



JUDGING PROCESS & CRITERIA

The IAA Judging Process

1) **Submissions Round:**

- This is a qualifying round in which the judges listen to samples of each audiobook submitted and determine which titles qualify to move further along in the competition. Judges will listen to at least 20 minutes of the audiobook and the recommendations from the judges are compiled. Titles will move (or not move) forward to the next round based on those recommendations.

2) **Judges Selections Round:**

- The judges will then listen to the complete audiobook and are asked to rank their top titles. Finalists will be chosen based on these rankings.

3) **Finalist Round:**

- A third set of judges will then score the titles in four areas: performance, direction, production, and content.

Judges are selected from a wide variety of listeners, which includes audiobook fans and experienced evaluators, whose shared love of audiobooks will result in selecting the best productions that meet the following criteria. Independent Audiobook Awards judges are required to keep their judging assignments confidential.

The IAA Judging Criteria

1) **Performance**

- Narrator presents a professional performance that is believable and convincing
- Characters are clearly and consistently differentiated through tone, inflection, pacing, etc., avoiding condescending mannerisms and style
- Narrator accurately pronounces all words, including proper nouns, place names, character names, and technical and foreign words and phrases, to the best of the judge's knowledge

2) **Direction**

- Pace is maintained throughout and the plot flows without interruption
- If used, music and/or sound effects are a positive enhancement, not a distraction
- The material lends itself to audio presentation/ presentation enhances the text

3) **Production**

- Recording is free of blatant edits and technical flaws and is of good quality
- Signal, voice, and music levels are conducive to audiobook listening conditions

4) **Content/Overall**

- The underlying content is excellent, and appropriate for the audio format
- All elements have been integrated to provide a compelling listening experience