

# Best Of 2018: Non-Wrestler Of The Year



IMG Credit: WWE

There is so much more to wrestling than wrestling. That's arguably the least important part of the whole presentation, because if you don't care about these people, why would I want to see them fight? At the same time, there are a lot of people who either barely wrestle or never wrestle at all who have a lot to do with making these stories work. That's what we're looking at today and there are a lot of options.

## Paul Heyman

It would feel wrong to not include Heyman here, even though he didn't have the best year. The problem for Heyman is there are only so many ways that you can say "Brock's opponent is awesome but SPOILER ALERT: they're going to be conquered." That's about all he's said for years now and while it still works, it's really pretty dull anymore and nothing that I need to hear again. Still though, this is pretty much Heyman's award now and you have to at least mention him.

## Paige

This is another good option as Paige has followed the William Regal method of being a General Manager: show up, say what you need to get done, and be out in a minute or so. That's not something you get very

often because WWE likes having their bosses talk forever because that's what people want to see apparently. Paige was great in her role and was one of the most enjoyable bosses in a long time. It's a shame that she's gone, but that's what McMahons are for.

### **Mauro Ranallo**

Sometimes you need someone awesome to call the show and put everything they have into it. That's what Ranallo does every single time, as he shows as much emotion as he can possibly have. There's a reason the fans chant MAMA MIA in his honor, because Mauro has become the voice of NXT. I know some people might find him too over the top and I can understand that, but I love listening to this guy and wouldn't want him anywhere else.

### **William Regal**

Much like Heyman, you almost have to include him no matter what he does. Regal didn't do as much this year, but when he was on screen it was rather entertaining. He was the driving force behind the Whodunit story and I loved seeing the brass knuckles on a pillow in his office. Regal is the definition of the great boss and you can almost guarantee that he becomes Head of Talent Relations one day.

### **Charly Caruso**

Is there anything this woman can't do? She's one of the best interviewers around today, has a great voice, happens to be rather fetching, and just comes off as a total natural in anything she does. It's no surprise that ESPN has already signed her up to do some stuff and it wouldn't surprise me at all to see her there full time later on. Either company is lucky to have her and she just gets better time after time.

### **Nigel McGuinness**

This guy has become one of the busiest commentators around and brings a certain experience and expertise to the booth that few others offer. With the recent WWE Network documentary on his life and career, it's clear that WWE thinks something big of him. Now just let him do this on one of

the big shows (where Corey Graves could easily be replaced on either Raw or Smackdown) and things will get even better.

### **Brandi Rhodes**

This is another case of a jill of all trades. She can talk, she can wrestle well enough, she can host/interview and she can get a lot of people looking at her when she comes to the ring in one of her rather nice outfits. She also comes off as rather intelligent, which makes for a nice change of pace over some people in wrestling. I don't think she has a future as a full time wrestler, but she can do a lot of other things of value at the same time.

I didn't really have a winner that is head and shoulders above the rest, but this one beats out everyone else.

### **Zelina Vega**

There's just something about Vega that makes her come off like a star. She and Andrade have some of the best chemistry around and it has yet to stop working no matter what they do. I could certainly go for more of the two of them on TV as that double tranquilo pose alone is always worth a look. Just let Almas become a star and Vega will go right along with her the whole way.

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