

## **ACADEMY AWARDS<sup>®</sup> VOTING AND SPECIAL AWARDS**

The Academy mailed nominations ballots on December 27, 2011, and members will have until 5 p.m. on January 13, 2012, to return their ballots to PricewaterhouseCoopers, the international accounting firm.

Secrecy is strictly maintained by PricewaterhouseCoopers; the results of nominations balloting will be revealed to the assembled press and the world at 5:30 a.m. PT on January 24 at the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills. Final ballots will be mailed February 1 and members will have until 5 p.m. on February 21 to return them. After ballots are tabulated, only two partners of the accounting firm will know the results until the famous envelopes are opened onstage during the Academy Awards presentation at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center<sup>®</sup> on February 26.

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

Oscars<sup>®</sup> will be presented for outstanding film achievements of 2011 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 nine films: six that have been shortlisted by a large screening group composed of members from all branches, and three selected by the Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee. Up to 10 Best Picture nominations will be determined by vote of the entire active membership. Final winners in most categories are determined by vote of the active membership.

The Academy's Board of Governors is empowered to confer additional awards: Scientific and Technical Awards, the Gordon E. Sawyer Award and Special Achievement Awards, as well as special

honors known collectively as Governors Awards. These include the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, a bronze bust of the legendary producer, given to “a creative producer whose body of work reflects a consistently high quality of motion picture production”; the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar® statuette, given to “an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry”; and Honorary Awards. Honorary Awards 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.

Governors Awards are not necessarily given annually; each is conferred only when, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, a thoroughly deserving recipient emerges.

Since 2009, the Governors Awards have been presented at their own black-tie dinner event in November. The 2011 recipients are: actor James Earl Jones (Honorary Award, “for his legacy of consistent excellence and uncommon versatility”), makeup artist Dick Smith (Honorary Award, “for his unparalleled mastery of texture, shade, form and illusion”) and Oprah Winfrey (Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award).

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.

The Gordon E. Sawyer Award, an Oscar statuette, is given to “an individual in the motion picture industry whose technological contributions have brought credit to the industry.” Like the Governors Awards, it is not necessarily conferred annually.

Special Achievement Awards 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

Special Awards  
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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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