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The banner features the MIPCOM CANNES logo in white on a dark blue background with a palm frond pattern. To the right, the dates '16-19 OCTOBER' and 'Palais des Festivals, Cannes' are in white, followed by '2023' in large orange letters. Below this, the text 'MIPCOM CANNES DIVERSIFY TV AWARDS NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED' is in white. Further down, it reads 'Influential Artist, Activist and Policy Maker Deborah Williams to be Honoured with 'Behind the Scenes Impact' Award on October 17 in Cannes, France'. The bottom section has a blue background with two yellow palm fronds framing the text 'mipcom CANNES DIVERSIFY TV AWARDS'. On the right is a portrait of Deborah Williams, a Black woman with glasses, smiling, wearing a blue top. Below the portrait is the text 'Deborah Williams OBE 'Behind The Scenes Impact' Honouree'.

**Paris, 21 September 2023** – MIPCOM CANNES today announced the nominations for the 2023 Diversify TV Awards along with further details of this year's Awards Ceremony, to be held on day two of the 39th International Co-Production & Entertainment Content Market (16-19 Oct) in Cannes. The only awards to recognise the promotion of Diversity and Inclusion in television internationally, 165 submissions were this year received from 27 countries.

A total of nine winners will be announced live in Cannes including the 'Behind The Scenes Impact' award - honouring a person or team whose influence, actions and vision from behind the scenes stands as an inspiration in the field of Diversity and Inclusion – which this year will be presented to the CEO of the UK's Creative Diversity Network (CDN) Deborah Williams OBE, in recognition of a three decade career driving change in perceptions of disability and increased inclusion across television, film and theatrical industries as an artist, activist and latterly an influential policy maker and executive.

The 7th Diversify TV Awards are organised by MIPCOM CANNES in collaboration with founding partner Diversify TV and in association with Founding Presenting Partner A+E Networks and Data Presenting Partner Gracenote. 2023 Awards Partners also include All3Media International, Iron Mountain, Telefilm

Canada and The Canada Media Fund, OUTtv, The United Nations Media Compact, D.I.M.E.S., and Lightboat Media among other supporting partner companies and organisations.

The Diversify TV Awards will be presented during a new prime time slot on the MIPCOM CANNES programme on Tuesday 17 October from 12.00 – 1:00 pm and will again be hosted by international anchor and diversity advocate Femi Oke. Open to all MIPCOM delegates, the awards ceremony will be staged in the Grand Auditorium of the world-renowned Palais des Festivals in Cannes and followed by a cocktail reception.

*“Progress in Diversity and Inclusion will come from showing not telling.”* said Lucy Smith, Director of MIPCOM CANNES and MIPJUNIOR. *“These awards showcase an amazing breadth of programmes and people that have furthered authentic representation across the world over the last year, (and in Deborah Williams’ case the last thirty years), to an influential industry audience from over 100 countries. To be shortlisted is a significant accolade, but as important, is how this may inspire those attending to emulate this in their own way.”*

Deborah Williams’ work as a disabled artist has spanned work in front of and behind the scenes, in television, film and theatre and as the architect of influential policies across the wider creative industries; including advising the UN and UNICEF on the rights of disabled people within cultural activities and drawing up the British Film Institute (BFI)’s diversity standards, which have since adopted widely by organisations including BAFTA and AMPAS. As CEO of the UK’s CDN, Williams has led the non-profit broadcaster-funded organisation to support the country’s television industry in promoting, celebrating and sharing best practice around diversity since 2016.

Deborah Williams OBE said: *“I am honoured to be presented with this award by Diversify TV and MIPCOM CANNES. As someone who has fought long and hard to highlight how attracting the best talent from the widest range of backgrounds can only make our industry more creative and more successful, it means a great deal to see this work recognised with an incredible award. Increasing diversity on and off-screen is a global challenge, so I take great pleasure in this first international recognition of work that is having an international impact.”*

Femi Oke, who returns for a second year as host, has reported, produced and presented for broadcasters including CNN International, Sky, National Geographic, NPR, Al Jazeera English and the BBC. A regular moderator at global forums and conferences, Oke has facilitated on behalf of the United Nations, World Bank and European Commission and is the Co-Founder of Moderate The Panel, an agency dedicated to sourcing diverse event hosts, a collective of diverse international moderators.

Finalists were short-listed by the MIP Markets Diversity Advisory Board and Short List Jury, composed of a peer group of international industry professionals, with winners to be chosen by a Final Round Jury of leading advocacy organisations and specialised publications within Diversity and Inclusion including The ADHD Foundation, APF France Handicap, GADIM, GLAAD, Minority Rights Group International, ODA, Scope, Show Racism the Red Card and True Colors United.

The 2023 Diversify TV nominations are:

Representation of Disability - Non-Scripted

**Inside our Autistic Minds (UK)**

Original Broadcaster: BBC Two

Distributor: BBC Studios

Production Company: BBC Studios

**The Roads of Ae-rin and Woo-ryeong** (South Korea)

Original Broadcaster: KBS (Korean Broadcasting System)

Distributor: KBS Media

Production Company: KBS

**Disability & Abortion: The Hardest Choice** (UK)

Original Broadcaster: Channel 4

Distributor: Banijay Rights

Production Companies: RFD Television and Hey Sonny

Representation of Disability - Scripted

**About Antoine** (Canada)

Original Broadcaster: Club illico, TVA

Distributor: Amuz Distribution

Production Company: ComediHa!

