

# Meltzer Says Impact Has Been Canceled

Obviously take this with a pound of salt, but allegedly Destination America has canceled the show and it's done in September. Apparently the ratings have been strong but not strong enough to warrant the money put in. No word on if this is true or if it's going to stand up going forward, but if there's truth to this, TNA is in major trouble. Again.

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## Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards – 2014

They're out again and as usual here are my thoughts on each one of them. After reading these, I'm very glad I watched Wrestle Kingdom.

### Wrestler of the Year – Shinsuke Nakamura

I have a feeling it's another year of the Japan. I haven't seen much of Nakamura, but I still go with Seth Rollins over everyone else.

### MMA Most Valuable Fighter – Ronda Rousey

I ask this every year and I'll ask it again: why is a wrestling newsletter giving out MMA awards?

### Most Outstanding Wrestling – AJ Styles

I've heard a lot of good things about his work, but I'm still not clear how this is different than Wrestler of the Year. And no I'm not asking for an explanation.

### **Best Box Office Draw – Ronda Rousey**

See all my other MMA responses. For actual wrestlers, probably Cena.

### **Feud of the Year – Jon Jones vs. Daniel Cormier**

Good grief we get it already. For a wrestling feud, eh probably Rollins vs. Ambrose or whatever I picked for my award.

### **Tag Team of the Year – Young Bucks**

I can go with this as it's not like the Usos were really all that great. It's a down period for tag teams but there's some hope on the horizon in the Ascension. Yes I still like them.

### **Most Improved – Rusev**

I believe he means Lana but I'm fine with this one, though again I'd pick Rollins. From the guy considered the weakest of the Shield to top heel in the company? That's pretty improving.

### **Best on Interviews – Paul Heyman.**

Next.

### **Most Charismatic – Shinsuke Nakamura**

Based on Wrestle Kingdom, I have no issue with this one.

### **Best Technical Wrestler – Zac Sabre Jr.**

I haven't seen anything of his either.

### **Best Brawler – Tomohiro Ishii**

Yep WWE doesn't exist this year. Ishii is one of those guys who don't sell anything and fans write it off as tradition or fighting spirit or whatever else they can come up with as excuse.

### **Best Flying Wrestler – Ricochet**

You might know him better as Prince Puma. No one really springs to my

mind to beat him so I can live with this again.

### **Most Overrated – Kane**

How can you be overrated when people think you're one of the worst wrestlers in the world?

### **Most Underrated – Cesaro**

You mean the guy that everyone raves about? How is that underrated? This award usually comes off like "Most Underutilized" as opposed to the previous one being "Most overused." I get the idea but the award name is kind of misleading.

### **Promotion of the Year – New Japan**

Yeah probably. WWE had a really, really bad year, at least in the second half.

### **Best Weekly TV Show – NXT**

Now we're getting the hang of this. I think I've made my stance clear on this over the year.

### **Most Outstanding Fighter – Ronda Rousey**

Just stop already. Or go post about it on an MMA site.

### **Match of the Year – AJ Styles vs. Minoru Suzuki**

A Japanese guy who wrestles like an MMA fighter? You know Meltzer is all over that. I'll still take Zayn vs. Neville for the pure emotion though.

### **Fight of the Year – Johnny Hendricks vs. Robbie Lawler**

Good grief. Next.

### **Rookie of the Year – Dragon Lee II**

This would likely be another guy that only Meltzer has ever seen/heard of unless you watch a bunch of obscure wrestling.

### **Best Non-Wrestler – Paul Heyman**

Just name the award after him already. That's not meant as an insult.

### **Best Television Announcer – William Regal**

I'd go with Renee Young but Regal is a very close second so I have no complaints.

### **Worst Television Announcer – JBL**

Really? With Cole and Lawler around? Or Matt Striker and Vampiro? JBL is annoying but he's funny when he gets annoyed about the Bunny.

### **Best Major Show – G1 Climax 24:Day 7**

Wrestlemania just means nothing nowadays does it?

