

Program Awards Special Issue 2013

20 Pages Today

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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BEST CABLE PROGRAM



Winner

The Walking Dead - AMC



Call us brain-dead zombies, but we can't get enough of this apocalyptic thriller that has managed to captivate mass audiences despite its preponderance of, you know... cannibalistic corpses. The secret to this show's success, however, lies not in the "walkers" who stalk prey as their own limbs rot off—but rather the survivalist characters who must work together to stay alive while navigating interpersonal politics and devious power plays. In the end, the zombies in all their glorious makeup act merely ratchet up the stakes (and body count) in an already perilous environment. To be sure, surviving Machiavellian mischief of an apocalyptic world would be pretty compelling viewing even without the living dead. But it wouldn't be as much fun, now would it?

Honorable Mentions

Game of Thrones - HBO - We're still upset about the Red Wedding, but we'll get over it—as long as Walder Frey and Joffrey get theirs at some point. That's going to happen, right? Right?

Mad Men - AMC - The last season was one of the best, with the firm going through more changes than Don Draper goes through bottles of scotch.

Shameless - Showtime - One of the best shows on TV despite its lack of Emmys. Well, except one—the incredible Emmy Rossum.

Top of the Lake - Sundance Channel - A chilling and beautiful mini that was a tour de force for Holly Hunter and Elisabeth Moss.

BEST NEW CABLE PROGRAM



Winner

Vikings - History



Surprised by this win? Don't be. This well-researched drama series about celebrated Viking King Ragnar Lothbrok (Travis Fimmel) fuses fact and legend to create a composite story about the rise of an ambitious warrior whose conquests pale only in comparison to his appetite. Guided by the skilled pen of creator Michael Hirst, we're inclined to sympathize with these murderous raiders whose actions qualify as reprehensible by today's standards. Still, they lived in a time of ruthless conquest in which a Darwinistic system of pillage and plunder was almost part of a larger religion—and a way of pleasing the gods. Standout performances by Fimmel and Gabriel Byrne—as well as Katheryn Winnick—make this historical drama a joy to watch, whether characters are lost in battle or within their own ambitions and misguided alliances. We never thought we would cheer for the Vikings. We were wrong.

Honorable Mentions

Bates Motel - A&E - Such an incredible origin story raised from the ashes and miles above other attempts to reboot "Psycho" in recent years. This one works. On every level.

Brain Games - National Geographic Channel - This family-friendly, brain teasing adventure—helmed by engaging host Jason Silva—is addictive and fun. It will blow your mind!

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Duck Dynasty - A&E - It's hard not to love these God-fearing, fatigue-wearing, backwoods businessmen whose antics continue to entertain millions.

Golden Sisters - LMNO Cable Group/OWN - These tough and sassy seniors have more energy than people half their age. And we're pretty sure they'll outlive all of us.

Orphan Black - BBC America - As if Tatiana Maslany's chameleon-like performance in this thriller series isn't incredible enough, the story will keep you glued to your screen as well.

Real Husbands of Hollywood - BET Networks and JSR Productions - Hilarious doesn't begin to describe Kevin Hart's absurdist take on the "privileged and bored spouses" genre of reality TV.

Rectify - Sundance Channel - A slow-burning but wholly satisfying journey into redemption, suspicion and regret that has imprisoned us with its engaging storylines.

Honorable Mentions

Fred Armisten, Portlandia - IFC - The mad genius behind this insanely funny show, Armisten continues to create memorable characters that keep us in stitches.

Jon Hamm, Mad Men - AMC - A winning season for Hamm, whose portrayal of Don Draper has entered some dark places lately—all of them made compelling by his understated devotion to character.

Kevin Hart, Real Husbands of Hollywood - BET Networks and JSR Productions - Hart's endlessly ridiculous satire of himself and his friends makes this spoof a must-watch series.

Freddie Highmore, Bates Motel - A&E - Wow. What a debut for this incredible actor whose chilling take on a young Norman Bates seems destined for TV greatness.

Timothy Olyphant, Justified - FX - Season after season, Olyphant puts the cool in cool-hand-Luke as he navigates the Kentucky underworld as if it was all just another day at the office.

Matthew Rhys, The Americans - FX - With performance discipline that perfectly matches the tone of the Cold War thriller, Rhys has proven that he's among the best actors of his generation.

BEST ACTOR IN CABLE



Winner

Bryan Cranston, Breaking Bad - AMC



Yeah, we know. Bryan Cranston has so many awards at this point that he's probably storing them in an old RV. But we can't resist. As "Breaking Bad" finishes up its final season, Cranston is at the absolute top of his game—and that's saying a lot considering the company he keeps. Betsy Brandt, Anna Gunn, Dean Norris, Bob Odenkirk, Aaron Paul, Giancarlo Esposito... all of them deserve several awards (and many have received them). But it's Cranston's central portrayal of the hopelessly flawed Walter White that really keeps us coming back for more. Walter, a serial murderer who in season 4 even poisoned a child to manipulate his partner Jesse, deserves little sympathy at this point. But we give it to him anyway because of Cranston's devilish skill to play the audience as he does other characters. We hope Cranston's Walter White will live on in AMC's "Better Call Saul" spinoff—even as a flashback or memory. We're not ready to say goodbye.

BEST ACTRESS IN CABLE



Winner

Tatiana Maslany, Orphan Black - BBC America



She's not yet a household name, but we'd be very surprised if she doesn't reach that status pretty darned soon. Tatiana Maslany has stunned audiences with her incredible portrayal of multiple clones, who were purposely raised in different environments to see how they would turn out. That means each one is radically different, forcing Tatiana to constantly switch between them in an acting dance that would make even the most seasoned thespian's head spin. To think that Maslany is only 28 years old makes her feat all the more worthy of recognition. We're not sure how long this compelling show will continue, but we do know that we'll be seeing a lot more of Tatiana Maslany in the future.

Honorable Mentions

Carrie Brownstein, Portlandia - IFC - A musician by training, Brownstein excels as a comedian *and* an actress. She and Portlandia co-creator Fred Armisen were made for each other—comedically speaking at least.

Emilia Clarke, Game of Thrones - HBO - When Clarke's Daenerys Targaryen unleashed the slave army on their own captors this season, we knew she meant business. And we felt it.

Vera Farmiga, Bates Motel - A&E - Farmiga has brought the iconic character of Norman Bates' mom to life... literally. And the Psycho universe will never be the same.

Elisabeth Moss, Mad Men - AMC - Moss consistently proves that she's an exquisite actress, with her breakout performance in this season of "Mad Men" sealing the deal.

Emmy Rossum, Shameless - Showtime - It's shameful that Rossum's well-rounded performance has yet to get an Emmy nomination. Especially since her name's Emmy, but we digress...

Keri Russell, The Americans - FX - If you had any doubt that "Felicity" has grown up, then you haven't seen Russell's nuanced work on this cold-war thriller.

Katey Sagal, Sons of Anarchy - FX - Sagal has cemented a place in history as one of baddest, most brutal and yet maternally centered biker chicks in history. RIP Peg Bundy.

BEST SHOWRUNNER

*Winner*

Lizzy Weiss, Switched At Birth - ABC Family



In many ways, ABC Family's "Switched at Birth" is the little show that could. It's not flashy. It's relatively unedgy. And many of the characters communicate primarily in sign language. Not exactly a formula for grabbing attention in today's TV world, which tends to celebrate the

dark more than the light. So the fact that creator and showrunner Lizzy Weiss has managed to turn all of this into a winning formula for a TV show geared at a fickle youth audience, well... we're quite impressed. Weiss' leadership (and salesmanship) recently convinced ABC Family to renew the show for a 3rd season, and we're hardly surprised considering how expertly she has guided the storylines as this "two families thrown together" story unfolds episode after episode, season after season. With a cohesive group that includes solid performances by players like Katie LeClerc, Vanessa Marano, Constance Marie, D.W. Moffett and Lea Thompson just to name a few, Weiss would no doubt share credit with the cast. But in the end, it's the showrunner that keeps the trains running. And Weiss has been an excellent conductor.

