

The ultimate guide to THE OSCARS

From November to February, Hollywood's red carpet season is in full swing as the stars go head to head in the hopes of winning an award for the mantelpiece. And not just any award... an Oscar, thank you very much. Read on for all the facts, figures, tweets and trivia about the most prestigious awards show of the season!

Hey, Oscar!

Since the Oscars started in 1929, a whopping 3000+ gold statuettes have been awarded.

The statuette itself weighs 3.5kg - equivalent to carting around a small bowling ball!



Did you know?

Fake plaster statuettes are handed out to celebrities during rehearsals!

The design - of a knight holding a sword and perched on a reel of film - was dubbed 'The Oscar' because it's believed

Academy Librarian Margaret Herrick remarked in 1931,

'Why it looks like my Uncle Oscar!'



The \$1 rule

Winners who want to flog their statue on Ebay must first offer it back to the Academy for a buck. Yep, \$1. (This doesn't apply to winners before 1950 and the last statuette to sell at auction fetched a not-too-shabby \$800k!)



Who's watching?

Approximately 40+ million people watch the Oscars across 200 countries! The average age of an award show viewer is 46-54.



Get your tickets here!

Believe it or not, the ticket to the first Oscars in 1929 at Hollywood's Roosevelt Theatre cost just \$5. Today, a seat will set you back \$150-\$750 and you better be nominated to boot!



What does an Oscar mean for an actor?

1.

More money (although male actors typically see a greater pay rise than women)

2.

More job security (not guaranteed, but certainly can't hurt)

3.

More people watching your work (directors and just the fans at home)

But...

it's thought the younger you are when you win, the better it is for your career.

How are winners chosen?

Step 1 Ballots are sent to the 6000+ voters in December, with a deadline of sometime in January.

Step 2 Voters are sorted into 'branches' according to their field of expertise. They're only allowed to vote on nominees within their 'branch', so directors vote in the Best Director category, actors vote in the acting category.

Step 3 All voters are eligible to vote for Best Picture nominees.

Step 4 Once nominees are confirmed, the Academy votes - they're discouraged from voting in categories they don't understand or if they haven't seen the films.

Step 5 The film or actor with the most votes wins!

Who are the mysterious 'Academy' voters?

They're 6000+ film-makers and other industry insiders who are, according to studies...

77% Male

94% Mainly white

54% are over 60 ...that's kinda old

But could social media be changing all that?



The #OscarsSoWhite controversy in 2016 - outrage that erupted on social media over the lack of black nominees - left the Academy scrambling to tweak its membership criteria and enable more women and more diversity to its voting pool. Go Twitter!

And let's not forget... the MOST tweeted Oscars moment Ellen DeGeneres' Oscar selfie. It was tweeted nearly 3.4 million times in 2014!



NUMBER CRUNCHING

152m

- the red carpet at the Oscars is the longest of any awards show

19

- how many times Bob Hope hosted the Oscars (more than any other host)

\$42.7m

- how much it costs to put on the Oscars

3,300

- that's how many seats there are at the Dolby Theatre

\$200

- How much just one of those designer envelopes cost!

\$15-25k

- How much an Oscars host makes on the night.



On the night

Those sealed envelopes have been going strong since 1941 - after the LA Times broke the embargo and published all the winners early. Whoops.

The Litmus Test

Most say it's coincidence that other award shows predict who'll win the Oscar. We say it's hard to ignore the stats.

The Golden Globes...

apparently predict Best Actor / Actress at the Oscars with 90 percent accuracy. As a case in point, the last five Globe winners for Best Actress in a Drama have gone on to bag an Oscar.

The Screen Actors Guild Awards (SAG)...

reportedly rocks in predicting that SAG winners of Female Actor in a Leading Role will go on to score a Best Actress Oscar.

Toronto's International Film Festival (TIFF) People's Choice Award...

is widely considered to predict Best Picture at the Oscars. It was right about everything from The King's Speech to Argo and 12 Years A Slave.

Famous nominees & winners

It's no secret Oscar has his favourites. Here's proof...

Most nominations (female)

Meryl Streep - 19 nominations, 3 wins

Most nominations (male)

Jack Nicholson - 12 nominations, 3 wins.

Most nominated man you've never heard of

John Williams - 49 nominations and 5 Academy Awards. This is the guy who brought us the music from Jaws, Star Wars, ET and Schindler's List.

Most Oscars won ever

Walt Disney

Most best actress awards won by one person

Katherine Hepburn - she won 4 over the course of her career.

Movies that swept the floor

Titanic, Ben Hur, Lord of the Rings - 11 wins each

Most best actor awards won by one person

Daniel Day Lewis - who won for Lincoln (2013), There Will Be Blood (2008) and My Left Foot (1990).

"I'd just like to thank..."

Oscars speeches are legendary. They're supposed to be no longer than 45 seconds, but that never happens...

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The most thank-you's ever uttered in an Oscar speech by Halle Berry for her Monster's Ball win in 2001

05:00 Greer Garson Mrs Miniver (1943)

04:00 Al Pacino A Scandal in the Court (1993)

03:30 Matthew McConaughey Dallas Buyer's Club (2013)

03:00 Hilary Swank Boys Don't Cry (2000)

00:10 Patti Duke The Miracle Worker (1962) ...She uttered just two words. "Thank you"