

AWARD-WINNING MOVIES  
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## **BIG WINNERS**

### **Ben-Hur**

This religious, historical epic follows Judah Ben Hur (Charlton Heston) and the tragedy that befalls him and his Jewish family when he falls out with his Roman best friend (Stephen Boyd). It won 11 Oscars—a total that has been equaled but not yet surpassed.

### **It Happened One Night**

This classic comedy was the first movie to sweep the so-called Big Five Awards: Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, and Screenplay. Still, the primary appeal for most folks are the zany misadventures of Peter (Clark Gable) and Ellie (Claudette Colbert).

### **One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest**

Hilarious but tragic, this adaptation of Ken Kesey's novel chronicles Randle McMurphy's (Jack Nicholson) stint in a mental hospital, where he finds himself bonding with the other patients and battling with Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher). A Big Five winner.

### **Silence of The Lambs**

An eerily haunting adaptation of Thomas Harris's novel, the cat-and-mouse game between FBI agent Clarice (Jodie Foster) and jailed serial killer Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) might be the only way to stop another murderer on the loose. Also a Big Five Winner.

### **Titanic**

This romance about poor artist Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) and aristocratic Rose (Kate Winslet), set amid the backdrop of the *Titanic* sinking tragedy, broke box office records back in the late 1990s, became a pop culture phenomenon, and then won 11 Oscars.

## HISTORIC WINS

### **Gone with the Wind**

Fiery Scarlett (Vivien Leigh) and charming rouge Rhett (Clark Gable) are the focus of this classic historical epic set during the Civil War. However, Hattie McDaniel's Supporting Actress win made history of its own—the first Oscar awarded to an African American performer.



### **The Hurt Locker**

This gritty, acclaimed depiction of a bomb disposal team serving in the Iraq War won numerous Oscars, but the most significant was that it marked the first time a Best Picture Oscar was awarded to a movie with a female director.

### **Slumdog Millionaire**

Jamal, a poor boy from Mumbai, is close to winning India's version of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* when accusations of cheating threaten to ruin everything. The movie won several Oscars and is the first Best Picture winner with an all-minority cast.

### **The Sting**

This fun classic is best known for its crime caper plot, the tag-team efforts of both Paul Newman and Robert Redford as the stars, and its ragtime soundtrack. But it also is the first Best Picture winner with a female producer (Julia Phillips).

## NOTABLE DIRECTORS

### **The Aviator**

This biopic of troubled businessman Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) focuses on his interest in flight, as well as Hughes's career as a film producer. The movie won no directing Oscar for Martin Scorsese, though it did garner some technical awards and a Supporting Actress win for Cate Blanchett as Kate Hepburn.

### **The Bridge on the River Kwai**

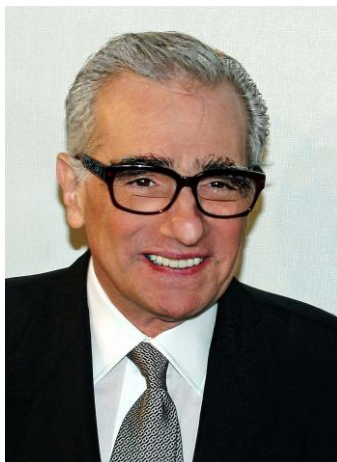
This classic war film, about the construction of the Burma Railway by Allied POWs during WWII, won several Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director for David Lean. Lean also directed Alec Guinness to a Best Actor award for his performance as Lt. Col. Nicholson.

### **The Deer Hunter**

Another classic war film, this one with a Vietnam setting, it depicts a group of friends from Pennsylvania steel country who go to war. Michael Cimino snagged a Best Director win, the movie won Best Picture, and Christopher Walken also picked up a Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

### **The Departed**

Martin Scorsese's classic films about New York Italian-American gangsters never garnered him any directing wins, despite their widespread acclaim. But on his sixth nomination, he finally won one for his gritty depiction of Irish mobsters in Boston.



## **The Godfather, Part 1 and Part 2**

Francis Ford Coppola's original *The Godfather* movie is a justified classic, but its sequel is also the rare follow-up that is considered every bit as good as the original. Coppola didn't win for the first movie, though he did win Best Director for Part 2. Marlon Brando and Robert DeNiro both won acting Oscars for their depiction of Sicilian-American mobster Vito Corleone.



## **Lawrence of Arabia**

This sweeping historical epic is best known as Peter O'Toole's debut film—and what a debut it was! O'Toole didn't win for his turn as the title character, though David Lean did pick up another Best Director and Best Picture award for this film, as well as a host of technical Oscars.

## **Schindler's List**

Steven Spielberg had picked up previous director nominations for his science fiction and action movies, but he didn't win Best Director until his work on this grim tale of hope amidst the horrors of the Holocaust. It also won Best Picture and a number of other Oscars.

