



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION ...

LIGHTS, camera, action.....On Sunday, February 27 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, the 83rd Academy Awards® were presented. Actors Anne Hathaway and James Franco hosted the glitzy and glamorous event with hundreds of invited guests walking up the red carpet before taking their seats in anticipation of an evening of recognition and entertainment. These oldest, best known, most influential, most prestigious and famous film awards have been presented annually since 1929 by an organisation called the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. They are held to

recognise the excellence of people in the film industry and honour outstanding achievement in theatrically released feature-length motion pictures across a number of categories. Nicknamed the 'Oscars' after the distinctive gold statuette that the winners' receive, it is a culminating showcase of the movie industries season and the year's best. Massive audiences, from 200 countries world-wide, tune into the televised spectacle.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ THE five-spoke film reel on the statuette signifies the five original branches of the Academy: actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers.
- ▶ The winner's acceptance speech must not run past 45 seconds.
- ▶ In order to qualify for the Academy Awards, a film must be more than 40 minutes long, must have its public premiere in a movie theatre during the previous

- calendar year, must have premiered in 35mm or 70mm film format or in 24-frame progressive scan digital format and must have played in a Los Angeles County, California, theatre for paid admission for seven consecutive days.
- ▶ The best animated feature film category was first introduced in 2002 at the 74th Academy Awards.
- ▶ The youngest person to win an Oscar was 10-year-old Tatum O'Neal. She won the best supporting actress award for her role in Paper Moon in 1974.

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

BEFORE the big night, members of the Academy including professionals from all areas of the film industry, follow a process of picking the winners. A list of potential, eligible candidates is narrowed down and nominations are announced. Members then place their casting vote for

nominees in each award category they represent e.g. directors' vote for directors. The votes are then counted in secrecy and the results sealed in an envelope. Then it all comes down to Hollywood's big night of nights when the winners are announced.

## LET'S TALK

LIKE other awards, the top nominees and winners of the Oscars do not necessarily reflect the greatest that the film industry has to offer. Sometimes the most deserving do not win Academy Awards and in some cases are not even included in

the nominees. Do you think that all films are represented well or do only the top-box office films receive recognition? Should the public have some input into the voting system? Have your say. Email your response to [nie@apn.com.au](mailto:nie@apn.com.au)

## WHAT IS ...?

### What am I?

WHAT is golden in colour, stands 34.3cm tall, weighs 3.85kg, stands on a five-spoke film reel, is nicknamed Oscar, resembles a knight holding a sword, is probably one of the most recognisable

trophies in the world and has been presented as an award 2701 times in an 82 year period?

The answer is the Academy Award of Merit. This statuette has been used as an award since 1929 to encourage and honour the outstanding moviemaking achievements of motion-picture production.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- ▶ Fill in the table with the results from the Awards.
- ▶ Are there any stories about the Academy Awards in today's newspaper?

CATEGORY	WINNER
Best Picture	
Best Director	
Best Actor (in a leading role)	
Best Actress (in a leading role)	
Best Supporting Actor	
Best Supporting Actress	
Best Screenplay/Writer	
Best Animated Feature Film	
Best Costume Design	
Best Original Song (Music)	
Best Visual Effects	
Best Cinematography	

**NEXT WEEK: WORLD WHERE-A-BOUTS**