

Academy Awards are 'for white men'

20th January, 2015



Many people in the movie world are angry that Hollywood and the movie industry are run by "old white men". People complained after the Oscar

nominations came out last Thursday because all 20 of the actors in with a chance of winning an Oscar are white. In addition, there are no women in the directing or writing categories. The Los Angeles Times newspaper carried out a survey in 2012 on who the members of the Academy are. The members are the people who choose the men and women who are nominated for an Oscar. The LA Times survey found that the members of the academy were 94 per cent white, largely male, with an average age of 62. Critics say this means there is too little diversity in the Oscars.

Civil rights campaigner Al Sharpton was one of the biggest critics of the Academy. He complained that: "The movie industry is like the Rocky Mountains - the higher you get, the whiter it gets." He added that: "The lack of diversity in [the] Oscar nominations is [terrible]." He said it was strange that one of the movies nominated for this year's 'Best Picture' award, 'Selma,' was about racism, but none of the actors in Selma nor any non-white actors in other movies were up for an award. Cheryl Boone Isaacs, president of the Academy, said the members do their best to nominate the best people, regardless of their colour or gender. However, she did say that she hoped Hollywood would become more diverse.

Sources: BBC / NY Daily News / Reuters

Writing

Male actors are better than female actors. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

angry / movie industry / complained / nominations / winning / writing / diversity / civil rights / critics / terrible / racism / president / regardless / gender / colour

True / False

- The article said many white men are angry with the movie industry. T / F
- Only one of 20 actors nominated for an award is non-white. T / F
- There are no women up for an Oscar of any kind. T / F
- The average age of a member of the Oscars Academy is 62. T / F
- Al Sharpton talked about a new movie called 'Rocky Mountains'. T / F
- Al Sharpton was unhappy with the lack of diversity in the Oscars. T / F
- No actor in the movie 'Selma' has been nominated for an award. T / F
- The Academy president is a woman. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. angry | a. variety |
| 2. complained | b. study |
| 3. chance | c. important |
| 4. survey | d. moaned |
| 5. diversity | e. propose |
| 6. big | f. annoyed |
| 7. lack | g. awful |
| 8. terrible | h. sex |
| 9. nominate | i. possibility |
| 10. gender | j. shortage |

Discussion – Student A

- What does Al Sharpton's comment about the Rocky Mountains mean?
- What should the movie industry do from now?
- What did you think of the last movie you saw?
- Are men or women better actors?
- What do you think of Hollywood?
- What would it be like to be a Hollywood actor?
- Does Hollywood make the best films in the world?
- What questions would you like to ask Al Sharpton?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Many people in the movie | a. who choose |
| 2. the Oscar nominations came | b. a chance of winning |
| 3. all 20 of the actors in with | c. of their colour |
| 4. The members are the people | d. diversity in the Oscars |
| 5. there is too little | e. become more diverse |
| 6. one of the biggest critics | f. world are angry |
| 7. the higher you get, | g. for an award |
| 8. up | h. the whiter it gets |
| 9. regardless | i. out last Thursday |
| 10. she hoped Hollywood would | j. of the Academy |

Discussion – Student B

- What's your favourite movie?
- What do you think of the Academy Awards (Oscars)?
- Who do you think will win this year?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Why are most industries run by "old white men"?
- What complaints do you have about movies?
- Why are there so few women nominated this year?
- How important is diversity?

Spelling

- the movie tusndyir
- People paeoidcmn
- the directing or writing rcisgeotae
- carried out a vsyrue
- an eaevgra age of 62
- there is too little iydsirevt in the Oscars
- one of the biggest csiitrc
- one of the movies ontedanim
- 'Selma,' was about srcmia
- up for an rdaaw
- etiesrnpd of the Academy
- regardless of their colour or gernde

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. j	8. g	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Science fiction

You think science fiction is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): horror, romance or biography.

Role B – Horror

You think horror is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): science fiction, romance or biography.

Role C – Romance

You think romance is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): horror, science fiction or biography.

Role D – Biography

You think biography is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): horror, romance or science fiction.

Speaking – Genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| • action | • sci-fi |
| • fantasy | • horror |
| • spy thriller | • animation |
| • biography | • romance |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.