### **Worst Major Wrestling Show – Battleground**

I was going to say Bound For Glory, but there was nothing major about that show. Besides, Battleground was actually a good show with the fourway title match and the awesome Usos vs. Wyatts 2/3 falls match. I don't see why that show gets so much hatred.

### **Best Wrestling Maneuver – Meltzer Driver**

Ok I totally get why he went with this one.

### **Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic – WWE Insulting Fans Who Bought PPV**

Yep. That made me roll my eyes harder than I have in a long time.

### **Worst Television Show – Monday Night Raw**

Oh come on. Raw was bad but Impact could be unwatchable at times and Smackdown was a waste of air time more often than not.

### **Worst Worked Match of the Year – Bray Wyatt vs. John Cena – Extreme Rules**

CAMERON DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COVER SOMEONE! My goodness really? I know it was a stretch but the Divas should win this every year.

### Worst Feud of the Year – Nikki Bella vs. Brie Bella

I think people are sick of me complaining about this feud so I'll just quickly agree and move on.

### Worst Promotion of the Year – TNA

But Impact is still better than Raw or Smackdown? That's a bit of a stretch.

### Best Booker – Gedo and Jado – New Japan

Sure why not.

### Promoter of the Year – Dana White – UFC

NEXT.

### Best Gimmick – Rusev and Lana

.....really? The best gimmick is something that was tired thirty years ago? Ambrose being insane or Mizdow didn't win here?

### Worst Gimmick – Adam Rose

Disagree again. Rose was fine for what he was but then they turned him and killed the potential he had. As for a worst gimmick, probably Cameron's stuck up girl character, just because she's so horrible at everything.

### Best Pro Wrestling Book – The Death of WCW

I'm going to need an explanation here because this won ten years ago. Revised edition I'm guessing?

### Best Pro Wrestling DVD – Ladies and Gentlemen, My Name Is Paul Heyman

I've heard great things about this and need to watch it.

Overall, it's about what I expected: MMA and New Japan dominating everything. Now in this case I'm a bit more understanding as WWE had a very bad year and New Japan is clearly the second biggest promotion in

the world. I know Meltzer is very biased towards New Japan and it's hard to complain about that as it's going to show up no matter where you go. And yes, I'm aware that Meltzer's readers do the voting, and if you believe the majority of them aren't just repeating his views on things, you're more delusional than Eva Marie about why she has a job. Just get rid of the MMA stuff and these are far more tolerable.

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## **It's John Cena's World**

And they're just wrestling in it. According to Meltzer, Cena is not only #1 in merchandise sales over the last month (not sure if that's March or dating back to like March 20/21), but he's moving five times the merchandise as #2 (not listed, but I'd assume Bryan). Yeah Cena has a lot of merchandise, but not that much more than everyone else.

Cena is still the king and that's not changing anytime soon.

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## **Thought of the Day: On The Outside Looking In**

It's their world and we're just watching it. The other day, someone posted a comment on here praising me for my analysis, knowledge and reviews. I appreciated that quite a bit and still shake my head when I read such kind words written about me, but there's something everyone needs to keep in mind:

wrestling journalists, reviewers, writers or whatever you want to call us are almost all on the outside looking in.

Unless there's something I'm unaware of, neither Dave Meltzer, Bryan Alvarez, Wade Keller, Scott Keith, certainly not myself, or any other wrestling writer have big time wrestling experience. I'm well aware that several of them have sources inside WWE, TNA and/or ROH, but that's the key to it: those sources are **inside** and reporting things to the people **outside**. There are things that we're never going to know about or understand no matter how smart we think we are, how well read we think we are, or how many reviews we browse, shows we watch or shoot interviews we download every day.

Side note: Shoot interviews are not some uncovered gospel. There's no one hooking the wrestlers up to a lie detector and threatening them with a bullet to the head if they tell the truth. I can't count how many times people have sworn something is true because it was a SHOOT. Wrestlers make their livings lying to us every single night, but I'm supposed to take everything they say as true because they tell me it's true now? It doesn't work that way. Do you think a guy who might be able to get a job in WWE in the future is going to tell the truth and say he hates WWE's business practices and that it would be a nightmare to work there? Shoot interviews are another way for wrestlers to get us to pay for their stories, just like we do when we go to a show. Same idea.

