

For Immediate Release

Contact: Roberta Cruger  
[cruger@usc.edu](mailto:cruger@usc.edu)

**Yvette Nicole Brown to Host 2022 Sentinel Awards,  
Featuring Quinta Brunson, Tyler James Williams, Hannah Einbinder,  
Sterlin Harjo, Danny Strong and Lisa Henson**

*Reservation Dogs, Dopesick, Abbott Elementary, Never Have I Ever* Among 12 Honored Shows

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 21, 2022— Some of the brightest stars and creatives in Hollywood will take part in the 2022 Sentinel Awards being held Oct. 25 at the Television Academy, including **Quinta Brunson**, the creator, executive producer and star of ABC's *Abbott Elementary*, and co-star **Tyler James Williams**; **Hannah Einbinder and Paul W. Downs**, co-stars of the HBO Max series *Hacks*; **Sterlin Harjo**, co-creator and executive producer of *Reservation Dogs* on FX; **Danny Strong**, creator, writer and director of the Hulu series *Dopesick*; and **Lisa Henson**, CEO of The Jim Henson Company.

Hosting the Sentinel Awards, which celebrate outstanding TV entertainment that makes a difference, is actress and producer **Yvette Nicole Brown**, whose credits include appearances and roles on *Community*, *Big Shot*, *Mom*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *A Black Lady Sketch Show*, which earned her a 2021 Primetime Emmy nomination. She will co-star this November in the Disney+ movie *Disenchanted*, starring Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey, a sequel to the 2007 live-action/animated musical romantic comedy *Enchanted*.

This year the annual event recognizes 12 shows whose 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.

Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center, is presenting the red-carpet event live for the first time in three years at the Wolf Theatre, located at the Saban Media Center of the Television Academy.

Season 1 of *Reservation Dogs* (FX on Hulu) will receive a special Culture of Health Award, which recognizes TV's power to affect audiences with stories that address important issues of health, well-being and equity in society. Co-created by Harjo and Taika Waititi (*Thor: Love and Thunder*), the darkly funny series features an all-Native American cast and production crew, and its first season's body of work covered topics such as healthcare and economic disparities, aging and caregiving, mental health, suicide and racism.

The other 11 scripted shows (complete list of honorees below) from network, cable and streaming services explored similar tough topics, which included the growing climate emergency and the continuing crisis over addiction.

“We’re delighted to celebrate the good and important work these shows are doing,” said HH&S Director Kate Folb. “What a thrill to announce that we’re returning this year to a live venue, and for the first time at the Television Academy with the wonderful Yvette Nicole Brown serving as the evening’s host.”

Harjo and Strong are accepting awards on behalf of their shows in taped remarks that will be shown during the ceremony. In addition to Brunson, Williams and Einbinder, those who are scheduled to participate include:

- Actors **Sarah Podemski** (*Reservation Dogs*), **Allison Miller** (*A Million Little Things*), **Sara Tomko** (*Resident Alien*), **Shoniqua Shandai**, **Jerrie Johnson** and **Meagan Good** (*Harlem*), and **Lee Rodriguez** (*Never Have I Ever*) will present awards to their shows being honored.
- Among those accepting awards are series creators and executive producers **Tracy Oliver** (*Harlem*), **D.J. Nash** and **Terrence Coli** (*A Million Little Things*); **Aaron Cooley** (*The First Lady*); **Nastaran Dibai** (*Resident Alien*); and **Jen Statsky**, **Lucia Aniello** and **Paul W. Downs** (*Hacks*). Downs also co-stars in the series.
- Writers being honored include **Chris Schleicher** (*Never Have I Ever*), **Azia Squire** (*The First Lady*), **Tommy Pico** (*Resident Alien*, *Reservation Dogs*), **Britt Matt** (*Harlem*), **Megan Neuringer** (*Upload*), and **Elizabeth Laime** and **Lucile Masson** (*A Million Little Things*).
- **Lisa Henson** will join some of the *Fraggles* characters—those captivating creatures from the winning children’s show *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* (Apple TV+)—in a special presentation.
- Oklahoma brothers and rappers **Lil Mike & Funny Bone (aka Mike Bone)**, who have recurring roles on *Reservation Dogs*, will be in attendance and give a special performance.
- Returning as co-writers for the 2022 Sentinel Awards show are Hollywood TV veterans **Ann Slichter** and **Shelly Goldstein**.

Slichter is an Emmy nominee and WGA Award-winning head writer for NBC’s *Weakest Link* and *Hollywood Game Night*. Her credits also include *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, the *Directors Guild of America Awards* and the *People’s Choice Awards*. Goldstein has written dozens of awards shows and galas for groups such as the WGA, NARAS MusiCares, and People for the American Way. She wrote the Emmy-winning *Great Performances: Chicago Voices*, which aired on PBS, and special material for such artists as Sheryl Lee Ralph, Steve Martin and Stephen Colbert.

During the awards ceremony, HH&S will announce the five finalists of its Blue Sky Scriptwriting Contest, which invited writers to submit TV scripts that imagined a better world set between the years 2045 and 2100. In addition to being awarded fellowships of \$7,500 each, the finalists will also receive mentorships and expert consultations for revisions on their scripts. One grand prize of \$20,000 will be awarded in early 2023. The contest is in partnership with the Future of Life Institute and the Writers Guild of America East.

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.

Over 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/

**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](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).

###