

## **Press Release 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015**

### **New York awards treble for BlokMedia**

The International Radio Programme Awards in New York have recognised London based indie BlokMedia by awarding two Silvers and a Bronze for their BBC radio documentaries.

Monday's gala ceremony in the Manhattan Penthouse, the industry's top awards for the world's best radio programmes, drew programme makers from over 30 countries worldwide.

BlokMedia won silver gongs for 'The Soul of Ireland' in the Culture and Arts category and 'Linard's Travels' (Travel and Tourism), and bronze for 'Three Continents, Three Generations' (Profiles/Community Portraits).

The Soul of Ireland is presented by Irish Radio's Sean Rocks and traces how Soul and Blues first gained an audience in 60's Ireland.

Linard's Travels is a snapshot into the life of baggage attendant Linard Davies, whose dead Korean friend is hiding under his X-Ray machine, her ashes were never claimed.

Three Continents and Three Generations has radio producer Neil Kanwal on a personal exploration of the remarkable history of Kenyan Asian migration to Britain, a path taken by his own father's family across three continents and three generations.

Producer Peter Shevlin said: "This is the Oscars of the radio world and tonight has been amazing - more than I could have ever wished for. I am passionate about documentaries and have met so many like-minded people."

The Soul of Ireland co-producer Andrea Walton said: "To be able to spend months on a programme that combines two of my greatest passions – music and travel, is frankly a dream job. Meeting so many generous and passionate musicians along the way made it feel more like a fascinating road trip or a music festival and to get an award for something I've enjoyed so much is just the icing on the cake!"

Linard's Travels documents the everyday life of baggage handler Linard Davies and Shevlin spent two weeks recording the interaction between Linard, his customers and staff.

Shevlin said: “Linard is an inspirational character and we could all learn from his work ethic and team building. The reason why this programme works is Linard’s personality - he’s just one of those people that acts like a human magnet, drawing the best out of everyone he comes into contact with.”

Three Continents, Three Generations, presented by Neil Kanwal, is a personal exploration of the unique experiences, culture and movements of Kenyan Asians, in a story of Empire, identity and migration.

Kanwal said: “It’s a wholly unique and inspirational journey. My own uncle was moved to tears when he heard it. Like thousands of Asians who grew up in East Africa he felt genuine empathy, understanding and gratitude that this story was told.”

BlokMedia are currently working on ‘Amerasians: Children of the Dust’ for BBC Radio 4 to be broadcast later in June and ‘Growing Up Without a Dad’ for BBC Radio 1 to be broadcast in July. Setup in 2006 by former BBC World Service producers, BlokMedia produces documentaries for BBC Radio 4, Radio 2, Radio 1, BBC World Service, Deutsche Welle, Czech TV and Czech Radio.

(For Local Papers

In addition, Blokmedia produce audio guides, voice-overs, commercials and corporate videos for a range of blue chip clients, including Amazon, Microsoft, Netflix and Google among others operating from their Neasden studio.)

Listen to the programmes:

Silver for ‘Soul of Ireland’ in Culture and Arts

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bryc2>)

Silver for ‘Linard’s Travels’ in Travel and Tourism

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b047bz10>)

Bronze for ‘Three Continents, Three Generations’ in Profiles/Community Portraits

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p022qs98>)

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