Honorable Mentions

Ralph Farquhar, Real Husbands of Hollywood - BET Networks and JSR Productions - Farquhar has guided this show to consistent hilarity, and that's not easy these days. Under his deft guidance, this show should have a long future.

Vince Gilligan, Breaking Bad - AMC - What can we really say about Vince Gilligan that hasn't already been said? Nothing. He's simply one of the best. And with "Better Call Saul" on deck, we can't wait for the encore.

Steven Moffat, Doctor Who - BBC America - This show may be some five decades old, but lately it has been hotter than ever. And that's all because of Moffat and his skillful stewardship of this British TV treasure.

BEST OPENING SEQUENCE

*Winner*

Lakers Game Open - Time Warner Cable Sports

Showcasing powerful, behind-the-scenes photography and art-based typography, this opening sequence puts you up close to the athletes' emotions, drive and passion. No need for the more typical approach of fast-cutting game highlights and slam dunks when an opening unleashes this much creative force. It may not be much of a challenge to get Lakers fans excited before a game, but this opener amps up that natural adrenaline like few we've seen.

Honorable Mentions

Best Ink - Season 2 - Oxygen Media - Fall Out Boy bassist, musician and tattoo enthusiast Pete Wentz hosts Season 2, which lays bare the cutthroat and wildly unpredictable world of tattoo artistry.

Golden Sisters - LMNO Cable Group/OWN - This real-life comedy follows the hilarious adventures of Mary, Josie & Teresa, and this opener gets us ready to laugh.

The Journey: Big Ten Basketball 2013 - Big Ten Network - This opener cues us up to hear about the people and personalities highlighting the Big Ten Basketball season.

Rectify - Sundance Channel - This deceiving title sequence tells a linear story of a family and small town life. Yet in fact this show is quite the opposite.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS/HOST - COMEDY

*Winner*

Kevin Hart, Real Husbands of Hollywood - BET Networks and JSR Productions

Whether you think Kevin Hart's just a hilarious comedian or some kind of African-American Woody Allen (yeah, chew on that one), he has truly captured comedic lightning in a bottle with this fake



reality show about Hollywood husbands. The endlessly farcical bickering and back-stabbing makes the Real Housewives seem like amateurs—and Hart's constant inability to reign

in his friends or make any situation go his way translates into a fast-paced rollercoaster ride that both skewers celebrity culture as well as the reality shows that keep it fed. We hope that Hart stays in the mock reality show game for a long time.

Honorable Mentions

Fred Armisten, Portlandia - IFC - We can't get enough of Armisten's ridiculous characters, who all hail from Portland and parody every aspect of the city.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Veep - HBO - Wanna talk solid? Then let's discuss Louis-Dreyfus' strangely believable turn as a bumbling VP who can't seem to get a break.

Joel McHale, The Soup - E! Entertainment - McHale has literally honed his weekly skewering of pop culture and Hollywood to a science. And no one has ever made better use of a green screen.

BEST HOST - FAMILY FRIENDLY



Winner

Jonathan & Drew Scott, Property Brothers - HGTV



These identical twin hosts are more than entertaining. They actually educate viewers on how to get the best bang for their buck, turning fixer uppers into dream homes without breaking the bank or throwing in the towel every time an unexpected hiccup delays the project. Ultimately, this show is an education about the profits and perils involved when you get a "great deal" on a house that needs a lot of work. And it's refreshing to watch hosts who are concerned about helping buyers be budget conscious instead of keeping up with the Kardashians.

Honorable Mentions

Kelly, Sean, Dennisha and Carly, The Sunny Side Up Show - Sprout - If only we could be that perky in the morning... Preschoolers love them.

Jordan Hembrough, Toy Hunter - Travel Channel - We love a host who actually strikes a fair bargain. And we really want to play with Jordan's toys.

Jason Silva, Brain Games - National Geographic Channel - Dubbed by *The Atlantic* as "a Timothy Leary for the Viral Video Age," Silva's awe and appreciation of Brain Games rings authentic.

Lara Spencer, Flea Market Flip - HGTV - The "Good Morning America" co-anchor makes upcycling cooler than anything in a Pottery Barn catalog.

BEST HOST - FOOD



Winner

Trisha Yearwood - Trisha's Southern Kitchen - Food Network

She sings, cooks, writes and wouldn't you know it... is also a stellar TV host. Yearwood's Southern charm livens up this series, which features some authentic and delicious Southern dishes that will make your mouth water as you think about all those calories you shouldn't be eating. She feels as authentic as the comfort food she serves up. Yearwood's show, shot in her home kitchen in Nashville, also stands out because of the cameo appearances friends and family make in her kitchen.

Honorable Mentions

Giada De Laurentiis, Giada at Home - Food Network - One day, we'll be as perfect as De Laurentiis. But until then, we'll just watch and learn.

Todd Fisher, United States of Bacon - Destination America - Fisher is smart enough to step back and let bacon be the star, but watching the self-proclaimed baconaholic puts us in hog heaven.

Nadia Giosia, Nadia G's Bitchin' Kitchen - Cooking Channel - A tattooed, rockin' chef shows us that not every cook wears pearls and a lace-trimmed apron.

Padma Lakshmi, Top Chef - Bravo - A consummate class act, Lakshmi plays it pretty straight amid the kitchen mayhem.

Jeff Mauro, Sandwich King - Food Network - "Food Network Star" Season 7's winner Jeff Mauro adds some pizzazz between the bread.

Roger Mooking, Man Fire Food - Cooking Channel - There's just something primal about a guy exploring new ways to cook over an open flame. We're fired up!

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS/HOST - OTHER



Winner

Adam Ferrara, Rutledge Wood and Tanner Foust,
Top Gear - BBC Worldwide Productions



No matter where their journeys or challenges take them—Iceland, Alaska, the South or the Pacific—Adam Ferrara, Tanner Foust, and Rutledge Wood entertain while testing the limits of the world's most prestigious cars. Meanwhile, the trois sometimes push each other to the limits as well while trying to one-up each other with their automotive antics. These 3 are more than just hosts: they really care about cars. And what they can do. Or jump. Or roll through. And they have implacable chemistry that shows on screen.

Honorable Mentions

Angela Bassett, Betty & Coretta - Lifetime - Luring audiences with emotionally tinged performances has been the signature of Bassett, and she does it again here.

Melissa Leo, Call Me Crazy: A Five Film - Lifetime - An incredible performance that would require massive concentration from any actress. Leo makes it look easy.

Alfre Woodard, Steel Magnolias - Lifetime - As Ouiser in "Steel Magnolias," Woodard showed us why she won a NAACP Image Award.

Carrie Underwood - AXS TV - Carrie Underwood - Blown Away - Live - AXS TV continues to prove that it's one of the best producers of live music on the planet. And this Underwood special was no exception.

BEST HOST - REALITY COMPETITION/GAME SHOW



Winner

Heidi Klum & Tim Gunn, Project Runway - Lifetime

It's hard to keep the same hosts in place for nearly 10 years, but it's a whole lot easier with a duo as dynamic as Heidi and Tim. We're talking chemistry here. Their critiques of contestants' hits and flops are often right on the money, and whether it's Gunn's

appreciation for the difficulty of finding flattering plus-size outfits or Klum's ability to make a supermodel seem normal (could they really be?)—these two just click with America. Even those of us wearing last year's Levis.

Honorable Mentions

Nigel Barker, The Face - Oxygen Media - Barker knows a little something about the subject, having been both in front of the camera as a model and behind it as a photographer.

Alton Brown, Next Iron Chef: Redemption - Food Network - Food nerds unite. Alton is your leader.

Billy Eichner, Funny or Die's Billy on the Street - Fuse - Good news, Billy. You get to live. You really are funny out on the street asking pedestrians questions about pop culture.

Jeff Foxworthy, The American Bible Challenge - GSN - Foxworthy keeps this game show funny, and it's a topic he's very familiar with.

Robert Irvine, Restaurant Impossible - Food Network - Irvine scolds and skewers people who have absolutely no clue how to run a restaurant. But it's because he cares.

Curtis Stone, Top Chef Masters - Bravo - There is a reason the Aussie chef is everywhere. He's got personality—and everyone wants to have dinner with him.

