



National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Boston/New England Chapter Honors WGBH's "Basic Black" with the 2020 Governors' Award

Virtual Awards Ceremony, Saturday, June 13 at 7:00PM EST.

BOSTON, MA – (May 6, 2020) - [The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences \(NATAS\) Boston/New England Chapter](#) is delighted to announce that [WGBH's "Basic Black"](#), the longest running live, weekly program on public television focusing on people of color, will receive the 2020 *Governors' Award*. Basic Black will be honored at this year's Boston/New England Emmy® Awards unprecedented virtual ceremony on Saturday, June 13.

The prestigious *Governors' Award* is given to individuals, organizations, or companies with ties to the New England region in recognition of achievements which do not fall within the structure of the Chapter's regular awards. Historically, the *Governors' Award* is for truly outstanding and unique accomplishments or for achievements of some duration and durability. For this award, an Emmy® statuette is given.

Originally called "Say Brother", the show was created in 1968 during the height of the civil rights movement as a response to the demand for public television programs reflecting community concerns.

"Basic Black is a groundbreaking television program that has reflected the relevant topics of communities of color for over fifty years", said Danielle Mannion, President of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Boston/New England Chapter. "It is a privilege and an honor to present the Governor's Award to WGBH and everyone who has contributed to the success of this iconic series."

"Basic Black" is produced by Executive Producer, Delores Edwards, and has been Hosted by broadcast journalist, Callie Crossley since 2008. Crossley spoke to her experience hosting the show in [this interview from](#) the 50th Anniversary of the program in 2018. .

This year, due to the social distancing mandate from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, the 43rd Emmy® Awards will take place on a virtual streaming ceremony on Saturday, June 13 at 7:00 PM EST.

[This year's nominees](#) can join the stream for free by visiting <https://newenglandemmy.org/>.

NATAS Boston/New England Chapter is dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television, the fostering of creative leadership in the television industry, and the encouragement of excellence in artistic, educational, cultural and technical progress.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kathryn Shehade
Kathryn@K4inc.com

Jill Jones
NewEnglandEmmy@gmail.com

Delores Edwards | Biography

Delores Edwards is an Emmy nominated and award-winning producer, writer and director covering media in the area of news, digital platforms, talk, documentary, and entertainment programming and content.

Currently, she is the Executive Producer of *Basic Black*, PBS' longest-running live news and public affairs program produced by and for communities of color and *Open Studio*, a weekly arts magazine program at WGBH in Boston. Each week, both programs cover subjects and issues in the news, public affairs, arts and cultural space.

While at Basic Black, Delores has brought to audiences' diverse stories with distinctive voices--stories like a woman's quest to find out who killed her nephew as the murder case remains unsolved, newly elected female officials discuss their campaigns and victories in the historic 2018 midterm elections, and how the travel ban separated families. Other episodes included the legacy of blackface, equity in the cannabis trade, women and breast cancer, the impact of colorism and the phenomenon of the film, "Black Panther."

Delores also spearheaded the redesign of Basic Black's ten-year-old show set and graphics, giving it a bold, fresh look. For the program's 50th anniversary on the air, Delores produced a live show in front of a studio audience and reintroduced the historic program to new and returning viewers. The show website and social media presence were also enhanced to include live-streaming Basic Black on Facebook and Twitter.

Prior to joining WGBH, Delores was a producer for many nationally recognized programs and networks, including CBS This Morning, Good Morning America, ABC News & News Specials, CNN, VH1, and OWN.

Delores's career in journalism began when she took a high school honors journalism class and participated in the Dow Jones NewsFund, (DJNF) journalism summer program as a teenager growing up in the Bronx. Both the class and the program ignited her joy of storytelling which continues today.

Her awards include the Clarion Award for story excellence, the MPA Media award, and is a recipient of the Margret and Hans Rey/Curious George Producers fellowship and the Case Media fellowship. She was also nominated for multiple Emmys and NABJ awards.

A graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, Delores began her television career at ABC News' Nightline.

CALLIE CROSSLEY | Biography

Callie Crossley is a Boston based radio and tv host, commentator, and public speaker. Her Monday morning commentaries on WGBH's *Morning Edition* tackle wide-ranging subject matter—from the powerful men who shielded Jeffrey Epstein, to facial recognition bias, MLK's voting legacy, mass commercialization of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, safe injection sites, threats to the election system, and Jay-Z's Betrayal with the NFL.

She appears on WGBH-TV's *Beat the Press*, examining local and national media coverage, and hosts *Basic Black*, which focuses on current events concerning communities of color. A frequent commentator on television and radio, she is regularly quoted in the national media.

A former producer for ABC News 20/20, Ms. Crossley is also a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, guest lecturing at colleges and universities about media literacy, media and politics and the intersection of race, gender and media.

Callie is a multiple award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker, whose awards include a National Emmy, the Gold Alfred I. Dupont-Columbia Award and Associated Press, Edward R. Murrow, and Clarion Awards. In recent years, Crossley has also been awarded by Public Media Journalists Association, The National Association of Black Journalists, Cinema Eye, received the Old South Church's Open Door Award and received the Barbara Stone Hollander Award for Leadership from the Women's Institute at Chatham University.

She is the first African-American to win an Oscar® nomination in the Documentary Feature category for her work as a Producer on “Bridge to Freedom,” her hour in the documentary series, “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years 1954-1965.” She also earned a National Emmy and the Alfred I Dupont-Columbia Award (Gold Baton) for this work.

She is a graduate of Wellesley College, and holds three honorary degrees, a Doctor of Humane Letters from Wheaton College, a Doctor of Arts degree from Pine Manor College and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Cambridge College.

Crossley has been honored with many community awards including the 2019 Justice in Action Award from Jane Doe, Inc., the 2016 GK100 List, identified as one of Boston’s Top 100 Influential People of Color and the 2012 George W. Coleman Award from the Ford Hall Forum.

She is also featured in the 2011 book, “Boston’s Inspirational Women” co-authored by award winning photographer Bill Brett, Kerry Brett, and Carol Beggy.