At the end of the day, I'm a wrestling fan that has watched a lot of wrestling in my life. I have what I consider a fairly decent knowledge of modern wrestling history, but the only things I know for sure are what I'm given on screen. No matter how you look at it, everything we know is based on what people inside allow us to know. Take everything any wrestling writer or journalist (myself certainly included) with a grain of salt the size of a Buick. We're going on what we're told, but there's no guarantee that anything we're told is true.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of on the History of Summerslam at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for under \$4 at:

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## **WWE To Earn Approximately \$20 Million From Sponsorships**

According to Meltzer. That would be almost TRIPLE what they were making in 2008, and that's why you're going to see WWE PG for a long, long time. This is another one of those facts that shouldn't surprise anyone who understands basic business.

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## **TNA Running Two House Shows In October**

According to Meltzer it's a cost cutting measure. That's a bad sign if they're so tight for money they can't run house shows. I was at a show a few months ago and a TNA employee asked me to write up a good report for them on the internet. The fact that they're relying on fans to report on the internet that they're fun shows on top of this tells me that they're having problems.



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# 2012 Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards Announced

Oh boy you know I look forward to these. I'll give my thoughts on most of them but I'll be omitting the MMA stuff because, unlike Meltzer's site, I actually talk about **wrestling** and only **wrestling**. Second and third place listed in order in parentheses. Let's get to it.

Wrestler of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi (CM Punk, Kazuchika Okada)

CM Punk was WWE Champion for the entire year. I think that sums up the case against Tanahashi pretty well.

Most Outstanding Wrestler – Hiroshi Tanahashi (Kazuchika Okada, CM Punk)

I'm still not sure what the difference between this and wrestler of the year is.

Best Box Office Draw – The Rock (John Cena, Brock Lesnar)

I had a feeling he'd beat out Edge for Bending the Rules. Lesnar at 3 though is kind of a headscratcher. I guess it's because of not enough appearances.

Feud of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Katsuchika Okada (Anderson Silva vs. Chael Sonnen, John Cena vs. The Rock)

Hey look: more Japanese guys. Punk vs. everyone? Bryan vs. the crowd? Punk vs. Jericho? Rock vs. Cena? Maybe? No wait they're American. Never mind.

Tag Team of the Year – Bad Influence (Kane and Daniel Bryan, Young Bucks)

This was a toss up between them and HELL NO. I would have gone with the WWE guys but I can live with this.

Most Improved – Katsuchika Okada (Michael Elgin, Rush)

This would be Samoa Joe's friend who was in TNA for like five minutes. Eh I guess this is fine. No one jumped out for me in this category. Oh wait: BULLY FREAKING RAY ANYONE???

Best on Interviews – CM Punk (Chael Sonnen, Rock)

No problem there, but I could see HELL NO getting this. They were hysterical.

Most Charismatic – The Rock (Hiroshi Tanahashi, John Cena)

Fine again here.

Best Technical Wrestler – Daniel Bryan (Prince Devitt, Davey Richards)

That's 8 years in a row. Just name the thing after him already. Oh and unless Davey Richards has COMPLETELY changed his style, that's absolutely absurd. Brodus Clay is more technical than Richards.

Best Brawler – Kevin Steen (Togi Makabe, Bully Ray)

Not many people brawl anymore so this is no surprise.

Best High Flier – Kota Ibushi (Ricochet, Pac)

No surprise there either as he's won three out of four years in a row and was injured the year he didn't win.

Most Overrated – Ryback (The Miz, Garrett Bischoff)

You mean the guy who caused HIAC to get its highest amount of buys in two years? Yeah there's no value there. Who actually rates Garrett Bischoff as anything?

Most Underrated – Tyson Kidd (Dolph Ziggler, Daniel Bryan)

Eh he's good but the day people buy a ticket to see Tyson Kidd is the day I learn to do the Charleston. The runners up here blow my mind. Dolph Ziggler is apparently the second coming and Bryan has been a champion forever, yet he's UNDERrated?