BEST HOST - SPORTS



Winner

Ernie Johnson - Turner Sports



This Emmy-winning sports personality makes moderating a loquacious cast of NBA greats like Kobe Bryant, Magic Johnson and Charles Barkley look easy. His laid back, confident style creates a perfect counterpoint when matched with the egos and sometimes outrageous personalities of the athletes he clearly admires. With years of experience under his belt, Johnson can extract engaging material from these legends, while keeping the atmosphere light, entertaining, and expertly managed.

Honorable Mentions

Bob Costas - NBC Sports Network - This venerable sportscaster has been particularly compelling during NBC Sports Net's "Costas Tonight" town hall-style series, going deeper than most sports shows.

Bob Lorenz - YES Network - The dozens of NY Emmy nominations garnered by YES Network every year are in no small part because of this respected sports anchor.

BEST HOST - TALK SHOWS



Winner

Michael Kay - YES Network



As a YES Network play-by-play guy, Michael Kay isn't afraid to speak honestly about the Yankees' triumphs or failings. And for a guy who has covered the Yankees for decades, Kay revels in big plays, even when they benefit the opposition. Perhaps that's really the sign of a true sports fan: someone whose enthusiasm for the game affects every viewer and knows no biases. This Bronx, NY, native has paid his dues, starting out as a Yankees reporter for MSG Network in 1989 and honing his skills ever since. He continues to get better with every broadcast, and we'll be watching.

Honorable Mentions

Andy Cohen, Watch What Happens Live (WWHL) - Bravo - Charming and articulate, Andy Cohen can get away with anything. And he often does.

Suze Orman, The Suze Orman Show - CNBC - Orman's thought-provoking style combines practical advice and inspiration, which has revolutionized the way we think about money.

Chelsea Handler - E! Entertainment - Handler's no-holds-barred attitude and quick wit has reshaped the late night talk show landscape.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - ANIMALS/NATURE



Winner

Untamed Americas - National Geographic Channel

This production team spent nearly 2 years in the field, traveling thousands of miles to capture wildlife across the globe. The result is stunning footage that captures previously undocumented animal behavior, adding a more personal touch with engaging storytelling that makes you feel like you're in the middle of the action. The 4-hour mini, which marked the first U.S. simulcast across National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo Wild and Nat Geo Mundo, explores some of the greatest wildlife spectacles, delicate dances, unbelievable

endurance and against-the-odds survival, with episodes featuring the continent's mountains, deserts, forests and coasts. We were tamed.

Honorable Mentions

My Cat From Hell - Animal Planet - We told you they were evil. Cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy helps cat owners find the sources of conflict with their furry friends—and it's never boring.

North America - Discovery Channel - Discovery's first, independently-produced natural history landmark series reveals that "survival of the fittest" is the law amid threatening terrain and ferocious weather.

Secret Life of the Rainforest - Smithsonian Channel - Captured in stunning 3D, this show offers a fascinating peek into the secret relationships that shape the living architecture of the rainforest.

MeatEater - Sportsman Channel - It's not complicated: Steve Rinella finds it, kills it and eats it. Sometimes simplicity wins—unless you're the meal.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - ANIMATED



Winner

Teen Titans Go! - Cartoon Network in association with Warner Bros Animation

Kids are the target audience here, but mom, dad and older brothers and sisters can get drawn into this delightfully energetic show as well. Put simply, it's a look at the lighter side of saving the world. Superheroes were all teenagers once, and it's hilarious to see Robin, Cyborg and Raven balance teen drama (finding the perfect birthday gift for your BFF or passing driver's ed) with occasional crime fighting. It reminds us a bit of the double-lives we all lead at the CableFAX offices. Except that we're not teenagers.

Honorable Mentions

A Liar's Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Monty Python's Graham Chapman - Epix - Animation isn't just for kids. This imaginative tribute is colorful and comical.

Archer - FX - It's rude, crude and completely debases the spy genre. But it's hilarious. And that's good enough for us.

Doc McStuffins - Disney Junior - So cool it inspired an entire movement, with black women doctors (under 2% of doctors nationwide) declaring "We are Doc McStuffins."

Littlest Pet Shop - The Hub Network - Friendship lessons with cute, cuddly pets. Perfect for the grade school set.

Transformers Prime - The Hub Network - Another example of The Hub breathing new life into a 1980s favorite.

HALL OF FAME



BYRON ALLEN

**Founder, Chairman and CEO
Entertainment Studios**

We're not sure Byron Allen ever sleeps. Through sheer determination and persistence, Allen has built Entertainment Studios from one syndicated show to a major entertainment force producing nearly 30 TV series syndicated across more 1,400 TV

stations nationwide. Allen also runs 7 HD cable networks covering everything from cars to courtrooms, with an ever-expanding library of more than 4K hours of wholly-owned content. In a way, Allen was born to work in TV. As a kid, he hung around studios in Burbank with his mom, who was a TV publicist, even sneaking into "The Tonight Show" set to sit behind Johnny Carson's desk. After doing stand-up shows around L.A. while still in high school, Allen ended up the youngest stand-up comic ever to appear on "The Tonight Show," a record he still holds. And the next day he got a call from the producers of NBC's "Real People," who hired him as a co-host in 1979. After years in front of the camera, Allen started cold-calling TV stations from his kitchen to sell a comedy talk show he dreamed up—and within a few short years he was running one of the largest independent producers in the syndication world. Allen's TV business knowledge is unparalleled, and he has been among the first to recognize the importance of digital platforms and has urged cable to change its thinking about production costs and legacy business models. It's rare to find such an incredible life story. But it's even rarer to find such a talented TV executive and outside-the-box thinker.

You've advised cable to lower its production costs to compete in a multiplatform/OTT world. What's your latest assessment of how the industry is doing?

The industry is finally starting to understand the necessity of lowering costs for content production. Our biggest growth opportunities are with the MVPDs that are aggressively reducing their content costs without sacrificing quality and the over-the-top platforms. We had a distributor drop channels from a large programming group for our networks, and they did not receive one call about the overpriced networks that they dropped. I guarantee you'll see more of that in the near future.

As someone who has built a multi-million dollar company from the ground up, what one habit or personality trait do you feel has been most vital to your success?

I only get behind projects and content for which I have strong, personal passion. The one thing I always tell my kids about success in life is to pursue their passions with unrelenting commitment! If you don't really believe in what you're producing, pitching, and selling, people will sense that from the beginning, and that's a waste of everybody's time.



ALBIE HECHT

**CEO, Worldwide Biggies
EVP/GM, HLN**

Jeff Zucker clearly reads *CableFAX*.

We know this because only a few short weeks after we announced the induction of Worldwide Biggies CEO Albie Hecht into our Program Hall of Fame, the CNN Worldwide pres tapped Hecht as HLN's

new evp/gm. Now, we're not necessarily trying to take credit here but—well, actually we are... but that's beside the point. The news merely confirmed what we at CableFAX already knew: Hecht is one of the most talented TV execs around. His resume says it all: Here's a guy who not only founded Spike TV but while pres of Nickelodeon Entertainment developed shows like "Spongebob Squarepants," "Dora the Explorer" and "Blue's Clues" into megahits. He also co-created Nick's Kids Choice Awards. More recently, he has devoted his considerable talents to documentary filmmaking, with a development deal at EPIX, even winning an Oscar this year for his documentary short titled "Inocente" about a young artist determined to overcome her bleak surroundings. So yeah, he's a pretty accomplished guy. On top of all of that, Hecht has produced some major Hollywood theatrical fare, including Paramount's "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" and "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," for which he was nominated for another Academy Award. So is it a stretch for us to suggest that Jeff Zucker never heard of Hecht before we snatched him up for our Program Hall of Fame? Perhaps. But we're sticking to our story and taking credit anyway. This is Hollywood, after all.



