

oscars 2025 nominees best picture

oscars 2025 nominees best picture is a topic that sparks immense anticipation and fervent discussion among cinephiles and industry insiders alike. As the Academy Awards ceremony draws nearer, the speculation surrounding which films will contend for the coveted Best Picture trophy intensifies. This article delves deep into the potential contenders, exploring the genres, themes, and directorial visions that are likely to capture the Academy's attention for the 2025 awards season. We will examine the early buzz, critical darlings, and potential dark horses that could shape the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race, providing a comprehensive overview of what to expect.

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Early Frontrunners for Oscars 2025 Best Picture

The road to the Oscars 2025 Best Picture category is paved with early critical acclaim and festival buzz. Several films have already established themselves as strong contenders, buoyed by stellar performances, masterful direction, and compelling narratives that resonate with audiences and critics. These early frontrunners often represent a blend of established directorial talent and groundbreaking storytelling, setting a high bar for the competition.

Historically, films that garner significant attention at major film festivals like Cannes, Venice, and Toronto are often the first to emerge as potential Oscar nominees. These platforms serve as crucial launching pads, allowing films to gain visibility and build momentum. For the Oscars 2025, studios are strategically timing their releases to coincide with this awards season, hoping to capture the Academy's imagination.

Established Directors with Acclaimed Works

Directors with a proven track record of Oscar nominations and wins often find their latest projects in contention. When a filmmaker known for their artistry releases a new film, especially one that tackles ambitious themes or pushes cinematic boundaries, it immediately draws attention. The Academy often respects and rewards established voices who continue to innovate and deliver impactful cinema.

These directors have built a reputation for crafting films that are not only critically successful but also culturally significant. Their ability to consistently deliver high-quality work makes their new releases immediate subjects of Oscar speculation. The anticipation for their next project is palpable, and if the film lives up to expectations, it's almost guaranteed to be in the Oscar 2025 Best Picture conversation.

Critically Lauded Festival Darlings

Film festivals are the breeding ground for many of the year's most celebrated films. Independent movies and international productions that receive standing ovations and rave reviews at these prestigious events often go on to become major players in the awards season. The buzz generated at festivals can significantly influence early Oscar predictions and create a groundswell of support for certain titles.

These festival darlings often represent a more diverse range of voices and stories, offering fresh perspectives that might not be found in mainstream Hollywood productions. Their success highlights the Academy's growing openness to a wider spectrum of cinematic achievements, making them crucial to monitor for the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race.

Emerging Voices and Independent Films

Beyond the established names, the Oscars 2025 Best Picture landscape is often enriched by the emergence of new directorial talents and compelling independent productions. These films, frequently characterized by their originality, raw emotional honesty, and unique artistic vision, can surprise audiences and voters alike, proving that compelling storytelling can come from anywhere.

Independent cinema often thrives on innovation and a willingness to explore subjects that mainstream studios might shy away from. The raw energy and unfiltered perspectives found in these films can be incredibly powerful, offering a refreshing contrast to more polished studio efforts. Their success in the Best Picture race would signify the Academy's continued commitment to celebrating diverse cinematic voices.

Breakout Independent Features

The independent film scene is a vital source of fresh talent and groundbreaking narratives. These smaller-budget productions often take creative risks, leading to films that are bold, unconventional, and deeply resonant. Many of the most memorable Best Picture winners in recent history started as independent darlings, defying expectations to achieve widespread critical and popular acclaim.

For the Oscars 2025, keeping an eye on films that have premiered at smaller, yet respected, film festivals or those that have generated significant word-of-mouth within cinephile circles is crucial. These breakout features often possess a distinct voice and a singular artistic vision that can cut through the noise of the awards season.

Debut Films with Significant Impact

A director's debut film that manages to achieve critical acclaim and audience connection is a significant achievement. These films often carry an immense personal vision and can feel incredibly urgent and authentic. The Academy has shown a propensity to recognize and award talented newcomers, especially when their debut work demonstrates exceptional craft and storytelling prowess.

