



Signature<sup>10</sup>  
Annual Awards 2018

# CHAIR'S WELCOME

Good evening.

I am delighted to welcome you all to the magnificent BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art on the banks of the River Tyne for our tenth Signature Annual Awards.

This evening isn't just about what you've achieved so far, but how you are leading, educating and inspiring to create a brighter future for others. Much like the art that is here at the BALTIC, our nominees continue to challenge the boundaries in their field and to set standards which we should all aspire to be in the future.

Over the last 36 years, Signature has continually looked forward, doing everything we can to improve communication between deaf, deafblind and hearing people. Going forward from today will be no different, but only with your help, support and passion can this continue.

Congratulations to all of our fantastic nominees.

I would like to wish everyone a truly wonderful evening,

**PAUL KEEN - SIGNATURE CHAIR**



# PIP TOMSON

Pip Tomson awarding winning presenter, reporter and journalist presents tonight's tenth Signature Annual Awards.

Pip, a former ITV Tyne Tees news anchor and weather presenter, is now a regular face and voice on ITV's Good Morning Britain. She's interviewed some of the world's biggest stars including George Clooney, Cher, Cate Blanchett and Simon Cowell.

Pip is also a huge dog lover. Her youngest pup Bindi was saved from the dinner plate in South Korea and adopted by Pip last year. Pip now actively campaigns to end the dog meat trade and completed this year's Great North Run to help Humane Society International close another dog meat farm & save scores of dogs from being killed, cooked and eaten.

EXCELLENT

# TEACHER AWARD

For new or experienced teachers inspiring students  
to become their best inside and outside of the classroom

**Presented by Lindsay Foster**

# FINALISTS

## **Stephen Ellis-Menton**

Stephen's approach to teaching is very much based upon his passion and enjoyment of interpreting and British Sign Language, which is shown by his fun and responsive lessons.

## **Andrew Belcher**

Andrew has the unique ability to make what first seemed like a daunting challenge, seem not only achievable, but to give it a depth and perspective which makes British Sign Language so engaging.

## **Jamie Ross**

An excellent teacher who constantly receives positive feedback from his students, Jamie is both patient and great fun, and uses his life experiences to teach his learners about both British Sign Language and deaf awareness.

## **Emma Iliffe**

Committed to breaking down barriers, Emma inspires her learners to not only further develop their own use of British Sign Language, but to explore their personal identities and to be confident in themselves.

## **Nathalie Koenig**

Teaching British Sign Language to staff at NDCS, Natalie's passion and enthusiasm is shown throughout the organisation and she genuinely cares about the success of everyone she teaches.

## **Alison Wherry-Alimo**

A professional yet friendly teacher who makes everyone feel comfortable in her lessons, Alison goes above and beyond for her students and has been a huge source of encouragement to all.

# OUTSTANDING

# STUDENT AWARD

For students using their new skills and  
knowledge to make a difference to the future

**Presented by Helen Beaton**

# FINALISTS

## **Lucy Sharp**

As well as representing Great Britain in the 2017 Deaflympics, Lucy learns British Sign Language alongside her Mum and is very much a natural signer.

## **Gabrielle Flockton**

As well as being committed to studying British Sign Language, Gabrielle is heavily involved with extra activities including Signing Carols, BSL Sign Bar and fundraising for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

## **Paul Dowling**

After initially struggling with his self confidence and understanding, Paul has progressed significantly and his work is now used as an example for other students to learn from.

## **Maureen Hurrell**

Despite an injury which changed her life dramatically, Maureen is passionate about supporting deaf and hard of hearing people, and even volunteers for Action on Hearing Loss as a be-friender.

## **Mark Stock**

In addition to being a committed student, Mark has arranged for many of his colleagues to learn some British Sign Language and have deaf awareness training, as well as organising a signing choir to help raise the importance of sign language.

## **Millie Malone**

Millie was inspired to learn British Sign Language after meeting a close friend who is deaf. She has also undertaken an Extended Project Qualification, investigating the difficulties patients who are deaf face within the NHS. Millie hopes to become a hearing-signing doctor in the future.

ENRICHING

# EDUCATION AWARD

For Signature centres and individuals that  
have shown outstanding dedication to enhancing the student  
experience and who genuinely care about the achievements of  
their students and teachers.

**Presented by John Walker**

# FINALISTS

## **Bungay High School**

With a positive can do attitude and being very open to change, this mainstream school has fully embraced having a deaf pupil who uses British Sign Language.