Promotion of the Year – New Japan (UFC, WWE)

Well it certainly wasn't anything in America. I'll let this one go.

Best Weekly Television Show – Impact Wrestling (Ring of Honor, NXT)

VIVA LOS ACES AND 8'S! First time it's ever won this. If they're counting the end of the fifth season of NXT in there, I can certainly understand this.

Match of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Minoru Suzuki (John Cena vs. Brock Lesnar, Davey Richards vs. Michael Elgin)

Having not seen this, I'm going to go on a limb and say HHH vs. Undertaker inside the Cell at Wrestlemania was about ten times better.

Rookie of the Year – Dinastia (Mr. Touchdown, Eita Kobayashi)

Anyone from Mexico that can help me out here? This depends on your definition of rookie so I can live with this one going another way.

Best Non-Wrestler – Paul Heyman (Ricardo Rodriguez, Vickie Guerrero)

He could sit in the back reading the newspaper and earn an award from an internet wrestling writer. He was fine but as usual, I don't get the massive appeal of him. Ricardo continues to crack me up though.

Best Television Announcer – Jim Ross, Nigel McGuinness, William Regal)

He's on TV enough to qualify for this?

Worst Television Announcer – Michael Cole (Taz, Booker T)

Oh come on. King had a heart attack and nearly died on Raw. That has to make him worse.

Best Major Show – King of Pro Wrestling – New Japan (Extreme Rules, Wrestlemania)

Is anyone surprised at this point?

Worst Major Wrestling Show – No Surrender

Final Resolution was worse but whatever. Actually I'm getting two reports for who won this so after the UFC (IT ISN'T A FREAKING MMA AWARD) show, the worst WRESTLING show might have been Extreme Reunion

Best Wrestling Manuever – Rainmaker: Kazuchika Okada (Neutralizer, NO Lock)

It's an arm thing apparently. Sure why not.

Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic – WWE broadcasting a dead Jerry Lawler being revived after a heart attack, and then having CM Punk and Paul Heyman mock the heart attack in front of Lawler (Extreme Rising using a photo of Sabu passing out from an overdose to promote, some UFC thing)

Someone answer this for me: does Meltzer EVER complain about the show being PG? If he does, he's a hypocrite for this one.

Worst Television Show – Raw (Impact, Ultimate Fighter)

Eh yeah probably. Also, Impact WINS best and comes second in

worst? These are some fickle voters.

Worst Match of the Year – John Cena vs. John Laurinitis  
(Santino Marella vs. Ricardo Rodriguez, some UFC fight)

No. Aksana vs. Kaitlyn was literally a four minute headlock.  
No way this was worse.

Worst Feud of the Year – John Cena vs. Kane (TNA vs. Aces and  
8's, John Cena vs. John Laurinitis)

It was bad yeah but I don't think it was even around long  
enough to qualify as bad. Seriously, Aces and 8's? Clair  
Lynch? They're better than Cena vs. Kane? I don't think so.

Worst Promotion of the Year – TNA (ROH, WWE)

Their only US TV show is the best show but they're the worst  
company? How do these awards work anyway?

Best Booker – Jado and Gedo (UFC guy, Mike Quackenbush)

New Japan, duh.

Best Gimmick – Joseph Park (Damien Sandow, Daniel Bryan)

If this didn't win, the awards are a joke.

Worst Gimmick – Aces and 8's (Tensai, Natalya)

You knew they were winning SOMETHING. But hey, the show

they're ALWAYS ON is still the best show right?

Best Wrestling Book – Shooters by Jonathan Snowden (Heroes and Icons by Oliver/Johnson/Mooneyham, From Prison to Promise by Booker T)

Never heard of it but sure why not.

Best Wrestling DVD – CM Punk: Best in the World (Last of McGuinness, some UFC thing)

If you didn't see this coming, go watch PBS as it's more your speed.

So yeah, Japan rules the internet wrestling world again, and no I don't want to watch puro.

