

WGTE AWARDED THREE GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED TELLY AWARDS IN THE 45th ANNUAL TELLY AWARDS

“Freedom Means Never Surrender,” “Lakeside Chautauqua: An American Treasure” and “Listening with Keith Burris” were named winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOLEDO, OHIO – May 23, 2024 –WGTE announced today its Toledo Stories documentaries, “Freedom Means Never Surrender” and “Lakeside Chautauqua: An American Treasure,” were awarded a Gold Telly Winner in the General-Biography category and a Silver Telly Winner in General-History, respectively, while television program “Listening with Keith Burris” is a Bronze Telly Winner in General-Social Impact in the record-breaking 45th Annual Telly Awards. The Telly Awards honors excellence in video and television across all screens and is judged by leaders from video platforms, television, streaming networks, production companies. This year’s winners include Adobe, Calvin Klein, ESPN, LinkedIn, Mother Jones, MTV Entertainment Studios, NASA, the LA Clippers (NBA). PlayStation Studios, Sawhorse Productions, TelevisaUnivision and more.

“[Freedom Means Never Surrender](#)” follows Marian and Wladyslawa Wojciechowski who dedicated their lives for a free Poland. Despite their physical and mental tribulations, they pieced together a challenging, productive new life in Toledo, USA. Lakeside Chautauqua is nestled along the Lake Erie shore on the Marblehead Peninsula. Featuring stories told by Lakesiders and archival images, “[Lakeside Chautauqua: An American Treasure](#)” will take you back in time, 150 years to its founding. The youth of today face issues their parents and grandparents did not: Mass shootings, unprecedented political division, global warming, urban violence, and cyberbullying. “[Listening with Keith Burris](#)” applies a curious and open mind to learn where teen issues begin and how to combat unprecedented levels of despair.

WGTE Producer Shane Potgieter states, “We are so honored to have been recognized by the Telly Awards this year in three different television categories for the content produced about our community. Winning a Gold, Silver and Bronze Telly Award really is the cherry on top of the icing.”

“It’s always an honor to be recognized by seasoned professionals for producing creative, innovative, and meaningful content for our community and beyond. Our production team is very proud to receive a Gold, Silver and Bronze Telly Award for these unique and diverse programs. These awards are validation that WGTE continues to meet and exceed high standards and expectations of producing engaging and entertaining content,” says Ray Miller, Director of Content and Creative Services at WGTE.

Committed to pushing the boundaries of creativity forward, this year’s new categories included topics within Generative AI, Brand Collaboration, Use of Data Visualization, Thought Leadership and Accessibility. These categories centered on cutting-edge technologies and storytelling formats that are actively evolving within the video and television industry.

This was a record breaking year with nearly 13,000 entries from across the globe and top video and television content producers. Winner’s were chosen by The Telly Awards Judging Council which includes Nathalie Van Sasse Van Ysselt, VP of Design and Creative Services, MSG Sphere Studios; Barry Christie, Global Creative Lead, Meta Creative Shop; Farihah Zaman, Director, member of Brown Girl Doc Mafia; Aiden Darné, VP, Global Studio Lead Shutterstock; Malinda Wink, Executive Director Minderoo Pictures.

“The caliber of the work this season truly has reflected the theme of going beyond the frame. Our industry is experimenting with new technologies like never before, crafting truly compelling stories to draw attention to some of the world’s most pressing issues,” shares Telly Awards Managing Director Amanda Needham. “The Telly Awards is uniquely positioned to meet the industry where it’s actually making work, be that on television or TikTok.”

The full list of the 45th Annual Telly Awards winners can be found at <https://www.tellyawards.com/winners>.

About WGTE

WGTE Public Media, licensed and operated by The Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio, is a non-profit, noncommercial, educational TV and radio broadcaster

and center of learning for northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. WGTE is proud to be a PBS and NPR member station. It was founded as a low-power educational television broadcaster in 1953. Education remains at the heart of what we do every day. From our entertaining, informative and educational programs that air on WGTE TV, FM 91, and www.knowledgestream.org to our professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and preschool daycare providers and community engagement activities, WGTE makes northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan a better place to live. For more information, visit www.wgte.org.

Please contact Matt Reny, Director of Marketing for inquiries: matt_reny@wgte.org or call 419-380-4646.

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About The Telly Awards

The Telly Awards is the premier award honoring video and television across all screens. Established in 1979, The Telly Awards receives over 13,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents. Entrants are judged by The Telly Awards Judging Council—an industry body of over 200 leading experts including advertising agencies, production companies, and major television networks, reflective of the multiscreen industry The Telly Awards celebrates. Partners of The Telly Awards include the Gotham Institute, NAB, Stash, NYWIFT, LAPPG, Production Hub, Green the Bid, Video Consortium, and Series Fest. New Partners include FWD- Doc, AI Film Festival, Reel Abilities Film Festival, and Film Fatales.

More information can be found at the Telly Awards Press Center: <https://tily.co/press>.

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