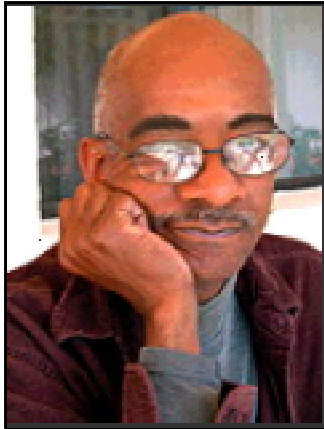


“Prelude to the Oscars”, an update...

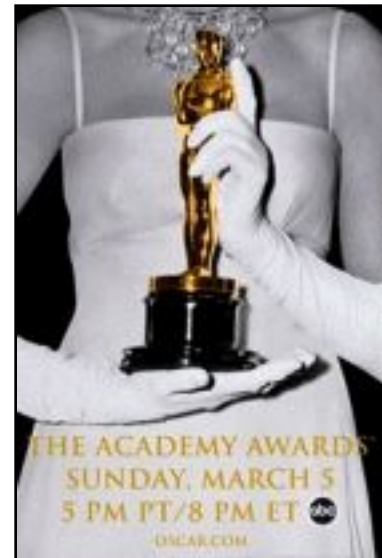
By Stanley Robinson



During and leading up to the Golden Globe Awards, Hollywood “buzz” is flowing. It starts with the Globe nominations for the movies and the stars. After 22 years of working in the Motion Picture industry, I’m used to it; in fact, I’ve come to expect it. With the declared winners from this year’s 63rd Golden Globe Awards on January 16th, the road to Oscar® is officially open.

The key words of “precursor”, and “indicator” that the Golden Globe winners are the most likely winners of the Oscars® is the common perception or misconception. Those of us who actually work in the Motion Picture industry know that the winners of Golden Globes are not even close to an indication of who might win an Oscar®! It does make for interesting conversations and helps with the “buzz” and

excitement leading up to the Oscars®. The true indicators are awards like the Directors Guild Awards and the Screen Actors Guild Awards. These awards are given by the industry, to industry workers (actors, technicians, etc.) while the Golden Globes, who are actually the press and movie critics, don’t work in the industry and have no vote on who wins an Oscar®. The Oscars® are awards given by the Motion Picture industry, to Motion Picture industry workers and, a great many of the Oscar® nominating and voting members who work in the industry, are represented by the various guilds and unions which have craft awards. I have the good fortune of working for twenty plus years in the industry, and the past year of working in what we in the industry call the “layman’s” side, as a movie reviewer and writing industry articles. Here’s a look at both the industry awards and the layman’s awards leading up to the Oscars®.



Golden Globe Award

In 1944, a group of journalist from around the world was in Hollywood for the purpose of delivering an impartial view on motion pictures and their impact. They were known then, and to this day as, the “Hollywood Foreign Press Association”. In order not to be swayed and influenced by the powers in Hollywood, not even the Academy Award choices, it was important to them that they give their awards before the Oscars®.

Today, with just over a hundred members from just as many countries from around the world, we have the Golden Globe Awards. Keep in mind, this is the press, as in critics being the press, from around the world with diverse, and broad perceptions of what they like and don’t like, as viewers of films.

The Oscars®, on the other hand, are awarded by the U.S. Motion Picture industry, for the U.S. motion picture industry workers, based on creative / technical excellence.

The Academy was formed in 1927, and is a professional honorary organization of motion picture artists and craftsmen. The primary goal of the Academy is to "advance the arts and science of motion pictures. In 1927, the movie "Wings" won the 1st Best Picture Oscar ever awarded! The Oscar® voters, about 6,500 or so, represent the working crafts which only vote in their categories. Actors vote for actors, directors vote for directors, and so on. All of the members vote for best picture. Our British counterparts in motion picture production have a very similar award structure for honoring their own as well. The British Academy of Film & Television Arts is the UK's organization which honors their best in film, television and interactive media. Created in 1946, the British Academy of Film & Television Arts has more than 4,000 members consisting of professionals working in the film, television and interactive industries.

There are awards within the working crafts in the motion picture industry. These are the awards that we, as working technicians in the industry, follow closely. Industry awards such as the Directors Guild Awards for best director are voted on only by Directors Guild of America members and, the SAG Screen Actors Awards for actors and again, are only voted on by SAG (Screen Actors Guild) members. If you've been following along, you would have noticed that with these 2 industry craft awards, 5 of the 6 major categories for the Oscars®, are represented by these 2 craft awards: Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Supporting Actress.

I did a statistical analysis covering the years 2000 through 2004, the five year period prior to the Oscar® show last year. The results were: (long pause)...



© AMPAS ©
**Academy
Award**

The Golden Globe winners only had a 62% accuracy rating of the Golden Globe winners going on to win Oscars®! Looking at the Oscar® award for best director, only 6 times since the DGA (Directors Guild Association) Awards inception in 1948 has the DGA Award winner for Best Director, not won the Academy Award for best director as well! This translates into out of 57 DGA Award winners for best director since 1948, 51 went on to win a Best Director Oscar®!

So, when we in the industry see or hear comments by radio, TV, or film critics say things like "the front runners for the Oscars®, based on the winners of the Golden Globes" are likely to be..." we just smile...

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