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2017 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award Winners Announced

Public Broadcasting Wins Four Awards

The Awards' 75th Anniversary to Include a Tribute to Gwen Ifill

New York, N.Y., December 15, 2016 -- Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism today announced the 14 winners of the 2017 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards. The winners will be awarded at Low Memorial Library, Jan. 25, 2017, at the awards' 75th anniversary celebration.

Investigative journalism will be honored with nine awards across network and cable television, radio, and local television stations, often in overlapping platforms. Four awards will go to local television news investigations: **KXAN** for documenting the police's inaccurate racial profiling records, **NBC Connecticut** for uncovering widespread home foundation failures, **WTHR-TV** for exposing massive mismanagement and corruption at a popular charity, and **WXIA 11Alive** for spotlighting both a problem with the 911 emergency system and promoting potential solutions.

Public broadcasting will receive four awards: two for network hours will go to **FRONTLINE's** Syria and Iraq reporting and **NOVA's** dazzling yet disturbing look at the impact of global warming. Two silver batons will go to public radio programming: **Michigan Radio's** revealing coverage of the Flint water crisis and **NPR/Colorado Public Radio's** exposé on the Army's mistreatment of disabled veterans. The broadcast news networks will take home two duPonts: one goes to **NBC News Dateline's** "The Cosby Accusers Speak"; the other for **CBS News** breaking coverage of the migrant crisis, respectively. Two documentaries will be honored with awards: one for **HBO's** "A Girl in the River" and the second for **ESPN Films' "OJ: Made in America,"** a nearly eight hour-long documentary.

The GroundTruth Project, an online nonprofit media organization, will win its first silver baton for Foreverstan: "The Girls' School" and "Razia's Way," a hybrid film, digital and podcast look at Afghan women's education. Another hybrid work, "Death by Fentanyl," will also be the first duPont award for **Fusion**.

The chosen winners reflect the year's most critical issues - the European migrant crisis, a growing opioid epidemic, environmental threats, the racial divide, and a widespread examination of women's rights, among others.

Five of the 14 winners – from NBC News, FRONTLINE, HBO, ESPN Films, and The GroundTruth Project – highlight the hardships and the inspirational stories of women both in the U.S. and abroad.

In 2017, the duPont-Columbia Awards will celebrate their 75th anniversary with special events featuring distinguished past winners, including Ira Glass of This American Life, a past winner of four duPonts, and a tribute to the late Gwen Ifill, PBS's esteemed news anchor. Since the awards' founding in 1942, the duPont-Columbia Awards have honored accurate and fair reporting about important issues that are powerfully told. The first awards ceremony honored radio broadcasting, and radio reporting remains a crucial platform for the duPonts.

“Now more than ever, reliable news and information are critical to our society,” said **Bill Wheatley**, the chairman of this year's awards jury. “In their 75th year, the duPont Awards continue to recognize the vital contributions to public knowledge made by free, fair and probing journalists.”

The duPont Awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, at Columbia University's Low Memorial Library, and will be co-hosted by **Lester Holt**, anchor of NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and Dateline, and **Jane Pauley**, host of CBS News Sunday Morning. The 75th Anniversary duPont-Columbia Awards will be televised on Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, at 7pm ET on **NYC Life/Channel 25**, and then will be viewable online at www.dupont.org. NYC Life is part of NYC Media, the official broadcast network and media production entity of the City of New York. Holt's video announcement and more information about the winners can also be seen at www.dupont.org and on Twitter using the hashtag #duPont2017.

The 2017 duPont winners are:

CBS NEWS

“Nowhere to Go, Europe's Migrant Crisis”

This timely series of breaking news reports, filed by three teams of intrepid reporters from more than six countries, witnessed history as it unfolded from deep inside the year's human flood pouring into Europe.

Dateline NBC

“The Cosby Accusers Speak”

A gripping interview with a room full of women who speak out movingly against their alleged abuser Bill Cosby and challenge the belief no one would ever hear them.

ESPN Films and Laylow Films

“O.J.: Made in America”

One of the most infamous crime stories of the 20th century was masterfully reexamined in this nearly eight-hour documentary that provided a sobering lens through which to see race, celebrity, history and American culture.

FUSION

“The Naked Truth: Death by Fentanyl”

With its bold coverage, human details, and timeliness, this investigation contributed to our understanding of the abuse of the drug Fentanyl as the latest development in America’s growing opioid painkiller epidemic.

FRONTLINE - PBS

“Escaping ISIS” and “Children of Syria”

Two fearlessly reported in-depth hour-long programs told powerful human stories about families suffering – and surviving – the current conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

The GroundTruth Project

Foreverstan: “The Girls’ School” and “Razia’s Way”

A nonprofit news organization devoted years to reporting this compelling cross-platform project to illuminate an improbable phenomenon – a successful girls’ school in Afghanistan.

HBO Documentary Films and SOC Films

“A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness”

This heartbreaking documentary filmed in Pakistan covered every nuanced angle of a bewildering social construct; the need for patriarchal respect can be used to justify a daughter’s murder.

KXAN

“Racial Profiling Whitewash”

This massive data-driven investigation uncovered overwhelming evidence that law enforcement was subverting racial profiling statistics by consistently misreporting the race of minority motorists during traffic stops.

Michigan Radio

“Not Safe to Drink”

An impactful radio documentary brought the water crisis in Flint, Michigan to national attention and aggressively pursued the state agencies’ cover up of Flint’s extreme lead poisoning.

NBC Connecticut

“Crumbling Foundations”

One viewer’s tip led to dozens of stories in a hard-hitting investigative series that exposed crumbling basement walls in hundreds of homes, uncovering the cause and its connection to a single concrete company.

NOVA and WGBH-TV

“Mystery Beneath the Ice”

Why is the Antarctic’s essential krill population shrinking so dramatically? This visually stunning and engaging film follows scientific researchers under the Southern Ocean’s ice to discover the answer: climate change.

NPR and Daniel Zwerdling

Colorado Public Radio and Michael de Yoanna

“Missed Treatment”

NPR and Colorado Public Radio partnered on this groundbreaking exposé that revealed how the Army subverted the spirit of the law when it kicked out more than 22,000 returning disabled veterans.

WTHR-TV

“Charity Caught on Camera”

WTHR-TV’s shocking undercover investigation exposed deplorable conditions and staggering mismanagement at a local rescue mission where tons of food and items donated for the homeless never made it to those who needed it most.

WXIA 11Alive Atlanta

“Dying For Help: Fixing The Nation’s Emergency Response System”

This ongoing series of investigative reports first broke the news nationally, and then helped prompt a solution for the systemic failures in an obsolete 911 system in which first responders can’t find cell phone callers during half of all emergencies, even deadly ones.

The 14 winning programs appeared on air, online or in theaters between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards honor excellence in broadcast, online and documentary journalism. The awards, established in 1942 by Jessie Ball duPont in memory of her husband Alfred I. duPont, are generously supported by the [Jessie Ball duPont Fund](#).

About Columbia Journalism School

For over a century, Columbia Journalism School has been preparing journalists with instruction and training that stress academic rigor, ethics, journalistic inquiry, and professional practice. Founded with a gift from Joseph Pulitzer, the School opened its doors in 1912 and offers master of science, master of arts, and doctor of philosophy degrees. Learn more at: www.journalism.columbia.edu