## AWARD-WINNING DIRECTORIAL DEBUTS

### Dances with Wolves

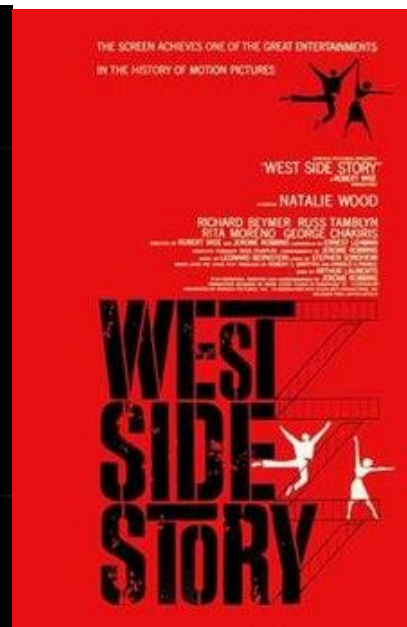
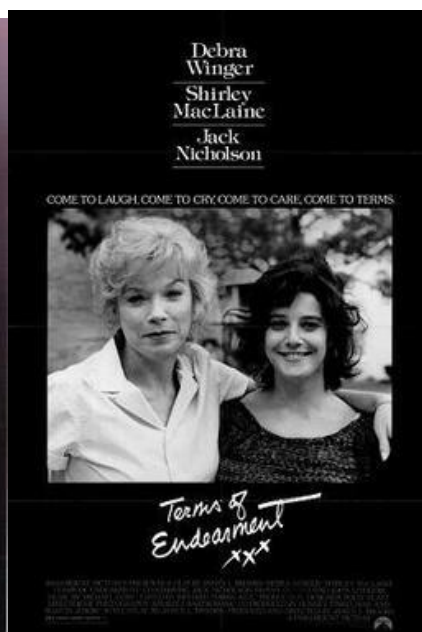
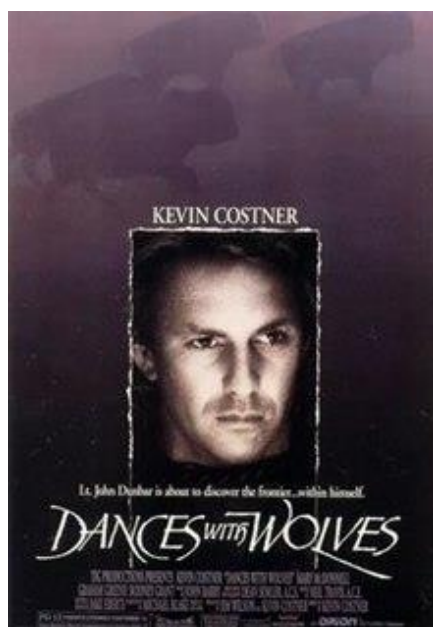
Kevin Costner directed himself in this story of a Civil War veteran who goes West and finds himself adopted into the Lakota tribe. It was Costner's first time as a director, but he won Best Director, as well as Best Picture.

### Terms of Endearment

After a long career in television, James L. Brooks made his film-directing debut with this tale of a dysfunctional mother and daughter. He also won Oscars for his work as a producer and writer on the movie and directed Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson to acting Oscars.

### West Side Story

Longtime dance choreographer Jerome Robbins won a Best Director (alongside Robert Wise) Oscar for his work on the 1950s New York City, musical, street-gang version of *Romeo and Juliet*. The movie also picked up Best Picture, a pair of supporting actor/actress awards, and a range of technical Oscars, including one for the music.



## MULTIPLE ACTING AWARDS

### **Cabaret**

An edgy musical set in 1930s Germany, *Cabaret* won eight Oscars—no mean feat when it was pitted against *The Godfather*. Bob Fosse picked up a Best Director for his work, which included directing Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey to acting Oscars of their own.

### **From Here to Eternity**

This tale of soldiers and their sweethearts in the months leading up to Pearl Harbor featured multiple acting nominations for its stars. Though Montgomery Clift, Burt Lancaster, and Deborah Kerr ultimately went home empty-handed, crooner Frank Sinatra and actress Donna Reed both scored Oscars for their supporting roles.

### **On the Waterfront**

Marlon Brandon took the acting world by storm in the 1950s. He snagged a Best Actor Oscar for his work as Terry Malloy, a down-on-his luck, ex-boxer caught up in racketeering and union corruption. Eve Marie Saint also won a Supporting Actress Oscar for her work in the movie as his love interest, Edie.



