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Announcing the Audie Award Finalists for Audiobook of the Year and Distinguished Achievement in Production

April 13, 2015 – Philadelphia, PA – The Audio Publishers Association (APA) has announced five Audie Award finalists for Audiobook of the Year and four finalists for Distinguished Achievement in Production. The winners of these prestigious awards will be announced at the Audie Awards® Gala on May 28th, 2015, at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City.

The Audiobook of the Year recognizes the audiobook that, through quality, innovation, marketing and sales, has had the most significant impact on the industry. All five titles are distinguished by excellence in production as well as their ability to create new interest in the audiobook format through creative marketing. Linda Lee, President of the APA, says, “Titles like these offer an elevated listening experience that truly drives the growth in our industry. We are proud to recognize and honor them for their artistry and role in exciting listeners in a way that will have them clamoring for more. Thanks to everyone involved with these titles for the important contribution you have made to the audiobook world.”

The five titles competing for Audiobook of the Year are:

- ***The Bully Pulpit***; by Doris Kearns Goodwin; narrated by Edward Herrmann; Simon & Schuster Audio
- ***The Graveyard Book***; by Neil Gaiman; narrated by Derek Jacobi and a full cast; HarperAudio
- ***Mandela: An Audio History***; by Nelson Mandela; narrated by Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Joe Richman; Highbridge Audio, a division of Recorded Books
- ***What I Know For Sure***; written and narrated by Oprah Winfrey; Macmillan Audio
- ***Yes Please***; written and narrated by Amy Poehler; Harper Audio

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

The Bully Pulpit (Simon & Schuster Audio)

“Edward Herrmann’s masterful performance of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s ***The Bully Pulpit*** makes the larger-than-life Theodore Roosevelt and his tumultuous times spring vividly to life. Goodwin is in a class by herself as a writer of narrative nonfiction and the late actor does full justice to the political panoply and maneuvering, providing a not-so-distant mirror to our own times. Herrmann’s voice is at home with both bombast and intimacy and makes the listener echo Teddy’s favorite word: ‘Delighted!’ And Goodwin herself helped keep the audiobook edition in the limelight in her many interviews and publicity appearances.”

The Graveyard Book (HarperAudio)

“Listeners may be forgiven for referring to ***The Graveyard Book*** as ***The Graveyard Audiobook***, as this full cast edition is simply unforgettable. Neil Gaiman, the pied piper of children’s literature, and a royal cast of actors, weave their voices together to create a haunting recording. Adults and children alike will want to listen and re-listen. Creative marketing like a promotional video of cast members from the studio recording and the sharing of SoundCloud excerpts with Gaiman’s 900,000+ followers helped bring in new listeners.”



Mandela: An Audio History (Highbridge Audio, a division of Recorded Books)

“One of the most powerful, well produced, and affecting programs we’ve heard. This is a unique and important document, skillfully and painstakingly stitched together by the producer from rare archival recordings. Using actualities, including vintage newsreels and songs by Miriam Makeba, ***Mandela: An Audio History*** brings this turbulent period in South Africa’s history to vivid, heartrending life. Desmond Tutu and Mandela’s voices add intimacy and gravitas. This artistic summary left judges moved, admiring, and wishing for more. The publisher used the occasions of various Mandela milestone anniversaries, public radio exposure, and podcast audiences to bring new listeners to this unique program.”

What I Know For Sure (Macmillan Audio)

“For decades Oprah Winfrey has shared her life with millions of adoring fans. She continues to give pearls of wisdom learned from family, friends and mentors with ***What I Know For Sure***. Beautifully read with emphasis on gratitude and a positive outlook, Winfrey’s guidance will help listeners smooth their paths to a happier life. Oprah did a fabulous job; she inhabits the reading in a way that some narrators miss. Plus the far-reaching assets of Winfrey’s media organizations helped spread the word about this audiobook in many ways.”

Yes Please (HarperAudio)

“Amy Poehler’s memoir radiates her charm and life lessons in a one-of-a-kind production amplified by a cast of famous friends and family. Poehler engages listeners as she has throughout her career as writer, actress, and producer using her well-honed improv skills to make each chapter energized and fresh. The live recording of the final chapter of ***Yes Please*** is an audio innovation that fans will love. Innovative marketing and Poehler’s own interest in her audiobook helped this recording reach new listening audiences.”

