

show, along with three original band members, said: "It's nice the band was recognised in a radio show like this. I was pleased to hear Mark Radcliffe is a fan."

Up-and-coming producer Karen Pearson won the award for the best Internet Programme with the Book Slam Podcast, which has been available on the web for six months.

The podcast promotes a literary-themed club night, in Westbourne Grove, London, called Book Slam.

Miss Pearson, 29, grew up in Weston Road, Southend. She said: "The club combines book readings by famous writers such as Irvine Welsh with live gigs.

"The idea is to encourage music fans, who may not be mad on reading, to take an interest in books.

"The podcast usually focuses on the authors, on stage and backstage.

"It has become really popular. I still can't believe we won. It's amazing"

Miss Pearson took a media studies A Level course at at Seevic College. She said: "I had a brilliant teacher

■ **Special award – Mark Radcliffe interviewing original Feelgoods Wilko Johnson, the Big Figure and John B Sparks for the documentary**

called Mr Jefferies, who kept pushing me to go to university.

"I would like to thank him, because he was a big influence on where I am today."

She went on to study media and business management at Leeds University and got her big break, on work experience for Simon Mayo's Radio 1 show, in 1999.

Miss Pearson then became the youngest-ever Radio 1 producer, in charge of the Giles Peterson's show from 2001 to 2006.

She has now set up her own media company Karen P Productions, which produces the award-winning podcast.

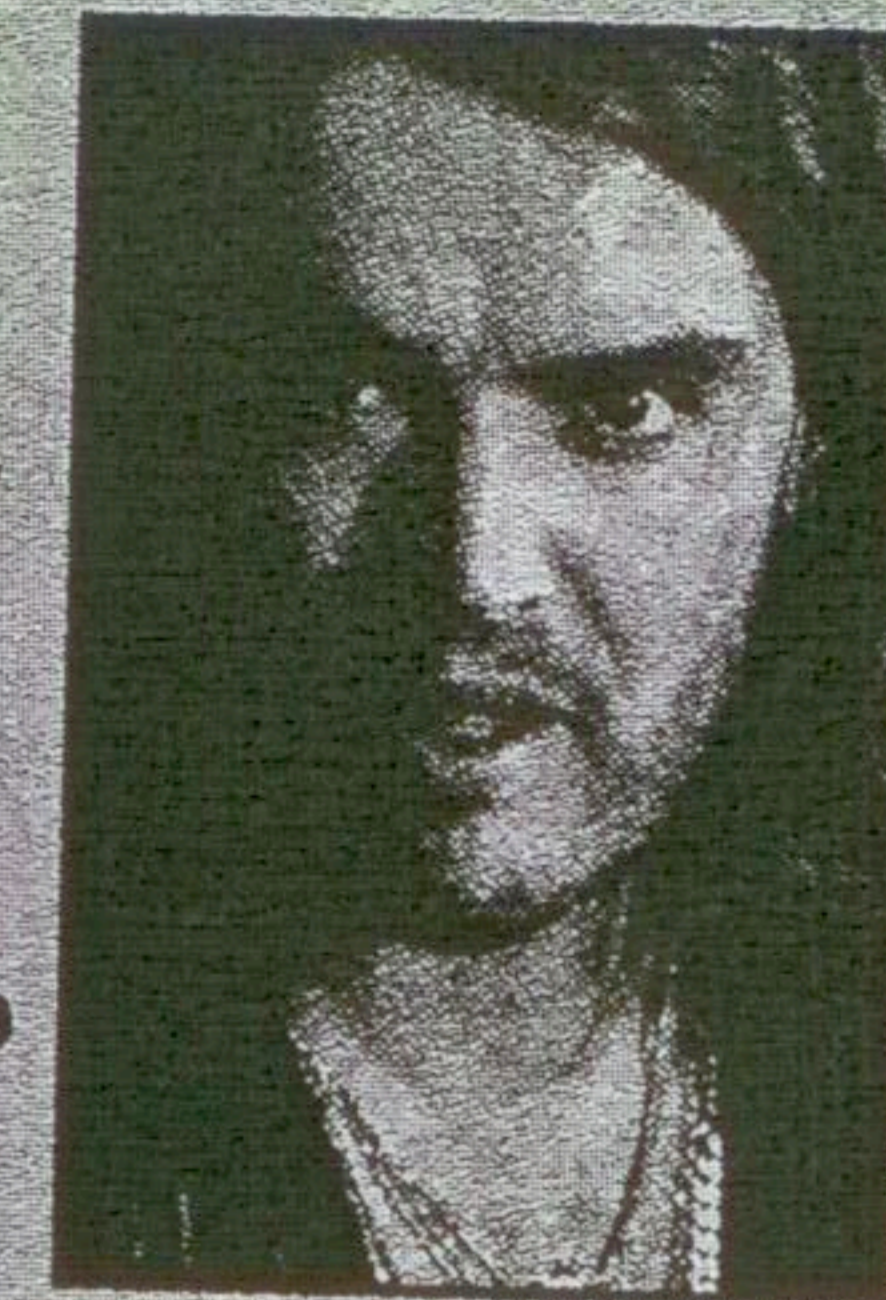
The the Sony Awards – often described as the Oscars of the UK radio industry – were announced at a ceremony in London on Monday.



■ Podcast award – ex-Seevic student Karen Pearson

## Russell strikes Sony gold, too

GRAYS comic Russell Brand also struck gold at Sony Awards. Brand, who grew up in Thurrock, picked up the Entertainment Award, but was not present at the London ceremony.



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