STEPHEN G. HILL

**President, Music Programming
and Specials
BET**

If you want to trace the roots of Stephen Hill's passion for music, you have to go back to his childhood when he actually recorded himself announcing artists he had put on mixed tapes. That led to a

college radio gig at Brown U. and eventually WILD-AM in Boston before Hill hit the big time when he landed a gig at MTV Networks in NYC as director, music programming. Since moving over to BET Networks in 1999, Hill has built a reputation as a skilled innovator, non-conformist and out-of-the-box thinker able to see the potential where others didn't. His visionary work on once fledgling music variety show "106 & Park" transformed the program into what has since become the #1 music variety show on TV for the last 23 quarters. But perhaps Hill's biggest triumph at BET has been "The BET

HALL OF FAME

Awards,” one of the most recognized and celebrated awards franchises on television and garnering the biggest ratings from African-American TV audiences since 2001. Other awards successes include the “BET Honors,” “Black Girls Rock” and “The Hip Hop Awards,” just to name a few. But it’s not just about awards shows. In fact, Hill’s the guy you can thank for the endlessly hilarious and always fresh “Real Husbands of Hollywood,” which skewers reality TV and spoofs the various “Housewives” shows with manly precision. Hill may not get as much press as some other execs who can’t wait to trumpet their accomplishments, but don’t let his modesty fool you: This is one executive whose induction into the Program Hall of Fame is long overdue.

Music seems to be finding a resurgence on TV, with Sean Combs starting Revolt TV and even nets like AXS TV and others putting new emphasis on music-oriented content. What do you think is driving this—and what’s BET’s strategy to compete?

It’s cliché, but music is universal. It’s a common experience. No matter how the music business changes/shrinks/expands, what NEVER changes is people’s desire for musical entertainment. The majors could evaporate tomorrow, and music will still live—thus there will always be opportunity for the exhibition of that music. Our strategy? To continue to be the leader in music exhibition and discovery through our daily show and through our tentpole specials. These new entries are helping us sharpen the sword and we’re happy to do so. Other market players will mean more music exposed—and that’s a good thing.



MARJORIE KAPLAN

**Group President, Animal Planet,
Science & Velocity Networks
Discovery Communications**

We’re not sure where to begin with Marjorie Kaplan. She’s simply one of the most versatile, nimble and creative programming executives in the business. With smart marketing and an eye toward

changing viewer tastes, Kaplan has transformed Animal Planet into a major influencer in just a few short years—all while constantly taking on new work and responsibilities that now includes oversight of Science and Velocity Networks. Her calming demeanor and reasoned decision-making has made her an invaluable asset at Discovery Communications—and ingratiated her to loyal staff and colleagues who usually trip over themselves singing her praises whenever her name comes up. It’s a rare TV executive who simply executes month after month, year after year, without letting it all go to her head. But that’s Kaplan. She’s the consum-

mate professional, who never stops looking to the future. When she sensed that viewers wanted more excitement, she turned up the volume on danger and exotic animals. When they demanded more mystery, she gave them mega-hit “Finding Bigfoot,” along with pseudo-mockumentary specials on mythical creatures like Mermaids. Animal purists can quibble all they want, but Kaplan understands viewers and modern zeitgeist. “It is wonderful and wondrous that there are still unknown creatures living in the hidden corners of our planet,” she says. “Fact and the fantasy are deeply appealing to people.” And you know what? If she ever finds Bigfoot, we can say we knew her when...

Not only is the TV universe competitive these days, but premium OTT content is also competing for viewer eyeballs. What’s your take on how Animal Planet and Science Channel can remain relevant in such a crowded marketplace?

It all starts with the audience—talking with them, understanding them and developing powerful and relevant audience insights about our brands and our content. There are SO many options competing for their valuable time. Of course, we’re in the business of television so everything we do has to be seen through the lens of making content that’s gripping, emotional, and with great characters and great stories. That through line has got to be relevant no matter the brand—Animal Planet, Science or Velocity. And you have to be willing to be playful with your brand, and follow your audience where they are comfortable with the stretch. Audiences are much more flexible and willing to go along for the ride if the content is compelling.

Science Channel has found much success mixing science with celebrity and pop culture (“Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman,” “Prophets of Science Fiction,” “An Idiot Abroad,” etc). To what degree is that a “way in” for people who otherwise wouldn’t watch Science or Discovery-based shows? And will you step that up even more in the future?

Science is actually a “big tent” genre, but it can take coaxing to get some viewers there, and Science general manager Debbie Myers has done a great job expanding the brand and welcoming them. Most people are fascinated with the world around them but may not even realize they are scientifically inclined. The celebrities in these shows draw the audience in by making science approachable. Once they come to see Morgan, they find themselves drawn in by the questions and fascinating information being presented. The same audience that came to Science Channel for Ricky and An Idiot Abroad stayed for How It’s Made. And it’s been great to see. Science programming and entertainment are not mutually exclusive—in fact, it’s quite the opposite.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - CHILDREN'S



Winner

The Chica Show - Sprout

Preschoolers love dress up and, who doesn't love a cute, little chicken? Chica got her start on Sprout's "The Sunny Side Up Show" but appears to be slowly taking over Hollywood (please keep Chica away from Lindsay Lohan). Capitalizing on the puppet's popularity, the net gave Chica her own show with a mix of live action and animation—plus some catchy singing. Every episode features a visit to the costume shop followed by imaginative adventures.

Honorable Mentions

The Aquabats! Super Show! - The Hub Network - A musical super hero group? Count us in.

iShine KNECT - TBN/Smile of a Child TV/JCTV - "iShine KNECT" takes the situational comedy to pre-teens with a Christian message and music.

R.L. Stine's The Haunting Hour: The Series - The Hub Network - Family fun in the form of a Twilight Zone for the tween set.

Yankees on Deck - YES - A great way for kids to get an in-depth look at their favorite Yankees on and off the field.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - COMEDY



Winner

Archer - FX



This show grabs on to your funny bone and doesn't just refuse to let go—it moves in and takes over the place. And this uproarious spoof of the spy genre features a lead character that's as skilled as James Bond and as vain as, well... James Bond. With mommy issues. Episodes feature ridiculous scenarios, implausible situations and, of course, enough sexual innuendo and bathroom humor to please even the most discriminating viewers. Everything from the vocal performances to the animation itself is top notch and worth recognition. We literally can't get enough Archer. And we're sure that makes him really happy.

Honorable Mentions

After Lately - E! Entertainment - This show gets funnier the more Chelsea Handler hates on her staff. We're thankful she decided to keep the cameras rolling.

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia - FXX - Season after season this show continues to deliver outlandish scenarios that test the (narrow) limits of four friends in Philly. They never succeed. But we're still laughing.

Louie - FX - Louie C.K. writes, directs, acts and even picks the music. Does someone have control issues? We hope so because it works.

Mr. Box Office - Entertainment Studios - A Hollywood star must serve as a high school English teacher in South Central LA as a form of community service. Poignant and very funny.

Portlandia - IFC - Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein are a brilliant comedy duo, with the liberal-minded, artisanal-obsessed Portland as their object of satire.

Real Husbands of Hollywood - BET Networks and JSR Productions - A consistently hilarious show. And we know it's not easy to make it... uh, look so easy. We can't wait for more antics from Kevin Hart and the gang.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - DOCUMENTARY - HISTORICAL/POLITICAL



Winner

Locked Up Abroad - National Geographic Channel



Now in its 9th season, it's never easy to watch. But this show's harrowing re-enactments of true incarceration stories—like that of Ernie Brace, the longest-held prisoner of war in the history of the Vietnam War—give us chills every time. Once transported to

the "Hanoi Hilton" prison he struck up a life-saving friendship with Lt. Cmdr. John McCain, who had been shot down and also taken prisoner. Most of the stories, however, involve no one famous. They just tell the tale of unfortunate travelers who ended up imprisoned. The reenactments, combined with personal interviews, create mesmerizing and often inspiring accounts.

Honorable Mentions

20 Under 20: Transforming Tomorrow - CNBC - Profiling these future entrepreneurs (and their parents' reactions), this doc looks at the next generation and the bright ideas ahead of us.

Enemies Within: Joe McCarthy - Smithsonian Channel - An interesting and unbiased look at McCarthy's "legacy of tactics," with actual footage, interviews with people knowledgeable of him and cinematic recreations.

First Ladies: Influence and Image - C-SPAN - Hosted by C-SPAN's co-president and co-CEO Susan Swain, this rich documentary series offers a rare glimpse into each First Lady's era, costumes, architecture and more.