The impact of a debut film can be amplified if it tackles complex social issues, offers a unique genre interpretation, or simply tells a deeply human story with remarkable skill. Such films can become unexpected contenders for

the Oscars 2025 Best Picture, bringing a fresh energy to the nominations.

Potential Blockbuster Contenders

While independent films and art-house successes often dominate early conversations, the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race wouldn't be complete without considering the potential impact of high-profile blockbuster films. These large-scale productions, when executed with exceptional artistry and storytelling depth, can also capture the Academy's attention, proving that spectacle and substance are not mutually exclusive.

Blockbusters that manage to transcend typical genre expectations, offering sophisticated themes, nuanced characters, and impressive technical achievements, are often the ones that get noticed by the Academy. These films demonstrate that cinematic excellence can exist at any budget level, appealing to a broad audience while still offering artistic merit worthy of consideration for the highest honors.

Spectacle Meets Substance

The line between commercial appeal and artistic merit is constantly being redefined. Films that manage to achieve massive box office success while also delivering a profound story, exceptional performances, and innovative filmmaking techniques are prime candidates for Best Picture nominations. These movies prove that audiences are receptive to popcorn entertainment that also offers intellectual and emotional depth.

For the Oscars 2025, studios will be looking to replicate the success of past blockbusters that have been nominated for Best Picture. The key is often in the execution – how well the visual spectacle is integrated with a compelling narrative and character development. A film that can entertain on a grand scale while also leaving a lasting emotional impact is a formidable contender.

Franchise Films with Critical Acclaim

In recent years, certain franchise films have begun to break through the traditional barriers and earn nominations, and even wins, in major Academy Award categories. When a film within a popular series demonstrates exceptional creativity, strong directorial vision, and a narrative that stands on its own merits, it can transcend its franchise origins and become a serious awards contender for Best Picture.

These films often benefit from a built-in audience but must still impress critics and Academy voters with their artistic quality. The challenge is to balance the demands of a large-scale franchise with the nuanced storytelling and thematic richness that the Academy typically favors for its top prize, making their potential inclusion in the Oscars 2025 Best Picture nominations a point of keen interest.

International Cinema's Oscar Potential

The global nature of filmmaking means that the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race is increasingly likely to feature strong contenders from international

cinema. Academy voters have shown a growing appreciation for non-English language films that offer unique cultural perspectives and exceptional cinematic craftsmanship, making these films vital to track for potential nominations.

International films often bring a distinct artistic sensibility and a different approach to storytelling that can captivate audiences and critics alike. Their success at festivals and in international markets often precedes their Oscar campaigns, building significant anticipation for their potential impact on the awards season.

Award-Winning Foreign Language Films

Films that achieve significant recognition at international film festivals and win major awards in their home countries often signal strong potential for Oscar consideration. These foreign language films, when they manage to resonate with a global audience and critics, can become serious contenders for Best Picture, not just Best International Feature Film.

The Academy's willingness to embrace diverse cinematic traditions has led to more international films being recognized in the top categories. For the Oscars 2025, films that have made waves at festivals like Cannes or Venice, and have garnered critical praise for their originality and directorial skill, are ones to watch closely.

Global Storytelling and Cultural Impact

Films that tackle universal themes through a specific cultural lens possess a unique power to connect with audiences worldwide. International productions that explore human experiences with depth, authenticity, and cinematic artistry often leave a lasting impression. The Academy's recognition of such films underscores the universal appeal of great storytelling, regardless of its origin.

The narrative power and aesthetic achievements of these global stories can offer a refreshing perspective and challenge conventional filmmaking norms. Their potential inclusion in the Oscars 2025 Best Picture nominations would highlight the evolving landscape of cinema and the Academy's commitment to celebrating artistry from all corners of the globe.

Key Themes and Genres to Watch

As the potential slate of films for the Oscars 2025 Best Picture category begins to take shape, certain themes and genres consistently emerge as favored by the Academy. Understanding these trends can offer valuable insights into which films are likely to garner nominations and potentially walk away with the coveted award. These recurring elements often reflect broader societal conversations and cinematic artistic ambitions.

