

Marie-Theres Tschurlovits
8.B
2000/2001

Special Topic in English

Attraction And Glamour Of Film Awards



Examiner: Prof. Hugo Kastner

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1. THE REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS TOPIC

At the beginning I wanted to write my special topic about Agatha Christie, about her books and her life. But I realized that this topic was not the right one for me, because I have read one or two books of her, but I knew less about her life. I was not interested in reading the whole biography, but without that, it would have become a bad work. But I had no idea what topic to choose instead of Agatha Christie. But Prof. Kastner gave me the hint, that writing about film awards could be very interesting. In fact I know more about films than about Agatha Christie. Some of the films I mentioned in my special topic I have already seen.

With this topic I also want to show the difference between the "Golden Globe" and the "Academy Award", because some people asked me that question. Nearly everybody knows both Awards but they do not know the difference.

*"The `Golden Globes` are fun – the `Oscars` are business!"
(Warren Beatty)*

2. THE "ACADEMY AWARD", ALSO CALLED "OSCAR"

2.1. The history of the "Academy Award"

The organisation which first handed out the "Academy Award" was "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer" (MGM) and was first planned as a company-controlled union. The brainchild was Louis B. Mayer. At the beginning the bestowal of the "Oscar" was only a side-line. In the mid-'30s Frank Capra, who won three directing "Oscars" in five years, moved the "Oscar" out of the union business into a public relations role.

Under the leadership of Louis B. Mayer the idea for an academy of film was born. On January 11, in 1927, there was a meeting between Louis B. Mayer, thirty-six directors and actors at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. As a result of this meeting on March 19, 1927, the "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences" (AMPAS) was founded. The first president was Douglas Fairbanks. Since August 1997 Robert Rehme is the Academy's president.

First the academy occupied a number of rented offices. 1946 it moved to a building in Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, 1975 it moved again. The new address was the Wiltshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills. Now all directors, the administrative offices and all the other staff worked in one building. 1988 the historic Waterworks building in La Cienega Park was converted into the center for Motion Picture Study.

The Academy has mostly been conservative. It does not like radicals who try to push the medium forward. Not one of them ever got a Direction "Oscar". It is also mentioned that the Academy is prejudiced against women filmmakers. Lina Wertmüller and Jane Campion were the only women directors ever been nominated. But comparing the Directors branch to others it is more highbrow.

2.2. The categories of the "Academy Award"

The awards have often changed from the beginning to the awards nowadays. In the first year there were two separate awards for the best motion picture, separate awards for Drama and Comedy Direction and an award for the best Title Writing. But this award disappeared soon. The supporting acting awards were added in 1936. About 1941 Hollywood started to make documentaries for the war and so an award for the best documentary was added. Sometimes a special award was given for a foreign-language film and 1956 an own award was established.

The new colour cinematography also changed the awards. 1939 an award for colour cinematography was added, and "Gone With The Wind" won that price. 1967 the black-and-white "Oscars" for cinematography, costumes and art direction were finally eliminated.

1992 the short film awards were nearly eliminated because short films are not a typical part of theatrical movie going anymore.

There also have been given a number of honorary and special awards, such as the "Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award" for producers, the "Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award" for good work and the "Honorary Academy Award".

2.3. The voting of the "Academy Award"

The voting and the membership changed very often during the first years. The first two years the awards were decided by only a group of five men, the "Central Board Of Judges". After a scandal the voting body grew up to 600 members. 1937 the Academy president Frank Capra opened the voting body to about 10000 members of the major guilds, even if they were members of the Academy or not. The result of that reform was that the "Oscars" were not won because of the voting process, but by manipulation considering public opinion. Today there are about 5000 members, who represent 13 different branches:

- *Actors*
- *Art Directors*
- *Cinematographers*
- *Directors, Executives*
- *Film Editors*
- *Music*
- *Producers*
- *Public Relations*
- *Short Films*
- *Feature Animation*
- *Sound*
- *Visual Effects*
- *Writers*

Now in the nomination process the members vote only for the Best Picture and for the nominees in their own field. The entire membership votes then for all the winners, except for the short film, the documentary and the foreign-films. Often the most showiest people win an award because not all the members are trained in special fields like make-up or sound effects. So not necessarily the most skilful people win the award.

