**NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED:**

**VIRGIN TV BRITISH ACADEMY TELEVISION AWARDS**

**THE CROWN LEADS WITH FIVE NOMINATIONS**

**DAMILOLA, OUR LOVED BOY, HAPPY VALLEY AND FLEABAG RECEIVE THREE NOMINATIONS EACH**

**CLAIRE FOY RECEIVES HER SECOND CONSECUTIVE NOMINATION FOR LEADING ACTRESS**

**LEADING & SUPPORTING PERFOMANCE CATEGORIES DOMINATED BY FIRST-TIME NOMINEES**

London, 11 April 2017: The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has today announced the nominations for the Virgin TV British Academy Television Awards, which reward the very best in television broadcast on British screens in 2016. This year’s ceremony will be held at London’s Royal Festival Hall on Sunday 14 May, three weeks after the British Academy Television Craft Awards on 23 April and one week after BAFTA’s *Guru Live* festival.

Historical drama **The Crown** receives five nominations: *Leading Actress* for **Claire Foy** for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II; *Supporting Actor* for **Jared Harris** and **John Lithgow;** and *Supporting Actress* for **Vanessa Kirby**. Harris, Lithgow and Kirby are all first-time nominees; the programme is also nominated in *Drama Series.*

The *Leading* and *Supporting* performance categories are dominated this year by first-time BAFTA nominees, who also include **Jodie Comer** (for **Thirteen**) and **Nikki Amuka-Bird** (for **NW**)competing in *Leading Actress***,** and **Daniel Mays** (for **Line of Duty**) in *Supporting Actor*. **NW** receives a second nomination in *Single Drama*.

One-off drama **Damilola, Our Loved Boy** receives three nominations, in *Single Drama, Leading Actor (*for **Babou Ceesay**)and *Supporting Actress (*for **Wunmi Mosaku**).**Happy Valley** receives nominations in *Drama Series*, *Leading Actress* (for **Sarah Lancashire**) and *Supporting Actress* (for **Siobhan Finneran**)*.*The adaptation of Leo Tolstoy’s epic, **War & Peace,** and **The Durrells,** based on Gerald Durrell’s autobiographical Corfu trilogy, are also nominated in *Drama Series.*

**Fleabag** receives three nominations, in *Scripted Comedy* and *Female Performance in a Comedy Programme* (for **Olivia Colman** and for **Phoebe Waller-Bridge**)*.* **Lesley Manville** also receives a nomination in the categoryfor **Mum,** as does **Diane Morgan** for **Cunk on Shakespeare.**

**Cunk on Shakespeare** receives a second nomination in *Comedy & Comedy Entertainment Programme* along with **The Last Leg,** whichalso receives a nomination in *Entertainment Performance* for **Adam Hills**. Completing the *Comedy & Comedy Entertainment Programme* category are **Charlie Brooker’s 2016 Wipe** and **Taskmaster**.

**Michael McIntyre** receives a nomination in *Entertainment Performance* for **Michael McIntyre’s Big Show**, which receives a second nomination for *Entertainment Programme*. **Strictly Come Dancing** receives a nomination in *Entertainment Programme* and in *Entertainment Performance* for **Claudia Winkleman**. **Britain’s Got Talent** and **Ant & Dec’s Saturday Night Take Away** also receive nominations in *Entertainment Programme.* **Graham Norton** concludes the *Entertainment Performance* category by receiving a nomination for **The Graham Norton Show** – the 15th of his career to date.

A number of programmes receive two nominations each: **The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses** in *Mini Series* and *Leading Actor* (for **Benedict Cumberbatch**); **National Treasure** in *Mini Series* and *Leading Actor*(for three-time BAFTA winner **Robbie Coltrane**); **Murdered by My Father** in *Single Drama* and *Leading Actor* (for **Adeel Akhtar**). Completing the double nominations is mockumentary series **People Just Do Nothing** with a nomination in *Scripted Comedy* and *Male Performance in Comedy Programme* (for **Asim Chaudhry**).

