBC Town Hall Event with President Obama - CNBC**

A political town hall—even one featuring the President—doesn't exactly rival the excitement of the Super Bowl, but you wouldn't have known that based on the cinematic opening to this CNBC special program. Slick computer graphics that integrated images and layered animations built excitement as a thunderous soundtrack drew us in as if we were about to witness the main event at the Roman Colosseum. If this opening was designed to suck us in, it worked.

NBA on ESPN: 2010, NBA Finals Open - ESPN

We were simply blown away by what ESPN did here, creating a historical montage that used computer technology to bring together several generations of NBA stars, integrating footage from multiple decades of televised moments and then putting them all seemingly on the same court. The attention to detail was second only to the overarching achievement of quickly conveying the enormous history of the game and how much of a debt we owe to all the greats who came before the current crop of NBA stars.

Honorable Mentions

- Portlandia (Dream of the 90s) - IFC
- Braxton Family Values - WE tv

BEST VIDEO ON DEMAND PROGRAM/SPECIAL

*Winner***What's Cooking With Eddie - Cox Media**

We love chef Eddie Matney for unpretentious cooking (think beefy hot dog franks cooked in butter, one of his "favorite spices") and unmitigated enthusiasm for the dishes he prepares. Owner and chef of "Eddie's House" in old town Scottsdale, Arizona, he's received no formal training in the culinary arts. But that hasn't stopped the accolades from flowing... like butta. He's the official chef for the Arizona Cardinals and is a staple at "Taste of NFL." Warning: Do not watch this program when you're hungry. There's a reason it has generated nearly 9,000 views on Cox On Demand.



Franks and butta. Yum.

Honorable Mentions

- Nina Sleeps - Sprout
- Carolina on Demand High School Sports - Time Warner Cable

Congratulations

CableFAX Program Award Finalists

YOU THRILL US. YOU SCARE US.
YOU MAKE US BELIEVE IN MAGIC.
...And you make us all proud.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - Animated

- My Little Pony Friendship is Magic
- Transformers Prime

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - Children's

- R.L. Stine's The Haunting Hour: The Series



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