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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	Sinners	(Frontrunner)
Best Director	Ryan Coogler	Sinners	
Best Actress	Jessie Buckley	Hamnet	
Best Actor	Michael B. Jordan	Sinners	
Best Supporting Actress	Amy Madigan	Weapons	
Best Supporting Actor	Delroy Lindo	Sinners	
Best Original Screenplay	Josh Saffdie & Ronald Bronstein	Marty Supreme	
Best Adapted Screenplay	Chloé Zhao & Maggie O'Farrell	Hamnet	
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*