

Academy of Motion Picture
Arts and Sciences
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HUGH JACKMAN TO HOST 81ST ACADEMY AWARDS®

BEVERLY HILLS, CA — Hugh Jackman will host the 81st Academy Awards® telecast, producer Laurence Mark and executive producer Bill

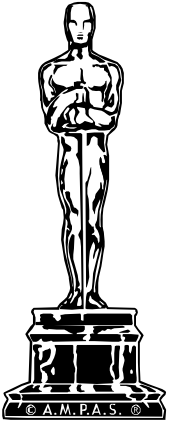
Condon announced today. This will be Jackman's first time center stage at the Oscar show, although he has previously been a presenter.

"Hugh Jackman is a consummate entertainer and an internationally renowned movie star," said Mark and Condon in a joint statement. "He also has style, elegance and a sense of occasion. Hugh is the ideal choice to host a celebration of the year's movies – and to have fun doing it."

Jackman stars in the current release "Australia," directed by Baz Luhrmann. He will next be seen in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," having portrayed the title character in the previous three smash-hit "X-Men" movies. His other film credits include "The Prestige," "Flushed Away," "The Fountain," "Happy Feet," "Van Helsing," "Kate & Leopold" and "Swordfish."

A native of Australia, Jackman won the 2004 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance in "The Boy from Oz." He has served as host of the Tony Awards ceremony and won a 2005 Emmy for that assignment.

Jackman's other stage credits include "Carousel," "Oklahoma!" "Sunset Boulevard" and "Beauty and the Beast."



81st Annual Academy Awards®

News

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Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2008 will be presented on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center, and televised live by the ABC Television Network. The Oscar presentation also will be televised live in more than 200 countries worldwide.

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