

THE HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is a professional honorary organization composed of over 6,500 filmmakers whose achievements have placed them at the top of their craft.

The purposes of the Academy are to advance the arts and sciences of motion pictures; foster cooperation among creative leaders for cultural, educational and technological progress; recognize outstanding achievements; cooperate on technical research and improvement of methods and equipment; provide a common forum and meeting ground for various film-related crafts; represent the viewpoint of actual creators of the motion picture; and foster educational activities between the professional community and the public.

The Academy's field of activity does not include economic, labor or political matters.

The Academy was organized in May 1927 as a nonprofit corporation. Its original 36 members included production executives and film luminaries of the time.

Douglas Fairbanks Sr. was the first president, followed by William de Mille, M.C. Levee, Conrad Nagel, J. Theodore Reed, Frank Lloyd, Frank Capra, Walter Wanger, Bette Davis, Jean Hersholt, Charles Brackett, George Seaton, George Stevens, B.B. Kahane, Valentine Davies, Wendell Corey, Arthur Freed, Gregory Peck, Daniel Taradash, Walter Mirisch, Howard W. Koch, Fay Kanin, Gene Allen, Robert E. Wise, Richard Kahn, Karl Malden, Arthur Hiller, Robert Rehme, Frank Pierson and Sid Ganis, who has been president since August 2005.

From its founding until 1946, when it moved into a building at 9038 Melrose Avenue in Hollywood, the Academy occupied a number of rented offices. In December of 1975, the Academy dedicated a seven-story headquarters at 8949 Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills. For the first time in the organization's history, its administrative offices, the *Academy Players Directory*, the Margaret Herrick Library, the Samuel Goldwyn Theater and other facilities were all located under one roof.

Within a decade, however, the rapid growth of the holdings of both the Margaret Herrick Library and the Academy Film Archive necessitated the search for a new, separate facility. In 1988 a 55-year lease was arranged with the City of Beverly Hills for the conversion of its historic Waterworks building in La Cienega Park into the new home of the Academy's library and film archive, to be called the Center for Motion Picture Study. The library and film archive occupied the structure in 1991, but by 1997 the crush of growing collections resulted once more in the need for additional off-site storage. In May of 2001 the Academy bought the former Don Lee-Mutual Broadcasting studios on Vine Street in Hollywood and began converting them into the new home of the Academy Film Archive and the *Academy Players Directory*. In 2006 the *Academy Players Directory* published its final edition, and the *Directory* was sold to a private concern. The building currently houses offices for the Academy Film Archive, the Academy's Science and Technology Council, the Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting program, the financial grants programs and the planning staff for the proposed Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, as well as four temperature- and humidity-controlled vaults (three for film, one for photos and documents) and the 286-seat Linwood Dunn Theater.

During the Academy's 75th anniversary celebration in 2002, the La Cienega Park building was designated the Fairbanks Center for Motion Picture Study in honor of the Academy's first president, and the building on Vine Street was dedicated as the Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study in honor of Academy co-founder (and Fairbanks' wife) Mary Pickford.

Membership in the Academy is by invitation of the Board of Governors and is limited to those who have distinguished themselves in the arts and sciences of motion pictures. The criteria for admittance include: a body of work in motion pictures that reflects the high standards of the Academy, an achievement of unique distinction, or the making of an outstanding contribution to the film arts or sciences.

Members represent 15 general areas – actors, animators and short film makers, art directors and costume designers, cinematographers, composers and songwriters, documentary filmmakers, directors, executives, film editors, makeup artists and hairstylists, producers, public relations specialists, sound technicians, visual effects experts and writers.

A candidate for membership in the Academy is normally sponsored by at least two members of the branch for which the person may qualify. Each proposed member must first receive the favorable endorsement of the appropriate branch executive committee before his or her name is submitted to the Board of Governors for its approval. Individuals nominated for Academy Awards[®] who are not already members of the Academy are considered for membership without the need for sponsors.

The Board of Governors also may invite individuals to become members-at-large and associate members. Members-at-large are those engaged in motion picture production, but for whose craft there is no separate branch. They have all the

privileges of branch membership except for representation on the Board. Associate members are those closely allied to the industry but not actively engaged in motion picture production. They are not represented on the Board and do not vote on Academy Awards.

Corporate management, control and general policies are administered by the Board of Governors. This group consists of representatives from each of the 15 Academy branches. All branches are represented on the Board by three governors except the Makeup Branch, created in 2006, which has one representative. Governors are elected for three-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms before taking a one-year mandatory break.

Officers are elected from among the governors for one-year terms. The elected positions are president, first vice president, two vice presidents, treasurer and secretary. Officers may serve up to four consecutive one-year terms in the same office.

The Board of Governors appoints an executive director to supervise the administrative activities of the Academy. Executive Director Bruce Davis and his staff of over 200 currently conduct the Academy's day-to-day business.

Membership dues, program admission charges, rental of Academy theaters to film companies for press previews and other special screenings, and the sale of special publications all contribute to the Academy's operating revenue. The bulk of the revenue, however, comes from the sale of broadcast rights for the annual Academy Awards presentation.

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