



ABU SONIC International Radio Drama Festival

The **ABU SONIC International Radio Drama Festival** is a new initiative by the ABU to promote the production of quality audio-based drama and to provide quality drama content to its member broadcasters.

The inaugural ABU SONIC International Radio Drama Festival is being hosted by ABU member Radio Republic Indonesia (RRI), 27-29 November 2017 in Yogyakarta.

ABU SONIC is a celebration of audio story telling. At its core, it is the audio equivalent of a film festival that showcases excellence in radio drama production in all its forms, from traditional stand-alone radio dramas to contemporary multi-platform audio productions.

All Radio drama productions entered into **ABU SONIC** will be considered on their on-air qualities – concept, content, technical and artistic production and innovation – but those in the multimedia sections will also be assessed on how well they use new media tools to enhance the content. The hope is to attract new and younger audiences to radio drama, by making the programs more relevant to the lives they increasingly live. Productions in the Multimedia category of the **ABU SONIC Festival** will be considered by a panel of international experts on the core drama plus the way such tools as online or mobile data, text, video or other illustrations enhance the storytelling, dramatic effects and the audiences overall enjoyment of the production.

The Festival will therefore recognise excellence in five categories of radio drama: **Long Form Drama; Mini Drama; Radio-based Multimedia Drama; Radio Drama Youth Award; and Docudrama.**

The best entry from all the Categories will be recognised by the **ABU SONIC Grand Prize.**

Because the **ABU SONIC** International Radio Drama Festival is aimed at promoting the quality and growth of radio-based dramas and to offer them for re-purposing to interested ABU members, the greatest value of the initiative will be the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with Radio Drama producers and work with acknowledged international experts to prepare the winning productions for broadcast around the world.

The shortlisted and winning entries will be offered places in ABU capacity-building initiatives.

How will the ABU SONIC International Festival operate?

The Festival will provide the opportunity for ABU radio members, entrants, independent producers and experts to get together in one place at one time to listen to and experience quality radio-based dramas, to study award-winning dramas from around the world and to celebrate the work of the entrants and award winners.

Apart from showcasing and recognising excellence in radio drama production, the Festival will feature dedicated **workshops** and **Masterclasses** focusing on key current trends and issues in radio-based drama production as well as **coaching** sessions with industry experts aimed at refining production and storytelling skills.

The capacity building initiatives will be as follows:

1. **On air online workshop:** How to create in-depth drama combining the strengths of on-air and online techniques. How to use online features with on-air drama without undermining their value for broadcast-only listeners.
2. **Radio-based Docudrama workshop:** How to present real life people and events in a dramatic way, to tell honest, truthful stories in an entertaining, informative and dramatic way.
3. **Award-winning dramas Masterclass:** Winners of the ABU Prize for Drama and Radio Romania's Grand Prix Nova will discuss the key elements of their award-winning productions. This is an opportunity to hear and learn from the best of audio drama.
4. **Coaching sessions:** Opportunities for producers to spend one-on-one quality time with experts who can share with them cutting-edge and proven techniques and tools to achieve excellence.

Workshops, masterclasses and coaching sessions will be conducted by internationally acknowledged, prize-winning experts in these fields and will be open to Festival participants and staff invited by the Host Organisation (RRI).

The **ABU SONIC** International Radio Drama Festival will demonstrate the life and vitality that still exists in our region's radio-based drama and to help equip our members to take it from strength to strength.

This festival is also a platform for better understanding of the different cultures and integrity of the ABU member countries through radio dramas. It aims to give ABU members greater exposure to radio dramas with the unique identity from each country.