



Audio Publishers Association

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Announcing 2017 Audie Award® Finalists for Audiobook of the Year and Excellence Awards in Design, Marketing, and Production

New York, NY – The Audio Publishers Association (APA) has announced Audie Award® finalists for Audiobook of the Year and for Excellence in Design, Excellence in Marketing, and Excellence in Production. The winners of the Excellence Awards will be announced at the Audio Publishers Association Conference (APAC) on May 31, 2017, in New York. The winner of the Audiobook of the Year will be announced at the Audie Awards® Gala on June 1, 2017, at the French Institute/Alliance Française in New York City. For the second year in a row, award-winning comedian, author, and commentator Paula Poundstone will emcee the event.

The Audiobook of the Year recognizes the audiobook that through quality, innovation, marketing, and sales, has had the most significant impact on the industry. Each nominated title is distinguished by excellence in production as well as their ability to create new interest in the audiobook format through creative marketing.

“Audiobook of the Year finalists combine outstanding production values with innovative marketing and strong sales,” says APA Executive Director, Michele Cobb. “This year’s titles demonstrate how excellence in these areas continues to raise the profile of the industry as a whole.”

The five titles competing for Audiobook of the Year are:

- *Boys in the Trees* written and narrated by Carly Simon, published by Macmillan Audio
- *The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo* written and narrated by Amy Schumer, published by Simon & Schuster Audio
- *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter, narrated by Mariska Hargitay, with the authors, published by Hachette Audio
- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, narrated by Bahni Turpin, published by Penguin Random House Audio / Books on Tape
- *Year of Yes* written and narrated by Shonda Rhimes, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

This year’s Judges provided their comments and insight into the selection of the Audiobook of the Year Finalists:

Boys in the Trees (Macmillan Audio)

“Musical icon Carly Simon’s revelatory memoir ***Boys in the Trees*** is best experienced as an audiobook, read with affecting sincerity by the author and supplemented by more than 400 musical segments. As Simon sings snippets of songs, strums her guitar, shares her childhood memories, and reveals relationships with legends including ex-husband James Taylor, listeners feel she is expressing her deepest feelings directly into our ears. Simon personally advocated for the audiobook through marketing that included a Facebook Live event, promotion on Pandora and the artist’s webpage, plus an audiobook giveaway to audience members during a *Late Show with Stephen Colbert* appearance.”

The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo (Simon & Schuster Audio)

“Amy Schumer’s stand-up fans will both laugh out loud and be moved to empathetic understanding as she reads her memoir ***The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo***. Schumer displays her comedic skill and fast-paced timing as she packs raw humor into the narration, while also confiding deeply personal emotions that have shaped her personal advocacy for ending gun violence and promoting healthy relationships and positive self-image. Schumer’s celebrity status and huge social media following expanded the marketing outreach, and a Spoken Word Grammy nomination provided further national recognition for an audiobook that had already achieved dazzling consumer sales.”

Hamilton: The Revolution (Hachette Audio)

“The phenomenon that is *Hamilton* the musical spreads to the audiobook world with ***Hamilton: The Revolution***, a must-have insider’s guide to the making of the musical. Read by super-fan Mariska Hargitay, the audio takes listeners on a journey from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s pool-side reading of Ron Chernow’s biography of Alexander Hamilton to Broadway success and propulsion into the zeitgeist. Fans will especially appreciate Miranda’s reading of his annotations, from the very first revelation that the distinctive three-note intro mimics a squeaky door. Just as the musical has expanded the audience for musical theatre, this audiobook has won new fans to the world of audiobooks, thanks in no small part to Miranda’s devoted social media following.”

The Underground Railroad (Penguin Random House Audio / Books on Tape)

“Colson Whitehead’s literary bestseller ***The Underground Railroad*** finds the ideal narrator in Bahni Turpin. Voicing a complex cast of characters, Turpin conveys the bitter realities of the antebellum South through evocative accents, emotional resonance, and subtle pacing, enhanced by strong production quality. The marketing campaign highlighted the title’s selection as an Oprah Book Club pick, noted the significance of the audio during Black History Month, and featured Turpin representing the author at the National Book Award annual reading (honoring the title’s selection as the 2017 Fiction award-winner), becoming the first narrator to participate in the ceremony.”

