



Academy Special Awards Presented on March 8, 2016

In order of presentation:

Diversity Award

Sponsored by Playback

Canada in Perspective

Canada in Perspective, produced by Anne Marie Varner, is a weekly half-hour newsmagazine that uses headline-based documentary-style storytelling and a panel of guests to investigate and explore issues facing Canadians with all types and levels of ability. Season five will begin airing in June 2016 on AMI-tv with host Anna-Karina Tabuñar.

"This important Academy Special Award will help turn the spotlight on the growing and complex issues we deal with around persons who are blind or partially sighted, ableism and inclusion, and the always troubling fact that accessibility and affordability are not the same thing," said Varner.

Previously, Varner was Executive Producer of In-House Programming at Discovery Canada, producing over 200 hours of science content annually. She also spearheaded a Canada/U.S. coproduction with the Science Channel of the live landing of the Phoenix spacecraft on Mars. She has executive-produced award-winning science documentaries including New York Festivals winners *Retaking New York* and *Las Vegas: City Without Limits*.

The Diversity Award honours excellence in screen storytelling that explores the racial and cultural diversity of Canada.

Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism

Mark Starowicz

"There's a persistent idea that Canadians aren't interested in their own stories," Mark Starowicz once said. "I've made a living proving that isn't true."

The ultimate expression of Starowicz's passion for Canadian history and culture is the 30-hour CBC documentary series *Canada: A People's History* (2000-01), which he created and executive produced. It attracted over 14 million viewers and won three Gemini Awards.

Mark Starowicz was raised in Montreal and graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He began his career in newspaper journalism, then joined CBC Radio in 1970, where he received particular acclaim for his reworking of *As It Happens* and his creation of *Sunday Morning*, a three-hour weekend review.



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In 1979, he joined CBC Television, where he was the architect and executive producer of the hugely successful current affairs and documentary program *The Journal* (1982-92).

As Executive Producer of CBC's Documentary Production Unit and later Executive Director of documentary programming, he oversaw *The Greatest Canadian* (2004), *Hockey: A People's History* (2006), *8th Fire* (2012), and a decade of acclaimed independent productions. Starowicz is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and has won the Canadian Journalism Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, a Governor General's Performing Arts Award, nine Gemini Awards and one Prix Gémeaux.

Outstanding Technical Achievement Award

Much Music Video Awards – Router-Based Production Audio Design

Audio quality is assumed to be paramount on any live music show. The all-digital, router-based production audio design system created specifically for large-scale live broadcast by supervising audio engineer Anthony Montano and senior manager, broadcast audio operations Michael Nunan has raised that quality high above the previous standard and provided audio teams with faster and more flexible responses during rehearsals and live broadcast.

For its Emmy-winning debut on the *2014 Much Music Video Awards*, the system used a large-format digital audio router to link the show's three stages and seven broadcast consoles by fibre-optic cables carrying MADI digital audio signals. Presentation microphones and major components of the intercom system were also linked in. Backups and archives of over 400 tracks of multitrack records were created with new audio-over-IP technology.

The production model has proven so successful that other large-scale productions have begun to adopt this very same approach. The *2015 Pan Am Games* host broadcaster used it with great success on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in Toronto. The *MTV Video Music Awards* has adopted the approach in the U.S., as has Olympic Broadcasting Services in Europe.



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