The Academy's voting patterns reveal a preference for films that are not only technically proficient but also thematically rich and emotionally resonant. Whether it's a sweeping historical drama, a poignant character study, or a film that tackles significant social issues, these narratives tend to capture the imagination of voters and leave a lasting impact.

Socially Relevant Dramas

Films that engage with pressing social issues, historical events, or profound human experiences often find favor with the Academy. These narratives aim to provoke thought, foster empathy, and sometimes even inspire change, resonating deeply with voters who appreciate cinema that has a tangible cultural impact. The Oscars 2025 Best Picture race is likely to see several such films emerge.

These dramas often feature strong character development, compelling performances, and a meticulous attention to historical or social accuracy. They provide a platform for important conversations and are frequently lauded for their ability to shed light on overlooked aspects of the human condition or society at large.

Character-Driven Narratives

At the heart of many Best Picture winners are deeply compelling characters whose journeys captivate and move audiences. Films that prioritize intricate character studies, showcasing nuanced performances and exploring the complexities of human psychology, are consistently strong contenders. The focus remains on the emotional arc and the relatability of the individuals portrayed.

These narratives allow actors to deliver career-defining performances, which in turn elevate the film as a whole. The Academy often rewards films that provide a platform for exceptional acting talent, making character-driven stories a perennial favorite for Best Picture nominations.

Genre Films with Artistic Merit

While dramas often dominate, films from other genres—such as science fiction, thrillers, or even musicals—can achieve Best Picture recognition if they demonstrate exceptional artistic merit. When these films push the boundaries of their respective genres, offer innovative storytelling, or tackle complex themes beneath their surface, they can earn the Academy's respect and admiration.

The Academy's appreciation for genre films with artistic depth has grown over the years. These movies can offer a unique blend of entertainment and intellectual stimulation, proving that groundbreaking cinema can come in many forms. Their potential inclusion in the Oscars 2025 Best Picture lineup would be a testament to the diverse and evolving nature of filmmaking.

FAQ

Q: When will the Oscars 2025 nominees for Best Picture be announced?

A: The official nominations for the 97th Academy Awards, including the Best Picture category, are typically announced in late January of the award year. For the Oscars 2025 ceremony, expect the nominations to be revealed in January 2025.

Q: What types of films are typically nominated for Best Picture?

A: Historically, films that receive Best Picture nominations are often dramas, biopics, historical epics, or films that tackle significant social or political themes. However, the Academy has increasingly recognized genre films and independent productions that demonstrate exceptional artistic merit and storytelling.

Q: Are there any early frontrunners for Oscars 2025 Best Picture that have already generated buzz?

A: While it's too early to definitively name frontrunners, films that have received significant acclaim at major film festivals like Cannes, Venice, or Toronto, or those from highly respected directors with strong track records, are often the first to emerge as potential contenders. Keep an eye on films that have garnered critical praise and audience enthusiasm from these early showcases.

Q: How does the Academy decide on the Best Picture nominees?

A: The Best Picture nominees are determined by all voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Each member can nominate films in their respective branches (e.g., actors vote for acting nominees, directors for directing nominees). For Best Picture, all voting members can cast a ballot, using a preferential ballot system which ranks the nominated films.

Q: Can independent films win Best Picture at the Oscars 2025?

A: Absolutely. Independent films have a strong history of not only being nominated for Best Picture but also winning the award. Films that offer unique perspectives, strong storytelling, and artistic innovation, regardless of their budget or studio backing, are increasingly recognized by the Academy.

Q: Will blockbuster movies be considered for Oscars 2025 Best Picture?

A: Yes, blockbuster movies can be considered for Best Picture, particularly if they blend spectacular production with compelling narratives, strong performances, and thematic depth. Films that manage to achieve both critical acclaim and widespread audience appeal are often strong contenders.

Q: What role do film festivals play in the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race?

A: Film festivals, such as Cannes, Venice, Telluride, and Toronto, are crucial launchpads for potential Oscar contenders. Films that premiere and

gain critical buzz at these festivals often build significant momentum that can carry them through the awards season, influencing early predictions for Best Picture nominees.