You only can be a member of the Academy if you have achieved a distinction in the arts and sciences of the motion picture. You also have to be invited by the Board of Governors. Someone who wants to become a member needs at least two sponsors, who are members of the branch. There are also "members-at-large". These are engaged in film production but there is no separate branch for their guild. "Members-at-large" have nearly all privileges. "Associate members" are not engaged in motion picture production and do not vote for the "Oscars". "Life members" have all privileges but pay no dues.

At the first "Academy Award's" presentations sometimes the winners were already known before the banquet. The newspapers also got the information about the winners and published them at 11 p.m. on the "Oscar" night. But 1940 the "Los Angeles Times" published the winners already at 8:45 p.m., before the banquet was held. The next year the "sealed-envelope" system was introduced, which remains until today.

Now the voting is conducted by secret votes and tabulated by an impartial firm. The results are not revealed until the presentation of the "Academy Award". Until the famous envelopes are opened nobody except the voters and this firm know who would win the "Oscar". Although for the Academy the filling up of the ballots is a sacred trust it is possible that sometimes a relative or an employee of the official voter fills out the ballot.

2.4. The golden statuette, the "Oscar"

The Academy which was organized in 1927 tried to create an award which should be given for special achievements in motion pictures. It was very important to the Academy to create a trophy, symbolizing the recognition of film achievement. The sculptor George Stanley created the statuette, a "figure of a knight standing on a reel of film, hands gripping a sword". The base of the statuette represented the Academy's five original branches: actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers. Since the first award banquet on May 16th, 1929, through the 71st "Academy Award's" presentation on March 21st, 1999, 2286 statuettes have been presented.



The official name of the "Oscar" statuette is "Academy Award of Merit". A nice story tells that Margaret Herrick said that this statuette looks like her uncle Oscar and so it got the nickname "Oscar". The columnist Sidney Skolsky may have used the name the first time officially. He was happy that the statuette got a name. On the one hand that fact made it easier to write about the statuette, on the other hand a name gave it an identity and made it special. The Academy has used that name officially since the ceremony 1939.

Abb. 1: The
„Oscar“

The "Oscars" were not always made of an alloy called Britannium. The first fifteen statuettes were made of gold-plated solid bronze. But then they decided to change the material and began to use an alloy called Britannium because it was easier to give the "Oscar" its smooth finish. During the Second World War there was a metal shortage and so the statuettes were made of plaster. But all prize-winners of that time got metal awards after the war was finished.

Sometimes the "Oscar" has a different surface. A honorary Oscar can be a life membership, a scroll, a medal or a different designed trophy. Walt Disney, for example, received an "Oscar" and seven miniature statuettes for his famous film "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs". The "Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award" is a solid bronze head of Thalberg.

The "Oscar" itself has not been altered since his creation 1929. It is still 13 ½ inches tall, weighs 8 ½ pounds and the surface remained the same.

2.5. The "Academy Award's" Presentation

The nominations for the "Oscars" are announced in early February. In late March or April the "Oscars" are given. The presentation of the "Oscars" is the most famous activity of the Academy. Since 1929 there are presentations of the "Oscars". The last presentation was on March 25th, 2001 at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium, and was the 73rd annual "Oscar" presentation.

The first "Oscar" was handed out on May 16th 1929 when the movies had just begun to talk. The first presentation was held during a banquet in the Blossom Room of the "Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel". The ceremony was attended by 250 people and the price of a ticket came to \$10.

In March this year, 2001, Kathy Bates, the speaker of the "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences", published the nominees of the "Academy Award 2001". The favourites of this "Oscar" presentation were:

- "*Gladiator*" with twelve nominations
- "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*" with ten nominations
- "*Chocolat*", "*Erin Brockovich*" and "*Traffic*", all with five nominations.

Beside the presentation of the most famous film award of the world the "Oscar's" presentation is important for publicity and for stimulating the business.

