



A scene from Guillermo del Toro's "Pinocchio."
PHOTO: COLLECTED



"Everything Everywhere All at Once" cast won the 'Best Picture' award at the Oscars.



Brendon Fraser, Michelle Yeoh, Jamie Lee Curtis, Key Ke Huy Quan posing with their awards at the Oscars.

After last year's 'Oscar Slap' moment, courtesy of Will Smith, it was highly unlikely that this year's proceedings would be marred by any such drama. Thankfully, Jimmy Kimmel was able to do a decent job as the programme's host, with only innocuous jokes and short quips to keep the night light and breezy.

OSCARS WINNERS LIST

BEST PICTURE

Everything Everywhere All at Once—Winner

BEST ACTOR

Brendan Fraser, *The Whale*

BEST ACTRESS

Michelle Yeoh, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

BEST DIRECTOR

Daniel Kwan with Daniel Scheinert, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Ke Huy Quan, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Jamie Lee Curtis, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

BEST MUSIC (Original Song)

Naatu Naatu, *RRR*

BEST WRITING (Adapted Screenplay)

Women Talking

BEST WRITING (Original Screenplay)

Everything Everywhere All at Once

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

All Quiet on the Western Front

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Navalny

BEST FILM EDITING

Everything Everywhere All at Once

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

All Quiet on the Western Front

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

BEST MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING

The Whale

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

All Quiet on the Western Front

BEST MUSIC (Original Score)

All Quiet on the Western Front

BEST SOUND

Top Gun: Maverick

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Avatar: The Way of Water

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

An Irish Goodbye

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

The Elephant Whisperers

95TH ACADEMY AWARDS

A special night for Asian filmmaking

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Over 20 years had passed since a woman of colour won the Oscar for 'Best Actress', and Michelle Yeoh changed that, stamping her name in history by becoming the first Asian to win the 'Best Actress' award for her role in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

Yeoh beat heavyweights like Cate Blanchett (*Tár*), Ana de Armas (*Blonde*) and Michelle Williams (*The Fabelmans*).

Overall, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* finished the night with seven awards to their name, including: 'Best Director', 'Best Actress', 'Best Original Screenplay', 'Best Picture', and many more. The A24 almost performed a clean sweep of this year's Academy Awards.

The beloved Brendan Fraser, who has been in the industry for 30 years—starring in popcorn flicks like *The Mummy* and *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*—took home the Oscar for 'Best Actor'. The actor returned to screen after a long hiatus with a prominent and compassionate portrayal of a



"Naatu Naatu" lyricist Chandrabose and its music composer M M Keeravani won the Best Original song at the Oscars.

melancholic, lonely and obese father, trying to reconnect with his estranged daughter in *The Whale*.

Jamie Lee Curtis took the 'Best Supporting Actress' honour for her performance as a pertinacious and uptight IRS inspector in the eccentric inter-dimensional adventure *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. Her co-star, Ke

Actor', beating Judd Hirsch (*The Fabelmans*), and Brendan Gleeson and Barry Keoghan (*Banshees of Inisherin*).

After originally starring in the 1980s blockbusters *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *The Goonies*, Quan had to leave acting in the 1990s due to a lack of opportunities, instead working as a stunt choreographer

and assistant director, before his resurgence in the 2020s. His Oscar win solidified his status as one of Hollywood's greatest comeback stories.

With director Daniel Kwan (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*) winning 'Best Original Screenplay' and 'Best Director'; and Hong Chau (*The Whale*) being nominated as well, the 2023 Oscars was especially significant for Asian and Asian American creatives.

The Oscars are a momentous event for musicians as well, with *Naatu Naatu* from the Indian movie, *RRR*, winning the 'Best Original Song' award. The song, with its groovy tempo and dance steps, triumphed over both Lady Gaga and Rihanna.

The late Chadwick Boseman was honoured by Rihanna in her performance of the heartfelt ballad *Lift Me Up*, from Marvel's *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Lady Gaga also gave a powerful and deeply moving performance of her song *Hold My Hand*, which she wrote for *Top Gun: Maverick*.