Killing Lincoln - National Geographic Channel - Narrated by history buff and actor Tom Hanks, the historically accurate details in this dramatic reenactment are painstaking.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - DOCUMENTARY - NATURE



Winner

North America - Discovery Channel



This 7-part series, the next installment of Discovery's epic nature docs like "Frozen Planet" and "Planet Earth," was three years in the making—and it shows. The photography is stunning, as you'd expect, and the visual storytelling complements bold music choices—at times to comedic effect, as is the case with a scarlet-crested jungle bird hopping from side to side to attract a

disinterested female (mambo music emanates as the background score). Or Ram Jam's "Black Betty" playing amidst wild stallions battling each other for the role of pack leader. The doc's true beauty, though, is in the visuals, which are as varied and rich as North America's climes.

Honorable Mentions

Back to the Wild - M2 Pictures - Christopher McCandless encounters along his journey "into the wild," and the real accounts from friends, survival experts, daily diary entries and his own parents are heartbreaking.

Great Barrier Reef - Animal Planet - We see here gorgeous underwater footage of the Great Barrier Reef and learn how this "marine metropolis" works together to form it. The competitiveness and predator-like qualities of the coral are portrayed with both edgy techno music and a cello score.

Jim Shockley's The Professionals - The Outdoor Channel - With strong editing and cinematography, this is a highly stylized look at a team of hunters' passion for their sport as well as their sense of exploration and adventure.

Mankind: The Story of Us - History - This 12-hour event celebrating the history of humans highlights our survival and illustrates how we're connected.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - DOCUMENTARY - OTHER



Winner

All In - Naperville North Huskies Football - Comcast - CN100 Chicago

In this moving documentary about the Naperville North Huskies, viewers glimpse a rarely seen side of high school football. Clearly, the players, coaches and community believe they're participating in something far greater than themselves. And that's what makes it compelling. Couple that with top production value, strong editing and upbeat music, and it's the makings of a stellar documentary, with stories and plot points helping it to succeed. An injury-prone player whose mother suffers from breast cancer; the dramatic ending of a season; the complex process of college recruitment; and a tearful confession from a coach that must ultimately let go of these bands of brothers, who he cared for as if they were his own sons.



Honorable Mentions

America's Gun: The Rise of the AR-15 - CNBC - Here we find a finely balanced slice of American viewpoints on the AR-15 gun—from within a shooting range to an atypical gun-owning dentist to survivors and family members of victims.

Blackboard Wars - Discovery Studios/OWN - Education is a hot topic, and this doc tells it well, as one principal attempts to transform a failing high school into a successful one.

Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of 007 - EPIX - Built upon the premise that the character of James Bond was Ian Fleming's alter-ego, several experts provide fascinating accounts, confirming the books were indeed ahead of their time.

Oprah's Master Class/Stevie Nicks - Harpo Studios - This incredibly intimate portrayal of Stevie Nicks' adventures in music, marriage and the seedy side of show business provides a rich tapestry of useful life lessons.

Werner Herzog's Into the Abyss - Investigation Discovery - Typically a filmmaker, Herzog takes to television with exclusive—and often shocking—interviews of inmates on Death Row. The skill with which he questions his subjects is well known and unparalleled—and we see plenty of that in this raw portrayal.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES – DRAMA



Winner

The Americans - FX



In the age of Showtime's "Homeland," it has never been more challenging to pull off a spy thriller that can impress modern audiences. So FX did us one better and created one set during the 1980s when Americans were far more worried about nuclear annihilation by the Soviets than they were about terrorism. This series, which tracks a KGB couple posing as a suburban American family, does just about everything right—from the tension we feel between the husband and wife (played beautifully by Matthew Rhys and Keri Russell) to the dread that hits us right in the gut every time the incredible Margo Martindale appears on screen as the cold and calculating KGB station chief. It's comforting to know that Vladimir Putin is in charge of Russia rather than a KGB spy from the 1980s... Uh, nevermind...

Honorable Mentions

American Horror Story: Asylum - FX - How could you take something as nice as an Asylum and make it scary? Wait a sec: Asylums have always been scary. FX just made it worse!

Bates Motel - A&E - A&E has been hitting it out of the park since entering scripted, and Bates Motel is no exception. This could be the re-imagining to end all re-imaginings.

Breaking Bad - AMC - It's still one of the best things to hit TV since the invention of TV. And with its final season upon us, we tip our hats to this gem one more time.

The Hour - BBC America - Stars Dominic West and Romola Garai help take this period drama to a higher level. But it's the writing and directing that puts it in the clouds.

Suits - USA Network - The "blue skies" network isn't known for its darkness or edge, but Suits manages to create a broad tapestry that includes just enough overcast skies to keep us coming back.

Vikings - History - We're anxious for a 2nd season of this thick historical drama, which immediately put History on the map for stellar scripted programming.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES -
EDUCATION/INSTRUCTIONAL

Winner

Oprah's Lifeclass - Harpo Studios

OWN has found its sea legs lately, and that's due in no small part to Oprah Winfrey's renewed involvement in the network. And while shows like "Welcome to Sweetie Pie's" and Tyler Perry's "The Haves and the Have Nots" are helping to boost ratings, it's also nice to see that Winfrey hasn't forgotten her spiritual and self-improvement roots—all of which comes through in her "Oprah's Lifeclass" series that offers tips and suggestions for how viewers can live their best lives. It's inspirational. It's positive. And frankly it's far too much of a rarity on TV these days. We can only hope that OWN fills even more of its schedule with such life-affirming programming.

Honorable Mentions

Brain Games - National Geographic Channel - When Nat Geo says this show will change the way you think about your brain, they're not kidding. Wait. Can you even think about your own brain? Heavy, dude.

Second Act - RLTV - This reality show about Baby Boomers taking on 2nd careers gives us all hope that it's never too late to pursue your passion.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES -
FAITH BASED/RELIGIOUS

Winner

The Bible - History

Produced by Mark Burnett and featuring an international cast that includes Roma Downey, this 10-hour docu-drama explores the sacred text's most significant episodes, including Noah's journey in the ark, the Exodus and the life of Jesus. Featuring powerful performances, stunning visual effects and beautiful storytelling, "The Bible" is both entertaining and inspiring. According to Downey and Burnett, their "greatest hope" in making the series was that it would "affect a new generation of viewers and draw them back to the Bible... Part of what we hoped to accomplish with the series was to show the Bible is not simply a collection of unconnected stories which are often discussed and analyzed in snippets with chapter and verse numbers," the two wrote in an op-ed in *The Huffington Post*.

Honorable Mentions

Oprah's Super Soul Sunday - Harpo Studios - This multi-award winning daytime series features thought-provoking, eye-opening and inspiring life advice and insight designed to help viewers live their best lives.

The Carpenter's Miracle - UP - A heartfelt tale of a humble small-town handyman who finds himself at the center of media attention after attempting to resuscitate a 12-year-old, the victim of a drowning accident.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FAMILY FRIENDLY



Winner

Brain Games - National Geographic Channel



Here's a family-friendly series that first-graders to grandmothers can play along with—and they'll learn something along the way. Nat Geo has successfully found a way to make learning truly fun as it

explores the human brain. The show's April premiere was Nat Geo's highest-rated series launch in net history, delivering 1.5mln viewers, and in a world in which edgy often wins the ratings race, it's good to see a bit of good, clean and often educational fun resonating with viewers. Filled with illusions, challenges and mini games, we dare you not to play along.

Honorable Mentions

The Carpenter's Miracle - UP - UP took Judd Parkin's Christmas-themed novel and correctly applied its themes of faith, skepticism and miracles to the Easter holiday.

Finding Normal - UP - A romantic comedy, starring Candace Cameron Bure, that's safe for the whole family as it focuses on what life is really about.

iShine KNECT - TBN/Smile of a Child TV/JCTV - A comedy that uses contemporary Christian artists, including Mission Six, Paige Armstrong and the Rubyz.