## **Cornwall College (Jackie Bryant and Manda Lambert)**

Passionate advocates for British Sign Language, Jackie and Manda deliver lessons in an engaging way and are very well respected by their learners and the local community.

## **Sunshine Sign (Sarah Prudhoe)**

Sarah has been an amazing advocate for British Sign Language at Sunshine Sign. She has a passion for the language and the ability to make learning a truly fantastic experience.

## **City Lit Deaf English and Maths Team**

A student community in its own right, the team are dedicated to delivering projects aimed at enabling students to network and make new friends, whilst improving their maths and English skills.

# PROFESSIONAL

## CONTRIBUTION AWARD

For ambassadors of Signature, and for those who are committed to making sure our qualifications are delivered both effectively and relevantly. Whether they are an assessor, a consultant an expert, or a prominent representative of Signature, we want to celebrate their dedication and hard work.

**Presented by Liz Duncan**

# FINALISTS

## **Michelle Teasdale**

Michelle has spent her entire life promoting deaf awareness, and has worked selflessly to offer services to hearing and deaf people, enabling them to lead successful professional careers.

## **Gaye Hampton**

Gaye has used her skills and expertise to assist with the development of qualifications, and to support younger professionals who are just starting out in the sector.

## **Janice Crossland-Jones**

As a natural leader, teacher and ambassador, Janice is well known for the level of support, passion and understanding she gives to each and every one of her students.

## **Jeanette Campbell-Turner**

Jeanette is 100% enthusiastic about British Sign Language and the deaf community; she exudes passion and commitment in the way she teaches and the quality of her lessons.

SUPPORT

# CHAMPION AWARD

For teaching assistants, CSW's and interpreters who are helping  
their students to achieve long term success

**Presented by Karen Riley**

# FINALISTS

## **Caroline Ryan**

As an interpreter, Caroline has worked tirelessly to make theatre more accessible for deaf audiences, and has paved the way for integrated British Sign Language theatre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## **Flora Kerr**

Working for the rights, dignity and freedom of choice of Glasgow's under-served deaf community, Flora has worked as a Senior Support Worker for over 16 years.

## **Paul Watson**

Paul has dedicated 26 years of his life to teaching, and is dedicated to providing his students with the highest level of support and the best chance of researching their potential.

## **Mandy Davison**

As a higher level teaching assistant, Mandy organises and runs signing classes for parents, a signing choir in school, and a deaf club. She is a pillar of support to the community she serves.

## **Helen Andrews**

Working and volunteering with the deaf community since 2007, Helen is constantly active in the deaf community, and also runs a signing choir called BSL For You.

## **Lee Broughton, Emma Robertson, Yvonne McCourt, Amy Callan & Joanne Buck**

### **(MeSign Communication Support Workers)**

This multi skilled team of CSW's are a credit to MeSign and have helped guide many people through apprenticeships, employment, and even through school.





# CAMPAIGN

# FOR THE FUTURE AWARD

For outstanding organisations, groups or individuals who have created campaigns or projects which have increased deaf awareness, promoted inclusivity, broken down barriers, or paved the way for positive change in the future.

**Presented by Alan Blunt**

# FINALISTS

## **Bhulla Beghal (Birmingham Media)**

Bhulla, of Birmingham Media, has supported deaf awareness by producing films with local and national organisations to promote British Sign Language and the deaf community.

## **Transport for London (TFL)**

As well as making vast improvements in accessibility for customers, TFL were heavily involved in deaf awareness week where they organised British Sign Language interpreted Art on the Underground tours.

## **Dr. Dawn Rimmer**

Dawn has lead her own projects and activities in schools; she offers students the opportunity to gain an introduction to British Sign Language, and an insight into deaf awareness and accessibility issues.

## **Catelyn Grundy (Speak for Sign)**

Catelyn began Speak for Sign which aims to campaign for at least one member of management within the workplace to be able to understand and undertake at least a basic conversation in British Sign Language.

# LEADERSHIP

# AWARD

For individuals who are leading by example and promoting positive change for the future. This could be a future leader who uses their passion to pave the way forward, or perhaps someone who has changed the way in which they work to support their employees and/or needs of their business.

**Presented by Mark Hopkinson**

# FINALISTS

## **Sadia Grabham**

Sadia is a pioneer for British Sign Language, and following her own personal struggles, she set up her own training business in order to continue the provision of British Sign Language courses in Manchester.

## **Alex Duguid**

A strong advocate for British Sign Language, Alex is passionate about both promoting and protecting the language. He actively leads the way in terms of teaching his colleagues British Sign Language and about deaf culture.

