



Adrien Brody receiving the Oscar for Best Actor for "The Brutalist".



Director Sean Baker made history with four Oscars in a single night for "Anora".



Zoe Saldana wins the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for "Emilia Pérez".



Mikey Madison wins the Oscar for Best Actress for "Anora".

PHOTOS: REUTERS

## OSCARS 2025

# A night of historic firsts

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 97th Academy Awards was a night to remember, marking major milestones in Oscar history. More than just a celebration of cinematic excellence, this year's ceremony highlighted fresh talent, diverse voices, and the evolving landscape of global filmmaking. From Brazil securing its first-ever Best International Feature win to Sean Baker making history with four Oscars in a single night, the event was filled with groundbreaking moments.

Whether it was a breakthrough performance, a long-overdue recognition, or a historic win for underrepresented communities, the 97th Oscars reinforced the Academy's growing commitment to inclusivity and change.

The ceremony opened with a performance by *Wicked* stars Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, setting an electrifying tone for the night.

The biggest winner of the evening was *Anora*, which took home five awards, including a surprise Best Actress win for Mikey Madison. Many had predicted Demi Moore would claim the prize for *The Substance*, making Madison's victory even more unexpected.

Sean Baker made history by winning four major awards in one night—Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing, and Best Picture—an unprecedented achievement that cements his reputation as one of the most innovative filmmakers of his generation.

Adrien Brody won Best Actor for *The Brutalist*, portraying László Tóth, a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor seeking a better life in post-WWII America. This marked a rare achievement—his second Best Actor win from only two nominations, coming two decades after his historic victory for *The Pianist* in 2003, when he became the youngest actor ever to receive the award.

The Best Documentary Feature award went to *No Other Land*, which examines Israel's occupation of the West Bank. The film follows the collaboration between Palestinian activist Basel Adra and Israeli journalist Yuval Abraham as they document forced displacements in Masafer Yatta. During their acceptance speech, Adra called attention to the suffering of his people, while Abraham emphasised the need to stop the

## OSCARS 2025 WINNERS LIST

### Best Picture

Anora

### Best Actor

Adrien Brody (The Brutalist)

### Best Actress

Mikey Madison (Anora)

### Best Actor (Supporting Role)

Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain)

### Best Actress (Supporting Role)

Zoe Saldana (Emilia Pérez)

### Best Director

Sean Baker (Anora)

### Best International Feature Film

I'm Still Here (Brazil)

### Best cinematography

The Brutalist

### Best Adapted Screenplay

Conclave

### Best Original Screenplay

Anora

### Best Live Action Short Film

I'm Not a Robot

### Best Animated Short Film

In the Shadow of the Cypress

### Best Animated Feature

Film

Flow

### Best Documentary Short

The Only Girl in the Orchestra

### Best Documentary Feature

Film

No Other Land

### Best Original Song

El Mal (Emilia Pérez)

### Best Original Score

The Brutalist

### Best Makeup and

Hairstyling

The Substance

### Best Costume Design

Wicked

### Best Editing

Anora

### Best Sound

Dune: Part Two

### Best Production Design

Wicked

### Best Visual Effects

Dune: Part Two



Basel Adra, Rachel Szor, Hamdan Ballal, and Yuval Abraham pose with the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature Film for "No Other Land".

PHOTOS: REUTERS

destruction in Gaza and free Israeli hostages, highlighting the power of joint Palestinian-Israeli storytelling.

Kieran Culkin won Best Supporting Actor for *A Real Pain*, while Zoe Saldana received Best Supporting Actress for *Emilia Pérez*, making history as the first American of Dominican descent to win an Academy Award.

Brazil also celebrated a historic victory, with *I'm Still Here* winning Best International Feature. The powerful drama, set during the country's military dictatorship, tells the true story of Eunice Paiva's search for her missing husband, exploring themes of grief and resilience.

Latvia made history as well, with *Flow* by Gints Zilbalodis becoming the country's first-ever Oscar-winning film, earning Best Animated Feature. The film's distinctive animation and storytelling captivated audiences worldwide, further establishing Latvian cinema on the global stage.

Several films won multiple awards, including *The Brutalist* (Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, and Best Actor), *Dune: Part Two* (Best Sound and Best Visual Effects), and *Emilia Pérez*, which took home Best Original Song for *El Mal*. The Substance earned Best Makeup and Hairstyling.

