

AmericanWritingAwards.com Announces Winners of the 2026 Podcast of the Year Awards

*Grand Prize Honors Go to abandoned:
The All-American Ruins Podcast*

DALLAS, TX, UNITED STATES, February 27, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- ☐☐
GRAND PRIZE WINNER
PODCAST OF THE YEAR 2026

abandoned: The All-American Ruins Podcast

Host: Blake Pfeil

Listen: <https://www.blakepfeil.com/aar-podcast.html>

The Grand Prize for Overall Podcast of the Year has been awarded to abandoned: The All-American Ruins Podcast, hosted by Blake Pfeil.



Intentionally styled with a lowercase

“a,” abandoned guides listeners through immersive audio experiences that recreate Pfeil’s explorations of abandoned spaces across the United States and around the world. Through cinematic sound design and deeply reflective storytelling, the podcast examines American

history and culture, community, economics, the environment, and mental health—encouraging listeners to activate their imaginations as tools for reflection and healing.

Judges praised the podcast for its originality, emotional depth, and powerful cultural insight.

“

Podcasting is a democratizing force, giving anyone with a message and a microphone the ability to reach a global audience.”

Ira Glass

2026 CATEGORY WINNERS

Best Female Hosted

- Beyond My Years — Ana Torres

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/beyond-my-years/id1754361513>

- On the Table with Ashley — Ashley Gould

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/on-the-table-with-ashley/id1719184248>

Education

- Science of Reading: The Podcast — Susan Lambert

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/science-of-reading-the-podcast/id1483513974>

Adventure & Travel

- abandoned: The All-American Ruins Podcast — Blake Pfeil

<https://www.blakepfeil.com/aar-podcast>

Personal Journeys

- abandoned: The All-American Ruins Podcast — Blake Pfeil

<https://www.blakepfeil.com/aar-podcast>

Parenting

- This is Now: Parenting Teens Today — Tiffany Dhooge

<https://childrensharbor.org/podcast/>

Kids & Family

- Spill the Tea with Virginia Lee: Secrets of High Achieving Teens — Virginia Lee

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/spill-the-tea-the-secrets-of-high-achieving-teens/id1768118748>

Science

- Whimsical Wavelengths – A Science Podcast — Dr. Jeffrey Zurek

<https://whimsicalwavelengths.com/>



Social Change

- Stories of Impact — Tavia Gilbert

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stories-of-impact/id1519411454>

Motivation & Success

- No Ordinary Monday — Chris Baron

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/no-ordinary-monday/id1830965307>

Interview Style

- Race Of Your Own — Vergi Rodriguez

<https://www.youtube.com/@raceofyourown/videos>

Self Improvement & Wellness

- The Latitude Adjustment: An Aging Heroes Podcast — Randolph “Rusty” Harrison & Erica Schwarting Harrison

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2rzmuAwbxPkYszRvToaRof>

Finance & Investing

- Escape The Clock: How to Become Financially Free and Have the Option Not to Work — Daniel C. Rodgers

www.escapetheclock.com/podcast

Religion & Spirituality

- The Medic and the Mufti Podcast: Big Questions About the Human Being – Islam and Biomedicine in Dialogue — Dr. Aasim I. Padela

<https://medicineandislam.org/the-medic-and-the-mufti/>

Best Male Hosted

- Stories from Real Life — Melvin E. Edwards

<https://www.podpage.com/stories-from-real-life/>

Horror & Paranormal

- Believing the Bizarre: Paranormal Podcast — Charles Leopold & Tyler Perry

<https://believingthebizarre.com/>

Business

- Freelance Writing Direct with Estelle — Estelle Erasmus

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/freelance-writing-direct-with-estelle-conversations/id1647429472>

- The Best of Book Marketing Podcast — Lainey Cameron & Paulette Stout

<https://www.bestofbookmarketing.com>

Health

- Grieving Parents Sharing Hope — Laura Diehl

<https://www.gpshope.org/>

Society & Culture

- Brave Blocks — Greg Bernard

<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/4f3039a3-a5c7-42a8-ade6-afab97851a5d/brave-blocks>

- The Fine Print — Rudelle Dhawan

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4ecSkZYmOH6bg0qRZOhvAp?si=ba56c79161974e04>

Crime

- Horrorwood: True Crime in Tinseltown — Kate McCoy & Kevin Corbett

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/horrorwood-true-crime-in-tinseltown/id1635143133>

Diversity & Inclusion

- Cultureful — Jess Lin

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/cultureful/id1714884799>

History

- The Mississippi River: The FIRST Streaming Platform — Herman Boyd

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5cZjokC5v1oQOS4Ny4frGy?si=44be75c2a3d4464d>

Sports

- Black in Sports — Edward Cutliff

<https://www.spreaker.com/show/4231790/episodes/feed>

Games & Hobbies

- GLOA MBA Edition — Greysen “P. Grey” Williams

<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/9f99eb10-5cee-4cd0-b411-83e9ccf62406/gloa-mba-edition>

Government & Organizations

- Back From Beyond - Moab, Utah — Molly Marcello

<https://airmedia.org/talent/molly-marcello>

Leisure

- What Are You Reading? What Are You Writing? — Karen E. Osborne

www.KarenEOsborne.com/blog-1

- Living the Dream: French Riviera — Cecile Liconnet

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/living-the-dream-french-riviera/id1857969829>

Humor & Satire

- Home for the Holidays

<https://homefortheholidays.buzzsprout.com>

Fiction

• Home for the Holidays

<https://homefortheholidays.buzzsprout.com>

Celebrating Excellence in Podcasting

The 2026 Podcast of the Year Awards recognize creators who elevate storytelling, amplify diverse voices, and inspire audiences worldwide. This year's winners represent the extraordinary range, creativity, and innovation shaping today's podcast industry.

For a complete list of winners and additional information, please visit:

www.AmericanWritingAwards.com

AmericanWritingAwards.com

Podcast of the Year

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