

For Immediate Release

Contact: Roberta Cruger
cruger@usc.edu

2022 Sentinel Awards Celebrate 12 TV Shows That Make a Difference; ‘Reservation Dogs’ Receives Special Award

Outstanding Storytelling Tackled Abortion, Racism, Aging, Mental Health and more

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 16, 2022—The 2022 Sentinel Awards this year honor 12 shows whose outstanding storytelling tackled powerful and timely topics, including Emmy nominees and winners *Dopesick*, *Abbott Elementary* and *Hacks*, as well as *A Million Little Things*, *Never Have I Ever* and *Reservation Dogs*, the breakout coming-of-age series about four indigenous teen-age friends living in rural Oklahoma.

Reservation Dogs captures the special Culture of Health Award for its entire Season 1 body of work. The Culture of Health Award recognizes TV’s transformative power to impact audiences with visionary storytelling that addresses critical and complex issues of health, well-being and equity across a diverse society.

Co-created by Sterlin Harjo and Taika Waititi (*Thor: Love and Thunder*), the FX for Hulu series features an all-Native American cast and production crew. Every episode of the critically acclaimed show covered important topics, including healthcare and economic disparities, aging and caregiving, mental health and racism--and with humor.

The other 11 scripted shows (complete list of honorees below) from network, cable and streaming services explored similar tough topics, as well as the climate emergency and the addiction crisis. Comedic narratives lead this year, with finalists like *Resident Alien*, *Harlem* and *Upload* showing the power of humor to deliver meaningful messages.

Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center, will present the awards live and in-person for the first time since November 2019. Presenters for the ceremony will be announced in the coming weeks. The gala event takes place at the Television Academy’s Wolf Theater located at the Saban Media Center of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences on Lankershim Boulevard on the evening of Oct. 25, 2022.

“What a thrill to announce that our annual Sentinel Awards is returning this year to a live venue, and for the first time at the Television Academy,” said HH&S Director Kate Folb.

“We’re delighted to celebrate the good work these shows are doing—and their accurate and compelling depictions of serious topics,” she added. “Now more than ever we find comfort in our favorite entertainment shows and the important stories they tell.”

Marty Kaplan, founding director of the Lear Center and HH&S' principal investigator, said: "It's great to be able to shine a spotlight on storytellers who entertain viewers, and at the same time provide them with accurate information."

For more than 20 years, the Sentinel Awards have celebrated outstanding achievements in TV storytelling that informs, educates and motivates viewers to make choices for healthier and safer lives. For audiences here and around the world, excellence in television provides both entertainment and fact-based information about a wide range of health topics and social issues.

More than 150 entries were submitted for the awards. 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.

The 2022 Sentinel Awards honorees:

Reservation Dogs (FX)

Season 1 body of work

Recipient of the "Culture of Health Award"

A Million Little Things (ABC)

Fresh Start

Topic: Abortion

Dopesick (Hulu)

The People vs. Purdue Pharma

Topic: Addiction

Hacks (HBO Max)

On the Market

Topic: Aging/caregiving

Upload (Amazon)

Mind Frisk

Topic: Artificial intelligence

The First Lady (Showtime)

See Saw

Topic: Breast cancer

Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock (Apple TV)

Flight of the Flutterflies

Topic: Children's programming

Resident Alien (Syfy)

Radio Harry

Topic: Climate emergency

Abbott Elementary (ABC)

Pilot

Topic: Economic disparities (comedy)

The White Lotus (HBO)

The Lotus-Eaters

Topic: Economic disparities (drama)

Never Have I Ever (Netflix)

... Stalked My Own Mother

Topic: Mental health

Harlem (Amazon)

The Strong Black Woman

Topic: Racism

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 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information about resources for writers, go to 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.

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.

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