



The Audies®

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The Chopin Manuscript, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, I Am America (And So Can You!), Inspired By...the Bible Experience (Old Testament) and The Invention of Hugo Cabret to Compete for The Audies® Top Honor

Princeton Junction, NJ – March 17, 2008 — The Audio Publishers Association (APA) has announced five finalists for the prestigious Audiobook of the Year Award. The five titles that have been selected are: the ground-breaking audio Bible *Inspired By... The Bible Experience* (Old Testament), the murder mystery serial *The Chopin Manuscript*, the series-concluding blockbuster *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the satirical spoof *I Am America (And So Can You!)* and the intricate children's mystery *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Each title is also a finalist in at least one other *Audies* category. The Award will be presented at *The Audies*® gala awards ceremony on May 30 at The Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, CA.

The Audies®, considered the “Oscar race” of the audio publishing industry, is a celebration that recognizes a multitude of published audiobooks. With winners to be announced in 30 categories this year, the prestigious Audiobook of the Year award gives special recognition to the audiobook with the greatest impact on the audio publishing industry and is judged on criteria including marketing campaign excellence and sales achievement.

“This year’s Audiobook of the Year finalists represent how far audiobooks have come in creative packaging, innovative marketing and sales, high production quality and, as always, superb narration,” said Ellen Myrick, chair of the *The Audies*® judges. “The overall diversity and uniform excellence of the nominees made the judges’ task at once more difficult and exciting.”

This year’s Audio Book of the Year judges provided their comments and insight into the selection of these five prestigious finalists. The finalists, with the judge’s comments, are listed below:

The Chopin Manuscript

By Jeffrey Deaver, Lee Child, Lisa Scottoline, Joseph Finder, David Hewson, James Grady, S.J. Rozan, Erica Spindler, John Ramsey Miller, David Corbett, John Gilstrap, Jim Fusilli, Peter Spiegelman, Ralph Pezzullo and P.J. Parrish

Read by Alfred Molina

Published by Audible, Inc. and International Thriller Writers, Inc.

Also a finalist in the Original Work category

“The Chopin Manuscript has 15 authors—all internationally renowned thriller writers—and one brilliant narrator in Alfred Molina. Each author added his or her own take on the story begun by Jeffrey Deaver and wrote pithy dialogue and evocative descriptions with the medium in mind. Released via download, The Chopin Manuscript was launched as a serial, building anticipation as each author stepped onto the stage for a chapter.”

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

By J.K. Rowling

Read by Jim Dale

Producers: Orli Moscovitz, David Rapkin

Production Associate: Louis Milgrom

Director: David Rapkin

Published by Random House Audio Listening Library

Also a finalist in the Male Narration and Package Design categories

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is a fitting end to this best-selling series. Narrator Jim Dale adds to his remarkable and record-setting roster of characters while subtly enabling his younger characters to grow and mature, giving a truly tour de force performance.”

I Am America (And So Can You!)

By Stephen Colbert

Read by Stephen Colbert with Paul Dinello, Kevin Dorff, Greg Hollimon, Evie McGee, David Pasquesi, Amy Sedaris, Allison Silverman, Brian Stack and Jon Stewart

Executive Producer: Maja Thomas

Producers: Paul Dinello and John McElroy

Director: Paul Dinello

Published by Hachette Audio

Also a finalist in the Achievement in Abridgement, Humor, and Multi-Voiced Performance categories

“Rather than a verbatim reading of I Am America . . . and So Can You!, Colbert and producer/director Paul Dinello forged a creative adaptation that encourages fans to experience both the book and the audiobook. Although the book continues to be a huge bestseller, many thought the audiobook is superior thanks to the vocal talents of Colbert and supporting players including Amy Sedaris and Jon Stewart.”

Inspired By... The Bible Experience (Old Testament)

Read by various narrators including Angela Bassett, Cuba Gooding Jr., Samuel L. Jackson, Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker and many more

Executive Producers: Ron Belk, Kyle Bowser, Lou “Buster” Brown and Robi Reed

Directors: Lou “Buster” Brown, Wren T. Brown, Andi Chapman, Chip Hurd and Mark Swinton

Published by Zondervan Audio

Also a finalist in the Achievement in Production, Inspirational/Spiritual, Multi-Voiced Performance, and Package Design categories

“Inspired by . . . The Bible Experience breathes passion and life into the best-selling book of all time. Scores of award-winning actors at peak form, a breathtaking score,

realistic audio effects and an overall commitment to excellence make The Bible Experience a transcendent listening experience.”

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

By Brian Selznick

Read by Jeff Woodman

Executive Producer: Cheryl Smith

Producer/Director: Paul Ruben

Published by Scholastic Audio

Also a finalist in the Achievement in Production category

“The Invention of Hugo Cabret expands the concept of the audiobook format with the innovative use of a “soundscape” to transform the Caldecott-award winning illustrations into an audio experience. The unique DVD extras include an engaging author interview plus a presentation of the original artwork. This audio program competes in a new entertainment environment and can attract both the ears and eyes of a broad audience.”

“These titles highlight another exciting year in the audiobook industry and showcase the type of enhancements that can occur with audio,” said Michele Lee Cobb, President of the Audio Publishers Association and Director of Library Marketing for BBC Audiobooks America.

APA thanks our gala sponsors for their significant contributions to the audio publishing industry. *The Audies*® sponsors are an integral part of the celebration:

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Zondervan Audio

For more information on covering the event, contact Kaitlin Friedmann at (609) 799-6000 extension 21, or kfriedmann@cmasolutions.com. For more information and to purchase a table or ticket, contact Diane Galante at (609) 799-6327.

About Audio Publishers Association (APA)

The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is a not-for-profit trade organization whose primary goals are to promote awareness of the audiobook industry, gather and disseminate industry statistics, encourage high production standards, and represent the interests of audiobook publishers. Since 1986, the APA has worked to bring audio publishers together to increase interest in audiobooks. Please visit www.audiopub.org for more information.