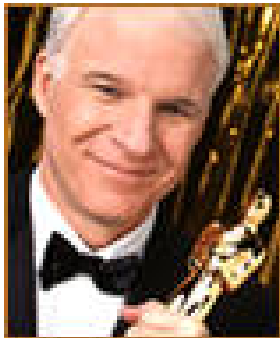


Abb. 2: Steve
Martin, the host

There are some advantages to be nominated. For an actor it is good if he played someone with a handicap. For an actress an ordinary person and looking your age is an advantage. Being English is also useful. But the best way to win an "Oscar" is to be around for a while and to be nominated before. A lot of actors winners had been nominated previously.

And then the day X came: on the sunny 25th March 2001 the "73rd Annual Academy Award" presentation happened. The presentation began with a live transfer from the International Space Station Alpha. It should symbolize that this is a real "Odyssey 2001" and there are no decorations or actors. Everyone of the crew of that space station was a film-fan and watched the "Oscar presentation" from over 235 miles above the earth. Then they presented a blind passenger, a paper picture of Steve Martin, who should be the host of that "Oscar" night. The actor Steve Martin is 55 years old and it was the first time that he presented the "Oscar".

First he began with a few more or less funny jokes and thanked the crew of cosmonauts. He mentioned that he is only allowed to present the "Oscar" because Billy Crystal is not in town at the moment. This year the Academy presented 27 "Oscars", besides three "Oscars" of honorary, one of them for the life-work of Dino de Laurentiis.

2.5.1. Best motion picture of the year

Michael Douglas, who already owns "Oscars" for the best actor in "Wall Street" and as producer of "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", presented the award for the best motion picture of the year. The three producers of "Gladiator" accepted that award. Douglas Wick thanked Ridley Scott for his indefatigable perfectionism. He also said that for the film Russell Crowe's strongly face and showing the human side of the hero was very important. Then he wished everybody who worked on this picture "strength and honour".



Abb. 3: The producers
Wick, Franzoni and Lustig

- "*Chocolat*" (David Brown, Kit Golden, Leslie Holleran, producers)
- "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*" (Bill Kong, Hsu Li Kong, Ang Lee, producers)

- *"Erin Brockovich"* (Danny DeVito, Michael Shamberg, Stacey Sher, producers)
- ***"Gladiator"* (Douglas Wick, David Franzoni, Branko Lustig, producers)**
- *"Traffic"* (Edward Zwick, Marshall Herskovitz, Laura Bickford, producers)

2.5.2. Performance by an actress in a leading role

Kevin Spacey who the "Oscar" for the best actor in "American Beauty" last year, presented the award for the best performance by an actress in a leading role. He also already owns an "Oscar" for the supporting role in "The Usual Suspects". He thanked Judy Dench that she brought him his smoking and then he said that she was the most stylish delivery service he ever had. After that he read out the nominees for this award:

- Joan Allen in *"The Contender"*
- Juliette Binoche in *"Chocolat"*
- Ellen Burstyn in *"Requiem for a dream"*
- Laura Linney in *"You can count on me"*: This film is one of the few "little" films which is nominated.
- **Julia Roberts in *"Erin Brockovich"***: The 33-year-old Julia Roberts, who is now the highest paid actress of Hollywood, won this award. Until then Julia was already nominated for "Steel Magnolias" and 1990 for "Pretty Woman", a nice modern fairy tale, which was also her breakthrough. The audience loves Julia acting in love comedies such as: "My Best Friend's Wedding", "Notting Hill" or the "Runaway Bride".



Abb. 4: Julia Roberts

Julia Roberts' speech was a little bit hysterical. She said that she was very happy and that this was an amazing experience, in between she spoke nervously about her dress. Then she thanked Danny De Vito, Steven Soderbergh, all the other actors who also acted in this film and Albert Finney, who became a friend. She ended with the words that she "loves the world".

The award for the performance by an actress in a leading role was the only award the picture *"Erin Brockovich"*, nominated in five categories, got.

