The first ever SWA Awards 2020, organised by the Screenwriters Association which completed 60 years on 13th May, 2020, was held on 27th September, 2020, with thundering success. Overall, 223 Hindi Feature Films, 146 Television Shows, 43 Web Series and 146 songs were considered by the 6 jury panels of eminent screenwriters, directors, lyricists and show creators. Finally, winners were announced in 15 categories for feature films, TV shows, web series and lyrics out of almost 90 nominees.

Hosted by writer-actor Varun Badola and actress Rajeshwari Sachdeva, the event was held online and broadcasted Live on social media keeping in mind the health concerns due to the COVID19 pandemic. Writer, producer and director Aatish Kapadia performed a tongue-in-cheek comedy sketch to show how the world generally behaves with writers. Writer and stand-up comic Varun Grover performed another comedy sketch on the bizarre writing inputs and notes that screenwriters often receive in the film and television industry. Poets and lyricists Shellee and Hussain Haidry presented a melodious and thought-provoking lyrical jugalbandi on the hardships and joys of being a writer in the industry. Illusionist, mentalist and hypnotist Akshay Laxman combined his skills with his childhood passion of filmmaking for a one-of-its-kind illusionary act. Finally, screenwriter, filmmaker and composer Vishal Bhardwaj and singer Rekha Bhardwaj presented their newly composed songs for the first time on this momentous occasion.

Turn to the next page for the complete list of the winners of SWA Awards 2020.
This is indeed some big news! SWA has announced a Legal Aid Policy to help its member screenwriters fight their cases related to Copyright infringement, breach of confidentiality, payments and credits; in court. Under this policy, the Association will pay 50 percent of the lawyer’s fee or a definite amount (whichever is lower), as per the recommendations of its Legal Aid Sub-committee, the Dispute Settle Committee (DSC) and a panel of expert lawyers. The detailed guidelines for the same are being worked out.

The DSC had recommended for such a policy as there have been cases in which the committee would feel limited in helping out the complainant members who have been wronged by producers, directors or even fellow members.

This is a step in tune with SWA’s commitment to help its members defend their intellectual property, and get their due credits and remuneration. This provision will give power to aggrieved members to seek justice, in a situation when they might want to approach the court but lack resources (after the DSC has decided in their favour). SWA’s legal cell is also in contact with copyright lawyers who’re willing to offer their services at concessional rates to screenwriters.

TV SHOWS

The jury comprising of Aanand Mahendroo, Ajai Sinha, Kamlesh Pandey, Liliput Faruqui, Manjul Sinha, Purnendu Shekhar and Sanjay Upadhyay announced the winners in the TV shows categories:

1. TV Comedy- Best Story: Nitin Keswani for 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah'
2. TV Comedy- Best Dialogues: Bhavna Vyas for 'Baavle Utaavle'
3. TV Comedy- Best Screenplay: Aatish Kapadia for 'Bhakharwadi'
4. TV Drama- Best Story: No Award
5. TV Drama- Best Dialogues: Preeti Mamgain for 'Mere Dad Ki Dulhan'
6. TV Drama- Best Screenplay: Kartick Sitaraman for 'Mere Dad Ki Dulhan'

WEB SERIES

The jury comprising of Ruchi Narain, Suhail Tatari & Sweeksha Bhagat for Web Original Drama; Juhi Shekhar, Reshu Nath & Shiv Subrahmanyam for Web Original Comedy; and Anuraadha Tewari, Anuya Jakatdar & Ketki Pandit for Web Adaptation announced the winners in the Web Series categories:

7. Web Series- Best Original Drama: Richie Mehta & Sanyuktha Chawla Shaikh for 'Delhi Crime'
8. Web Series-Best Original Comedy: Devika Bhagat & Ishita Moitra for 'Four More Shots Please!'
9. Web Series- Best Adaptation: Dhruv Narang, Nihit Bhave, Pooja Tolani and Varun Grover for 'Sacred Games – Season 2'

LYRICS

The jury comprising of Amit Khanna, Ila Arun, Kausar Munir, Mayur Puri & Panchhi Jalonvi announced the winners in the Lyrics categories:

10. TV/Web- Best Lyrics: Zama Habib for the song 'Ek Chup Tum, Ek Chup Main' from the show 'Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein'
11. Feature Films-Best Lyrics: Manoj Muntashir for the song 'Teri Mitti' from the film 'Kesari'

