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Creative Diversity Awards 2017: winners announced

The Creative Diversity Network (CDN) today revealed the winners for its 2017 awards. The awards reward outstanding quality, creativity and diversity in television that represents all aspects of British society. They are designed to acknowledge outstanding work both on and off-screen and serve to showcase the best and most exciting talent in the UK.

The winning programmes all demonstrate that challenging stereotypes can be thought-provoking, offers a chance for under-represented groups to tell their own stories, as well as being entertaining. Those individuals, production companies and channels winning the Change Makers awards were all chosen for widening the understanding of diversity and championing culture change across the television industry.

The award for Outstanding Contribution to increasing diversity in the UK's television industry was given to the Rt Hon Ed Vaizey MP, former Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries. CDN felt that when concerns about diversity were brought to his attention, he made fantastic use of his power to convene and lead the diversity agenda within the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, which helped to ensure that this year's award winners were supported.

Deborah Williams, CDN Executive Director said: "The winners of our 2017 awards shone through what was a strong field. They are proof that there is a lot of fantastic talent out there and when producers and broadcasters set their mind to it, they really can make and champion great, memorable content that engages with a wide audience and properly reflects the diversity of all of their viewers. If Ed Vaizey gets it, everyone should get it!"

The Winning programmes in the Outstanding Programme shortlist are:

Comedy

Chewing Gum (Retort for E4)

Drama

Damilola, Our Loved Boy (Minnow Films for BBC 1)

Entertainment

The Last Leg: Live From Rio (Open Mike Productions for Channel 4)

Factual

Life and Deaf (Flashing Lights and CTVC for BBC 4)

News or Current Affairs

Unreported World. Mission Critical: Afghanistan (Quicksilver Media for Channel 4)

The Change Makers winners are:

Production company of the year

BBC Children's In-House Production

Author/Creative

Levi David Addai (Writer, *Damilola, Our Loved Boy*, Minnow Films for BBC 1)

Commissioner or Channel Of The Year

BBC 3

Diversity Champion

Damian Kavanagh (BBC 3)

On Screen Talent

Michaela Coel (*Chewing Gum*, Retort for E4)

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- The Creative Diversity Network (CDN) exists to inspire, encourage and support the UK television industry to expand diversity and inclusion. It is a UK television industry body, largely paid for by its members who are: BAFTA, BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5/Viacom, Creative Skillset, Pact, ITN, ITV, Media Trust, S4C, Sky and Turner Broadcasting.