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Oscars March 15, 2026

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, the 98th Academy Awards took over the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood for a night that redefined cinematic history. Hosted by Conan O'Brien for the second consecutive year, the ceremony was a marathon of high-concept performances, emotional reunions, and a seismic shift in the awards landscape as Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* led the pack with a record-breaking 16 nominations.



The 2026 ceremony felt like a changing of the guard. While veteran auteurs like Paul Thomas Anderson (*One Battle After Another*) and Guillermo del Toro (*Frankenstein*) brought massive technical prowess to the stage, the evening's narrative was dominated by the sheer scale of Ryan Coogler's genre-bending vampire epic, *Sinners*.

The Winners' Circle (Major Categories)

Category	Winner	Film
Best Picture	TBA / Developing	<i>Sinners</i> (Frontrunner)
Best Director	Ryan Coogler	<i>Sinners</i>
Best Actress	Jessie Buckley	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Actor	Michael B. Jordan	<i>Sinners</i>
Best Supporting Actress	Amy Madigan	<i>Weapons</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Delroy Lindo	<i>Sinners</i>
Best Original Screenplay	Josh Safdie & Ronald Bronstein	<i>Marty Supreme</i>
Best Adapted Screenplay	Chloé Zhao & Maggie O'Farrell	<i>Hamnet</i>

Ceremony Highlights: Reunions and Records

Conan O'Brien's opening monologue struck a perfect balance between self-deprecating humor and a genuine love for film, but the true highlights were the staged tributes:

The "Devil Wears Prada" Sequel Tease: Presenters Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep, and Emily Blunt reunited on stage to celebrate the upcoming sequel, drawing one of the biggest roars from the crowd.

A Superhero Assembly: In a nod to the decade's defining genre, a surprise "Marvel Reunion" featured Robert Downey Jr. and Chris Evans presenting the screenplay awards, jokingly handing them to "mortals."

The First-Ever Casting Award: For the first time in Oscar history, the Academy presented an award for Achievement in Casting, won by Francine Maisler for *Sinners*. This marked the first new category added since Best Animated Feature in 2001.

Performances that Stole the Show

The musical interludes were a masterclass in production. Raphael Saadiq and Miles Caton delivered a haunting, gospel-infused rendition of "I Lied To You" from *Sinners*, accompanied by legendary bluesman Buddy Guy and ballet star Misty Copeland.

The In Memoriam segment was particularly poignant this year, featuring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan in a tribute to the late Rob Reiner. Barbra Streisand also returned to the Oscar stage for a moving performance in honor of Robert Redford.

Technical Mastery: *Frankenstein* vs. *F1*

While *Sinners* swept the acting and directing honors, the "below-the-line" categories were a fierce battleground:

Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein* dominated the visual landscape, winning Best Makeup and Hairstyling, Best Production Design, and Best Cinematography for Dan Laustsen's moody, gothic frames.

Joseph Kosinski's *F1* took home Best Sound and Best Film Editing, with the Academy rewarding the visceral, high-speed realism achieved through groundbreaking practical filming techniques.

The Global Stage

The 2026 Oscars saw a significant international presence. Priyanka Chopra Jonas represented India as a major presenter, while Wagner Moura (*The Secret Agent*) and Renate Reinsve (*Sentimental Value*) highlighted the growing influence of non-English language performances in the Lead acting categories.

Key Takeaway: The 98th Academy Awards will be remembered as the night Ryan Coogler cemented his status as a modern master, proving that big-budget genre films can command the same critical respect as traditional prestige dramas.

Full Category Standings

Best Animated Feature: *Zootopia 2*

Best International Feature: *The Secret Agent* (Brazil)

Best Documentary Feature: *The Alabama Solution*

Best Original Score: Ludwig Göransson (*Sinners*)

Best Visual Effects: *Avatar: Fire and Ash*