

TV's hottest talent

RadioTimes.com asked top television industry experts who's had an outstanding year. And here's what they said...

WHO ARE THE hottest talents on television today? Which stars do the broadcasters scramble to sign knowing that harnessing their talents

to a show will make it fly? RadioTimes.com asked some of the most powerful TV executives and broadcasting bigwigs in Britain to name the stars they believe have had an exceptional 12 months. The Radio Times TV 100 panel included channel controllers, commissioners, production executives, writers and producers – from *Doctor Who*'s Steven Moffat to actor Lenny Henry. A panel of *Radio Times* editors – including TV editor Alison Graham – then ranked the final 100. The top 20 are listed here, and you can see all 100 at RadioTimes.com.

OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS

- SIR LENNY HENRY actor and writer • MICHAELA COEL actor and creator, *Chewing Gum* • STEVEN MOFFAT Executive Producer, *Doctor Who* and Co-creator, *Sherlock* • KATE OATES Producer, *Coronation Street* • VINAY PATEL writer, *Murdered By My Father* • DOMINIC TREADWELL-COLLINS Head of TV, Blueprint Television • CHARLOTTE MOORE Director of Content, BBC • MARK LINSEY Director, BBC Studios • PATRICK HOLLAND Controller, BBC2 • JAY HUNT Former Chief Creative Officer, Channel 4 • ZAI BENNETT Director of Programmes, Sky UK • ADAM MACDONALD Director, Sky1 • JAY MARINE Vice-president, Prime Video, Europe • SHANE ALLEN Controller, BBC Comedy Commissioning • BETH WILLIS Head of Drama, Channel 4 • ANNE MENSAH Head of Drama, Sky • JON MOUNTAGUE Head of Comedy, Sky • PETER SALMON Chief Creative Officer, Endemol Shine Group • DAMIEN TIMMER Managing Director, Mammoth Screen • NIRA PARK Founder, Big Talk Productions • JAMIE ISAACS CEO Avalon Television Factual • PIPPA HARRIS Executive Producer, *Call the Midwife*, and Co-founder, Neal Street Productions • DIEDERICK SANTER CEO Kudos • NICOLA SHINDLER Founder RED Production Company • KATE HARWOOD Managing Director, Euston Films • LIAM HUMPHREYS CEO Freemantle UK Unscripted

20 Princes William and Harry

Prince William and Prince Harry have won heartfelt praise for the way they are using their privileged position to make a difference. Both have chosen to speak publicly about how their mother's death has affected them throughout their lives. The Princes have revealed a vulnerability which royalty rarely acknowledges: Harry admitted that he was driven to the brink of a breakdown and sought professional help. They have tried to help others by spearheading the Heads Together campaign to make mental wellbeing every bit as important as physical health. Both have become admirable role models. Diana would have been proud.

JENNIE BOND
Former BBC Royal Correspondent



18 Ed Balls

What I liked about Ed was that he fully embraced the show. He didn't just come on to lark about – he really gave it his all.

LEN GOODMAN
Former Head Judge on *Strictly Come Dancing*



17 Richard Ayoade

Richard is a talented comic, writer and director and it's really no surprise that his wits have lent themselves so tremendously to the role of presenter. We have loved him in *Travel Man* and he has put his own stamp on *The Crystal Maze* for a new generation of fans.

KELLY WEBB-LAMB
Head of Factual Entertainment, Channel 4

19 Noel Fielding

Along with the magnificent Sandi Toksvig, Noel is an utter delight to work with on *Bake Off* and one of the kindest, gentlest and wittiest individuals I've worked with. I'm convinced the nation's love affair with Noel Fielding is only just beginning.

RICHARD McKERROW
Creative Director, Love Productions



16 Heidi Thomas

Heidi has an extraordinary ability to connect with a wide audience and make them care about the characters and scenarios she creates. As brilliantly demonstrated in *Call the Midwife*, her meticulous research and heartfelt emotion mark her out as one of the UK's finest screenwriters.

PIPPA HARRIS
Executive Producer, *Call the Midwife*



GETTY; NICKY JOHNSTON; IAN DERRY; REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY; PHIL FISK; JACK BARNES; CHRIS TERRY; ELLIS PARRINDER

14 Jenna Coleman

Jenna is as talented as she is mesmerising on screen. As Victoria she's required to do some heavy lifting as the central character and she never misses a beat. Whatever I write for her, she turns into gold. Long live Queen Jenna!

DAISY GOODWIN
Screenwriter, *Victoria*



15 James Corden

James has become a global superstar following his move to the US to present *The Late Late Show*. But he still returns to the UK each year to present the Bafta-winning *A League of Their Own* on Sky 1 – and this June he enjoyed a successful homecoming by presenting *The Late Late Show* live from London. **ADAM MacDONALD** Director, Sky 1

12 Nadiya Hussain

Nadiya is one of the most natural, engaging and effervescent talents to have emerged in factual television for years. She is not just a passionate and skilful cook, she has an exceptional gift with people, whatever their background. Her ebullience, warmth and enthusiasm bursts out from the screen whenever she appears.

PATRICK HOLLAND Channel Editor BBC2



13 Charlie Brooker

Charlie is a funny, prolific visionary, whose work strikes a chord with millennial audiences from Singapore to San Francisco. His provocative, dystopian *Black Mirror* began life on Channel 4 and has now picked up three Emmy nominations on Netflix.

PETER SALMON Chief Creative Officer, *Endemol Shine*



11 Kit Harington

With his performance as Jon Snow in *Game of Thrones*, Kit has become a huge star and a significant player in TV and film. This year he'll play Robert Catesby in BBC1 drama *Gunpowder*, which he co-produced.