2.5.3. Performance by an actress in a supporting role



Abb. 5: Marcia Gay
Harden

Nicolas Cage, who already owns an "Oscar" for "Leaving Las Vegas" read out the nominees for the actresses in a supporting role:

- Judy Dench in *"Chocolat"*
- **Marcia Gay Harden in *"Pollock"***
- Kate Hudson in *"Almost Famous"*
- Frances McDormand in *"Almost Famous"*
- Julie Walters in *"Billy Elliot"*

The winner of this award was Marcia Gay Harden, who was nominated the first time, for her performance in Ed Harris' film *"Pollock"*. Marcia Gay Harden was born 1959 and acted in films such as "Meet Joe Black" or "Space Cowboys". Her part in *"Pollock"* was the most fastidious she had ever played. She

thanked the Academy, her family, the agents and all who help in this crazy business. She also thanked the director Ed Harris, because he transferred his passion for that film on her. To her Ed Harris is a very brave director and a more brave actor.

2.5.4. Performance by an actor in a leading role

Hillary Swank, who already has an "Oscar" for "Boys don't cry", presented the award for the best actor in a leading role. But first she thanked her father for his support because she forgot to thank him the last time. The nominees for this category were:

- Javier Bardem in "*Before Night Falls*"
- **Russell Crowe in "*Gladiator*"**
- Tom Hanks in "*Cast Away*"
- Ed Harris in "*Pollock*"
- Geoffrey Rush in "*Quills*"



Abb. 6: Russell Crowe

The winner, Russell Crowe, was born in 1964 in New Zealand but later he moved to Australia. He acted in films such as "Virtuosity" and "L.A. Confidential". For "The Insider" he already got an "Oscar" nomination for best actor in a leading role. Russell Crowe dedicated his award his grandfather, a cinematograph in the 2nd World War, and to his uncle, who died at the age of 66. He also thanked his parents and Ridley Scott, the director. Then he thanked the actors and all the others who worked with him on "Gladiator", coming from 22 different countries. In the end he mentioned that a dream, such as becoming a film star, is possible to come true.

2.5.5. Performance by an actor in a supporting role



Abb. 7: Benicio Del Toro

This award was presented by Angelina Jolie, Jon Voight's daughter, who got the "Oscar" for the best actress for her part in "Girl Interrupted" last year. The nominees were:

- Jeff Bridges in "*The Contender*"
- Willem Dafoe in "*Shadow of the Vampire*"
- **Benicio Del Toro in "*Traffic*"**
- Albert Finney in "*Erin Brockovich*"
- Joaquin Phoenix in "*Gladiator*"

And the "Oscar" went to Benicio del Toro, who was nominated for the first time for an "Oscar". He was born in Sancture, Puerto Rico, in 1967. But he grew up in Pennsylvania and later he attended the University of California at San Diego. His motion picture credits include "*The Usual Suspects*" and "*Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas*". At the moment he can be seen in "*Snatch*". Del Toro had already won the "Golden Globe" for "*Traffic*". In his speech he thanked the members of the Academy and director Steven Soderbergh. He dedicated this award to the people of two the towns, where the film was made.

2.5.6. Achievement in music in connection with motion pictures (Original song)

Jennifer Lopez presented the Award for the best original song. The nominees were the following:

- "A Fool In Love", *Meet The Parents*
- "I've Seen It All", *Dancer In The Dark*
- "A Love Before Time", *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*
- "My Funny Friend And Me", *The Emperor's New Groove*
- **"Things Have Changed", *Wonder Boys***

The winner of this award was Bob Dylan for his song "Things Have Changed" from the film "Wonder Boys". Bob Dylan was not able to join the "Academy Award's" presentation because he was in the middle of a concert tour and stayed in Sydney that time. But he performed his song there and it was transmitted via satellite. During his life he has published 43 albums and over 500 songs and still plays in live concerts.

Bob Dylan said that it was very amazing to win this award. He thanked Curtis Hanson, who had persuaded him to write that song, and "Columbia Records", who have supported him all the years. Bob Dylan also thanked his family, his friends and the Academy, which presented him a price for a song, which is quite honest and does not ignore the human nature.

2.5.7. Achievement in direction

Beside Ang Lee, a Taiwanese director, who is nominated for the best director for "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*", there are also Stephen Daldry ("*Billy Elliot*"), Ridley Scott ("*Gladiator*") and Steven Soderbergh. Steven Soderbergh's films "*Traffic*" and "*Erin Brockovich*" are both nominated for the achievement in directing and for the Oscar for the best motion picture of the year 2001!