Secret Life of the Rainforest - Smithsonian Channel - A gorgeous look at Barro Colorado Island with Smithsonian researchers.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FOOD - COMPETITION



Winner

Top Chef - Bravo

Food competition shows come and go, but Bravo's Top Chef really sets the standard for them all with its addictive devotion to excellence, pitting chefs against each other in a format that simply keeps viewers tuning in night after night. Host Padma Lakshmi has become a staple of this fast-moving competition, which emphasizes quick thinking and problem solving to emulate the real world that these chefs would face in the restaurant industry. And it's that devotion to grit and tenacity that both amps



up the drama—but also educates the audience about just what it takes to be a top chef in this cutthroat environment. For the ones who survive, it's an invaluable trial by fire. For those of us who watch, it's just good TV.

Honorable Mentions

BBQ Pitmasters - Destination America - Here we glimpse an intensely competitive world as some of the best names in barbecue face off for \$50K. But it's usually not about the money. Their pride is on the line, and it shows.

Iron Chef - Food Network - Just a solidly fun and entertaining format that includes fast paced action in "kitchen stadium" as some of the best chefs prepare 5-course meals in only an hour.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FOOD - INSTRUCTIONAL



Winner

Nadia G's Bitchin' Kitchen - Cooking Channel



The first time we caught this bizarre and glorious cooking show, we weren't sure what we were watching. It's like Julia Child was reincarnated as a fast-talking, tattooed, punk rock, heavy metal Italian princess with blender issues. And why hadn't someone

thought of that before—because it's awesome!? Nadia G injects cooking tips with an over-the-top demeanor that injects humor, personality and yeah... lotsa spice... into a tried-and-true instructional format. The occasional cut-aways to a goofy cast of characters who drive home her cooking points ups the fun quotient and makes this one of the most original cooking shows in recent memory. Go Nadia G!

Honorable Mentions

Extra Virgin - Cooking Channel - Actress Debbie Mazar and her Italian husband Gabriele Corcos make us want to stop everything and hop a flight to the old country. In fact--

Giada at Home - Food Network - There's a certain comfort in how Giada De Laurentiis talks about food with a passion that's ultimately infectious.

The Pioneer Woman - Food Network - Ree Drummond and her rustic kitchen breathe new life into the food category as she walks us through recipes on her Oklahoma ranch.

Who's Cooking with Florence Henderson - RLTV - Honestly, we just love seeing Florence Henderson in anything she does. But who knew she could get us so excited about food? Take a break, Alice.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - FOOD - ON LOCATION



Winner

Bizarre Foods America - Travel Channel



It's gross. It's disturbing. Parts of it will make you want to vomit. And that's what we call entertainment, at least when Andrew Zimmern's the one leading us through this trip to culinary bizarreness. For

U.S. audiences, there was always some comfort in knowing the food couldn't ever get that weird here in meat-and-potatoes America. Too bad Zimmern torpedoed that notion in Season 2 when he traveled the U.S. and found enough weirdness to rival anything across the globe. But while the strange eats always keep things interesting, it's the skillful storytelling and appreciation of unique people, cultures and dishes that truly makes this entertaining series worth watching.

Honorable Mentions

Cake Boss - TLC - Buddy Valastro and his crew of merry pastry artists are never boring. They may squabble over everything, but in the end it's all about family.

Chuck's Eat the Street / Chuck Hughes - Cooking Channel - For most of us, eating at restaurants on famous city streets would be a vacation. For Chuck Hughes, it's a job. And he does it well.

Dead Meat - Sportsman Channel - Pulled armadillo sliders, perhaps? How about stir-fried python. Yeah. You get the idea. This show isn't for the unadventurous. Sign us up.

Man Fire Food - Cooking Channel - Roger Mooking isn't a pyromaniac (as far as we know), but he sure loves to seek out flames when they're wrapping themselves around something edible.

Roadtrip with G. Garvin - Cooking Channel - G. Garvin knows Southern-inspired cuisine. And he knows where to find it. And we know how to follow him there. Roadtrip!

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - MUSIC



Winner

The Doors: Mr. Mojo Risin' - The Story of LA Woman - Smithsonian Channel

Did you know that "Mr. Mojo Risin'" is an anagram for Jim Morrison? That's just one of the interesting factoids you'll learn in this fascinating music documentary that will hook you like a pop song. This doc, which includes incredible interviews by the surviving members of The Doors as well as rare historical footage, dissects the making of the band's most lauded album by meticulously breaking down each song, giving us a unique glimpse into how this legendary band wrote, recorded and collaborated. Sure, there are a few obligatory rock-and-roll stories thrown into the mix. But it's mostly a celebration of what made The Doors one of the most iconic bands of the 20th century: The music.

Honorable Mentions

2012 CMT Music Awards - CMT - Toby Keith and Kristen Bell as charming hosts. Cameos by Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. Some great country music. What else could we ask for?

Coldplay Live 2012 - EPIX - This well-directed and sonically exquisite concert mash-up from Coldplay's Mylo Xyloto world tour doesn't disappoint.

Fuse News - Fuse - Real music news back on TV again? Yep. And anchors Alexa Chung and Matte Babel leave no rolling stone unturned.

Love for Levon: Live - AXS TV - An impressive lineup from Joe Walsh to John Mayer played in tribute to The Band's late drummer/singer Levon Helm—with proceeds going to keep the Woodstock barn's concert series afloat.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - NEWS



Winner

The Brokaw Files - Military Channel

When it comes to offering insightful commentary on significant moments in NBC's broadcast history, the esteemed journalist Tom Brokaw is your man. In "The Brokaw Files" the legendary anchor examines iconic military moments like WWII soldiers returning home to America, a day in the life of the Commander

in Chief and lessons learned from heroic air traffic controllers in the wake of the events of 9/11. With an unmatched store of experience from reportage in the field and a keen eye for historical detail, Brokaw brings the necessary knowledge and perspective to tackle pivotal moments in America's military history with depth and reflection.

Honorable Mentions

CNBC's Fiscal Cliff Coverage - CNBC - The network went all out with its coverage of the fiscal cliff crisis, including a "Rise Above" campaign to spur action from policymakers to find economic solutions.

E! News - E! Entertainment - Replacing Ryan Seacrest as the co-host of E! News with Giuliana Rancic is no small task, but Terrence Jenkins has risen to the occasion with style.

Oprah: Where Are They Now? - Harpo Studios - This series presents a look back at an infamous Hollywood Madam—including a tour of a brothel—lessons learned from rapper Bow Wow and the late film critic Roger Ebert's greatest moments on the Oprah Winfrey show.

We Decide: Latinos and the 2012 Election - NUVOTV - This excellent town hall special tackles everything from immigration reform to the Dream Act to the economy and more—from the perspective of key thought leaders and American Latino voters.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - OTHER



Winner

The Bully Effect - Cartoon Network



Lee Hirsh, the orchestrator of this immensely inspiring show, had been bullied himself as a child. So he made a film about it, knowing first-hand

the difficulties children face in talking about such experiences. Cartoon Network then created an on-air call-to-action online where people pledged to stop bullying. In this TV event, harrowing testimonials from parents and kids are interspersed with mind-blowing stats to create a compelling education on a truly significant topic. Additionally, the network's own president and COO Stuart Snyder, as well as newsman Anderson Cooper, offer their thoughts on bullying as well.

Honorable Mentions

Call Me Crazy: A Five Film - Lifetime - The sequel to the net's successful "Five" film project, "Call Me Crazy" explores various states of mental illness, anchored by complex writing and strong performances.

Carrie Underwood "Blown Away Tour" Live - AXS TV - We were blown away by the production values and excellent directing in this live special.

Dangerous Grounds - Travel Channel - Who knew coffee could be so dangerous? The thrill-seeking host Todd Carmichael tackles precarious locales across the globe in search of the best coffee beans.

Family S.O.S. with Jo Frost - TLC - In an attempt to truly fix the families she counsels, Jo Frost does not sugarcoat her advice—or demands, one might say. It's satisfying to see her triumph with a no-nonsense approach.

House Crashers - DIY Network - Looking for a house to make over in a short three days, the very charming Josh Temple ambushes people at home improvement stores.

Property Brothers - HGTV - These two professional and energetic brothers help couples find the perfect home—and if it's a fixer upper, even better.

