World Congress of Science & Factual Producers Unveils 2026 Buzzies Awards Nominees

World Congress of Science and Factual Producers (WCSFP) has announced the nominees for nine of its 16 Buzzies Awards categories, with digital-first productions taking an increasingly prominent place alongside broadcast. This year sees the introduction of the Best Digital-First category, marking a significant expansion of the Buzzies Awards to recognise digital-first storytelling. Both Best Digital-First and Best Short Form attracted exceptionally strong levels of submissions, underlining the scale, ambition and importance of creator-led factual content.

The winners will be announced live at the Buzzies Awards ceremony in Tallinn on 11 November 2026, as part of World Congress of Science & Factual Producers 2026, with the remaining seven categories also presented during the event: Best Host, Green Impact of the Year, Mentor of the Year, Rising Star of the Year, Diversity Leadership Award, Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sloan Buzzies Award, which includes a $10,000 USD prize courtesy of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The list of nominees is below.

“The Buzzies are about recognising the people and organisations changing what factual storytelling can be,” said Sara Ramsden, WCSFP Editorial Director. “From broadcasters and production companies to digital creators, the range of work being recognised reflects where factual is heading, and that is exactly the conversation we want to have in Tallinn.”

Taking place in Tallinn from 9-12 November, WCSFP 2026 will bring together producers, commissioners, broadcasters, distributors, streamers, scientists and digital creators from around the world for four days of networking, debate, practical insight and pitching, with a programme examining the changing relationship between broadcast, digital and creator-led models. Confirmed companies attending include France TV / France TV Distribution, ARTE, CBC, NHK, ORF, CICC, National Geographic, PBS / PBS Distribution, GBH/NOVA, Goalhanger, Complexly, Electrify, BBC Studios / BBC Studios Science Unit, Windfall Films, 72 Films, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, SBS, ZDF, ITV Studios, TVF International, Autentic GmbH, First Hand Films, yap films, Cineflix Rights, Deutsche Welle, and many more.

Registration for **WCSFP 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia, 9-12 November** is now open. The full programme and registration details are available at **www.wcsfp.com.**

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BEST SCIENCE

AI: Probably Nothing To Worry About
Broadcaster/Platform: Channel 4
Production Company: Windfall Films and 72 Films

Evolution
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS/NOVA (and BBC)
Production Company: BBC Studios

Father Time, Why Men are Born to Nurture
Broadcaster/Platform: ARTE France
Production Company: Tangerine Productions/Ouragan Films

The Battle To Breathe

Broadcaster/Platform: PBS/NOVA
Production Company: Wingspan Productions and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

Ages of Ice: The Frozen Heart
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS, ABC and ITV Studios
Production Company: Northern Pictures

Cracking the Code: Phil Sharp and the Biotech Revolution
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS Independent Lens
Production Company: Uncommon Productions

BEST NATURAL HISTORY

Survival of the Slowest
Broadcaster/Platform: CBC
Production Company: Attaboy Television Limited

Wild Side of the Moon (Episode 1 - Dining by Moonlight)
Broadcaster/Platform: Love Nature
Production Company: Humble Bee Films

Ghost Elephants
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Sobey Road Entertainment, Skellig Rock, Inc., The Roots Production Service

Fluorescence: Nature's Superpower
Broadcaster/Platform: ARTE France
Production Company: ZED

The Mosquitoes Are Winning
Broadcaster/Platform: CBC
Production Company: Grand Passage Media Inc.

Lion
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: BBC Studios Natural History Unit with Jon Favreau's Fairview Entertainment

The Elephant Odyssey
Broadcaster/Platform: IMAX
Production Company: Beach House Pictures Ltd

BEST HISTORY

Stuff The British Stole
Broadcaster/Platform: ABC Australia
Production Company: Wildbear Entertainment, Wooden Horse, Artemis Media

Pompeii: Out of Time with Tom Hiddleston
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Plimsoll Productions

Alfred Nobel & Bertha von Suttner: The Price of Peace
Broadcaster/Platform: ARTE France
Production Company: ZED

Rome Underground
Broadcaster/Platform: Radio-Canada, France Televisions, History Italia, National Geographic UK
Production Company: Ideacom International (CA), Artline Films (FR), MyMax Edutainment (IT)

When The War Is Over
Broadcaster/Platform: ABC Australia
Production Company: Mint Pictures in association with Magdalene Media

Chernobyl: Inside the Meltdown
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic
Production Company: Windfall Films

Once Upon A Time in Space
Broadcaster/Platform: BBC
Production Company: KEO Films

BEST INNOVATION IN FACTUAL

Pompeii: Out of Time with Tom Hiddleston
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Plimsoll Productions

Knut, the Viking Emperor
Broadcaster/Platform: Histoire TV, Sky History, SVT, ZDF Studios, TCD, Radio Canada & Foxtel
Production Company: ZED

Super Scam Me
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Muck Media for National Geographic

Horrible Science Series 2
Broadcaster/Platform: CBBC/BBC iPlayer
Production Company: Lion Television

Lion
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: BBC Studios Natural History Unit with Jon Favreau's Fairview Entertainment

CLUCK! Chickens Exposed
Broadcaster/Platform: CBC / ARTE France
Production Company: Invert Films Inc.

