OSCAR FIRSTS AND OTHER TRIVIA

[Updated thru 92nd Awards (2/20)]

THE ONLY SILENT FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
Wings (1927/28)
[The Artist (2011) was a mostly silent film, but had a soundtrack that featured some sequences with sound effects, music throughout, and several characters with brief dialogue at the end of the film.]

THE FIRST SOUND FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
The Broadway Melody (1928/29)

THE FIRST COLOR FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
Gone with the Wind (1939)

THE LAST ENTIRELY BLACK-AND-WHITE FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
The Artist (2011)
[Prior to 2011, The Apartment (1960) held this distinction; Schindler's List (1993) had some color elements.]

THE ONLY SEQUELS TO WIN BEST PICTURE
The Godfather Part II (1974)
The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)

THE ONLY X-RATED FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
Midnight Cowboy (1969)
[The film was subsequently edited and given an R rating in 1971.]

THE FIRST NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE

THE FIRST NON-HOLLYWOOD FILM TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD
The Private Life of Henry VIII (1932/33), which won a Best Actor Award for Charles Laughton.

THE FIRST NON-HOLLYWOOD FILM TO WIN BEST PICTURE
Hamlet (1948), financed and filmed in England.

THE ONLY FILMS TO WIN THREE ACADEMY AWARDS FOR ACTING
A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
Network (1976)
[To date, no film has won all four of the Academy Awards for acting.]

THE FIRST NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD
Sophia Loren, named 1961's Best Actress for her work in the Italian film Two Women.

THE ONLY PERFORMERS TO WIN CONSECUTIVE ACADEMY AWARDS
Luise Rainer, 1936 and 1937
Spencer Tracy, 1937 and 1938
Katharine Hepburn, 1967 and 1968
Jason Robards, 1976 and 1977
Tom Hanks, 1993 and 1994

THE ONLY PERSON TO WIN AN OSCAR FOR PLAYING A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX
Linda Hunt, 1983, Best Supporting Actress for The Year of Living Dangerously.
THE ONLY PERFORMER NOMINATED TWICE FOR THE SAME PERFORMANCE
Barry Fitzgerald, 1944, nominated both as Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor for Going My Way.
[Such a feat is not possible under current Academy rules.]

THE ONLY PERFORMER TO WIN TWO OSCARS FOR THE SAME PERFORMANCE
Harold Russell, 1946, voted Best Supporting Actor for The Best Years of Our Lives, and voted an Honorary Oscar that year for his performance.

MOST HONORED INDIVIDUALS AT A SINGLE CEREMONY
(male) Walt Disney (1953), in the categories of Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject, Cartoon Short Subject and Two-reel Short Subject.

(female) Fran Walsh (2003), in the categories of Original Song, Best Picture and Adapted Screenplay.

THE FIRST POSTHUMOUS OSCAR WINNER
Sidney Howard, 1939 winner for writing the screenplay of Gone with the Wind.

THE FIRST POSTHUMOUS ACTING OSCAR WINNER
Peter Finch, 1976 Best Actor winner for Network.

THE ONLY YEARS TWO OSCARS WERE GIVEN FOR BEST DIRECTOR
2007, Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, co-directors of No Country for Old Men.

THE FIRST PERSON TO WIN OSCARS FOR DIRECTING AND WRITING
Leo McCarey, 1944, for Going My Way.

THE FIRST PERSON TO WIN OSCARS FOR DIRECTING, WRITING AND BEST PICTURE
Billy Wilder, 1960, for The Apartment.
[This feat was not possible prior to 1951, when the Best Picture award went to the studio rather than individual producers.]

THE ONLY PERSONS TO WIN OSCARS FOR ACTING AND BEST PICTURE
George Clooney, 2005 Supporting Actor for Syriana, 2012 Best Picture for Argo.
Brad Pitt, 2013 Best Picture for 12 Years a Slave, 2019 Supporting Actor for Once upon a Time...in Hollywood.

THE ONLY PERSON TO WIN OSCARS FOR ACTING AND WRITING
Emma Thompson, 1992 Leading Actress for Howards End, 1995 Adapted Screenplay for Sense and Sensibility.

THE ONLY THREE-GENERATION OSCAR-WINNING FAMILIES

The Coppolas. Carmine Coppola won for Original Dramatic Score in 1974; son Francis Ford Coppola's first win was for Original Screenplay in 1970; and granddaughter Sofia Coppola won for Original Screenplay in 2003.

THE ONLY BROTHER AND SISTER TO WIN ACTING OSCARS
Lionel Barrymore, 1930/31
Ethel Barrymore, 1944

THE ONLY SISTERS TO WIN ACTING OSCARS
Joan Fontaine, 1941
Olivia de Havilland, 1946 and 1949

THE ONLY BROTHERS NOMINATED FOR ACTING OSCARS
River Phoenix, 1988
THE ONLY MARRIED COUPLES TO WIN ACTING OSCARS
Laurence Olivier (1948) and Vivien Leigh (1951).
[They were not yet married when Leigh won her first Oscar in 1939.]
[They were married in 1958, prior to Woodward receiving 1957's Best Actress award.]

THE ONLY OSCAR WINNER WITH PARENTS WHO BOTH RECEIVED OSCARS
Liza Minnelli. Her mother Judy Garland received an Honorary miniature Oscar in 1939; father Vincente Minnelli won Best Director in 1958; Liza Minnelli won Best Actress in 1972.

THE MOST OSCAR-NOMINATED FAMILY
The Newmans, with 93 nominations and counting. Brothers Alfred Newman (43 nominations), Emil Newman (1), and Lionel Newman (11); second generation, Randy Newman (22), David Newman (1), and Thomas Newman (15).

THE FIRST PERSON TO REFUSE AN OSCAR
Dudley Nichols, 1935, winner for his screenplay of The Informer.

THE ONLY WRITE-IN OSCAR WINNER
Hal Mohr, 1935, for his cinematography of A Midsummer Night's Dream.
[He won without having been a nominee, a feat not possible under today's Academy rules.]