## **Charmaine Wombwell**

A talented theatre maker and musician, Charmaine is leading the way in terms of giving deaf audiences an equal experience and by capturing emotion using British Sign Language within her performances.

## **Ellie Parfitt (Deafie Blogger)**

Using her hugely successful blog as a platform, Ellie can be described as a future leader due to her commitment to making positive change and the passion she has to inspire the next generation.

# WORKPLACE

# COMMITMENT AWARD

For organisations who have changed the way they work  
to improve access for employees and customers

**Presented by Ian Robinson**

# FINALISTS

## **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Committed to making sure that all of their support and materials are accessible by all, Macmillan Cancer Support are continuously producing content in British Sign Language.

## **Specsavers**

As part of an initiative to improve communication between staff and deaf customers, Specsavers employees in several Scottish stores have completed a course in British Sign Language.

## **Bluebell Ward – Springfield Hospital**

Bluebell Ward is committed to providing excellent services to their underserved deaf community, using specialist deaf healthcare professionals.

## **Healthwatch Dudley**

As a result of listening to deaf people and the communication barriers they often face, Healthwatch Dudley has supported local organisations to make significant changes to healthcare services, by facilitating important conversations and discovering creative solutions.

## **Smethwick Fire Station – Blue Watch**

Smethwick Fire Station have created a video in British Sign Language, which demonstrates the support they can offer to deaf and hard of hearing people within their community.

## **ITV SignPost**

A centre of excellence for British Sign Language, ITV SignPost has served the deaf community for 18 years and has now grown to become a production house for original content.

# COMMUNITY

## SPIRIT AWARD

For community groups and individuals who are making their communities a better place to be today and tomorrow. Whether they contribute to charity fundraising, raise deaf awareness, or inspire others using their own experiences; this award recognises your local heroes.

**Presented by Paul Keen**

# FINALISTS

## **fingersmiths**

fingersmiths is a physical theatre company performing plays in British Sign Language and spoken or written English which tour nationally. As well as engaging both deaf and hearing audiences, fingersmiths provide a range training opportunities across the mainstream theatre sector.

## **Southend High School for Girls**

The mainstream school has embraced having two deaf students by offering taster British Sign Language sessions, specialist assemblies, deaf awareness and overall creating a fully inclusive environment.

## **Lily Conlan**

Lily uses her own experiences and determination to fundraise and increase deaf awareness in her community. She is also the inspiration for her Mum's organisation, Hear Now and Always.

## **Vision Signing Choir**

Vision Signing Choir learn and perform songs with the aim of increasing awareness of British Sign Language, and raising money for local charities.

SIGNATURE

LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD

For one special person who has dedicated their entire lifetime  
or career to lessen the issues facing deaf people

**Presented by Lindsay Foster**

# WINNER



TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER TONIGHT...

# TONIGHT'S AWARD

Tonight's awards were created by Jane Charles Studio Glass in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Jane first set up in Edinburgh in 1987 before moving down to Newcastle where she also opened her first gallery. Jane creates a wide range of exquisite sculptural pieces, perfume bottles, paperweights, bowls and vases. Each piece is unique, free blown in 24% lead glass. Once cooled the glass is cut, ground, polished, sandblasted and engraved by hand.

Jane Charles  
STUDIO GLASS

# SPONSORS



## **RSM**

RSM is a leading provider of audit, tax and consulting services to middle market leaders, globally. With around 3,500 partners and staff in the UK and access to more than 43,000 people in over 120 countries across the RSM network, we can meet our clients' needs wherever in the world they operate.



## **DEAF SCOTLAND**

Deaf Scotland is the lead organisation for deaf issues in Scotland. We aim to ensure that deaf people in Scotland can access services and information across all sectors of society from their local communities to what comes from government departments.



## **NRCPD**

NRCPD is an independent voluntary regulator of communication professionals working with D/deaf and deafblind people. Our purpose is to protect the public and to promote high standards of communication support. We set high professional standards and register communication professionals who meet these standards.



## **TRANSCENDIT**

Transcendit is one of the leading IT support companies in Newcastle. We provide outstanding IT support services in Newcastle and the North East. The Transcendit way outlines how we do business; following the same straightforward principles with every client and customer, regardless of how big or small they may be.

# THANK YOU

Congratulations and thank you to all of our fantastic nominees.

This year we have seen a record number of nominations, a record number of tickets sold and a record number of votes for our community spirit winner.

It's been a remarkable tenth Signature Annual Awards.