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## **Thought of the Day: Meltzer And PPV Attendances**

As some of you may know, Dave Meltzer has a habit of complaining about WWE lying about its PPV attendances. What I want to know is why is this such a big deal? Wrestling is based on lies, so why is lying about PPV attendances any different?

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# 2011 Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards Announced

I'll give some quick thoughts on them here. A few quick notes though:

I don't particularly care for Dave Meltzer and find him to be biased and overrated at times, but the guy is a force in the IWC and should be acknowledged. I also don't subscribe to his newsletter. I'm not paying a month or whatever to hear about stuff that either might happen, has already happened, that I don't care about, or that I'll see on TV in a few months max.

I don't watch puro period so if I don't know someone or skip something from there, go ahead and complain that I have no idea what I'm talking about. I'll gladly call you a lunkhead for it.

I will probably complain about MMA being compared to wrestling because of a lot of reasons. In short, there is no logical reason to put them together. If you'd like to know why, ask and I'm sure I can find something to rant about for awhile.

Also, I watch Brock and GSP fight and whomever else is fighting on their shows. That's the extent of my MMA watching habits.

I don't know who finished 2nd, 3rd or anything other than first, nor do I really care.

**Lou Thesz/Ric Flair Award (Wrestler of the Year): Winner – Hiroshi Tanahashi**

I know who he is and I know he's (I think) New Japan's best, but I have a problem with CM Punk not being the best wrestler



of the year. That being said, Punk's first 4-5 months did pretty much bomb so I can live with this.

**MMA Most Valuable Fighter: Winner – Georges St-Pierre**

I'll take his word for that.

**Most Outstanding Wrestler: Winner – Davey Richards**

And we've already lost all credibility in these for me. Richards is one of the least interesting whatever he is (it's not wrestling as far as I can tell) that I've ever seen but if you like 75 kicks and strikes a match followed by an ankle lock, he's your boy. How this isn't Punk is beyond me.

**Best Box Office Draw: Winner – The Rock**

Real hard to argue here. If you count Rock as a wrestler/wrestling guy which is certainly fair to do, there's not much argument to be made here.

**Feud of the Year: Winner – John Cena vs. CM Punk**

I think I'd go with Christian vs. Orton (I think I did actually) but this beats anything else for second place. Not what I'd pick, but I'm ok with this.

**Tag Team of the Year: Winner – Bad Intentions (Giant Bernard & Karl Anderson)**

I think I've seen one of their matches so I can't really comment on them. I know they're a big deal over there and since tag wrestling is dead in mainstream American wrestling, I'll go with this.

**Most Improved: Winner – Dolph Ziggler**

Uh....ok I guess as I can't really think of anyone else that jumps off the page at me. Punk maybe? Storm? I think Dolph gets this by default and I'm totally ok with that.

### **Best on Interviews: Winner – CM Punk**

His interviews were the strong point of Raw over the Summer. That sums it up just fine.

### **Most Charismatic: Winner – The Rock**

Ignoring the fact that I've given Cena the edge in every promo war they've had, Rock oozes charisma so again this is fine.

### **Best Technical Wrestler: Winner – Daniel Bryan**

This is something like his 7th in a row so I'm cool with this. Since most everyone anymore is a brawler more often than not, he doesn't have much competition. No complaints again.

### **Bruiser Brody Memorial Award (Best Brawler): Winner – Kevin Steen**

Again, I've only seen a handful of his matches but from what I've heard he gets crazy at times. If he breathes some much needed fresh air into ROH, I might start watching again.

### **Best Flying Wrestler: Winner – Ricochet**

Don't know anything but his name so moving on.

### **Most Overrated: Winner – Crimson**

A-Men. I'm totally in agreement here as Crimson hasn't had a single memorable match and yet TNA feels the need to cram him down our throats about how he's undefeated. He's also perfect in terms of making me not care but that doesn't sound good on TV.

### **Most Underrated: Winner – Dolph Ziggler**

...huh? Ziggler was World, US and IC Champion this year. He stole the show a lot of the time and he's apparently on the verge of the main event. How is he underrated? I don't understand this at all. I'll go with Storm as underrated

because he was overshadowed by Roode all year. I don't get this one.