DIEDERICK SANTER
CEO, *Kudos*



10 Pearl Mackie

She put her name firmly on the television map, broke down barriers and won rave reviews as the Doctor's first openly gay companion. No doubt more great things await.

TIM GLANFIELD
Editor, *RadioTimes.com*



9 Laura Kuennsberg

Recognition of Laura's exceptional journalism couldn't be more deserved. From the EU Referendum to the recent General Election, and from morning until night, Laura has taken BBC viewers and listeners through historic political times with her expert insight and flair for asking the right questions.

FRANCESCA UNSWORTH Deputy Director, *BBC News and Current Affairs*



8 Adam Hills

Difficult times are a gift for satire and the often horrific nature of the past 12 months has seen Adam Hills transcend *Last Leg's* original disability and Paralympic brief to become an edgy topical comedy with a strand of political satire running through it.

LIAM HUMPHREYS
CEO, *Fremantlemedia UK Unscripted*



7 Sharon Horgan

Sharon Horgan is quite simply an exceptional talent. A razor-sharp comic writer and actress. With *Catastrophe*, she's finally won the global critical acclaim she's deserved for years. She has an unerring ability to see humour in the darkness and to go where others wouldn't dare.

JAY HUNT
Former Chief Creative Officer Channel 4



6 Claire Foy

Claire Foy has always had regal credentials, but the last 12 months have seen her crowned queen of Netflix. Since cutting her teeth in *Wolf Hall* as Anne Boleyn, she has made her mark as Queen Elizabeth II in *The Crown*. May her reign continue for years to come.

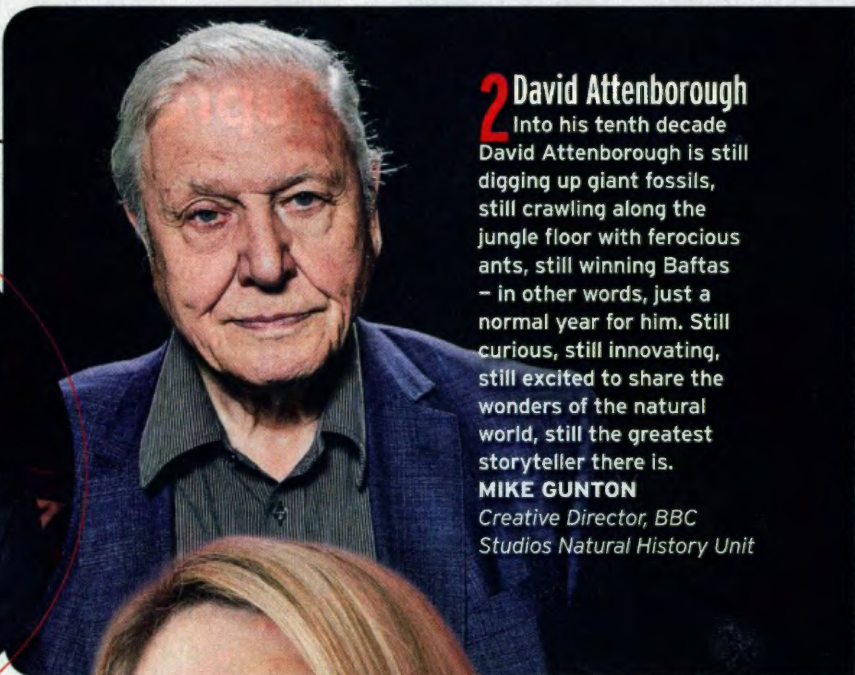
SUSANNA LAZARUS
News Editor, *RadioTimes.com*



5 Peter Kay

Peter Kay can do no wrong. After starting out on C4 with *That Peter Kay Thing* and *Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights*, he well and truly broke into the mainstream with the sometimes caustic, but always gentle and surprisingly sentimental BBCiPlayer/BBC1 smash *Car Share*. Its finale earlier this year left viewers baying for more. But they are unlikely to get the ending they so badly want, Kay is adamant *Car Share* is over.

ALISON GRAHAM
TV Editor, Radio Times



2 David Attenborough

Into his tenth decade David Attenborough is still digging up giant fossils, still crawling along the jungle floor with ferocious ants, still winning Baftas – in other words, just a normal year for him. Still curious, still innovating, still excited to share the wonders of the natural world, still the greatest storyteller there is.

MIKE GUNTON
Creative Director, BBC Studios Natural History Unit

4 Thandie Newton

Thandie Newton was not only magnificent this year in *Line of Duty*, but also the Sky Atlantic smash hit *Westworld*. She effortlessly took us on a journey of awakening from machine to supposed consciousness in a powerful, witty and occasionally chilling performance. An actress at the top of her game.

ZAI BENNETT Director of Programmes, Sky UK



3 Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Phoebe's career shot up like a firework display in the last year. *Fleabag* signalled the arrival of a hugely distinctive writer with the mesmerising performing talent to match. The show won nearly every award going, including a Bafta. It's led to a *Star Wars* film role as well as becoming a household name in the UK and industry sensation in the USA.

SHANE ALLEN
Controller of Comedy Commissioning, BBC2



'I've had a brilliant year. Thank you to Radio Times for this award!'

JODIE WHITTAKER

AND THE NUMBER ONE IS...

1 Jodie Whittaker

Jodie is not just a talented actor but she has a bold and brilliant vision for her Doctor. She aced it in her audition both technically and with the powerful female life force she brings to the role. She is destined to be an iconic Doctor.

PIERS WENGER Controller, BBC Drama

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