

John A. Macdonald miniseries wins screenwriting prize

Flashpoint, Scaredy Squirrel, Waking the Green Tiger earn honours

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CBC miniseries *John A: Birth of a Country* and CTV drama *Flashpoint* were among the winners of screenwriting awards Monday evening from the Writers' Guild of Canada.

Screenwriter Bruce M. Smith won the Canadian Screenwriting Award for movies and miniseries for *John A: Birth of a Country*, which was based on the first volume of Richard Gwyn's biography of Canada's first prime minister. His script centred the action around the bitter political rivalry between Macdonald and George Brown.

Larry Bambrick won the TV drama prize for the *Flashpoint* script "Shockwave," in which Strategic Response Unit officers Sam, Spike and Raff are trapped inside an office building with nine civilians and a bomb.

The Canadian film, TV and digital media community also honoured Mark McKinney with the WGC Showrunner Award to recognize his body of work and creative vision. The former *Kids in the Hall* star has also been involved in *Slings & Arrows* and Winnipeg-set comedy [Less Than Kind](#).

North of 60 writer Barbara Samuels won the Alex Barris Mentorship Award for her work with emerging writers through the Canadian Film Centre and Humber College.

Other winners named on Monday:

- **Animation:** *Scaredy Squirrel*, "Nothing but the Truth," by Darrin Rose.
- **Children and Youth:** *My Babysitter's a Vampire*, "Revamped," by Alice Prodanou.
- **Documentary:** *Waking the Green Tiger, A Green Movement Rises in China*, by Gary Marcuse.
- **TV comedy:** *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*, "A Farewell to Curtis' Arm," by Craig David Wallace.
- **Shorts and webseries:** *Murdoch Mysteries: The Curse of the Lost Pharaohs*, "The Vanished Corpse," by Patrick Tarr.
- **Writers Block Award:** Chuck Lazer.