

ACADEMY AWARDS[®] VOTING AND SPECIAL AWARDS

Nomination ballots were mailed by the Academy on December 26, 2008, and members will have until 5 p.m. on January 12, 2009, to return their ballots to PricewaterhouseCoopers, the international accounting firm.

Secrecy is strictly maintained by PricewaterhouseCoopers; the results of nomination balloting will be revealed to the assembled press and the world at 5:30 a.m. on January 22 at the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills. Final ballots will be mailed January 28 and members will have 20 days to return them. After ballots are tabulated, only two partners of the accounting firm will know the results until the famous envelopes are opened on stage during the Academy Awards presentation at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center[®] on February 22.

Because the Academy numbers among its members the most gifted and skilled artists and craftsmen in the motion picture world, its Awards stand alone as symbols of superior achievement.

Academy Awards will be presented for outstanding film achievements of 2008 in up to 24 competitive categories.

Up to five nominations will be made in most categories, with balloting for these nominations restricted to members of the Academy branch concerned; only actors, for instance, determine the nominees in the acting categories. Nominations in the Foreign Language Film category are made by a 30-person committee, which views 9 films: that have been short-listed by a large screening group composed of members from all branches and 3 selected by the Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee.

Best Picture nominations and final winners in most categories are determined by vote of the entire membership.

In addition to the regular annual awards determined by vote of the membership, the Academy's Board of Governors is empowered to confer Scientific and Technical Awards, Honorary Awards, Special Achievement Awards and other special honors. Among these is the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, a bronze bust of the legendary producer, which is given to "a creative producer whose body of work reflects a consistently high quality of motion picture production." It is considered the highest accolade a producer can receive.

The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar statuette, is given to "an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry." The Gordon E. Sawyer Award, also an Oscar statuette, is given to "an individual in the motion picture industry whose technological contributions have brought credit to the industry." The Thalberg, Hersholt and Sawyer Awards are not necessarily given annually; each is awarded only when, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, a thoroughly deserving recipient emerges.

At the 81st Academy Awards, on February 22, 2009, Jerry Lewis will be presented with the Hersholt Award. In addition, this year's recipient of the Sawyer Award will be Ed Catmull. The statuette will be presented at the Scientific and Technical Awards on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

The Board of Governors confers Scientific and Technical Awards after receiving recommendations from a committee consisting of some of the most eminent scientists and technicians in the industry. These awards recognize outstanding innovations in

filmmaking equipment and technique – innovations that have proven themselves over time, not simply in connection with one particular motion picture.

Honorary Awards may be given for outstanding achievements not otherwise recognized within the category structure of the Academy Awards. They may be given for extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement, for exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences or for outstanding service to the Academy. They have been awarded, for example, to Sidney Poitier “in recognition of his remarkable accomplishments as an artist and a human being,” to choreographer Michael Kidd for his lifetime of work, and to writer Ernest Lehman in appreciation of his body of work.

Special Achievement Awards, conferred by the Board of Governors, may be given for achievements that make an exceptional contribution to the motion pictures for which they were created, but for which there is no annual award category. These awards have been given, for example, to Benjamin Burt, Jr. for the creation of the alien, creature and robot voices in “Star Wars” (1977) and to John Lasseter for his leadership of the Pixar team that created the first feature-length computer-animated film, “Toy Story” (1995). These awards are rare. Lasseter’s, over a decade ago, was the most recently given.

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