

'YOU JUST GOTTA BELIEVE'

THE 37TH ANNUAL PGA AWARDS REMINDED PRODUCERS OF ALL THEY DO BEST WHILE CELEBRATING THE INGENUITY, PERSISTENCE, QUALITY AND CREATIVITY EMBODIED BY THE NOMINATED PROJECTS AND THEIR PRODUCING TEAMS.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JORDAN STRAUSS PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2026 PGA Awards were celebrated with a joyful variety of online and in-person events leading up to the main ceremony.

Awards season kicked off with a bang at a January event at the downtown LA campus of AGBO that showcased finalists for the 2026 PGA Innovation Award. There, attendees had the opportunity to experience each of the five nominated projects for themselves.

Virtual events helped connect viewers around the world with nominees during two roundtable discussions: one with producers of projects nominated for the Documentary Motion Picture Award and another with Innovation Award finalists.

The PGA's annual West Coast Celebration took place on February 26 at the Aster in Hollywood. There, winners of four of the awards categories were announced: *Sesame Street* (**Outstanding Children's Program**); *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* (**Outstanding Sports Program**); *Adolescence: The Making of Adolescence* (**Outstanding Short Form Program**); and *The Wizard of Oz at Sphere* (**PGA Innovation Award**).

Two additional honors were presented that evening. Producer Lydia Dean Pilcher (*Queen of Katwe*, *Radium Girls*)



Michelle Wong
of *KPop Demon
Hunters*



Paul Thomas Anderson and Sara
Murphy of *One Battle After Another*



Mike Farah, Michelle Byrd, Joe Farrell, Stephanie Allain,
Susan Sprung and Donald De Line backstage.

was presented with the Vance Van Petten Entrepreneurial Spirit Producing Award for her nearly two decades of work championing sustainability in film and television, including chairing the PGA's Sustainability Task Force. Pilcher's award was presented by producer Tendo Nagenda. Jessica Li, a recent graduate of NYU's dual MBA/MFA program, was awarded the Debra Hill Fellowship supporting emerging producers. Li's award was presented by selection chairs Deniese Davis and Lucienne Papon.

At a heroically early hour on the morning of the PGA Awards, nominees for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award for Outstanding Producer of Theatrical Motion Pictures engaged in a candid discussion punctuated by heartbreak and hilarity to share the stories behind the making of their lauded films—some messy, some gargantuan, all inspiring.

The breakfast panel included nominees Jerry Bruckheimer (*FI*), Eli Bush (*Marty Supreme*), Guillermo del Toro (*Frankenstein*), Pippa Harris (*Hamnet*), Lars Knudsen (*Bugonia*), Sara Murphy (*One Battle After Another*), Sev Ohanian (*Sinners*), Andrea Berentsen Ottmar (*Sentimental Value*), Teddy Schwarzman (*Train Dreams*), and Miri Yoon (*Weapons*). Journalist Jess Cagle served as moderator.

Every nominee dropped priceless nuggets of wisdom touching on both the pragmatic and philosophical aspects of doing their job, but perhaps no one summed it up as perfectly as Yoon:

"At the end of the day, the way I see our jobs as producers in some part is we're in the service industry. We're in service of crew that's busting their asses for us. We're in service of actors that are putting their craft front and center. We're in service to the studio



