



Audio Publishers Association

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The Audio Publishers Association Announces 3rd Annual Audiobook Blogger of the Year Contest

Winner to receive two tickets to the 2017 Audie Awards® Gala in New York City on June 1

February 16, 2017, Philadelphia, PA – In 2014, the Audio Publishers Association (APA) established the Audiobook Blogger of the Year contest to recognize and honor industry bloggers who feature and review audiobooks. The Audiobook Blogger of the Year contest, which has been a resounding success for two consecutive years, has not only helped to expand engaging discussions about audiobooks online, it has also welcomed new reviewers to join in the conversation.

For this year's contest, the winning blogger will receive two tickets to the 2017 Audie Awards® Gala (a black-tie dinner and awards ceremony valued at \$700), a \$200 cash prize, and recognition of their award at the Gala. Known as “the Oscars of the audiobook world,” the Gala attracts authors, actors, media and publishing professionals from around the country; some notable attendees in the past have included Bobby Cannavale, John Hodgman, Linda Lavin, John Waters, Adriana Trigiani, Michael Emerson, Neil Gaiman, Libba Bray, Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket) and David Aaron Baker. The 2017 Audies Gala will be held on Thursday, June 1 in New York City at the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) and emceed by Paula Poundstone. Two runners up will each receive a \$100 cash prize.



Last year, a five-member panel of judges including three APA PR & Events committee members, APA President Linda Lee, and one celebrity judge – actress and award-winning audiobook narrator Katherine Kellgren – chose Candace Levy, host of the *Beth Fish Reads* blog, as the Audiobook Blogger of the Year. A longtime, beloved audiobook advocate, Candace Levy's thoughtful, articulate voice was judged to be an essential one, both to industry professionals and audio fans alike. Ms. Levy attended the black-tie Audies Gala in Chicago, where she was recognized for her achievement. 2015's inaugural winner was the talented and passionate Jennifer Conner of LiterateHousewife.com.

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“Book bloggers sit beside librarians on the list of my favorite people on Earth,” says this year’s celebrity judge, Scott Brick. “I love their passion and their originality—there are so many unique approaches they bring to their love of books, and I find reading their posts endlessly fascinating. We in the audiobook world are always looking for new listeners, always on the lookout for ways to introduce new people to the medium, and book bloggers are the perfect avenue for achieving that, and I’m hugely grateful. It’s a privilege and an honor to be one of this year’s judges for the Audiobook Blogger of the Year Contest. I can’t wait to get started!”

Submissions for this year’s contest will be judged on the following criteria:

- 45% quality of three submitted posts, dated between March 11, 2016 – March 16, 2017
- 40% quality of overall site (number of audiobook reviews, site aesthetics)
- 10% interaction with the book blogging community, social media presence (examples include active Twitter accounts or robust commenting sections)
- 5% personal statement

Blog submissions will be reviewed by a five-member panel made up of three APA PRE Committee members, the APA President, and one audiobook celebrity judge, veteran narrator Scott Brick. The deadline for entries is March 16, 2017. Travel and accommodations are the winner’s responsibility. The APA encourages bloggers to enter regardless of whether or not they are able to be present at the Audies Gala; they are happy to find an alternate way to feature the winner during the Gala, if necessary. The entry form along with all eligibility requirements, judging criteria, submission guidelines, and rules can be found here: <https://audiopub.org/audioblogger.asp>. The APA will announce the winner on April 11, 2017.

ABOUT THE AUDIO PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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.

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