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Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards

Mason Wiley, Damien Bona

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ACCLAIM FOR INSIDE OSCAR"A giddy social history of our place and time...Mr. Wiley and Mr. Bona have found just the right tone for writing about this most particular of American phenomena."--Vincent Canby The New York Times"This is the book for your film reference library, not merely because it reveals where the bodies are buried, but also because it serves as a useful sociological and aesthetic guide to the Hollywood rat race over the past six decades."--Andrew Sarris The Village Voice"A grand, grotesque Hollywood party, and what a guest list!"--Michael Musto Saturday Review"A fat volume of facts, trivia, trash, and gossip (perfectly fitting for the occasion)."--Patricia

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.com This huge, hefty history of the hottest night for Hollywood hotshots is everything an "unofficial" account of the Academy Awards should be: exhaustively researched, informative, catty, and packed with amazing gossip. Authors Mason Wiley and Damien Bona describe the awards and their highlights from a number of different perspectives, quoting Hollywood insiders, reporters, and other public figures as well as offering revealing insights of their own. Inside Oscar reviews every ceremony from the '20s to the '90s, dividing each year into three sections. The first gives a full account of the movies that competed for the season's honors, focusing on the hopes, dreams, and squabbles of the actors, directors, and producers who were nominated. The second section, entitled "The Big Night," recounts the ceremony in full detail, conveying the suspense of the evening, relating the funniest quips by presenters and pundits, and describing the most arresting outfits worn by the celebrities in attendance. "Aftermath" covers the press reactions to the event and follows the fates of some of the winners. Inside Oscar covers everything from the frenzy surrounding *Gone with the Wind* to the first televised awards to the disastrous 1994 ceremony, which was hosted by a terminally unfunny David Letterman. Each year is great fun to relive, but readers of this book may agree that the most memorable decade for Oscar was the 1970s, when the unexpected consistently prevailed. In 1970, George C. Scott, nominated for *Patton*, shocked the industry by declining the Best Actor Award. In '72, Marlon Brando refused his prize for *The Godfather*, sending a Native American woman, Sacheen Littlefeather, to chastise the astonished celebrities for their ill treatment of her people. Vanessa Redgrave accepted the statuette for *Julia* in 1977, delivering an anti-Zionist diatribe from the podium. And let's not forget the streaker who bolted onstage in '73. You'll find full accounts of these events and many, many others in a book that's as much fun to thumb through as it is to read from cover to cover. This volume conveys the anticipation, the glamour, the viciousness, the surprises, and the fallout of the ceremonies with tremendous detail and high enthusiasm. --Raphael Efram ShargelFrom Library JournalThis entertaining sojourn through movieland concentrates on the Academy Awards ceremony and surrounding hoopla. A detailed program listing for each annual ceremony gives dates, location, host, and who presented each of the two dozen or so major awards that year, as well as who performed the nominated songs. The chapter for each year also provides short, gossipy pieces on Oscar-related news, plus accounts of which celebrities arrived at the ceremonies with whom, and what they were wearing. A comprehensive appendix lists "every Award the Academy has ever bestowed," year by year from 1927 through 1984, including all nominations, a listing that nearly makes obsolete the excellent *Academy Awards: an Ungar reference index* (LJ 12/15/78; 1982. 2d ed.). Movie buffs will enjoy this, and skeptics may well find reading the book more enjoyable than watching the show. Richard W. Grefrath, Univ. of Nevada Lib., RenoCopyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.From the Inside FlapACCLAIM FOR INSIDE OSCAR"A giddy social history of our place and time...Mr. Wiley and Mr. Bona have found just the right tone for writing about this most particular of American phenomena."--Vincent Canby The New York Times"This is the book for your film reference library, not merely because it reveals where the bodies are buried, but also because it serves as a useful sociological and aesthetic guide to the Hollywood rat race over the past six decades."--Andrew Sarris The Village Voice"A grand, grotesque Hollywood party, and what a guest list!"--Michael Musto Saturday "A fat volume of facts, trivia, trash, and gossip (perfectly fitting for the occasion)."--Patricia Holt San Francisco Chronicle"Gossipy fun and a browser's delight! Everyone may know bits and pieces, but no one has ever gathered this kind of material in such a convenient and diverting format."--Desmond Ryan The Philadelphia Inquirer"The fullest--and funniest--chronicle ever accorded the Golden Guy...a remarkable closeup of Oscar--warts and all."--Harry Haun New York Daily News"There are probably more solid laughs on any ten pages of this book than in the last ten years of Academy Award telecasts."--Dennis Brown St. Louis Post-Dispatch"It may be the only hilariously funny reference book in the world. At whatever point you open it, your total attention is engaged."--Quentin Crisp The New York Native