

For Immediate Release

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**HOLLYWOOD, HEALTH & SOCIETY**  
**USC ANNENBERG NORMAN LEAR CENTER**

*Grey's Anatomy, black-ish, This Is Us and Last Week Tonight*  
Among Those Honored by 2017 Sentinel Awards

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 31, 2017—Eleven honorees have been chosen from a record number of entries for the 2017 Sentinel Awards, showcasing a wide range of topics that include maternal health, opioid abuse, autism, sexual assault and mental health.

Now in its 18th year, the awards recognize exemplary television storylines that inform, educate and motivate viewers to make choices for healthier and safer lives. They are presented in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of The Norman Lear Center at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

This year, entries were submitted from broadcast networks, cable channels and streaming services. All eligible submissions are reviewed for accuracy by experts at the CDC and partner organizations; a second round of judging by entertainment professionals looks at the entertainment value and potential benefit to the viewing audience. Storylines are being recognized in the following categories: Drama, Comedy, Children's Programming, Documentary, Short Documentary, Talk Show and Unscripted Series.

"Entertainment television is a powerful resource for information, and compelling storylines can motivate millions of viewers worldwide," said Kate Langrall Folb, director of HH&S. "Every year the quality and quantity of entries increases."

Martin Kaplan, director of the Lear Center and HH&S' principal investigator, said: "We're delighted to shine a spotlight on writers and producers who entertain viewers and at the same time provide them with accurate information. We hope the shows and storylines we honor will spur other writers to recognize and use responsibly the power they wield."

The honorees will be recognized during a ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the Taglyan Complex in Hollywood.

The 2017 Sentinel Awards honorees:

**Drama**

• **Grey's Anatomy**—*Maggie's Mom* storyline (ABC)

Topic: Inflammatory breast cancer

- **This Is Us**—*Jack Pearson's Son* (NBC)

Topic: Mental health

### **Comedy**

- **black-ish**—*Sprinkles* (ABC)

Topic: Preeclampsia

- **You're the Worst**—*Twenty-Two* (FXX)

Topic: Mental Health

### **Children's Programming**

- **Sesame Street**—*Meet Julia* (HBO)

Topic: Autism

### **Documentary**

- **Audrie & Daisy** (Netflix)

Topic: Sexual assault

- **Gender Revolution: A Journey With Katie Couric** (National Geographic)

Topic: Gender identity

### **Short Documentary**

- **Open Your Eyes** (HBO)

Topic: Eye health

- **Extremis** (Netflix)

Topic: End-of-life care

### **Talk Show**

- **Last Week Tonight with John Oliver**—*Episode 86* (HBO)

Topic: Opioid abuse

### **Unscripted Series**

- **Born This Way**—*Dream Come True* (A&E)

Topic: Down syndrome

Hollywood, Health & Society provides entertainment industry professionals with accurate and timely information for storylines dealing with health, safety and security through consultations and briefings with experts. Based at The Norman Lear Center, HH&S is a free resource for writers, producers and others in search of credible information. HH&S funders include the CDC, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The SCAN Foundation, N Square, the California Health Care Foundation and the Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute. For more information about resources for writers, go to [www.usc.edu/hhs](http://www.usc.edu/hhs).

The Norman Lear Center is a multidisciplinary research and public policy center studying and shaping the impact of entertainment and media on society. From its base in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Lear Center builds bridges between faculty who study aspects of entertainment, media and culture. Beyond campus, it bridges the gap between entertainment industry and academia, and between them and the public. For more information, visit [www.learcenter.org](http://www.learcenter.org).

Located in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism is among the nation's leading institutions devoted to the study of journalism and communication, and their impact on politics, culture and society. USC Annenberg offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in journalism, communication, public diplomacy and public relations. For more information, visit [www.annenberg.usc.edu](http://www.annenberg.usc.edu).

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