The *Male Performance in a Comedy Programme* categoryincludes nominations for Steve Coogan, who receives a nomination for **Alan Partridge's Scissored Isle**, making him a BAFTA television nominee for the 10th time. Joining him are other multiple BAFTA nominees **David Mitchell** for **Upstart Crow** and **Harry Enfield** for **The Windsors.**

The following receive a single nomination each: **The Secret** (*Mini Series*), **The Witness for the Prosecution** (*Mini Series)*; **Aberfan: The Green Hollow** (*Single Drama);* **Nicola Walker** (*Supporting Actress* for **Last Tango in Halifax**)*;* **Camping** *(Scripted Comedy)*and **Flowers** (*Scripted Comedy).*

The nominations for *Soap & Continuing Drama* are: **Casualty, EastEnders, Emmerdale** and **Hollyoaks.**

In the *International* category, true crime, justice, gender, science fiction and horror go head-to-head with nominations for **The Night Of, The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story**, **Stranger Things** and **Transparent.**

Four programmes are recognised in the *Current Affairs* category, with nominations for **Inside Obama’s White House, Teenage Prison Abuse Exposed (Panorama), Three Days of Terror: The Charlie Hebdo Attacks (This World)** and **Unarmed Black Male (This World)**.

The nominations for *Single Documentary* reflect television’s remarkable ability to shed light on complex issues: **Behind Closed Doors, Hillsborough, How to Die: Simon’s Choice** and **HyperNormalisation.**

Nominated in the *News Coverage* category are **BBC North West Tonight: Hillsborough Inquests, Channel 4 News: Brexit – Day One, Sky News Tonight - Aleppo: Death of a City** and **Victoria Derbyshire**.

In *Factual Series*, crime and personal stories dominate with nominations for **24 Hours in Police Custody, Exodus: Our Journey to Europe, Kids on the Edge** and **The Prosecutors: Real Crime and Punishment**.

The *Live Event* nominations are **The Centenary of the Battle of the Somme: Thiepval, The Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration, Shakespeare Live! From the RSC** and **Stand Up to Cancer**.

In *Sport,* **Six Nations – England v Wales, The Open, Rio 2016 Olympics** and **Rio 2016 Paralympics** receive nominations.

**Who Do You Think You Are**, **Travel Man: 48 Hours In…** and **The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs** receive a nomination each in *Features,* with**The Great British Bake Off** also nominated in this category for the sixth consecutive year.

The *Reality & Constructed Factual* nominations are **First Dates, Muslims Like Us, The Real Marigold Hotel** and **The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds.**

In Specialist Factual, **Planet Earth II** receives a nomination along with **Attenborough’s Life That Glows** and **Alan Bennett’s Diaries**. **Grayson Perry** adds to his previous three nominations in this category for **Grayson Perry: All Man**.

The nominations for the publicly-voted *Virgin TV’s Must See Moment,* which were announced yesterday are: Game of Thrones: Battle of the Bastards, The Late Late Show with James Corden: Carpool Karaoke with Michelle Obama, Line of Duty: Urgent Exit Required, Planet Earth II: Snakes vs Iguana Chase, Strictly Come Dancing: Ed Balls’ Gangnam Style and Who Do You Think You Are?: Danny Dyer’s Origins.

**ENDS**

-- THE LIST OF NOMINATIONS ACCOMPANIES THIS RELEASE ---

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Virgin Media recently revamped its TV offering for its customers with the launch of its new Virgin TV V6 set-top box and enhanced multi-screen viewing experience. Virgin TV has also increased its investment in boxsets, catch up services as well as launching exclusive new TV shows, including *Ash vs Evil Dead*, *Kingdom*, *Full Circle* and most recently US hit drama *Imposters*, all premiering in the UK and brilliantly brought together by Virgin TV.

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