BEST DIGITAL-FIRST

Superskilled with Eva Zu Beck
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic YouTube
Production Company: Yellow Border Production Services

The Solar Eclipse 2026
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube
Production Company: Nordic Science Company

A Special Little Fish
Broadcaster/Platform: CBC / CBC Gem and CBC Nature of Things Youtube
Production Company: Plankton Productions

The Tornado That Changed Science
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube
Production Company: Astrum Earth / Electrify Video Partners

Drive me to the Moon
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube
Production Company: Polar Media

Wild Hope: Comeback Cat
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS Nature YouTube Channel
Production Company: HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Light & Shadow

Our Bodies are not Compatible with Weightlessness
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube Scilabus
Production Company: Scigal

BEST SHORT FORM

Joy in Animals
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube
Production Company: Rebel Media Productions

Whales and Aliens
Broadcaster/Platform: YouTube
Production Company: Rebel Media Productions

The Limit of Cloning
Broadcaster/Platform: Pointe of View (YouTube Channel)
Production Company: Pointe Media

Tornado Alley Is MOVING and That's a HUGE Problem
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS Digital Studios
Production Company: Balance Media

BEST DIRECTION

AI: Probably Nothing To Worry About
Broadcaster/Platform: Channel 4
Production Company: Windfall Films and 72 Films
Director: Nick Holt

Pole to Pole
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Nutopia, Westbrook, Protozoa
Director: Tom Barbor-Might, Dionne Bromfield

Time and Water
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Sandbox Films, Ninmah Foundation, Signpost Pictures Production, Compass Films
Director: Sara Dosa

Pompeii: Out of Time with Tom Hiddleston
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Plimsoll Productions
Director: Tom Barbor-Might

Chilean Mine Rescue: Race Against Time
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Blast
Director: Chloe Campbell, James Parris

Ages of Ice: The Frozen Heart
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS, ABC and ITV Studios
Production Company: Northern Pictures
Director: Karina Holden

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Orangutan
Broadcaster/Platform: Disney+
Production Company: Disneynature in association with Wildstar Films
Cinematography: Martyn Colbeck, Yuzuru Masuda

Secrets of the Bees
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Silverback Films
Cinematography: Justin Maguire, John Brown, Alastair MacEwen

Gladice
Broadcaster/Platform: Vimeo
Production Company: Arctic Arts Project & Black Mountain Films
Cinematography: Kerry Koepping, Florian Ledoux, David Garrett Byars

Riddle in the Wind - Episode 1: Feathers of Change
Broadcaster/Platform: Servus TV
Production Company: Terra Mater Studios and Saint Thomas Productions with ARTE G.E.I.E
Cinematography: Kévin Peyrusse, Marin Portier, Marta Sostres, Joshua Comaish

Ages of Ice: The Frozen Heart
Broadcaster/Platform: PBS, ABC and ITV Studios
Production Company: Northern Pictures
Cinematography: Cam Batten, Ross Mackay and Niklas Heinecke

BEST EDITING

Pole to Pole
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Nutopia, Westbrook, Protozoa
Editing: Tom Fulford, Charlie Smedley

The Hunt for the Last Nazis
Broadcaster/Platform: SBS Australia
Production Company: Mint Pictures
Editing: Mark Middis

Time and Water
Broadcaster/Platform: National Geographic Channel
Production Company: Sandbox Films, Ninmah Foundation, Signpost Pictures Production, Compass Films
Editing: Erin Casper, Jocelyne Chaput, Mark Harrison

Big Cats 24/7 Series 2, Episodes 1 & 5
Broadcaster/Platform: BBC Two, PBS
Production Company: BBC Studios
Editing: James Bickersteth

In the Eye of the Storm: Chasers
Broadcaster/Platform: Discovery Channel, HBO MAX
Production Company: Arrow Media
Editing: Jamie Cadwell, Mitch Bannon, Nick Read, Phil Perry, Simon Holmes, Will Roache

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For media inquiries or partnership opportunities, please contact:
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WORLD CONGRESS OF
SCIENCE & FACTUAL PRODUCERS

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World Congress of Science and Factual Producers is a not-for-profit, member-driven organization dedicated to celebrating the best in factual filmmaking, digital production and the wider industry. WCSFP is the place where science, history and natural history content creators and executives gather to share, explore and reveal how advancements within these industries are communicated to the world. Past Congresses have been held in such cities as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2025), Marrakesh, Morocco (2024), Seattle, USA (2023), Glasgow, UK (2022); Tokyo, Japan (2019); Brisbane, Australia (2018); San Francisco, USA (2017); Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Vienna, Austria (2015); Hong Kong (2014); Montreal, Canada (2013); Washington, D.C., USA (2012); Paris, France (2011); Dresden, Germany (2010); Melbourne, Australia (2009); Florence, Italy (2008); New York, USA (2007); and others. It is administered by a board of directors and an elected editorial committee that deals primarily with editorial matters. WCSFP is managed by Documentary Campus. For more information, visit http://www.wcsfp.com.