

23/07/2001

(TV news)

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ONCE upon a time, long before the advent of private television stations and awards ceremonies that followed suit, viewers could only look forward to RTM's Anugerah Sri Angkasa, an awards show that honours RTM staff and both in-house and privatised productions.

Well, 29 years since its inauguration, the bi-annual event is still keenly looked forward to.

This year's awards show has kept to the tradition of acknowledging both TV and radio. Anugerah Sri Angkasa 2001 will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur on July 29 at 2pm. The four-hour show will be carried "live" over TV1.

Recipients will also include radio and TV presenters, technical crew, actors, actresses and entertainers. The awards also go out to the best dramas, entertainment shows as well as documentaries that were shown between Jan 1, 1999 and Dec 31, 2000.

Some of the awards offered for the radio category are the Versatile Presenter, Best Deejay, Best Radio Sketch, Best Audio Recording, Best Radio Editing, and Best Jingles awards.

The categories for TV awards are for the Best Television Production, Best Television Drama Series, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Talkshow and Best Children's Programme and Best Live Telecast.

The event will be divided into two sessions.

The first will be hosted by Bob Lokman, and the second, by Aznil Nawawi and Maya Karin. Sixty-two awards will be up for grabs.

There will be more than 70 celebrities presenting the awards including Amy Mastura, Imuda, Haliza Misbun, Hans Isaac, Syafinaz, Marlia Musa, Elly Mazlein, Fazley, Abby Abadi and Erra Fazira.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will present the special award Anugerah Khas Sri Angkasa 2001.

Among the popular artistes who will be performing are Siti Nurhaliza, Dayang Nurfaezah (winner of Bintang Penghibur 2001), rock group XPDC, M. Nasir and comedians Abon and Sathiya.

At the launch of Anugerah Sri Angkasa 2001, at Angksapuri recently, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus said: "This year's event will certainly be a memorable one as it is the first one of the millennium."

Khalid also released 55 balloons, 13 of which contain vouchers which the public can redeem for surprise gifts from RTM.