The Root 100 - ASPIRE - Celebrating 24 of "The Root 100" 2012 honorees, or a collection of young, black leaders doing inspiring work, the series shows in-depth and empowering interviews of these achievers.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Winner

Washington Watch with Roland Martin - TV One



Roland Martin has been a staple on cable news stemming from his long stint on CNN as a political analyst who always spoke his mind and introduced unique perspectives. But his weekly one-hour public affairs show on

TV One is perhaps his best work to date, allowing the introspective Martin to focus on issues not only important to African-Americans but ultimately the entire electorate. The show combines one-on-one, in-depth interviews and fascinating roundtable discussions to dig deeper than most and attempt to find common ground between opposing viewpoints. It's smart TV. And Martin's at the top of his game.

Honorable Mentions

The Communicators - C-SPAN - This long-running series puts top policymakers and private-sector leaders on the hot seat—while debating the issues... respectfully.

State of the Union with Candy Crowley - CNN - Crowley's one of the most prepared reporters in Washington, and she never settles for surface answers, always digging deeper.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES REALITY – AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL



Winner

Push Girls - Sundance Channel



We've long been a fan of this inspirational show about 4 fun-loving and beautiful L.A. women who just so happen to do their partying without use of their legs. But while they may be confined to wheelchairs, they're anything but confined in life—pursuing more goals before breakfast than most of the “able-bodied” chase their whole lives. The positivity that emanates from this crew permeates this show. And despite the obstacles and inevitable disappointments that affect their personal and professional lives, these incredible BFFs keep pushing forward (sometimes popping wheelies along the way). Push girls, represent!

Honorable Mentions

Braxton Family Values - WE tv - Never a dull moment with these diva siblings as they sing and argue their way into our hearts.

Breaking Amish - TLC - Sure, it's a bit creepy and strange to watch Amish youth “breaking bad” in the big city... but it's also incredibly fascinating.

Duck Dynasty - A&E - What can we say about the endlessly entertaining antics of these duck-calling business moguls. America's hooked. And so are we.

Here Comes Honey Boo Boo - TLC - Like an accident at the side of the road or an awkward wedding toast, we can't stop gawking—even when it just feels wrong.

Locked Up Abroad - National Geographic Channel - Don't watch this show if you've ever feared incarceration in a far-off land. That is, if you ever want to experience anxiety-free travel.

Vanderpump Rules - Bravo - How Lisa Vanderpump keeps smiling while trying to control her misbehaving restaurant staff is unclear. But her ability to cope makes for great TV.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES REALITY – PROFESSIONS



Winners

Blackboard Wars - Discovery Studios/OWN



This poignant look at life in a troubled inner-city school in New Orleans offers a rare glimpse into a world that most of us couldn't imagine and reminds us that much of the public education system remains in serious crisis. We follow new principal Marvin Thompson as he asks the students of John McDonogh High School to do something they've never done: Believe in themselves. It's tough. It's frustrating. And it's never smooth sailing. But this determined fixer won't quit until he has proven to these kids that they surmount any obstacle, even when surrounded by poverty and violence. One thing's for certain: There's no soft scripting on this reality show. This is real. And raw. And often uncomfortable. But it's one of the best unscripted shows on TV. Period.

Honorable Mentions

Deadliest Catch - Discovery Channel - After so many seasons and so many imitators, there's still something about this show as fresh as the crustaceans that line those perilous crab pots.

Inside Combat Rescue - National Geographic Channel - It's the first time in history that the U.S. Air Force has allowed cameras to follow these rescue airman—and we hope it isn't the last.

Million Dollar Listing New York - Bravo - Could these real estate agents be any more obnoxious? Doubtful. But watching them fight for those commissions is high art.

Pawn Stars - History - Who would have thought that a few crusty guys in a Vegas pawn shop could anchor one of the most successful reality franchises of all time? Apparently, History did.

Second Act - RLTV - Such a refreshing show that reminds us that older Americans often match (or even exceed) the professional drive and determination of their younger counterparts.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES REALITY – WILDERNESS



Winner

Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan - BBC America

When Dominic Monaghan's famous character Charlie from ABC's "Lost" sacrificed himself to a watery grave to save his friends, we knew this talented actor would be back on the airwaves soon enough. Now did we expect him to turn up as the host of an addictive show in which he travels the world looking for exotic creatures such as a giant Venezuelan centipede that eats

bats? Uh, no. No we didn't. But we couldn't be happier that's where this jolly wildlife enthusiast turned up because his absolute passion for bizarre creatures is so infectious, so giddy, so childlike in its raw enthusiasm... that it's like hiking through the woods with your best friend from grade school—the one who liked to dig up scary bugs and reptiles. You loved it. But you were just a little bit scared. Sorry Charlie, but we're hooked.

Honorable Mentions

Alaska: The Last Frontier - Discovery Studios/Discovery Channel - This show about an Alaskan family that lives completely off the land teaches to either appreciate our modern conveniences or mourn them. Kind of depends on the episode.

Call of the Wildman - Animal Planet - If you're not entertained by the hilarious and often life-threatening exploits of "Turtleman" Ernie Brown Jr., there's really just something wrong with you.

Mountain Men - History - Apparently, we really like this whole living-off-the-land-in-Alaska thing. Can someone please check the whereabouts of the CableFAX staff?

Swamp People - History - They're sweaty. They're dirty. And they're Cajun through and through, navigating the Louisiana swamps as if it was the back of their hand.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - REALITY/COMPETITION/GAME SHOW



Winner

Best Ink - Season 2 - Oxygen Media

The stakes are high on this reality show. We're talking permanent. A group of tattoo artists tackle creative challenges and are judged on things like originality and technique. The show is fun and arty, and its interplay of cartoonish graphics and upbeat, punky music only improve on that aesthetic. Meanwhile, the contestants seem to get a kick out of ball busting each other, which of course makes for great entertainment and likely not a whole lot of hand holding from producers. Oxygen has found the crowd for reality.

Honorable Mentions

Chopped - Food Network - This series never fails to inspire genius and creativity among its contestants, who somehow create masterful meals from seemingly impossibly paired ingredients.

Family Game Night - The Hub Network - It's family fun with classic games like Yahtzee, Jenga and Monopoly—but even better, because they are life-size. We're in!

Funny or Die's Billy on the Street - Fuse - As Billy chases after unsuspecting strangers and harasses them with silly and often pointless rapid-fire questions, you can't help but laugh. The reactions are priceless.

Next Iron Chef: Redemption - Food Network - There's something desperate and ultimately fun about giving a crushed competitor one more chance, and it's always good TV.

Project Runway - Lifetime - This show consistently delivers fashion designers who not only impress viewers with their talent, but often end up succeeding in the cutthroat fashion world. And it's a testament to the show.

Restaurant Impossible - Food Network - It's not just the satisfaction gained from watching a business emerge fully transformed, but also the uplifting emotions the owners—and consequently the viewers—experience.

Top Chef - Bravo - Bravo's winning "chefeestants" must exhibit the highest levels of raw talent, creativity, management skills and quick-under-pressure techniques to come out a winner in this fierce competition. And celebrity judges ensure that only the best make it to the top.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - REGIONAL PROGRAM



Winner

Hurricane Sandy: NY1 Staff - Time Warner Cable: NY1 News

NY1, Time Warner Cable's 24-hour news channel became the voice and advocate of New Yorkers as their lives were turned upside down by Sandy. NY1 viewers were given the inside view of things like the unlivable evacuation centers and schools that housed homeless adults. When other news outlets moved on after a few days, NY1 remained entirely focused on the aftermath of the storm, continuing to produce a dozen or more news packages a day on the recovery efforts.

Honorable Mentions

Broadway in Chicago Backstage - Comcast - CN100 Chicago - This show unveils some of the best and newest shows and stars of the stage in Chicago.

Redskins Postgame Live - Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic - This game-day show is the most extensive Redskins program in the region, providing fans with exclusive Redskins post-game news, analysis, commentary, interviews and features from football experts.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - SCI FI



Winner

Doctor Who Season 7 - BBC America

Celebrating a show that has miraculously survived 50 years on the air certainly isn't a risky move. But the truth is that BBC's Doctor Who franchise—now alive and well both in Britain and here in the states through BBC America—has simply captured the imagination of multiple generations with its time-traveling, identity-shifting

adventurer who seems constantly in peril. The 11th Doctor, played masterfully by Matt Smith, has managed to keep things interesting by continuing the tradition of staying (usually) one step ahead of the bad guys. With Smith stepping down and Peter Capaldi taking over as The 12th Doctor, it's an exciting transition period for a show at the top of its game. If history is any guide, it will stay there. Of course, history is quite malleable, now isn't it?