FEATURE FILMS

The jury comprising of Apurva Asrani, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and Leena Yadav announced the winner in the Best Gender Sensitive Script category:

12. Best Gender Sensitive Script: Ivan Ayr & Kislay for 'Soni'

The jury comprising of Ashok Mishra, Atul Tiwari, Juhi Chaturvedi, Saket Chaudhary, Umri Juvekar, Vijay Krishna Acharya and Vinay Shukla announced the winners in the Feature Films categories:

13. Feature Films- Best Debut Writer: Ivan Ayr & Kislay for 'Soni'
14. Feature Films- Best Dialogues: Vijay Maurya for 'Gully Boy'
15. Feature Films- Best Story: Anubhav Sinha & Gaurav Solanki for 'Article 15'
16. Feature Films- Best Screenplay: Anubhav Sinha & Gaurav Solanki for 'Article 15'

SWA Awards 2020 ceremony can be viewed on Screenwriters Association’s YouTube Channel and the official Facebook Page.
However, the spirit of our Event Sub-committee was unshakable. The committee decided to organise events online and hosted more than a dozen of such events. The details and recordings of these events can be accessed at: facebook.com/swaindiaorg/events

At top of that, senior EC member of SWA Anjum Rajabali conducted two online screenwriting workshops which raised funds for COVID19 relief activities for SWA, as well as five other prominent NGOs (curated by SWA). SWA utilised the donation that it had collected from one of these workshops to help its needy members for essential goods during the lockdown.
**NEWS FLASH**

- During the COVID19 lockdown the Welfare Sub-committee of SWA extended help to nearly 800 members who wrote to SWA.
- SWA donates INR 14,50,000/- to various NGO’s, Film Industry’s federation (FWICE) and to the Chief Minister’s Relief fund.
- Senior SWA activist Anjum Rajabali raises donations worth INR 6,58,907/- for SWA, as well as INR 8,62,000/- donated directly to SWA-curated NGOs, with his two back-to-back SWA COVID19 Fundraiser online screenwriting workshops, in May and June 2020.
- Film industry stalwarts like Hrithik Roshan, Rakesh Roshan, Javed Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar, Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Pritish Nandy, Shabana Azmi, Ritesh Sidhwani and others tweet and hail SWA Awards 2020
- SWA’s biennial elections to be postponed till the pandemic comes under control and the situation is conducive.
- SWA’s Executive Committee forms an ad-hoc Executive Committee and elects ad-hoc office bearers from the previously elected EC members to continue until next election.
- Senior SWA EC member Vinod Ranganath joins as ad-hoc General Secretary of SWA.
- Ex-General Secretary Sunil Salgia joins as SWA’s first Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- SWA Website launches ONLINE MEMBERSHIP portal to huge success. Link: accounts.swaindia.org/admission
- SWA’s Legal Officer Anamika Jha starts her column at SWA’s website.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (AD-HOC)**

Friends

I would like to wish each one of you the best of health while hoping that you are taking all precautions and safety measures.

The SWA office remained closed during the period of the lockdown, as announced by the state and central governments, to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic - a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. In these grave times, SWA reached out to its members through mass mails and announcements on its website and social media pages, offering financial help to those who were in dire condition.

A huge number of members undergoing extreme financial crisis reached out to us and we extended financial support. We also encouraged able SWA members to join this noble cause and a lot of them turned up with monetary contributions. Our Welfare Sub-committee and all the Officer Bearers worked round the clock to ensure that help was made available to needy members, despite limited functioning of SWA office as well as banks.

This gives me immense hope as I continue to look forward to your support. We shall overcome!

With you, for you, always
On behalf of the Executive Committee of SWA.

VINOD RANGANATH

**REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIENDS!**

We pay our heartfelt condolences to our members who passed away in the past few months, namely Sarvshri SS Panwar, Madan Pal, Rajinder Singh ‘Atish’, Balkrishna Maju, Jyoti Singh, Nusrat Badr, Imtiaz Khan, Yogesh, Anwar Sagar, Jagannath Kundu, Nishikanth Kamat, Ranjan Mishra, Rajat Mukherjee and Abhilash.

The Screenwriters Association also expresses its deep pain and sorrow over the demise of writer-director Basu Chatterjee, actors Rishi Kapoor, Irrfan, Sushant Singh Rajpoot and Shafique Ansari, Producers Guild of India CEO Kulmeet Makkar, satirist Mujtaba Hussain, as well as Urdu poet Rahat Indori.

May their souls rest in peace!

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