

The Province

Hollywood North: Brightlight Pictures lead Leo Awards nominations

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This year's Leo Awards are looking especially bright for Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures.

The production company leads the list of nominees at the annual event, which celebrates excellence in the British Columbia television and film industry, with 34 nods including Best Dramatic Series for *Witches of East End* and Best Television Movie for *Mr. Hockey: The Gordie Howe Story*, *Delete* and *The Colour of Rain*. The projects *Scarecrow*, *Let It Snow* and *Hats Off To Christmas* have also received nominations.



(L to R) Daniel DiTomasso and Jenna Dewan Tatum star in the all-new Lifetime drama *Witches of East End*.

“We are very proud to be an integral part of this industry,” Brightlight President Shawn Williamson said in a press release. “These nominations showcase the depth of talent in B.C.’s film and television scene.”

Brightlight Pictures is joined by an exponentially larger list of nominees compared to previous years, which includes three nods to Vancouver directors Gil Bellows' and Tony Pantages' film 3 Days in Havana, including Best Motion Picture, Best Cinematography and Best Supporting Performance by a Male.

“With a record 1052 eligible entries this year, we’ve been able to sustain more categories ... effectively doubling our craft entries in those categories,” event president Walter Daroshin said in a press release.

The expanded roster of nominees, which are competing for 102 Leo Awards in various entertainment industry-related categories including best director, visual effects, sound editing and more, have resulted in this year’s ceremonies being increased to three evenings (May 30 — June 1) at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. “This year’s Leo Awards have seen a number of firsts,” Daroshin said. “In addition to the record entries and three event nights, we have an unprecedented nine nominees in the Motion Picture category. This is a true testament to the quality of our 2014 entrants and the industry as a whole.

Leo Awards winners are chosen by a panel of 56 jurors who spend nearly five weeks screening and adjudicating over the pool of eligible entries.

Founded in 1999 by the Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation of British Columbia, the Leo Awards were established with the aim of “highlighting the strength, diversity and talent of (B.C.)’s film and television industry and allows us to celebrate artistic excellence within our community,” according to the event’s website, leoawards.com.

The 2014 hosts and guest presenters have not yet been announced.