The winner of this award was **Steven Soderbergh**. Including "Erin Brockovich" he has been nominated three times. He made his debut with "Sex, Lies, And Videotape" in 1989 and has been nominated for the writing of an original screenplay. After that he directed more unapproachable films like "Kafka". But 1998 he found the way to the mainstream films with "Out Of Sight".



Abb. 8: Steven Soderbergh

In his speech he thanked all people who are creative in some way. For him the world would be unliveable without art.

2.5.8. Honorary Awards

Honorary Academy Award: This award is for "extraordinary distinction in Lifetime achievement, exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences, or for outstanding service to the Academy". It is not given every year, but the last year there was no Honorary Academy Award presented was in 1987. This award, which is also an "Oscar" statuette, is given to honour a filmmaker for whom there is no own category, e.g. a choreographer, an animator, an organisation or a company. The Honorary Academy Award is no real price for lifetime achievement, but often it is given for lifework.

Dustin Hoffman, who has already won two "Oscars" for "Rain Man" and "Kramer vs. Kramer" presented the Honorary Academy Award. The new owner of the Honorary Academy Award is *Jack Cardiff*, an 86 year-old



Abb. 9: Jack Cardiff

cinematograph, who is still filming. That was the first time that a cinematograph got this award! Four times he was nominated for the "Oscar" and 1947 he won an "Oscar" for "Black Narcissus". His career began at the age of four as a child-actor. But ten years later he changed his position and began cinematography. Cardiff's own style, full of colours and light, was honoured internationally. A big help for his work was painting. If there was a set where it seemed impossible to film they called Jack Cardiff to do it. His work includes the following films: "The Diary Of Anne Frank", "The Vikings", "Death On The Nile" and "Conan The Destroyer".

In his speech first he mentioned whether this was a dream, because he is often dreaming when he is filming. But then he said that he knows that this was not a dream. Jack Cardiff said that over seventy years of building wings and filming was well used time. He thanked the Academy and everyone being on the set.

Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award: This Award is given to "creative producers whose bodies of work reflect a consistently high quality of motion picture production."

Thalberg became the head of the production at "Universal Film Manufacturing Co." at the age of twenty. Three years later he became the vice president and head of production for Louis B. Mayer. In "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer" (MGM), where Mayer's production became one year later part of, he also had a very high position. 1936 Thalberg died, very young, at the age of 37. The following year the Academy added the "Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award".

Sir Anthony Hopkins, who owns two "Oscars" for the films "The Silence Of The Lambs" and "The Remains Of The Day", presented the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award. The producer *Dino De Laurentiis* got this award for his lifework. De Laurentiis has only got one "Oscar", 1956 for his film "La Strada", the first film in the category "Best foreign language film".

Dino De Laurentiis, born in Naples, Italy, is one of the most influential independent producers of the brand. He began as an actor but at the age of 19 he started producing films. After the second world war he was one of the founders of the new Italian film. De Laurentiis produced a lot of monumental films such as "The Bible", "Waterloo" and "Barabbas". After his move to the United States of America he produced films like "Three Days Of The Condor", "The Serpent's Egg" and "Ragtime". During his career De Laurentiis took part in over 600 movies. His motto was and still is "cuore, cervello, coraggio" which means "heart, brain, courage". His most recent



Abb. 10: Irving
G. Thalberg
Memorial



Abb. 11: Dino De
Laurentiis

movies are "Hannibal", the continuation of "The Silence Of The Lambs" with Sir Anthony Hopkins who handed him over the award, and "U-571".

Dino De Laurentiis embraced Hopkins and said that he thought him a fantastic actor and a wonderful person. He also thanked the "Board of governors" and the five most important women in his life, his wife and his four daughters. He said that he had been very lucky and that he congratulates the new Italian film getting new talents and fresh ideas.

Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award: This award has the form of an "Oscar" statuette. On a special meeting of the Board of Governors the nominations were made. There are two secret ballots, and if a nominee gets a vote of over two-thirds, he will get the award. This award is for an "individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry".