### **A Streetcar Named Desire**

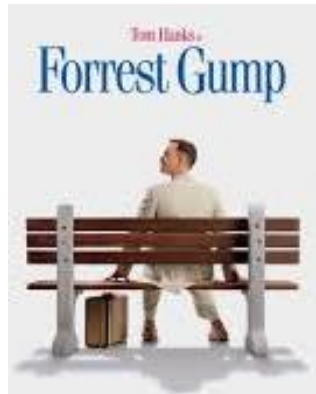
Another 1950s Brando classic, though Brando didn't win an Oscar for his unsettling role as Stanley Kowalski in this adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play. His co-stars were big winners, though, with Vivien Leigh, Karl Malden, and Kim Hunter all winning acting Oscars.



## WRITING AWARDS

### Forrest Gump

The tale of good-hearted Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks), who consistently finds himself in pivotal moments in 20<sup>th</sup> century American history, was a big winner at the Oscars. Hanks won Best Actor, and the movie was named Best Picture. It was also rewarded for its screenplay, an adaptation of Winston Groom's much more eccentric novel.



### Green Book

This recent biopic of African American musician Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and his unlikely friendship with his driver and bodyguard (Viggo Mortenson) made news for winning Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor for Ali. However, its original screenplay also won an Oscar.

### In the Heat of the Night

This adaptation of a novel follows an African American detective (Sidney Poitier) from Philly on a Mississippi murder investigation. The film was named Best Picture, Rod Steiger won an Oscar for his role as the local police chief, and the script picked up a win of its own.

### Patton

Undoubtedly, the movie *Patton* is best remembered for its vivid depiction of WWII general George S. Patton and George C. Scott's energetic (and Oscar-winning) performance as Patton. The movie was a big winner that year, though, also taking home Best Original Screenplay, as well as a handful of other Oscars.



## TECHNICAL AWARD WINNERS

### **Bohemian Rhapsody**

Perhaps not too surprisingly for a biopic about Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury, *Bohemian Rhapsody* swept the sound categories of the Oscars. Rami Malek also won Best Actor for his performance as Mercury.

### **Gravity**

This tale of trouble in outer space garnered a prestigious Best Director win for Alfonso Cuarón, but mostly it scored in the technical categories of the Oscars. The Academy Awards rewarded the film for its visual effects, sound effects, cinematography, editing, and music.

### **Hugo**

A surprisingly sweet and kid-friendly movie from Martin Scorsese, *Hugo* focuses on a lonely boy living in a Parisian train station in the 1930s. The movie's stunning visuals won Best Visual Effects, Best Art Direction, and Best Cinematography.

### **Mad Max: Fury Road**

Movies set in post-apocalyptic Australia don't normally seem like typical Oscar-winning movies. However, *Mad Max: Fury Road* was a critical darling and dominated the technical Oscars, picking up wins for its editing, production design, costumes, makeup, and sound.

### **Star Wars**

Sure, the original Star Wars is a sci fi classic in its own right—and justly so. But did you know the tale of Princess Leia, Hans Solo, and Luke Skywalker also won several Oscars, including best visual effects, art direction, costumes, sound, and editing?

## BEST COSTUME WINNERS

### All About Eve

This classic film about a fading actress (Bette Davis) and an obsessive fan is a classic for a reason. It picked up several Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director, though it is also one of 8 movies for which Edith Head won an Oscar for her costume design work.



### The Artist

A fun, modern-day, silent, black-and-white movie about the silent, black-and-white movie era, *The Artist* was a surprise success, winning Best Picture, Director, and Actor. Less surprising, though, is that it also won Best Costume Design for its lovely art deco clothing.

### Dr. Zhivago

A grand romantic drama set in Russia during WWI and the Russian Civil War and starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie, *Dr. Zhivago* won several Oscars for its technical crew. The movie's sumptuous costume design was one of the big winners.

### Gladiator

A tale of revenge set during the Roman Empire, *Gladiator* made a star out of Russell Crowe (who also won an Oscar for his performance) and won Best Picture. The movie picked up several other awards, including Best Costume Design.

## AWARD-WINNING MUSIC



### La La Land

This tale of love between a jazz musician (Ryan Gosling) and a budding young actress (Emma Stone) won several Oscars. Fittingly for a movie with a musician as one of its main characters, it also won Best Score and Best Song.

### My Fair Lady

A classic musical that retells the story of Pygmalion—*My Fair Lady* shows us Professor Henry Higgins' efforts to remake a poor girl with a thick Cockney accent into a much more sophisticated-sounding young lady. It won 8 Oscars, including 1 for the music.

### The Sound of Music

Not too surprisingly for one of the most famous musicals in film history, but the story of the musically gifted von Trapp family won an Oscar for its music. It also snagged several other Oscars, including one for Best Picture.



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