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

The four titles competing for Distinguished Achievement in Production are:

- ***The Child***; by Sebastian Fitzek; narrated by Rupert Penry-Jones, Jack Boulter, Emilia Fox, Stephen Marcus, Robert Glenister, and Andy Serkis; Audible, Inc.
- ***The Graveyard Book***; by Neil Gaiman; narrated by Neil Gaiman, Derek Jacobi, Robert Madge, Clare Corbett, Miriam Margolyes, Andrew Scott, and Julian Rhind-Tutt; HarperAudio
- ***Report from Nuremberg: The International War Crimes Trial***; by Harold Burson; narrated by Christian Rummel, Richard McGonagle, Gabrielle de Cuir, Kristoffer Tabori, Arthur Morey, Joe Nocera, and others; Audible, Inc.
- ***Revolution***; by Deborah Wiles; narrated by Stacey Aswad, Francois Battiste, J.D. Jackson and Robin Miles; Listening Library

Janet Benson, Audies Competition Chair, says, “I love the range of this year’s Distinguished Achievement in Production finalists; from the intense World War II history of ***Report from Nuremberg*** to ***Revolution***, Young Adult fiction set in Mississippi’s Freedom Summer of 1964. Add in a downright creepy thriller that begins with a 10-year-old’s confession to murder with ***The Child***, and then a new all-star cast recording of a past favorite with Neil Gaiman’s ***The Graveyard Book***, and you have a wealth of excellent listening.”

This year’s Judges provided their comments and insight into the selection of the **Distinguished Achievement in Production Finalists**:

The Child (Audible, Inc.)

“Full cast acting, enhanced with sound effects, give this performance a deep and full listening experience. Characterizations, narrative pacing, and settings all receive sustained attention to detail, drawing in the audience and holding them as the plot unfolds and ensnares them in this audio interpretation.”

The Graveyard Book (HarperAudio)



“Led by an all-star cast of British actors, including Sir Derek Jacobi as principal narrator, Robert Madge playing young Nobody Owens, and Miriam Margolyes in the role of Nobody’s ghostly adoptive mother, this stellar multi-voiced production of Neil Gaiman’s 2009 Newbery award-winning novel that follows the adventures of a young boy who survived a murderous rampage on his family and is being pursued by the evil Man Jack, is an outstanding production. Renowned banjo player Béla Fleck’s evocative arrangement of “Danse Macabre” adds to the mood. Neil Gaiman’s remarks, in which he explains the inspiration for the story, fittingly conclude this superlative production.”

Report from Nuremberg: The International War Crimes Trial (Audible, Inc.)

“A cast of skilled narrators, including Stefan Rudnicki and Scott Brick, transports listeners to a Nuremberg courtroom in 1945, as they recreate the actual Armed Forces Radio Network broadcasts of the International War Crimes Trial. These riveting reports immerse listeners in the famous trial, providing a thumbnail history of the war and an intriguing glimpse of the personalities, both defendants and prosecutors. An interview with author Harold Burson provides additional background and fascinating insights. It’s stylish radio journalism for today’s audience.”

Revolution (Listening Library)

“This exceptional full cast production brings Wiles’ “documentary novel” about the highly charged Freedom Summer of 1964 vividly to life. The narrators expertly interweave the touching interracial friendship story with re-created sound bites of newspaper articles, speeches, and KKK pamphlets along with skillfully performed songs, gospel lyrics and poems of the period. Aswad brings a feisty independence to her portrayal of Sunny, while Battiste renders the character of Raymond more low-key, yet still powerful.”

Additional information can be found online at www.theaudies.com or <http://www.audiopub.org/>

For more information on covering the Audies, contact
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To purchase tickets to the Audies Gala, visit <http://www.audiopub.org>

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The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is a not-for-profit trade organization, whose members consist of audio publishing companies and allied suppliers, distributors, and retailers of spoken word products and allied fields related to the production, distribution and sale of audiobooks. The APA’s primary goals are to promote awareness of the audiobook industry; serve as a networking, educational and information forum for its members; deliver programs and services that serve the common business interests for its members; gather and disseminate industry statistics; encourage high production standards; and promote policies and activities that accelerate audiobook industry growth. Please visit www.audiopub.org for more information.