A special segment honoured the legendary Quincy Jones, led by Queen Latifah, Whoopi Goldberg, and Oprah Winfrey. The Los Angeles Master Chorale also delivered a moving performance, adding to the evening's emotional weight. Additionally, a musical tribute to the James Bond franchise featured performances by Doja Cat, BLACKPINK's Lisa, and Raye.

Hollywood mourned the passing of Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, who died just days before the ceremony. Morgan Freeman, his co-star in *Under Suspicion* and *Unforgiven*, paid tribute, recalling Hackman's unwavering dedication to his craft.

The In Memoriam segment honoured legendary figures such as Maggie Smith, Kris Kristofferson, Donald Sutherland, David Lynch, and James Earl Jones. However, controversy arose over notable omissions, with fans questioning the absence of Michelle Trachtenberg, Tony Todd, Chance Perdomo, Alain Delon, Tony Roberts, Linda Lavin, Martin Mull, and Olivia Hussey from the tribute.

## Prosenjit, Dev to headline SVF & Hoichoi's 2025-26 slate

SVF and Hoichoi have unveiled an expansive 2025-26 content lineup, celebrating SVF's 30-year legacy. The announcement at "Golper Parbon 1432" introduced over 25 productions, spanning web-series, films, and new formats.

Leading the theatrical slate are *Vijaynagar'er Hirey*, starring Prosenjit Chatterjee as adventurer Kakababu, and *Raghu Dakat*, a historical epic featuring Dev. Other major films include *Saptadingar Guptadho*, *Chor Police Dakat Babu*, and Srijit Mukherji's *Killbill Society*.



Hoichoi marks its 200th original series milestone with *Anushandhan*, *Naagmonir Rawhoshyo*, and *Tomakei Chayi*. Franchise hits like *Feludar Goyendagiri*, *Royal Bengal Rawhoshyo* and *The Eken: Benaras e Bibhishika* return.

The company introduced Hoichoi TV+, blending traditional TV with on-demand content. With plans to expand into Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, SVF remains committed to revolutionising Bengali entertainment. "Our ambitions continue to grow," said co-founder Mahendra Soni.

## BFDC MD urges legal action over unpaid debts



The Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) continues to face financial struggles, with unpaid wages triggering protests. New Managing Director Masuma Rahman Tani, appointed on February 23, announced plans to pursue legal action to recover outstanding debts from production companies. These companies, which used BFDC resources on credit, have failed to repay substantial amounts, despite repeated notices. Tani expressed frustration over the situation, noting that legal action would be a last resort if polite requests were unsuccessful.

Tani also addressed protests against her leadership, emphasising her commitment to reform and improving BFDC operations. Initiatives such as reducing rental fees for shooting floors have already seen positive results, with increased production activity.

# A DREAM COME TRUE

## Rupanty Akid makes Hindi film debut



### ZAHID AKBAR

*Hindi Vindi*, a joint production between India and Australia, was released in Australia on February 27. The film, directed by Ali Sayed, features Bangladeshi-origin actress Rupanty Akid. After the film's release, Rupanty was praised for her portrayal of Rihanna.

The plot explores intergenerational language barriers within the immigrant community. The audience who attended the premiere show of *Hindi Vindi*, saw the success of Rupanty as their own achievement as the Bangladeshi community in Australia.

The actress told The Daily Star, "It feels like a dream come true. Sydney theatre has helped me reach this far. I would definitely want to become a part of Bangladeshi, Bollywood, or even Hollywood projects, however, the role has to be good."



Regarding getting connected with the team of *Hindi Vindi*, she adds, "They were looking for someone to portray Rihanna, who could speak with an Australian accent and also speak broken Hindi. When I learned about the audition that was going on, I

applied and gave several screen tests online. Afterwards, I was called for a live audition, and I finally got the role."

The actress mentions that since childhood, she has known many Bangladeshi stars personally. However, her favourites are Deepa Khandakar and Tarin Jahan.

Rupanty Akid made her acting debut as a child artiste in the drama *Angti*, directed by Sagar Jahan in 2013. She was also featured in Mahfuz Ahmed's *Keboli Raat Hoya Jay* and *Hello Bangladesh*.

Last year, she received widespread recognition for her role in Shihab Shaheen's web film *Kacher Manhush Durey Thuiya*. The actress will be seen in Masud Hasan Ujjal's upcoming film, *Bonolota Sen*.

Born to Bangladeshi parents in Australia, Rupanty grew up there. Alongside Rupanty, *Hindi Vindi* also features Neena Gupta, Mihir Ahuja, and Australian singer Guy Sebastian, among others.



PHOTOS: COURTESY