Mariska Hargitay and Trish Adlesic of *My Mom Jayne*



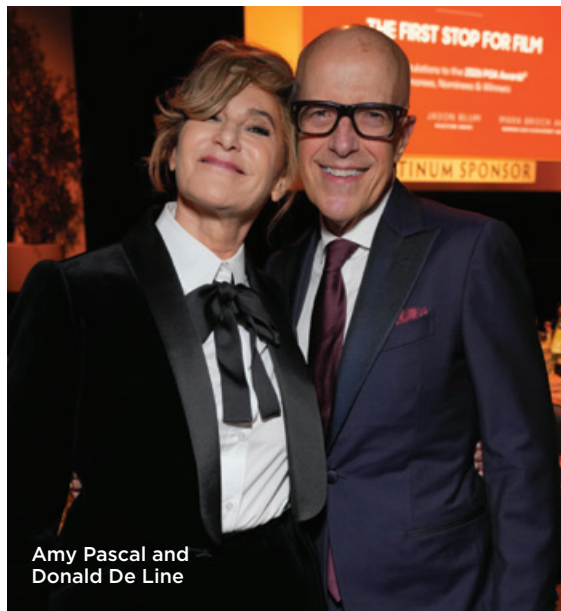
Jo Johnson of *Adolescence*



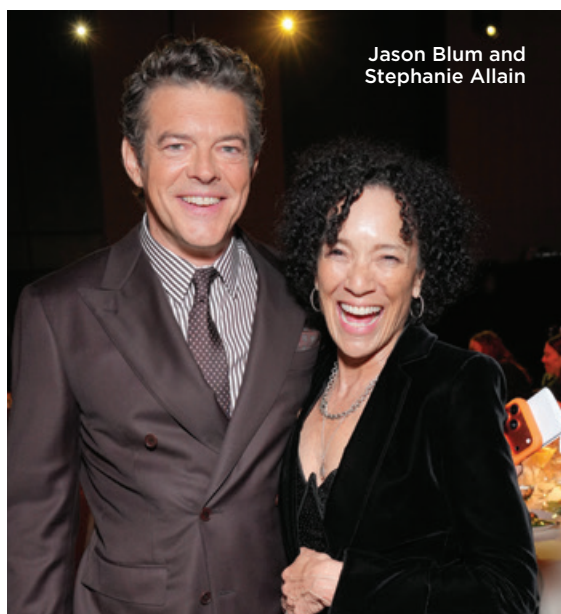
Gabe Gibbs and singers performing "Believe."



Ike Barinholtz reads a story.



Amy Pascal and Donald De Line



Jason Blum and Stephanie Allain



Mara Brock Akil and Ralph Farquhar

or whomever is financing the movie who's giving us millions of dollars to do it and standing behind us. We're in service at the end of the day most of all to the page, and we're in service of that filmmaker and the vision that they're bringing to the table."

PGA members can watch the full panel on the members-only Vimeo channel.

Last but not least, the 37th Annual Producers Guild Awards took place on February 28 at the Fairmont Century Plaza in Century City.

The star-studded evening recognized three industry trailblazers with special honors: Amy Pascal, recipient of the David O. Selznick Achievement Award in Theatrical Motion Pictures, recognizing a producer for their extraordinary body of work in motion pictures; Jason Blum, recipient of the Milestone Award for an individual who has made historic contributions to the entertainment industry; and Mara Brock Akil, who received the Norman Lear Achievement Award in Television, which recognizes a producer for their extraordinary body of work in television.

With nods to two of the most memorable moments during last year's PGA Awards, Ike Barinholtz read aloud from *The Very Hungry Manager*, a satirical storybook detailing the unique journey one undertakes to become a producer. Gabe Gibbs delivered the rousing anthem "Believe," exhorting producers to hold fast to the trait that most exemplifies the profession.

Mike Farah and Joe Farrell served as event chairs for fourth year. The awards were produced by Anchor Street Collective with Branden Chapman as executive producer, Carleen Cappelletti as coexecutive producer, and Diane Salerno, who managed sponsorships. Sponsors of the 2026 Producers Guild Awards included McLaren, the Official Vehicle; Delta Air Lines, the Official Airline; GreenSlate; Glenfiddich Scotch Whisky; and Silverado Vineyards.

All PGA Awards acceptance speeches and panels are available for viewing on the PGA's YouTube channel.

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2026 PGA AWARDS NOMINEES AND WINNERS

Darryl F. Zanuck Award for Outstanding Producer of Theatrical Motion Picture

Bugonia
F1
Frankenstein
Hamnet
Marty Supreme
One Battle After Another - WINNER
Sentimental Value
Sinners
Train Dreams
Weapons

Award for Outstanding Producer of Animated Theatrical Motion Picture

The Bad Guys 2
Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba
Infinity Castle
Elio
KPop Demon Hunters - WINNER
Zootopia 2

Award for Outstanding Producer of Documentary Motion Picture

The Alabama Solution
Cover-Up
Mr. Nobody Against Putin
My Mom Jayne: A Film by Mariska Hargitay - WINNER
Ocean with David Attenborough
The Perfect Neighbor
The Tale of Silyan

Norman Felton Award for Outstanding Producer of Episodic Television - Drama

Andor
The Diplomat
The Pitt - WINNER
Pluribus
Severance
The White Lotus

Danny Thomas Award for Outstanding Producer of Episodic Television - Comedy

The Bear
Hacks
Only Murders in the Building
South Park
The Studio - WINNER

David L. Wolper Award for Outstanding Producer of Limited or Anthology Series Television

Adolescence - WINNER
The Beast in Me
Black Mirror
Black Rabbit
Dying for Sex

Award for Outstanding Producer of Televised or Streamed Motion Picture

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy
The Gorge
John Candy: I Like Me - WINNER
Mountainhead
Nonnas

Award for Outstanding Producer of Non-Fiction Television

aka Charlie Sheen
Billy Joel: And So It Goes
Mr. Scorsese
Pee-wee as Himself - WINNER
SNL50: Beyond Saturday Night

Award for Outstanding Producer of Live Entertainment, Variety, Sketch, Standup & Talk Television

The Daily Show
Jimmy Kimmel Live!
Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
The Late Show with Stephen Colbert - WINNER
SNL50: The Anniversary Special

Award for Outstanding Producer of Game & Competition Television

The Amazing Race
Jeopardy!
RuPaul's Drag Race
Top Chef
The Traitors - WINNER

For a complete list of producers associated with the nominated productions, visit producersguild.org/2026-pga-awards-winners.

Teyana Taylor enjoying the party.



Tanya Michnevich Bracco of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*

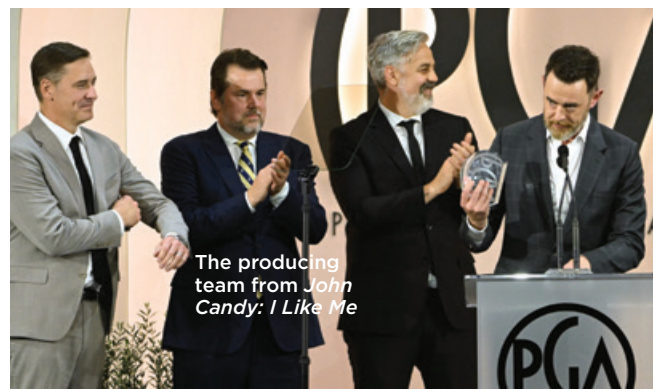
Karen Pittman taking a seat in a McLaren.



Producers of *The Pitt*



The Traitors producing team



The producing team from *John Candy: I Like Me*



Nyle Washington, Kia Milan and Kelly Caton of *The Making of Adolescence*



Lydia Dean Pilcher receiving the Vance Van Petten Entrepreneurial Spirit Producing Award.



Lucienne Papon and Deniese Davis with Debra Hill Fellow Jessica Li



The Wizard of Oz at Sphere team with Innovation Jury Members and PGA staff: Victoria Bousis, Ben Grossmann, Susan Sprung, Jane Rosenthal, Carolyn Blackwood, Joanna Popper, Angela Russo-Ostot, Ralph Winter, Liz Rosenthal and Michelle Byrd.



The producing team of *Peewee As Himself*

Award for Outstanding Sports Program

- 100 Foot Wave
- Big Dreams: The Little League World Series 2024
- Formula 1: Drive to Survive - WINNER**
- Hard Knocks: Training Camp with the Buffalo Bills
- Surf Girls: International

Award for Outstanding Short Form Program

- Adolescence: The Making of Adolescence - WINNER**
- The Daily Show: Desi Lydic Foxsplains
- Hacks: Bit By Bit
- Overtime with Bill Maher
- The White Lotus: Unpacking the Episode



Producers of *The Studio*

Award for Outstanding Children's Program

- LEGO Star Wars: Rebuild the Galaxy - Pieces of the Past
- Phineas and Ferb
- Sesame Street - WINNER**
- Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical
- SpongeBob SquarePants

PGA Innovation Award

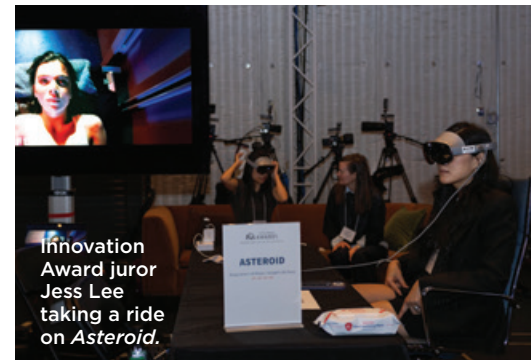
- ASTEROID (Doug Liman's 30 Ninjas / Google's 100 Zeros)
- Big Wave: No Room for Error (Cosm)
- D-Day: The Camera Soldier (TARGO / TIME Studios)
- territory (Double Eye Studios / Kinetic Light)
- The Wizard of Oz at Sphere (Sphere Entertainment Co.) - WINNER**



Nominee Breakfast panelists: Eli Bush, Miri Yoon, Sara Murphy, Pippa Harris, Andrea Berentsen Ottmar, Sev Ohanian, Lars Knudsen, Teddy Schwarzman, Guillermo del Toro, Jerry Bruckheimer.



Innovation Award juror Shicong Zhu experiencing *D-Day: The Camera Soldier*.



Innovation Award juror Jess Lee taking a ride on *Asteroid*.