**Aspergirl** (France)

Original Broadcaster: OCS

Distributor: France tv distribution

Production Company: Patafilm

**Simple** (Spain)

Original Broadcaster: Movistar Plus+

Distributor: Beta Film

Production Companies: Movistar Plus+ in collaboration with Destrucción y Salvación

Representation of Diversity in Kids Programming - Older Children

**Phoenix Rise** (UK)

Original Broadcaster: BBC iPlayer

Distributor: Sinking Ship

Production Company: BBC Studios Kids & Family

**Supa Team 4** (South Africa)

Original Broadcaster: Netflix

Distributor: Netflix

Production Companies: Triggerfish Animation Studios and Cake Entertainment

**Ghostwriter** (Canada)

Original Broadcaster: Apple TV+

Distributor: Apple TV+

Production Companies: Sinking Ship Entertainment, Sesame Workshop

Representation of Diversity in Kids Programming - Pre-School

**Dog Squad** (UK)

Original Broadcaster: BBC

Distributor: BBC

Production Company: Hello Halo Kids for BBC

**Reu and Harper's Wonder World** (UK)

Original Broadcaster: Channel 5  
Distributor: Channel 5 and Doc Hearts Ltd  
Production Company: Doc Hearts Ltd

**Kiya & the Kimoja Heroes (USA)**

Original Broadcaster: Disney Jr and Disney+  
Distributor: eOne  
Production Company(ies): Frog Box, Disney EMEA, France Televisions, Triggerfish Animation Studio

Representation of LGBTQIA+ - Non-Scripted

**Queerstralia** (Australia)

Original Broadcaster: Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Distributor: ABC Commercial  
Production Company: Guesswork Television

**Lotus Sports Club** (Cambodia)

Original Broadcaster: TVK National Television of Cambodia  
Distributor: Dutch CORE  
Production Company: Document Our History NOW and RoCK

**Naked Education** (UK)

Original Broadcaster: Channel 4  
Distributor: All3Media International  
Production Company: Betty TV

Representation of LGBTQIA+ - Scripted

**Nights in Tefia** (Spain)

Original Broadcaster: ATRESplayer  
Distributor: Buendia Estudios Canarias  
Production Companies: Buendia Estudios Canarias with the participation of Atresmedia TV

**About Sasha** (France)

Original Broadcaster: france tv slash and France 5  
Distributor: France tv distribution  
Production Companies: Jerico TV & Big Band Story

**She Loves to Cook, and She Loves to Eat** (Japan)

Original Broadcaster: NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)  
Distributor: NHK Enterprises  
Production Companies: NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)/MMJ

Representation of Race and Ethnicity – Non-Scripted

**The Swap** (Australia)

Original Broadcaster: SBS Australia  
Distributor: No Distributor  
Production Company: Southern Pictures

**Folau** (Australia)

Original Broadcaster: The Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Distributor: ABC Commercial

Production Company: In Films

**Fight the Power: How Hip Hop Changed the World (UK)**

Original Broadcaster: BBC 2

Distributor: BBC Studios

Production Company: BBC Studios

Representation of Race and Ethnicity - Scripted

**Riches (UK)**

Original Broadcasters: Amazon Prime Video and ITV

Distributor: Banijay Rights

Production Company: Greenacre Films

**Little Bird (Canada)**

Original Broadcaster: Crave and APTN lumi

Distributor: Fremantle

Production Companies: Rezolution Pictures, OP Little Bird

**Sam - A Saxon (Germany)**

Original Broadcaster: Disney+

Distributor: Disney

Production Company: Big Window Productions (An UFA Fiction Productions GmbH Label)

To be eligible, programmes submitted were required to provide a fair and balanced representation of Race & Ethnicity, LGBTQIA+ and Disabled communities; show a positive impact; stand out in originality and excellence in terms of storytelling, casting and production values; challenge stereotypes and to have aired the past year.

In all, 11 000 global buyers, commissioners, creatives and producers, from over 100 countries, are set to attend this year's MIPCOM CANNES - the world's greatest gathering of TV and entertainment executives. Riviera exhibition halls and outdoor Croisette beach exhibition areas are sold out with a line-up comprising major studios, production and distribution groups.

MIPJUNIOR also returns to the JW Marriott at the weekend heading into MIPCOM CANNES (Oct 13-15) with a brand-new half-day pre-opening program beginning at 2pm on Friday (Oct 13).

The week-long MIPCOM CANNES conference programme helps define the TV industry year with keynotes from leading global players and thought leaders in addition to screenings of highly anticipated series and exclusive insight presentations. An overview of the Conference Programme schedule can be found [here](#).

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Further Information

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**Note for editors:**

**About MIPCOM CANNES**

MIPCOM CANNES leads a portfolio of markets and conferences from RX France's Entertainment Division staged for the international television distribution and production community year-round alongside MIPTV (featuring MIPDOC and MIPFORMATS), MIP CANCUN and MIPJUNIOR.

**About RX and RX France**

RX is in the business of building businesses for individuals, communities and organisations. We elevate the power of face-to-face events by combining data and digital products to help customers learn about markets, source products and complete transactions at over 400 events in 22 countries across 43 industry sectors. RX France manages a portfolio of world-class, French and international face-to-face, virtual and hybrid events covering 20 industry sectors including MIPIM, MAPIC, Batimat, Pollutec, EquipHotel, SITL, IFTM Top Resa, MIPCOM, MIPTV, Paris Photo, Maison&Objet\*... and many more.

RX is passionate about making a positive impact on society and is fully committed to creating an inclusive work environment for all our people. RX is part of RELX, a global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools for professional and business customers. [www.rxglobal.com](http://www.rxglobal.com) \*Organised by Safi, a subsidiary of Reed Expositions and Ateliers d'Art de France.

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