Q: How important is international cinema for the Oscars 2025 Best Picture category?

A: International cinema has become increasingly important, with more non-English language films gaining nominations and even winning in major categories, including Best Picture. The Academy's growing appreciation for global storytelling means international films are significant contenders to watch for the Oscars 2025 Best Picture race.

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oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Oscar Bait Robert Boucaut, 2025-09-22 The Academy Awards - or the Oscars - have held a unique position in defining and enacting prestige for film

industries and their publics. In evaluating 'the best' of film, they wield cultural influence over such cinema practices as consumption and evaluation, filmmaking aesthetics and narratives, and the discursive activity of Hollywood's industrial agents and audiences. *Oscar Bait: The Academy Awards & Cultural Prestige* offers a comprehensive insight into how a film or star positions one's self as a viable competitor worthy of such consecration in new media contexts. Based over three years of 'Oscars seasons' (2019-2021), rigorous analysis of film texts, awards telecasts, and circulating discursive media is built through an original scholarly framework for understanding modern cultural awards. *Oscar Bait* recontextualises the Oscars' complex legacy into a new media ecosystem, one in which their established value is undercut by declining broadcast viewership, the changing values and demands of global film publics, and influential discourses aiming to progress popular culture beyond its problematic histories. In this new paradigm of film production and consumption, Boucaut explores what the Oscars mean in a contemporary filmmaking landscape and what impacts established stereotypes of Oscar-worthiness – the colloquial 'Oscar Bait' – continue to hold over the awards. *Oscar Bait* captures a dynamic snapshot of the Oscars and Hollywood in a critical era. It advances popular culture scholarship by developing an analytical framework for understanding disparate media texts within an awards season – and it critically updates Oscars knowledges for modern contexts. Readers interested in media and cultural studies, celebrity studies, persona studies, popular culture, and film will enjoy this book.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: The Costumes of Hollywood Coleen Scott, Larry McQueen, 2025-07-04 *The Costumes of Hollywood* details the design, creation, and influence of over 100 ensembles from some of the most iconic designers, films, and roles in Hollywood history, spanning the 1920s through the early 21st century. All costumes featured are from The Collection of Motion Picture Costume Design, one of the world's largest private collections, curated over thirty-five years by leading Hollywood costume historian and archivist, Larry McQueen. The book presents full costumes on display in addition to close-ups, and rarely seen interior details of some garments. Iconic costumes, including many with Academy Award nominations, from *Some Like It Hot*, *Hello Dolly*, *Cabaret*, *Rear Window*, *Ben Hur*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Angel*, *Masters of the Universe*, *The Piano*, *The Hunger Games*, and so many others are featured. This book gives the audience a rare and heretofore unpublished insight into what collecting, restoring, and reproducing entails, and highlights differences between private collecting and museum-backed collections. *The Costumes of Hollywood* details the significance of the designer, costume, and wearer via thorough research, interviews, and Larry McQueen's behind-the-scenes knowledge of collecting and working as an archivist in Hollywood. Within the entertainment field, this book will be of interest to professional costume designers and technicians in film, theatre, and performance, as well as students of film production, history, and costume design and construction. *The Costumes of Hollywood* will also enrich and entertain anyone with an interest in costume design in film and collecting.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Oscars: The Complete Trivia Book Pasquale De Marco, 2025-03-03 ****Oscars: The Complete Trivia Book**** is the ultimate guide to the Academy Awards, the most prestigious awards in the film industry. Whether you're a casual fan or a die-hard Oscar buff, this book has something for everyone. Inside, you'll find everything you ever wanted to know about the Oscars, from the history of the Academy to the most memorable moments in Oscar history. We've got everything from the major awards to the minor awards, the honorary awards to the most controversial moments. We've also got profiles of the most nominated and most-winning actors, actresses, films, directors, and writers. But that's not all. We've also got chapters on the fashion, the after-parties, and the legacy of the Oscars. We'll take you behind the scenes of the biggest night in Hollywood and show you everything that goes on, from the red carpet to the after-parties. And of course, no book about the Oscars would be complete without a trivia challenge. We've got hundreds of trivia questions to test your knowledge of the Oscars, from the easy to the hard. So whether you're a long-time fan of the Oscars or you're just curious to learn more about the biggest night in Hollywood, ****Oscars: The Complete Trivia Book**** is the perfect book for you. ****Inside this book, you'll find:**** * The history of the Academy Awards * Profiles of the most nominated and

