

New judges and categories for 2015 ASTRA Awards

October 13, 2014: New award categories and high-calibre judging panels drawn from across the creative industries are among changes announced today to the annual ASTRA Awards, as nominations open for the 2015 event.

From 2015, all ASTRA Awards will be judged by panels of eminent producers, presenters and executives, bringing the ASTRAs into line with most international and domestic award programs, including the AACTAs, Emmys and Academy Awards.

Announcing the changes, ASTRA CEO Andrew Maiden said the changes represented a “coming of age” for the Australian subscription television industry, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2015.

“The huge quality and range of content on subscription television deserves to be judged by the most senior and experienced leaders from the creative industries,” Mr Maiden said.

“Broadening our judging panels to include the best creative minds in the country will help ensure the ASTRA Awards are known as the pre-eminent annual prizes for quality screen content,” he said.

The 2015 ASTRA Awards will also feature 18 categories, including new individual awards for the most outstanding female presenter and male presenter.

Categories for 2015 are:

Individual awards

- Female Actor
- Male Actor
- Female Presenter
- Male Presenter
- New Talent
- Broadcast Journalist

Program awards

- Drama (Australian)
- Drama (International)
- Children's Program
- Music Program
- Sports Program
- News Program
- Reality Program
- Factual Program
- Lifestyle Program
- General Entertainment Program
- Channel of the Year
- Channel Achievement Award

For more information on how to enter and eligibility, visit www.astra.org.au/awards
Nominations close on Friday November 28. The location and date of the 2015 ASTRA Awards are yet to be announced.

About the ASTRA Awards

The ASTRA Awards reward the creativity, diversity and quality of the Australian subscription television industry. A total of 18 awards recognise the most outstanding individuals and programs.

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About ASTRA

ASTRA is the peak body representing nearly 30 organisations in the Australian subscription television industry. ASTRA members broadcast content to one in three Australians, invest more than \$600 million in local content, add nearly \$1.9 billion to the economy and create jobs for 6600 Australians. For more information visit www.astra.org.au.

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