



EQUITY AWARDS RULES AND REGULATIONS

These are the rules and regulations for the Equity Awards. We encourage all members to read the rules and regulations in their entirety prior to voting.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

In order for a Production to be deemed eligible for entry the Production must:

- (i) Be an Australian Production as defined by the Australian Television Program Agreement – where key creative decisions are made by Australian resident personnel or companies; **OR**
- (ii) Have at least 51% financing from Australian investors; **OR**
- (iii) Be an official co-production (as per a formal agreement with Australia and an international region) or produced under the creative control of Australians if an international collaboration has occurred outside of a formal agreement.
- (iv) Programs must feature a majority of Australian cast.
- (v) Programs must have been first broadcast on the small screen in Australia between 1 January and 31 December of each calendar year.
- (vi) Programs must have been first launched on the small screen. Prior cinematic releases are not eligible.
- (vii) Otherwise satisfy the Equity Foundation, in their sole and absolute discretion, that the Production is an eligible Production.
- (viii) Any decision as to eligibility shall be final and non-reviewable.

THE ANNUAL AWARDS: SCREEN PROGRAMS

Awards for Outstanding Ensemble Performances shall be given in the following categories:

- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Miniseries or Telemovie
- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series

CATEGORY ELIGIBILITY

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series

-Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama series: a minimum of thirty (30) minutes scripted program (with a minimum of twenty seven (27) to forty-eight (48) minutes of actual programming content) with an ongoing theme and storyline in a minimum of FOUR (4) continuous episodes and marketed as a drama series.

-Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Miniseries or Telemovie

Telemovie: scripted single closed-end program which tells a story with a beginning, middle and end, with a minimum duration of primarily ninety (90) minutes and marketed as a television movie. Any television movie or limited series previously submitted as a theatrical motion picture is not eligible.

Mini-Series: a single title, multi-part closed-end program based on a single theme or storyline which is resolved within the piece in two (2) or more instalments, with a minimum duration of primarily ninety (90) minutes and marketed as a limited series. Series with four (4) or fewer instalments in a calendar year may be considered in the Limited Series category.

-Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series

Comedy series: a thirty (30) minute scripted program (with a minimum twenty-one (21) to twenty-three (23) minutes of actual programming content) with an ongoing theme and storyline in a minimum of FOUR (4) continuous episodes and marketed as a comedy series. In order for a sketch comedy program to be considered, content must be 100% scripted with recurring characters appearing in sketches within the eligible season.

RULES FOR NOMINATIONS

-Equity will prepare lists of all eligible performances. However, Equity assumes no responsibility for any error or omission and shall have no liability to anyone. Equity shall be the sole judge of whether a performance satisfies the eligibility requirements.

The first round of judging will be a panel of 3-5 performers for each category chosen from financial membership, including a range of age/geography/gender/diversity in its makeup. They will provide a Top 3 in each category.

-The final judging will be taken by the National Performers Committee.

-Those performances in each category receiving the highest number of votes shall become the winners.

- In the event a nominated performance is declared ineligible by Equity, it shall be replaced by the performance which received the next highest number of votes.
- If Equity deems there are insufficient numbers of submissions in any category, then Equity reserves the right to review that category for nomination eligibility. Any decision made by Equity shall be final and binding.
- Submissions will not be accepted for the same program in more than one category.
- A Screen Ensemble shall be defined as those eligible core actors who have appeared in more than 50% of any episodes originally aired during the Awards year, subject to the determination of Equity which will be final and binding. Determination of what constitutes a majority of original episodes shall be at the sole discretion of Equity.

GENERAL RULES

1. Voting for awards shall be restricted to financial members in good standing of the Actors Equity section of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance as at the close of voting.
2. The performance receiving the highest number of votes will become the recipient of the award in that category.
3. In the event of a tie for first place in final voting, awards shall be given for all performances so tied.
4. A performance submitted for the Equity Ensemble Awards consideration may not be withdrawn after the submission deadline.
5. Eligibility for consideration for the Equity Ensemble Awards will be limited to performances in small screen productions which have met the requirements of Section One.
6. Ineligible entries can be disqualified at any stage.
7. The Equity Ensemble Award is the property of Equity and all rights thereto are reserved by Equity. The statuette may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless otherwise permitted by Equity. Possession of the statuette is solely for the honor of the recipient and is restricted to the recipient, the recipient's spouse, the recipient's domestic partner, the recipient's children or Equity. (The recipient's spouse, domestic partner, and children are referred to as "Permitted Donees.")
8. Any question concerning eligibility or the interpretation of these Rules and Regulations shall be submitted to Equity whose decision shall be final and binding.