Honorable Mentions

Mermaids: The New Evidence - Animal Planet - The pseudo-mockumentary format irritated some critics, but if you truly thought this was a real documentary, well... we have a sand bridge to sell you. All in good fun.

Warehouse 13 - Syfy - It's the hit that keeps on giving us more artifacts and historical knick-knacks to build stories around—and we're not sure the creative minds behind this enjoyable show will ever run out.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - SPORTS



Winner

The Journey: Big Ten Football 2012 - Big Ten Network

With its skillful editing and choice of footage and music, this doc brings fans closer to the action that takes place over a season of Big Ten Football. It takes a cinematic approach to representing the game, with great success. Moreover, the stories portrayed in series, such as players overcoming injuries and first-hand accounts of dealing with adversity, are inspiring and exhibit the players' dedication. The "Journey" brand's previous incarnation, profiling Big Ten Basketball, has already excelled. But football's inaugural "Journey" deserves a straight up win here.

Honorable Mentions

Backstage: Lakers - Time Warner Cable Sports - This fly-on-the-wall docu-series gives viewers all access to practices, locker rooms, manager duties... and the fun stuff: like rookie responsibilities and goofball antics among teammates. It's a Laker fan's dream.

The Journey: Big Ten Basketball 2013 - Big Ten Network - Now in its 4th season, the series is a look at the conference's student athletes, coaches, leaders and most compelling visual elements.

MLB Tonight - MLB Network - It's baseball broadcasting with hosts sporting great comedic timing and insightful commentary on game analysis, stats, live game reportage and more.

NBA GameTime - NBA Digital - NBA GameTime is back, but this time with a new set and better guests like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who was able to parlay some of his wisdom on the new demo court on set.

NBA TV's Open Court - NBA Digital - In this roundtable discussion led by NBA greats, any basketball topic is up for debate: from LeBron James' career to super teams to something as simple (and significant) as the advantage of being tall.

BEST SHOW OR SERIES - TALK SHOWS



Winner

Oprah's Next Chapter - OWN

There's a reason she's deemed the Queen of Talk, and while her daily syndicated series may be over, newsmakers still clamor to bare their souls to Oprah. The list of high profile interviews on "Oprah's Next Chapter" is impressive: Lance Armstrong's exclusive sit-down after being stripped of his 7 Tour de France titles, a post-rehab Lindsay Lohan heart-to-heart, Cissy Houston's first in-depth interview since daughter Whitney passed away. And through it all, Oprah asks the questions we're dying to hear the answers to with her characteristic wisdom, compassion and healthy skepticism.

Honorable Mentions

Center Stage with Michael Kay - YES Network - Kay continues to impress with his introspective questions and his well-worn respect of the game.

Chelsea Lately - E! - Six years after its debut, Chelsea Handler's late night talker continues to be edgy and funny.

The Suze Orman Show - CNBC - Passionate and sharp, Suze Orman puts the personal in personal finance, tackling everything, including the unique financial issues of the LGBT community.

The Talking Dead - AMC - What's better than watching zombies die? Dissecting each kill, as well as plot points with host Chris Hardwick.

Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell - FX - If you haven't caught this show yet, do yourself a favor and watch. Bell will do more than make you laugh. He'll make you think.

Watch What Happens Live (WWHL) - Bravo - Andy Cohen might just take over the world. Or at least Bravo. His interactive talk show is the marshmallow fluff that keeps us licking the spoon.

BEST ONLINE/MOBILE EXTRAS
FOR A LINEAR SHOW*Winner***Walking Dead Story Sync - AMC**

The live, interactive experience invites users to vote in snap polls, answer Poll trivia questions, and relieve tense moments via video clips, all of which are timed to coincide with the premiere broadcast of the latest episode on AMC. "Story Sync" is optimized for Internet browsers, tablets and mobile devices. The exclusive digital content

created by AMC as a companion to the series has played a key role in keeping zombie-mania alive and well.

Honorable Mentions

Breaking Bad Story Sync - AMC - This "Story Sync" experience makes watching the series more engrossing and immersive than ever. It offers viewers an unconventional and progressive interactive experience on par with the show itself.

NBA Challenge - NBA Digital - The real-time predictive game allows fans to play along live with every NBA game this season, including the playoffs and all-star weekend.

NCAA March Madness Live - Turner Sports - Live streams of every March Madness game were available in "NCAA March Madness Live" for a nominal fee.

Pretty Dirty Secrets - ABC Family - The mystery web series, spin-off from ABC Family's hit show "Pretty Little Liars" takes place in Rosewood's Halloween store as the residents of Rosewood get ready for Halloween. By the end of the 8-part series' two-month flight, it earned over 6 million video views.

Thanksgiving Live - Food Network - This program gives the audience a chance to share its questions and opinions, and shows the friendship and camaraderie between these famous chefs who viewers are used to seeing solo in the kitchen.

BEST ONLINE-ONLY/MOBILE-ONLY SHOW

*Winner***Lauren - WIGS**

Starring Troian Bellisario from ABC Family's "Pretty Little Liars," this scripted YouTube drama tells the story of a soldier who reports her own rape and ongoing assault by her superiors to her female commanding officer Major Jo Stone. Stone is forced to navigate the fine line between seeking justice for Lauren, while remaining loyal to the institution. Although fictionalized, it's a brutally honest portrayal of the endless red tape and cold bureaucracy that many victims of sexual assault experience while serving in the military. And this series is just the latest example of excellent premium content online.

Honorable Mentions

A Day in the Life: Armed and Ready - Travel Channel - We go on a behind-the-scenes journey to see what really happens when all the cameras stop rolling.

Bravo's Top Chef: Last Chance Kitchen - Bravo Media and Magical Elves - The program finds new ways to compel fans to crossover from television to various platforms.

Chopped After Hours - Food Network - What a great way to keep any healthy (or unhealthy) "Chopped" addiction fed. We're ready to open the basket.

NBA Rooks - NBA Digital - This multi-episode, season-long NBA.com show follows the ups and downs of the season's rookies. The show lets viewers get an unprecedented insight into the NBA rookie experience.

Old Henry - INSP - The original short form limited series is the latest addition to the critically-acclaimed "Moments" series. The 6-part story follows Henry, a man in his 80s, who is dealing with the challenges of aging.

BEST VIDEO ON DEMAND
PROGRAM/SPECIAL*Winner***Xfinity TV Watchathon Week - Comcast Cable**

Launched in March 2013, Watchathon tapped into the cultural phenomenon of binge viewing and allowed Xfinity TV customers to mass consume their favorite series for free across Xfinity On Demand, Xfinity.com/TV and the Xfinity TV Player app. It was an undisputed success and reminded cable customers of the kind of value that authenticated content can create when paired with traditional linear TV. The effort delivered almost 4K hours of unrestricted access to TV series content across Xfinity On Demand platforms, including 3,500 episodes of award-winning, top-rated and recently premiered shows. Viewers loved it. And we already want more.

Honorable Mentions

Battle of the Fans: Basketball Final 2013 - Comcast - CN100 Chicago - This "best-of" compilation was expertly framed against the background of the basketball state finals in Peoria, IL, home of the original March Madness.

Bleacher Report's Know Your Draft Pick - Turner Sports - Bleacher Report removes the mask and gives fans the chance to know their team's draft picks; what motivates them, what drives them, their lives off the field and the secrets to what set them apart.

Roger Corman's Attack of the 50 Foot Cheerleader - EPIX - This modern-day take on Roger Corman genre pictures follows a college coed who uses an experimental drug to transform herself into a popular beauty. Watch out, "Sharknado"!

Entertainment Studios Congratulates Byron Allen

2013 CableFAX Hall of Fame Inductee



We salute your 35 years of amazing success,
and service to the industry we all love.