most-winning actors, actresses, films, directors, and writers * The most memorable moments in Oscar history * The biggest Oscar snubs * The most iconic Oscar dresses * The most controversial Oscar moments * The most exclusive Oscar after-parties * The legacy of the Oscars * And much, much more! So grab a copy of ****Oscars: The Complete Trivia Book**** today and start testing your Oscar knowledge! If you like this book, write a review!

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: The Media Reader on Representations of Race, Gender, Disability, Body Size, Age, and Sexuality Caroline Heldman, Rebecca Cooper, 2025-04-01 This reader is the first comprehensive look at representations of race, gender, disability, body size, age, and sexuality in US entertainment media. The “bible” of media representation, it weaves contemporary media examples together with quantitative data and qualitative case studies in a way that is accessible to students, industry insiders, and media advocates. Using over twenty publicly available reports and datasets, the authors provide the most detailed picture to date of how different groups have historically been erased and misrepresented in film and television. This book should be on the shelf of every person who seeks to understand the significance of media inclusion for the advancement of traditionally marginalized groups in the US.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Bullets Over Hollywood John McCarty, 2025-05-01 The gangster, like the gunslinger, is a classic American character-and the gangster movie, like the Western, is one of the American cinema's enduring film genres. From Scarface to White Heat, from The Godfather to The Usual Suspects, from Once Upon a Time in America to Road to Perdition, gangland on the screen remains as popular as ever. In Bullets over Hollywood, film scholar John McCarty traces the history of mob flicks and reveals why the films are so beloved by Americans. As McCarty demonstrates, the themes, characters, landscapes, stories-the overall iconography-of the gangster genre have proven resilient enough to be updated, reshaped, and expanded upon to connect with even today's young audiences. Packed with fascinating behind-the-scenes anecdotes and information about real-life hoods and their cinematic alter egos, insightful analysis, and a solid historical perspective, Bullets over Hollywood will be the definitive book on the gangster movie for years to come.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Beyond the Monoplot Chris Neilan, 2025-01-09 This book provides a toolkit for unconventional practice-a comprehensive list of unconventional story shapes and the meanings they create, with accompanying case studies, including: one-act structure; two-act structure; passive protagonists; untimely death of the protagonist, and more. Formed from Aristotelian principles and a three-act shape brought to Hollywood by Broadway playwrights after the advent of sync sound, Conventional Monoplot has come to dominate screen storytelling practice throughout the Western world. For the experimental, rule-suspicious, unconventional screenwriter, alternative storytelling models are available. Beyond the Monoplot offers screenwriters and screenwriting students a new way of approaching and quantifying conventional practice, whilst equipping them with the skills and tools to subvert convention and expectation in dynamic and innovative ways. Where the revolutionary New Hollywood period of the '60s and '70s saw strikingly iconoclastic, original, rule-breaking narratives attracting enormous audiences and making indelible cultural imprints, today's most widely seen films stick rigidly to the Conventional Monoplot model. Shaped and solidified by best-selling screenwriting handbooks of the '80s and 90s, this model proved incredibly useful for a rapidly industrialising consumerist approach to screen entertainment, pushing unconventional and innovative storytelling practices to the cultural fringe. Whilst bold, daring films are still made, their impact is muted: Moonlight, despite winning Best Picture, was only the 92nd highest grossing film of its year. And whilst great strides are made towards diversity and representation, story shapes remain cloistered within a consumerist and highly conventionalised form, against which this book pushes back.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: The Oscars on Trial Pasquale De Marco, 2025-05-07 The Oscars are the most prestigious awards in the film industry, and they have been handed out annually since 1929. Over the years, the Oscars have honored some of the greatest films ever made, but they have also been known to make some questionable choices. In The Oscars on Trial, we take a

