

A Lesson in Cinema: The Oscars

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What is film, if not an outlet for various forms of human expression, while also simultaneously an inlet to feel—or to experience? For what is now 98 years, The Academy has dedicated recognition and praise to all stunning facets of film: from costume designers, directors, actors and actresses, and to films themselves. This year, various films have managed headlines, and a few have even managed to make history.

At The Oscars, excellence in film is acknowledged by a select group of film experts and artists, ranging from directors and producers, all the way to public relations experts. Hundreds of film stars and specialists gather at the Dolby Theatre, previously the Kodak, in Los Angeles, California, to present these awards in order to recognize the achievements of these many artists. While some of the better-known awards are dedicated to categories such as “Best Actress” and “Best Picture”, Oscars are also presented to categories like “Costume Design” and “Original Score”. On Sunday night, arguably one of the most momentous Oscars ceremonies took place—with a few films establishing landmarks in the industry. However, one film, in particular, seemed to stand out especially.

The vibrant and heavily detail-oriented film *Sinners* has not only made a vastly notable impression among viewers, but it has also made history. With 16 Oscar nominations, the film has officially received the most nominations in Oscar history, surpassing the record of 14 previously set by films “All About Eve,” “La La Land,” and “Titanic.” The film is centered around the significance of black culture and history, as well as the true meaning behind societal standards and race differentiations. The film made over \$369 million across box offices worldwide, creating a significant impact. Specifically domestically, its mark can be seen, seeing as the film follows a meaningful and symbolic history with the growth of our nation, and especially as the film highlights the atrocities and cruelties that emerged throughout the timeline of the United States. In addition to all of this, the film produced a win in the category for cinematography, with Autumn Durald Arkapaw becoming the first woman to ever win the Oscar in this specific category. In her acceptance speech, Arkapaw proceeded to

invite all of the women in the audience to stand up, where she thereafter said, “I don’t get here without you guys–” one of the many highlights from the night.

Seeing as there exist so many categories and so many Oscars to award, here’s a brief rundown. Winning for Best Actor, Michael B. Jordan takes it for his performance as The Twins, Smoke and Stack, from “Sinners.” For best actress, Jessie Buckley won the Oscar for her role as Agnes Shakespeare in the film “Hamnet.” Concerning best supporting actor and actress, Sean Penn took the former for his role in “One Battle After Another.” And for the latter, Amy Madigan took home her Oscar for her performance as Gladys Lilly in the film “Weapons.” The major Oscar of Best Picture was awarded to a film concerning a chase both metaphorical and literal, titled “One Battle After Another.” Numerous awards were designated to several other major movies, such as Guillermo Del Toro’s “Frankenstein”, James Cameron’s third film in the “Avatar” franchise, “Fire and Ash”, and Joseph Kosinski’s “F1.”

All-in-all, The Oscars are composed of a vast collective of people, artistry, and ideas assembling together to truly comprehend and appreciate the beauty of film, from the semblances of concepts, all the way to the completed product being broadcasted on thousands of screens across the globe. In going to the movies, and even in just continuing to contribute to the industry, we’re all aiding in keeping an intricate and mesmerizing art alive. No matter how dying, or uninteresting, or unappetizing, or even how boring a piece may be considered to be, the art will remain ever present. Whether it be through a laugh shared in murmurs across a room, or through a tear shed at the feeling of cinema itself, art will continue to live on– not merely through this shared acknowledgement, but through us.