

Shelf Life

Billy Crystal takes top honors at the Audie Award

By JoJo Marshall on May 29, 2014 at 10:30PM [@JoJoIMarshall](#)



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At tonight's Audie Awards Gala, Billy Crystal took top honors, winning Audio Book of the Year for his comedy memoir *Still Foolin' 'Em*.

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The judges called his work "a seamless blend of single voice narration and live performances [that] does for the audiobook medium what Billy Crystal's opening acts have done for the Oscars, which is to bring in a larger audience. From Mickey Mantle to Muhammad Ali with the inside story on Meg Ryan's infamous scene in *When Harry Met Sally* thrown in for good measure, Crystal's life story will have listeners hanging on every word...In a word: 'Mahvelous.'"

Pete Seeger: The Man Who Made
Folk Music Matter

American folk singer and activist Pete Seeger
posthumously won the award for Distinguished
Achievement in Production for his multi-genre audiobook

Pete Seeger: The Storm King, featuring a mixture of stories, narratives, poems, and music. The judging panel was very moved by Seeger's closing rendition of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and appreciated his "intimate, seemingly unscripted commentary...in which he regales listeners with stories about his childhood, family life and career." The project was produced with Jeff Haynes, a Grammy Award-winning percussionist who plays throughout the recording, complimenting Seeger's spoken word pieces. Sounds like a great collector's item for any Seeger fans.

The evening was hosted by Libba Bray, the best-selling young adult author of *The Gemma Doyle* trilogy and *The Diviners* series. Bray won an Audie Award in 2012 for her novel *Beauty Queens* and noted that recording was not an easy gig. "In the booth, I discovered that my New Zealand accent stinks, my English accent isn't any better, and by hour eight or nine, even my American accent wasn't too keen," she said. "Also, in the future, I will only be writing three-word sentences. I'm sorry for all the tongue twisters, audiobook recording people. Much respect."