3. THE "GOLDEN GLOBE"

3.1. The history of the "Golden Globe"



Abb. 12: The
"Golden Globe"

The "Golden Globe" is a creation of the "Hollywood Foreign Press Association" (HFPA). They follow the "Oscar" in the main categories but there are more acting awards than at the "Oscar". There are acting awards in drama and in comedy or musical. There are also awards for debuts and longevity. The membership is with about 85 voters much smaller than the "Oscar's".

The "Golden Globe" is also some sort of predictor and possible influencer of the "Academy Award". Often people, who already received a "Golden Globe", have more chances to get an "Oscar".

The first "Golden Globe" presentation 1944 was an informal ceremony at the "20th century Fox Studio". At the beginning the award was in the form of a scroll. The following year the surface of the award changed. The honourees got a "Golden Globe", a golden image of the globe encircled with a strip of motion picture film. 1952 the "Cecil B. deMille Award", for outstanding contributions to the entertainment field, was introduced.

1955 awards for achievements in television were added. In opposite of the "Academy Award" the "Golden Globe" gives prizes for motion pictures and for television. Now they present 24 awards, thirteen for motion pictures and eleven for television achievements. Another difference is that there are two awards for the best English-language film, one for drama and another one for comedy or musical. Beside the production of major studio pictures, often independent films won the awards, too.

In 1981 there was a big scandal. Pia Zandorra won the award after her then-husband had nearly invited the entire membership to Las Vegas. Many people wondered if the "Hollywood Foreign Press Association" would survive that scandal. But they did. They eliminated the more questionable awards and made sure that the members had actually seen the film before they vote. Now they do more for being serious than the Academy does.

But the main reason for the "Golden Globe's" rise after that scandal is that they're given now when the Academy-members receive their ballots in late January.

The "Golden Globe" is mostly interested in stars because the journalists like to have a lot of stars. The members like stars who cooperate and who talk to the journalists. In the opposite of the "Academy Award's" presentation, the "Golden Globe" Award's evening is spontaneous. For the stars who are there, the presentation is more a show than a ceremony:

"It's the most fun because it's not uptight...My memory of both my Golden Globe wins is about having a great time. It feels more like a party than a very formal event which I really like about it" (Jodie Foster)

3.2. The "Golden Globe" Winners

At the Golden Globe presentation 2001 was everyone who is famous and wants to be in the scene. The art is the second important thing at the "Golden Globe". It is more important that you see famous people and that they see you. For George Clooney, nominated for *"O brother, where are thou?"*, the "Golden Globe" means fun and a rare event. The young married couple Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas were both nominated. Catherine Z. Jones was nominated for "Traffic" for the best performance in a supporting role. Michael Douglas was nominated for the best actor in a drama for *"Wonder Boys"*. But they mentioned that is more important to them, that they were there as a couple, and not for winning the award.

3.2.1. Best motion picture – drama

Liz Taylor was the person who should congratulate the winner of this award. But it seemed that she had not rehearsed the ceremony of presenting this award. First she said that she wanted to read out the nominees for the award for the best motion picture. But she opened the envelope. Then she stopped and said that she should read it out from the teleprompter. Nominated for the best motion picture – drama were the following:

- *"Billy Elliot"*
- *"Erin Brockovich"*
- ***"Gladiator"***
- *"Sunshine"*
- *"Traffic"*
- *"Wonder boys"*

After that she was allowed to open the envelope. First she did not find the winner on the paper, but then she cried: *"Gladiator"*.

3.2.2. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture – drama



Abb. 12:
Julia

For the award for the best performance by an actress in a motion picture – drama were nominated:

- Joan Allen, *"The Contender"*
- Björk, *"Dancer In The Dark"*
- Ellen Burstyn, *"Requiem For A Dream"*
- Laura Linney, *"You Can Count On Me"*
- **Julia Roberts, *"Erin Brockovich"***

Julia Roberts won the "Golden Globe" for her great performance in *"Erin Brockovich"*. Erin Brockovich, a single mother, and also a sexy woman with a big heart, discovers a big environment catastrophe. After that she tries to get the justice for the citizens of the little town involved in this scandal. The film was made after a true story.