**Promotion of the Year: Winner – UFC**

See my complaints about how this is a wrestling awards list, not MMA.

**Best Weekly Television Show: Winner – WWE Friday Night SmackDown!**

Perfect choice. Smackdown is a wrestling show that airs for two hours every week and they get stuff done. I honestly don't remember the last time there was a truly bad Smackdown. With Raw or Impact, you're lucky to go .500 every month.

**Most Outstanding Fighter (formerly Shootfighter of the Year): Winner – Jon Jones**

Sure why not.

**Worked Match of the Year: Winner – John Cena vs. CM Punk @ MITB 2011**

Is there another option? Didn't think so. Next.

**Fight of the Year: Winner – Dan Henderson vs. Shogun Rua**

Sure why not.

**Rookie of the Year: Winner – Daichi Hashimoto**

Bring him to NXT. He has to be better.

**Best Non-Wrestler: Winner – Ricardo Rodriguez**

Well since he and Vickie are pretty much all that are left and Dolph hasn't needed Vickie for months, this is fine.

**Best Television Announcer: Winner – Joe Rogan**

Well he's better than Cole.

### **Worst Television Announcer : Winner – Michael Cole**

Believe it or not, I'm going to disagree. Cole is INCREDIBLE at ticking people off and getting on their nerves. He's outstanding at what he does. The problem is the job he's been given is a horrible one. Make this guy a manager and he's perfect, but I see the argument here for sure.

### **Best Major Show: Winner – Money in the Bank 2011**

No argument there. It was indeed an awesome show.

### **Worst Major Wrestling Show: Winner – TNA Victory Road 2011**

And yet the TNA diehards still try to defend what happened here. They're consistent, I'll give them that.

### **Best Wrestling Maneuver: Winner – Ricochet for the Double Rotation Moonsault**

Nothing else jumps out at me so ok.

### **Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic: Winner – WWE anti-bullying campaign & treatment of Jim Ross**

Uh....no. I get annoyed by the anti-bullying campaign but there's a point to it and WWE is trying to help others rather than themselves. I get the Stand Up For WWE being blasted, but this? Not so much. JR I understand but I'd give this to TNA for pushing Jeff Hardy as a main event guy again after the debacle at Victory Road. Or Garrett Bischoff. Either one.

### **Worst Television Show: Winner – TNA Impact/Impact Wrestling**

I really am the only person that watches NXT aren't I? And yes I know I am.

### **Worst Worked Match of the Year: Winner – Sting vs. Jeff Hardy @ Victory Road 2011**

I went with something else (probably a Divas match) because I

didn't consider this a wrestling match. No complaints again though.

**Worst Feud of the Year: Winner – Triple H vs. Kevin Nash**

No. The feud was bad and all, but stuff like Pope vs. D-Von and Bateman vs. Curtis and Immortal vs. TNA (I guess) and NXT vs. my sanity trump this.

**Worst Promotion of the Year: Winner – TNA**

Yeah I guess, although I've heard Botswana Pro and Czech Championship didn't have the best years either.

**Best Booker: Winner – Jado & Gedo**

Sure why not.

**Promoter of the Year: Winner – Dana White**

Sure why not.

**Best Gimmick: Winner – CM Punk as the anti-corporate rebel**

Aside from the fact that it's hurt the ratings a good bit and not many casual viewers seem to care, it was certainly the most interesting, even if it probably went over most people's heads.

**Worst Gimmick: Winner – Michael Cole as a heel announcer**

Now this I can get behind.

**Best Pro Wrestling Book: Winner – Chris Jericho: Undisputed**

Haven't read a wrestling book this year so ok.

**Best Pro Wrestling DVD: Winner – Greatest Rivarlies: Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart**

Gave it as a Christmas gift and I don't remember the rest of the DVDs that came out this year so I'm ok with this. Although

WHY WAS MONTREAL JUST ON THE BLU RAY???

And that's it. I'm sorry if I wasn't as argumentative as I was expected to be but this year a lot of the awards were layups so there wasn't much to argue. Not many arguments this year but any thoughts/complaints from you all?