look at some of the most controversial Oscar winners and losers, as well as some of the most memorable Oscar moments. We start by examining some of the Academy's all-time blunders. These are films that were nominated for Best Picture but lost to films that are now considered to be far inferior. We also take a look at some of the films that were snubbed by the Academy, films that many critics and fans believe should have won Best Picture. Next, we turn our attention to the politics of Oscar. We examine the influence of studio money, celebrity endorsements, and Academy voters' biases on the outcome of the Oscars. We also discuss the impact of social and political issues on the Oscars, and how the awards have reflected American culture over the years. In the third chapter, we take a look at some of the most overrated Oscar winners. These are films that won Best Picture but are now considered to be overhyped and undeserving of their awards. We also take a look at some of the most underrated Oscar losers, films that were nominated for Best Picture but lost to films that are now considered to be far superior. In the fourth chapter, we discuss some of the most memorable Oscar speeches. These are speeches that were either particularly moving, funny, or controversial. We also take a look at some of the most shocking Oscar moments, such as the envelope mix-up at the 2017 Oscars and the streaker who interrupted the 1974 Oscars. In the fifth and final chapter, we look at the future of the Oscars. We discuss the changing demographics of Academy voters, the rise of streaming services, and the impact of social media on the Oscars. We also discuss the need for greater diversity and inclusion in the Oscars, and how the awards can remain relevant in a changing world. *The Oscars on Trial* is a fascinating and complex look at the Oscars, one of the most prestigious and controversial awards in the world. Whether you're a film buff or just a casual observer of the Oscars, *The Oscars on Trial* is sure to entertain and inform you. If you like this book, write a review on google books!

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Oscar Controversies Octavia Marchand, AI, 2025-02-24 *Oscar Controversies* examines the Academy Awards through a critical lens, revealing how upsets, snubs, and scandals have marked its history. The book argues that the Oscars are not objective measures of cinematic quality; instead, they reflect subjective tastes, strategic campaigning, and prevailing social and political climates. Did you know that some historical analyses suggest vote rigging has influenced outcomes? The book dives into the complex web of film industry politics, exploring how these controversies mirror broader trends in society. The book approaches these topics by first introducing the history and voting system of the Academy Awards. It then dedicates chapters to specific examples of upsets, snubs, and scandals, drawing upon contemporary reviews and historical records. For instance, it investigates instances where films with poor critical reception still managed to win, highlighting potential factors such as effective marketing or studio influence. Understanding these events requires a grasp of the economics of the film industry, and the historical context in which these events unfolded, shedding light on the ongoing debates surrounding diversity and representation. Finally, the book analyzes the patterns and trends that emerge from these controversies, offering a nuanced perspective on the Academy's role in shaping film culture. By exploring these historical moments, *Oscar Controversies* provides a valuable resource for film enthusiasts and students of film history, offering a critical appreciation for the awards and the film industry itself.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: The Big Show Steve Pond, 2005-12-27 An unprecedented look at the machinations behind everyone's favorite Hollywood circus and what it reveals about the business of moviemaking. Oscar parties. Oscar pools. Oscar style. Oscar predictions. The Oscars breed their own peculiar mania and a billion people worldwide are alleged to watch the broadcast every year. While that figure may be the Academy's big white lie, the Oscars draw a viewership well into the hundreds of millions--a tremendous audience for what is essentially a television program. But this is no ordinary show. Love it or loathe it, the Oscars are an irresistible spectacle: a gloriously gaudy, glitzy, momentous, and foolish window into the unholy alliance of art and commerce that is the film industry. The Oscar statuette is a totem of such potency that millions are spent and careers laid on the line in the reckless pursuit of an eight-pound chunk of gold-plated britannium. *The Big Show* is a chronicle of the past fifteen years of the Academy Awards, the most