Year of Yes (Simon & Schuster Audio)

“In ***Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand In the Sun and Be Your Own Person***, Shonda Rhimes, known to legions of TV fans for her creative productions *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Scandal*, and *How to Get Away with Murder*, highlights the transformative power of saying “Yes” to experiences outside her comfort zone. In a production that is both memoir and self-help, Rhimes reveals the fears and tribulations behind her Hollywood veneer, and her appealing no-nonsense style creates an immediate connection encouraging personal empowerment. Through a social media campaign that appealed to a diverse range of listeners, this audio pulled in both new and returning fans of the audio format.”

The award for Excellence in Design recognizes the product design for packaging or display art.

The five finalists competing for Excellence in Design are:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, design by David Drummond, published by Audible Studios

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, design by Levente Szabo, published by Audible Studios

Alien: Out of the Shadows: An Audible Original Drama by Tim Lebbon and Dirk Maggs, design by James Jackson, published by Audible Studios

Geek Feminist Revolution by Kameron Hurley, design by Jessica Daigle, published by HighBridge/Recorded Books

Grimm's Fairy Tales by The Brothers Grimm, design by Divya Srinivasan, published by Listening Library

The award for Excellence in Marketing recognizes the promotion campaign that contributed most to generating attention and bringing new listeners to spoken audio.

The five finalists competing for Excellence in Marketing are:

Alien: Out of the Shadows: An Audible Original Drama by Tim Lebbon and Dirk Maggs, narrated by Rutger Hauer, Corey Johnson, Matthew Lewis, Kathryn Drysdale, Laurel Lefkow, Andrea Deck, and Mac McDonald, published by Audible Studios

Battlefield Earth: A Saga of the Year 3000 by L. Ron Hubbard, narrated by Josh Clark, Scott Menville, Jim Meskimen, Phil Proctor, Stefan Rudnicki, Fred Tatasciore and a full cast, published by Galaxy Audio

Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff by Pappy Pariah, narrated by Sean Penn, published by Audible Studios

The Dispatcher by John Scalzi, narrated by Zachary Quinto, published by Audible Studios

Hamilton: The Revolution by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter, narrated by Mariska Hargitay, with the authors, published by Hachette Audio

The award for Excellence in Production recognizes a production that represents the best the format has to offer in listening excellence.

The six titles competing for Excellence in Production are:

Alien: Out of the Shadows: An Audible Original Drama by Tim Lebbon and Dirk Maggs, narrated by Rutger Hauer, Corey Johnson, Matthew Lewis, Kathryn Drysdale, Laurel Lefkow, Andrea Deck, and Mac McDonald, published by Audible Studios

Battlefield Earth: A Saga of the Year 3000 by L. Ron Hubbard, narrated by Josh Clark, Scott Menville, Jim Meskimen, Phil Proctor, Stefan Rudnicki, Fred Tatasciore, and a full cast, published by Galaxy Audio

Beric the Briton by G.A. Henty. narrated by Brian Blessed, Brian Cox, Tom Baker, Honeysuckle Weeks, John Rhys-Davies, and a full cast, published by Heirloom Audio Productions

The Oedipus Plays: An Audible Original Drama by Sophocles, narrated by Jamie Glover, Hayley Atwell, Michael Maloney, Samantha Bond, Julian Glover and David Horovitch, published by Audible Studios

The Secret History of Twin Peaks by Mark Frost, narrated by a full cast, published by Macmillan Audio

A Wild Swan by Michael Cunningham, narrated by Lili Taylor and Billy Hough, published by Macmillan Audio

Additional information can be found online at www.theaudies.com.

For more information about the Audies Gala, contact Rachel Tarlow Gul at Over the River Public Relations: 201-503-1321 or tarlowgul@nj.rr.com.

To purchase tickets, visit www.audiopub.org.

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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.