Julia Roberts mentioned in her speech that the real Erin is a woman who showed us that one person is able to change something in the world.

3.2.3. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture – drama

Nominated for the award for the best performance by an actor in a motion picture – drama were the following:

- Javier Bardem, "*Before Night Falls*"
- Russell Crowe, "*Gladiator*"
- Michael Douglas, "*Wonder Boys*"
- **Tom Hanks, "*Cast Away*"**
- Geoffrey Rush, "*Quills*"

The winner of that award was Tom Hanks for his "Robinson Crusoe"-story "*Cast Away*". In this film he shipwrecks on an island and nobody is there, only him and a volleyball. One day he decides to leave the island. He does not want to be alone on it anymore. He rather wants to be dead.



Abb. 14:
Tom Hanks

3.2.4. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture – musical or comedy

For the award for the best performance by an actress in a motion picture – musical or comedy were nominated:



Abb. 15: Rene
Zellweger

musical or comedy were nominated:

- Juliette Binoche, "*Chocolat*"
- Brenda Blethyn, "*Saving Grace*"
- Sandra Bullock, "*Miss Congeniality*"
- Tracey Ullman, "*Small Time Crooks*"
- **Rene Zellweger, "*Nurse Betty*"**

Hugh Grant had to announce the winner of this award, Rene Zellweger. But Rene was not there. Hugh Grant was joking that she was maybe lying drunk under the table. In the last moment Rene Zellweger returned from the ladies room and received the award.

3.2.5. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture – musical or comedy

Nominated for the award for the best performance by an actor in a motion picture – musical or comedy were the following:

- Jim Carrey, "*The Grinch*"
- **George Clooney, "*O Brother, Where Are Thou?*"**
- John Cusack, "*High Fidelity*"
- Robert De Niro, "*Meet The Parents*"
- Mel Gibson, "*What Women Want*"

The winner of that category was George Clooney. In the motion picture "*O Brother, Where Are Thou?*" he plays a parody of Odysseus. He thanked the Coen-Brothers, and that he could work together with them.



Abb. 16:
George
Clooney,
Nicole Kidman

3.2.6. Best original song – motion picture

For the award for the best original song – motion picture were nominated:

- "I've Seen It All", *Dancer In The Dark*
- "My Funny Friend And Me", *The Emperor's New Groove*
- "One In A Million", *Miss Congeniality*
- **"Things Have Changed", *Wonder Boys***

➤ "When You Came Back To Me Again", *Frequency*

The winner of this award was Bob Dylan, who composed the song "Things Have Changed" in *Wonder Boys*. For this song he got standing ovations at the "Golden Globe". He thanked the director, his family, his band and the firm producing the records.

3.2.7. Cecil B. deMille Award



Abb. 13: Al
Pacino

The HFPA wanted to create a special award for outstanding contributions in entertainment. In their opinion the award should have the name of a internationally recognized and respected person. The HFPA chose the born showman Cecil B. deMille. 1952 he got the new award himself. The following year Walt Disney got the Cecil B. deMille Award.

The HPFA board of directors chooses and presents the winner of this award. They had done it every year since 1952 except in 1976. Some well known persons who received this award were: Alfred Hitchcock, Sophia Loren, Sean Connery and Barbra Streisand.

2001 Al Pacino got the Cecil B. deMille Award for the work of his lifetime. He said that he was very lucky to get this award and that he had a job which is real fun for him. That is seldom nowadays and he felt privileged.

4. THE FILMS, WHICH 2001 WON THE MOST AWARDS

GLADIATOR: The monumental picture "*Gladiator*" was nominated in twelve categories for the "Oscar". Russell Crowe was nominated for the best actor, Ridley Scott for the best director and also Joaquin Phoenix. For winning the Awards for the "Performance by an actor in a leading role", "Achievement in costume design", "Best motion picture of the year", "Achievement in sound" and the "Achievement in visual effects", *Gladiator* was the winner of the 73rd annual "Academy Award".



