

Press Release for immediate release

George Webster to make history at BAFTA Television Awards

This weekend, George Webster, a regular presenter on the CBeebies TV channel, will present an Award at the 2022 British Academy Television Awards to be held on 8 May in London. George will be the first person with Down syndrome to make such a presentation live at the award ceremony, which will be the first in-person edition of the awards since 2019.

George, 21, from Rawdon in the City of Leeds is also an actor, dancer, student, part-time employee and self-advocate.

Since last year George has been working in The National Down Syndrome Policy Group (NDSPG) as one of its founding members. The group supported the introduction of the first Down syndrome Bill in the UK, which was signed into law last week.

Aside from this, George has been involved in parkrun UK for several years going on to become a parkrun 'Story-Teller, Advocate and Role Model' (STAR), a role intended to help make parkrun more inclusive, and was featured in his own episode of Jessica's 'parkrun heroes' series for Sky TV, presented by track and field athletic champion Jessica Ennis-Hill.

George is also an ambassador for both Mencap charity, featuring in their Myth Busters campaign, and Yorkshire Dance.

As an actor George took the lead in the award-winning short film S.A.M. released in 2020 and also BEBE AI in 2021 in which he starred with Bethany Asher, also part of the NDSPG. In 2022 he was part of a new national ensemble performing plays and holding workshops on the Silent Approach to Writing Tomorrow's Theatre, with the Separate Doors theatre company.

The BBC recruited George last year as a presenter on their children's CBeebies TV channel. More recently, George was a guest on Ken Bruce's 'Tracks Of My Years' feature on BBC Radio 2.

George is currently studying Performing Arts at Mind the Gap college in Bradford, affiliated with York St John University.

His first book, a collaboration with author Claire Taylor and artist Tim Budgen, will be out in March 2023 through Scholastic.

George Webster said:

"It's a privilege and an honour to present an award at the BAFTA TV awards this year. I always watch the awards and being able to take part this year is very special. Things in the industry are slowly starting to change and seeing more people like me should become the norm. Thank you to BAFTA for giving me the chance to shine and for helping us all change the world."

Ken Ross & Rachael Ross MBE, BAFTA Accessibility and Inclusion Patrons said:

"Seeing the wonderful George Webster present an award at the BAFTA TV Awards is hugely empowering for people with Down syndrome and is testament to BAFTA's commitment to improve inclusion and representation in all areas of TV – the future is looking very exciting!"

ENDS

- **For interviews contact:**
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 - Lynn Murray on 07840 966736 or email lynn.murray@dspg.uk
- For more information, see the National Down Syndrome Policy Group website ndspg.org or email contact@ndspg.org
- BBC Morning Live George Webster- What will the Down syndrome bill mean?<https://twitter.com/BBCMoringLive/status/1499394564058087435?s=20&t=zfOdGucxG4s7Zo4qWBJKqg>

- 'I'm loving life,' says first CBeebies presenter with Down's syndrome <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/22/im-loving-life-says-george-webster-first-cbeebies-presenter-with-downs-syndrome>
- First CBeebies Presenter With Down's Syndrome Shares Inspiring Story | Good Morning Britain <https://youtu.be/FGb6EwKhxyo>
- CBeebies: Channel appoints George Webster as new host <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-58632649>
- People with Down syndrome who are trustees of the Down Syndrome Policy Group welcome the introduction of the Down Syndrome Bill: [Launch of The Down Syndrome Bill - YouTube](#)
- Jessica's parkrun Heroes - George Webster <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C87ze8WCJbw>
- S.A.M. Film [S.A.M. - All 4 \(channel4.com\)](#)
- 'Historic' moment as support for people with Down's Syndrome written into law <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/01/downs-syndrome-guidance-given-councils-hospitals-historic-new/>