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**Parisa Fitz-Henley Joins Rainn Wilson to Co-Host 2020 Sentinel Awards;  
20th Anniversary Virtual Celebration Will Honor 13 TV Shows**

*Among winners: For Life, Normal People, Pose, The Good Fight and New Amsterdam*

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1, 2020— At a time when facts surrounding critical health issues and even science itself are being challenged, the 2020 Sentinel Awards celebrate their 20th year of spotlighting smart, accurate entertainment that can have a profound impact on viewers' lives. This year, 13 shows are being honored for their outstanding TV storylines on topics dealing with health, safety and security.

The annual event is being presented by Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center.

The 13 shows will be recognized during a virtual celebration on Oct. 20. Actors Parisa Fitz-Henley and Rainn Wilson will be the co-hosts. Fitz-Henley co-starred in *Midnight, Texas* (NBC) and had a guest-starring role on *Jessica Jones* (Netflix). She will play the lead role in the upcoming ABC medical drama *Triage*.

Wilson co-starred as the insufferable Dwight Schrute in the NBC comedy hit *The Office* (for which he received three consecutive Emmy nominations for supporting actor in a comedy series), and has a new show on Amazon called *Utopia*.

"I'm proud to have built a career in the vast wasteland of vacuous, superficial, meaningless distraction called 'television,'" Wilson said. "Occasionally, some beacons of light emerge from that endless morass of flickering chicanery that point a way to some forms of social good. So happy to be working with the Sentinel Awards as they honor positivity in TV."

"I've always been moved by television's power—when at its best—to change hearts, minds and lives," Fitz-Henley said. "I'm delighted to join my friend and co-host, Rainn, in honoring the best of best shows and writers with these important awards."

Co-writers for the awards show are two Hollywood TV veterans: Ann Slichter is an Emmy nominee and the head writer for NBC's *Weakest Link* and *Hollywood Game Night*. Her credits also include ABC's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, the Directors Guild Awards and the People's Choice Awards (CBS). Shelly Goldstein has written for the WGA Awards, Producers Guild Awards, Environmental Media Awards, and events for NARAS MusiCares and People for the American Way. She also wrote the Emmy-winning *Great Performances: Chicago Voices* (PBS), and has created scripts and special material for such artists as Lily Tomlin, Steve Martin, Stephen Colbert, Dick Van Dyke and Larry Wilmore.

With widespread disinformation rampant in today's world, the Sentinel Awards are a hopeful reminder that TV entertainment can educate and motivate audiences to make healthier and safer choices for themselves and their communities.

Entries were submitted from broadcast networks, cable channels and streaming services. All eligible submissions were reviewed for accuracy of information; a second round of judging looked at the entertainment value and potential benefit to the viewing audience.

"For 20 years HH&S has been encouraging accurate storylines on TV," said the program's director, Kate Langrall Folb. "Now, in the age of Covid-19 and 'fake news,' audiences more than ever are seeking refuge in their favorite shows, which in addition to being entertaining need to be accurate."

The 2020 Sentinel Awards honorees:

**Grey's Anatomy** (ABC)

*Papa Don't Preach*

Topic: Abortion

**Mom** (CBS)

*Higgledy-Piggledy and a Cat Show*

Topic: Addiction/recovery

**This Is Us** (NBC)

*Multi-episode storyline, Season 4*

Topic: Aging

**For Life** (ABC)

*Pilot episode*

Topic: Criminal justice

**New Amsterdam** (NBC)

*Righteous Right Hand*

Topic: Culture of health

**Everything's Gonna Be Okay** (Freeform)

*Discoïd Cockroaches*

Topic: Disability

**Pose** (FX)

*In My Heels*

Topic: HIV/AIDS

**Orange Is the New Black** (Netflix)

*God Bless America*

Topic: Immigration

**All Rise** (CBS)

*What the Constitution Means to Me*

Topic: Maternal health

**Normal People** (Hulu)

*Episode 10*

Topic: Mental health

**Madam Secretary** (CBS)

*Killer Robots*

Topic: National security

**The Good Fight** (CBS All Access)

*The Gang Gets a Call from HR*

Topic: Racism

**I May Destroy You** (HBO)

*Someone Is Lying / ... It Just Came Up*

Topic: Sexual assault

HH&S 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 Lear Center, HH&S is a free resource for writers, producers and others in search of credible information. Past and present support for HH&S has come from funders that include the CDC, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The SCAN Foundation, N Square Collaborative, the California Health Care Foundation, the John Pritzker Family Fund and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. 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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