On a sombre note, however, the 573 members of the Academy's

directors' branch did not nominate any female directors, despite the fact that Sarah Polley, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Charlotte Wells, and Maria Schrader all released rather significant movies last year, including *Women Talking*, *The Woman King*, *Aftersun*, and *She Said*, respectively.

However, Sarah Polley did receive the Oscar for 'Best Adapted Screenplay' for the radical parable, *Women Talking*.

Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio* bagged the win for 'Best Animated Feature film', which gave Toro a chance to emphasise on animation being a vital part of cinema in his speech. With this win, Guillermo del Toro became the first person in history to win an Oscar for 'Best Picture', 'Best Director' and 'Best Animated Feature'.

The Oscars are not just about the glitz and glamour. The golden statue helps accelerate an artistes' career path and allows them to experiment with various concepts. That is why, every year without fail, more and more filmmakers campaign for a chance at cinema's biggest prize.

Actress Azmeri Haque Badhan recently won the National Film Award for the first time. She jointly received the 'Best Actress' award for her performance in "Rehana Maryam Noor".

'She doesn't know how to act, they said'

ZAHID AKBAR

In a candid interview with The Daily Star, Badhan shared her feelings on the day of the National Film Awards, what her one and only daughter thought about her milestone and a time when some of her colleagues doubted her ability.

How were you feeling on the morning of the National Film Awards ceremony?

I was extremely restless since that morning. It's hard to explain, but I was feeling a little different. Those organising the event were calling me so that I would be at the venue by 1 pm. I was feeling a little nervous at that moment, but I can't tell you why I felt that way.

Did you get to talk with the Prime Minister on the day you received the award?

There was not a lot of time to talk during the event. We did get some time when all of the awardees took a photo with the Prime Minister. It was then that I requested her to watch "Rehana Maryam Noor". I

also requested the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to arrange a screening of the film for the Prime Minister. She told me that she wants to watch our film, so this was a wonderful moment for me.

What did your daughter have to say about you receiving this award?

My daughter was overjoyed! She loved that everyone was wishing her mother. My daughter is now 12, so she will remember all of this. My daughter is very astute about who likes her and who doesn't. She even understood when I was interacting with people who dislike me.

Your journey wasn't an easy one. Do you remember your initial days of struggle?

Many of my colleagues, directors and producers, along with many others, have said that

"she doesn't understand acting". These words only felt momentary at that time. I have received the Asia Pacific Screen Award for 'Best Actress'. Only Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and a few others have received this prestigious award from India. When I received the Asia Pacific Screen Award, I had replied to the insults. It took me a lot of hard work, and honesty to go through that journey. So, now I don't remember all of these insults anymore.

Totini and Apurba together for the first time



Ziaul Faruq Apurba and Tanjim Saiyara Totini will be seen in an upcoming fiction which has directed by Mahedi Hasan Jony. The project titled, *Esho Hat ta Barao* has been written by Golam Sarowar Anik. In this project, Totini will be seen playing a nurse.

In a short span of time, Totini has impressed one and all during her short career. Her recent performance in *Eishomoyer Kachhe Ashar Golpo* was commended. This is the first time that she will share the screen with Apurba, a veteran on television.

Meanwhile, Apurba is back to form with his performance in the Hoichoi web series *Buker Modhye Agun*.

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali getting his own web-series



Streaming service Peacock has announced that they will be producing a web-series titled *Excellence: 8 Fights*—based on Jonathan Eig's definitive biography *Ali: A Life*—about Muhammad Ali.

The announcement came on March 9, on the occasion of the legend's 52nd anniversary of his first fight.

The series has been written by Oscar-winning scriptwriter Kevin Willmott. The project is set to have eight parts, each defined by an essential moment of the legendary boxer's life.

Moreover, fans can expect to see a portrayal of Muhammad Ali's life outside the ring, including all his struggles and inner conflicts.

Each episode will also feature a memorable fight from the career of Ali.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED