

NATAS Honors New England Broadcasting Legends

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Boston/New England Chapter honored Rex Trailer, Gerry Brooks, Frank Carpano, Art Donahue, Judith Stoia and Sara Edwards at the 2008 Gold and Silver Circle Ceremony on Thursday, November 20th in the Yawkey Theater at WGBH in Brighton.

“New England’s broadcast industry has a long history of producing remarkable talent,” said Timothy T. Egan, President of the NATAS’ Boston/New England Chapter. “These six honorees represent the best of the best of what television has offered during the past half century. They rightly take their place among the venerable Gold and Silver inductees of years past”

Silver Circle members are honored for making an enduring contribution to the vitality of the television industry. Established in 1993, the Silver Circle honors television professionals who have performed distinguished service within the industry for more than twenty-five years.

Fifty years of excellence in the television industry is a tremendous achievement and the establishment of the Gold Circle represents the Chapter’s recognition of this remarkable feat.

THE 16th SILVER CIRCLE AWARD HONORS

GERRY BROOKS

Gerry Brooks has been with NBC 30 since 1993. Previously, he was a news anchor and reporter at WFSB-TV, in Hartford for 14 years. He also spent five years as sports director at WPOP Newsradio 14, in Hartford, where he first worked with Joanne Nesti.

During that time, he also served as weekend sports anchor for NBC 30, and provided color commentary for University of Connecticut basketball games on the Connecticut Radio Network.

Gerry also served as news director for WAVZ, in New Haven, and as a reporter for WMAS-Radio in Springfield, Mass. A two-time Emmy award winner, Gerry is involved in several community and charity efforts in Connecticut.

Gerry was born in Boston and grew up in Framingham, Mass. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications.

FRANK CARPANO

Frank Carpano joined NBC 10 in 1980, and has been sports director and primary sports anchor since 1984. In addition to his nightly 6 and 11 p.m. sports duties, Frank hosts "First and 10" during the football season and "The Providence College Coach's Show" during the college basketball season. Frank is also currently the host and executive producer of "Varsity Life," a 30-minute weekly show on high school student athletes.

Over the years, Frank has had the good fortune to cover numerous Super Bowls, World Series and Olympiads. A two-time Olympic torch carrier, Frank won a New England Emmy for his series "Getting Frank in Shape", chronicling his preparation for the Olympic torch run.

At the 2006 Olympic Games, Frank worked for NBC, reporting on the games for the network's owned-and-operated stations across the country. For several years, he also served as a fill-in sports anchor at WNBC-TV in New York.

Carpano is a 10-time National Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters "Sportscaster of the Year" award winner. A graduate of Lincoln-Sudbury High School in Massachusetts and Ithaca College, Frank and his family live in Lincoln.

ART DONAHUE

Over the years, Art Donahue has won 15 New England Emmy Awards for videography, editing, producing and writing. Donahue has worked for WCVB TV for 21 years, and has produced, written, photographed and edited 110 half-hour episodes of "Chronicle", a nightly magazine program. He shot New England's first HDTV program in 1999, has since produced 45 "Chronicle" programs in HD, as well as written and lectured on high definition television production.

In 1971, while still in high school, Donahue began his career as a freelance news film cameraman. Attending UMass Amherst as a full time student, he also worked as a news cinematographer/editor and film-processing technician at WWLP-TV in Springfield, MA. In 1977, he won the Boston Press Photographers Association's "New England TV News Photographer of the Year" award. He moved to WBZ in Boston and again won the award in 1979.

In 1980, Donahue moved to WFSB-TV in Hartford and won "New England TV News Photographer of the Year" five years in a row. In 1986, Art Donahue won the National Press Photographers Association's "National TV News Photographer of the Year" award.

This year Donahue received 6 Emmy nominations and won Individual Achievement Awards for Program Videography and Writing.

SARA EDWARDS

Three time Emmy Award winner Sara Edwards has been an entertainment reporter for over 20 years. Sara is a familiar face to both television viewers and Hollywood celebrities alike, and has reported from the red carpet at the Oscars, Emmys, Golden Globes and more.

For nearly a decade, Sara served as the entertainment reporter and film critic for 200 NBC affiliates across the country, as well as the arts and entertainment reporter for WHDH TV in Boston. She has interviewed some of Hollywood's most sought after actors, including Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Johnny Depp, Denzel Washington, Clint Eastwood, and Nicole Kidman.

Originally from Los Angeles, Sara now considers herself a true Bostonian. Her close association with the city's arts scene has also made her a valuable source of information on Boston-bred celebs Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Mark Wahlberg.

Currently, in addition to her hosting duties at CN8 for "Backstage", Sara also serves as Senior Producer, managing content for the award-winning entertainment program. Over the years, Sara has earned many Emmy nominations and has won New England Emmys and a Mid-Atlantic Emmy for her producing and reporting work on "Backstage." She has received four national Telly awards, and a New England Cable Television award for excellence in programming.

JUDITH STOIA

Judith Stoia is a media veteran with a background in journalism, drama and children's programming. She began her career as a radio reporter for WGBH FM and moved to WGBH Television as a reporter during the turbulent days of court-ordered busing in Boston. From these experiences, she wrote a book; *The Hardest Lesson*, a Christopher Medal award recipient for non-fiction.

After a year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Stoia joined WCVB TV where she created "Chronicle", a nightly news magazine. As Executive Producer, Stoia also supervised documentaries, presidential debates, children's series and After School specials for ABC.

Stoia returned to WGBH as Executive Producer for "The AIDS Quarterly with Peter Jennings" and went on to produce drama for PBS and ABC, local and national documentaries, a comedy series, public affairs specials, election night coverage and more.

Most recently, Stoia has produced the PBS children's series, "Between the Lions", recognized with six national Emmys, the "Parents Choice Award", a rare endorsement from the National Educational Association and twice named "Best Children's Program" by the Television Critics Association.

Stoia's other awards and honors include Emmy, Gabriel, Cine Golden Eagle, New York Film Festival, Robert F. Kennedy and Peabody awards.

THE 6th GOLD CIRCLE AWARD HONORS

REX TRAILER

In the late 1940s, Rex Trailer began his career in children's television as the host of the Oky Doky Ranch. From 1950 to 1955, Rex was the host of three shows, "High Noon with Rex Trailer," "Riding the Trail," and "Rex Trailer's Ranch House." With 13 weeks left on his contract, he was offered to finish his deal in either Cleveland or Boston. Rex chose Boston and that 13-week contract would last nearly 20 years.

On April 28, 1956, "Rex Trailer's Boomtown" premiered on WBZ-TV in Boston. The show was an instant success. Every Saturday and Sunday morning "Boomtown" was on the air live for three hours. More than 250,000 kids would appear on "Boomtown" over the years and over 4 million watched from home. The show offered entertainment, educational games, films, cartoons, and outdoor adventure.

"Boomtown" signed off WBZ-TV in 1974. Westinghouse then developed a program called "Earth Lab," a science show for kids and teens and chose Rex as the host. The show was nationally syndicated and enjoyed a successful run in the mid-1970's.

In 1977, Rex began at Emerson College teaching on-camera performance and television production. Rex still enjoys personal appearances and parades with his horse Goldrush. He is president of RTV Productions in Waltham, Massachusetts producing commercials, industrials, and documentaries.

The National Television Academy is dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television, the fostering of creative leadership in the television industry, and the encouragement of excellence in artistic, educational, cultural and technical progress.