

The logo features a stylized orange figure of a person standing on a circular base, holding a torch or award.

The Awards for Excellence in Audio

Best Production and Sound Design

Thank you for participating as a judge in the 2026 Awards for Excellence in Audio: The Ambies! Welcome to the Initial Screening Round!

In this round, you'll review a select set of entries within your category. Please listen to the **timestamp provided by the submitter**, for **up to 15 minutes** of each entry. After listening, rate each submission on a **1–7 scale** (7 being the highest) across several criteria, including **Engagement, Craftsmanship**, and other key measures of excellence.

EVALUATION AREAS:

Engagement **20%**

How engaging did you find this episode?

(not very) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (very)

Craftsmanship **15%**

A significant amount of craftsmanship was dedicated to creating this episode.

(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

Noteworthiness **30%**

This podcast stands out from the pack, in a good way.

(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

Sound Design **20%**

The sound design made this podcast way more compelling

(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

Overall Audio Quality **20%**

The quality of the audio was apparent and enhanced the listening experience.

(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

Listening Notes

As you listen, you must set aside your personal preferences and judge from the perspective of a neutral listener. Assume that you are listening to a podcast because this is a topic of interest to you.

Listen for the highest quality: a polished, professional program coupled with a clean, clear technical production. We recommend that you either keep notes as you listen, or complete the judge survey immediately after you finish each episode.