Abb. 18: "Gladiator"

For the "Golden Globe" the picture was nominated in five categories, and finally won two awards: "Best motion picture – drama", "Best original score – motion picture".

Story: A Roman emperor dies and names the powerful general Maximus (Russell Crowe) as his heir, instead of his own son, because in his opinion Maximus will be a better successor. The disregarded and jealous son, Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix), betrays general Maximus, kills his family and conquers the throne. Maximus becomes a gladiator and because of his combat knowledge he soon becomes the best warrior they have.

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON: This costume-film film was nominated for the "Academy Award" for the best picture and also for the best foreign language film. This film was taken in Chinese language. All together "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*" was nominated in ten categories. Very unusual for the Academy to nominate a "Non-Hollywood" picture that way. It is an equal situation to two years before, as "*La vita é bella*" was nominated for best picture and best foreign language picture. In the very end "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*" won four of the Awards:



Abb. 19: "Crouching
Tiger, Hidden Dragon"

"Achievement in art direction", "Achievement in cinematography", "Best foreign language film of the year" and the "Achievement in music in connection with motion pictures".

At the "Golden Globe" this picture got three nominations and received two awards: "Best foreign language film", "Best director – motion picture".

Story: "*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*" plays in the 19th century. The main themes about legendary warriors, intrigues, love and betrayal. The legendary Chinese sword-fighter Li Mu Bai (Chow Yun-Fat) does not want to fight anymore, but the last mission he has to do is to avenge his teacher. Li Mu Bai tells his friend Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh) to bring a legendary sword to Peking. But the sword has been stolen...

TRAFFIC: This film was nominated in five categories and won nearly all "Oscars" it was nominated for. "*Traffic*" won four "Oscars": "Performance by an actor in a supporting role", "Achievement in directing", "Achievement in film editing" and "Screenplay based on material previously produced or published".

Although "*Traffic*" was nominated in five categories it won only two "Golden Globes": "Best performance by an actor in a supporting role in a motion picture", "Best screenplay – motion picture".



Abb. 20: "Traffic"

Story: "*Traffic*" is a film about drugs and fighting against drugs. There are three interwoven storylines. Judge Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas) gets the order from the president of the United States of America to lead the fight against drugs and drug smuggling. He works together with the Mexican authority. While he is working on that project his own daughter becomes dependent on drugs and starts working as a prostitute. The Mexican policeman Javier Rodriguez (Benicio Del Toro) tries to resist corruption. The pregnant woman Helena Ayala (Catherine Zeta Jones) comes to know that her recently arrested husband Carlos Ayala is one of the great drug dealers. Because she wants to free her husband and not want to give up her lifestyle she decides to do her husband's criminal work for him. In the very end Robert Wakefield finds out that it is impossible to fight against drugs and the people behind them. He realizes that the best protection is to solve the problems of the family to prevent drug taking.

Steven Soderbergh filmed this story with the camera on his shoulders and gave the audience the feeling to be involved in the happening.

ERIN BROCKOVICH: Such as "*Chocolat*" and "*Traffic*" this film was nominated in five categories. The only award this film won was for the best performance by an actress in a motion picture by Julia Roberts, who received her first "Oscar".

This picture won also at the "Golden Globe" only one award, and again for the "best performance by an actress in a motion picture – drama". Julia Roberts won both awards this year.



Abb. 21: "Erin Brockovic"

Story: This film was made after a true story. Erin Brockovich, a secretary in a lawyer's office, finds documents about a disastrous environmental catastrophe. Although she has no special education for law she takes an interest in this problem. She works very hard and finally she wins the case.

CHOCOLAT: Lasse Hallström's picture which was nominated in five categories was the big loser of this "Academy Award's presentation". This film won no award.

Also at the "Golden Globe's" presentation "Chocolat", which was nominated in four categories won no award.



Story: The film plays in a little village in France in 1959. Vianne Rocher (Juliette Binoche) moves in this village and opens a chocolat shop – during the period of fasting. For the citizens of that little village who are very moral this is a scandal. Besides that Vianne likes the gypsies who are living there, in particular Roux (Johnny Depp). Vianne has to fight against ignorance and lack of understanding.

Abb. 22: "Chocolat"

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