tumultuous decade in Oscar's seventy-six year history. Written by the only journalist ever given carte blanche access to the planning, production, and backstage intrigue of the Oscars, it offers an unguarded, behind-the-scenes glimpse of this singular event, along with remarkable insight into how the Oscars reflect the high-stakes politics of Hollywood, our obsession with celebrities (not to mention celebrities' obsession with themselves), and the cinematic state of the union.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Dashing to the End Eric Monder, 2025-05-15 Born Alfred Reginald John Truscott-Jones, Welsh American actor Ray Milland (1907–1986) appeared in more than 135 theatrical releases between 1929 and 1985 and on radio, television, and the stage, while also becoming a film director; Milland's extensive canon across such a period is remarkable, especially considering his lack of formal training, his belated start in show business in his late twenties, and the fact he only lived to age seventy-nine. Perhaps best remembered for his Oscar-winning performance as the tortured alcoholic in Billy Wilder's *The Lost Weekend* (1945) or his outstanding collaboration with Alfred Hitchcock in *Dial M for Murder* (1954), there is much more to Milland's life and career than the few films that elevated him from star to icon. Despite his prolific and successful career, *Dashing to the End: The Ray Milland Story* is the first comprehensive biography of the star. Milland's personal and professional trajectory epitomize quintessential Hollywood lore: the British army soldier-turned-actor who went from unknown, struggling bit player to Oscar-winning star to aging, scandal-haunted "has-been" to comeback character actor to present-day cult figure. Using interviews with Milland's costars and colleagues, as well as research from several major archives, author Eric Monder brings into sharp relief both the positive and negative aspects of the Hollywood film and television industries and paints a well-rounded portrait of this complex man and artist.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: Hollywood Blackout Ben Arogundade, 2025-02-04 On 29 February 1940, African American actor Hattie McDaniel became the first person of colour, and the first Black woman, to win an Academy Award. The moment marked the beginning of Hollywood's reluctant move toward diversity and inclusion. Since then, minorities and women have struggled to attain Academy Awards recognition within a system designed to discriminate against them. For the first time, *Hollywood Blackout* reveals the untold story of their tumultuous journey from exclusion to inclusion; from segregation to celebration. Author Ben Arogundade interweaves the experiences of Black actors and filmmakers with those of Asians, Latinos, South Asians, indigenous peoples and women. Throughout the decades their progression to the Oscars podium has been galvanized by defiant boycotts, civil rights protests and social media activism such as #OscarsSoWhite. Whether you are a film fan, history lover or diversity advocate, *Hollywood Blackout* is the quintessential choice for all those who wish to know the real story of Hollywood, the Oscars and the talents who fought to make change.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: "All I wanna do is go the distance" Philip L. Simpson, Kathy Merlock Jackson, 2025-08-22 If any film has gone the distance, it's *Rocky* (1976), which spawned one of the longest running franchises in film history. Released in America's bicentennial year, *Rocky*, based on an original screenplay by then-unknown writer and actor Sylvester Stallone, surprised everyone. Shot on a shoestring budget by director John Avildsen, the film became a blockbuster and Academy Award-winning best picture. In addition to spawning a lucrative franchise and spin-offs, *Rocky* propelled the careers of Stallone and Talia Shire, raised interest in boxing and sports movies, and placed Philadelphia and its architecture in the popular consciousness. *Rocky* has always been a contested text, raising questions about race, gender, and class in America, as well as debate about genre, storytelling, and film art--questions which are addressed at length in this rich collection of essays. As the contributing scholars show, *Rocky* and its sequels retain their power to rouse audiences well into the twenty-first century and continue to inspire audiences, athletes, and filmmakers.

oscars 2025 nominees best picture: The Screen Chills Companion, 1931-1939 Chris Fellner, 2025-05-02 This first volume of a two-volume set covers every film released during the first wave of Hollywood horror (1931-1939), providing 74 chilling entries with important historical context,

frightening facts and terrifying trivia. Each entry supplies a detailed production history (derived from trade-publication reports), contemporary press hype, cast, scenario, critiques and behind-the-scenes production tidbits. Postscripts detailing noteworthy events that followed a picture's theatrical run, such as sequels or award nominations, also are featured. An appendix presents a full roster of horror films that came out of New York instead of Hollywood. This complete history of the first wave of Hollywood horror is thoroughly illustrated and meticulously documented.

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