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'Heated Rivalry' And Emmy Winners Dan Levy, Hannah Einbinder, Jane Lynch Lead Honorees For Critics Choice's Celebration Of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television

By Ben Sherman ⓘ
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Honorees for Critics Choice Association's 3rd Annual Celebration Of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television

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A strong lineup of past multiple Emmy winners and nominees including Dan Levy, Jane Lynch, Hannah Einbinder and Paula Pell, along with *Heated Rivalry* writer, director and executive producer Jacob Tierney, highlight the third annual Critics Choice Association's celebration of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television. The event will take place in Los Angeles on May 29.

Recognizing achievements across the LGBTQ+ entertainment community and spotlighting the stars, creators, and writers behind some of the year's most acclaimed projects, the event will celebrate both emerging and established LGBTQ+ talent. Indeed, the awards will recognize both the contributions and the impact they continue to make across the industry.

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"LGBTQ+ representation continues to matter, now more than ever," said Joey Berlin, CEO of the Critics Choice Association. "The Critics Choice Association is proud to celebrate and uplift the achievements of the LGBTQ+ community."

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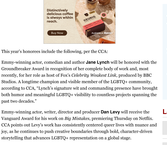

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"I'm genuinely honored to be part of the Critics Choice Association's third annual LGBTQ+ gala," said Celebration of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television Co-Programmer Andrew Freund. "Being part of this community means celebrating who we are, how far we've come, and acknowledging our collective resilience. This year's honorees are extraordinary—bold, brilliant, and wonderfully unapologetic. They do more than inspire, they light the path forward."

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This year's honorees include the following, per the CCA:

Emmy-winning actor, comedian and author **Jane Lynch** will be honored with the Groundbreaker Award in recognition of her complete body of work and, most recently, for her role as host of Fox's *Celebrity Weather Live*, produced by BBC Studios. A longtime champion and visible member of the LGBTQ+ community, according to CCA, "Lynch's signature wit and commanding presence have brought both humor and meaningful LGBTQ+ visibility to countless projects spanning the past two decades."

Emmy-winning actor, writer, director and producer **Dan Levy** will receive the Vanguard Award for his work on *Big Mouths* upcoming production on Netflix, CCA points out Levy's work has consistently centered queer lives with nuance and joy, as he continues to push creative boundaries through bold, character-driven storytelling that advances LGBTQ+ representation on a global stage.

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Multiple Emmy- and WGA Award-winning actor, writer and producer **Paula Pell** will be presented with the Trailblazer Award in recognition of her long career and, most recently, for her work on *Peacock* and *UCP*; The Bertha. Pell's work, both in front of and behind the camera, continues to open doors for more diverse and authentic queer stories in mainstream comedy.

Emmy-winning actor **Hannah Einbinder** will receive the Performance Award for a Comedy Series for her role in HBO Max and Universal Television's *Hacks* returning for its fifth and final season Thursday. "Her work brings an authentic queer perspective to the screen, offering a nuanced and emotionally resonant performance," according to CCA.

Hannah Einbinder
Getty

Actor and musician **Bro Z** will be recognized with the Performance Award for a Drama Series for her role on Warner Bros. Television's *All American*. In drawing from her own personal connection to the LGBTQ+ community, Bro Z brings depth, authenticity, and resonance to her character's journeys as the character evolves from navigating adolescence as a young lesbian to becoming a confident grounded adult. The eighth and final season of *All American* is set to premiere later this year on The CW.

Actor **Brandon Scott Jones** will receive the Supporting Performance Award for a Comedy Series for his role on CBS' Ghosts. In the series, now in its fifth season and renewed for a sixth, Jones breaks down stereotypes with self-acceptance and the experience of navigating the modern world as a member of the queer community.

Emmy-winning director **Deathkia Walsh** will be presented with the Director Award for her work on *Margo's Got Money Troubles*, adapted for the screen by David E. Kelley. The series starring Elle Fanning, Michelle Pfeiffer and Nick Offerman will debut April 15 on Apple TV. Walsh's credits include projects with prominent queer storylines and themes, such as *Bad Sisters*, *Shameless*, *The Traders*, and *Power Crowd*.

Writer, director and executive producer **Jacob Tierney** will receive the Showrunner Award for his work on *Crave's Heated Rivalry* (available on HBO Max). The series became an international sensation following its release in late 2023 and earned this year's GLAAD Media Awards honor for Outstanding New TV Series.

L-R: Connor Storrie as Ilya Rozanov and Hudson Williams as Shane Hollander in "Heated Rivalry"
Crave

Oscar- and Emmy-nominated actor **Fy Nolan** and actors **Karim Diané, Gina Yashere** and **Karrine Brooks** will be honored with the Ensemble Award for their roles in Paramount's *Star Trek: Starfleet Academy*. The series boasts a diverse cast for its dynamic romantic storylines exploring queer lives — including Dominic character Jay-Den Kwaq, the franchise's first gay Klingon, and Nolan's and Yashere's workplace romance — garnered from LGBTQ+ fans.

Actor **Noah Schnapp** will be awarded the Breakthrough Performance Award for his role in Netflix's *Stranger Things*. The acclaimed series' final season, released in late 2025, gave Schnapp the platform to deliver a compelling portrayal of coming out in the 1980s as a young adult.

The Boulet Brothers are set to receive the Reality TV Award for their work on *Shudder's The Boulet Brothers' Dragula: Titans*. As queer creatives and hosts, they continue to help redefine the genre by expanding the cultural reach of drag, horror, and queer artistry in the reality competition space.

Critics Choice Association member Dino Ray Ramos serves as the show's writer. Fremond and CCA member Jerry Nunn will host the show.

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The show is produced by Javier Infante, Madelyn Hammond and Ella Carlson of Hammond Infante Productions.

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