

In win for 'One Battle After Another,' the Oscars meet an anxious moment

BY JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

TECTONIC SHIFTS IN HOLLYWOOD

LOS ANGELES — A horde of children chased host Conan O'Brien onto the Dolby Theatre stage in the opening moments of the 98th Academy Awards, and throughout an Oscar ceremony that saw "One Battle After Another" win best picture, it was like they never left.

A queasy future, both immediate and for generations to come, pervaded an Academy Awards shadowed by war, political turmoil and whatever might happen to the movies in an artificial intelligence-supercharged tomorrow. These were the high anxiety Oscars. At almost every turn, they seemed to be trying to rally a little optimism despite omnipresent storm clouds.

"We pay tribute tonight, not just to film, but to the ideals of global artistry, collaboration, patience, resilience and that rarest of qualities today — optimism," O'Brien said in his opening monologue. "We're going to celebrate. Not because we think all is well, but because we work, and hope for better."

The last time the Oscars took place just after a U.S. launch of war in the Middle East was 2003. Just days after the Iraq War began, the musical "Chicago" won best picture.

But it was a different story Sunday. The night's big winner, Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another," a father-daughter saga of revolution, immigrant detention and white supremacy, arrived uncommonly tailored to the times. The film, which won six Oscars, triumphed in part because it spoke to right now.

When asked about the movie's relevancy and America's future backstage, Anderson, still reeling from the first Oscars — including best director and best adapted screenplay — of his 30-year career, was initially caught off guard. "I thought we were supposed to be partying," he joked.

But then Anderson, who had largely avoided speaking directly about the movie's message during the film's near-sweep of awards season, granted that his film's power lay partly in its timeliness.

"Our film obviously has a certain amount of parallels to what's happening in the news every day," Anderson said.

"In terms of where it's going, I don't know," he added, shrugging his shoulders. "But I know that the end of our movie is our hero, Willa, heading off to continue to fight against evil forces, and, I think, like I said in my speech, bring at least common sense and decency back into fashion."

The connection between what was on screen, with current events off it, made the 98th Oscars an appropriately destabilized affair. For the first time in a long time, the movies and the Oscars were almost in step with the moment. That was true not only in "One Battle After Another," but also in the apocalyptic road movie "Sir•t," the Iranian revenge drama "It Was Just an Accident" and Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," about the forces that prey on Black culture.

But if "One Battle After Another" and "Sinners" (four awards, including best actor for Michael B. Jordan and, in a first for women and Black directors of photography, best cinematography for Autumn Durald Arkapaw) maybe suggested a hopeful dawn for big-budget, original American movies, their wins also reflected the rapidly shifting ground in Hollywood.

Warner Bros., the studio behind those films, took home a record-tying 11 Oscars. David Zaslav, in a memo Monday to staff, called it "a remarkable moment for Warner Bros. Discovery." It was also potentially a last hurrah for Warner Bros. as a standalone studio. The studio has agreed to be acquired by David Ellison's Paramount Skydance in a deal worth \$111 billion.

The film industry, which has already seen MGM gobbled up by Amazon and 20th Century Fox bought by The Walt Disney Co., knows that contraction inevitably means fewer jobs. Film production in Los Angeles has cratered in recent years.

O'Brien, himself, imagined he could be out of a job soon, calling himself "the last human host" of the Oscars, which in three years will move from ABC to YouTube. In comic bits throughout the broadcast, O'Brien focused on the difficult plight of movies today. One segment spoofed iconic widescreen films cut to fit the smartphone-friendly vertical format. Another imagined "Casablanca" — a Warner Bros. film, by the way — dumbed down with constant plot regurgitation for half-watching streaming audiences.

So it's gotten a lot harder, on Hollywood's biggest night, to trot out the same song-and-dance pitch for the Dream Factory. The Oscars are now more like a beleaguered pep talk to keep up the good fight. Lost in the hoopla over Timothée Chalamet's comment worrying about the movies becoming like opera or ballet was a genuine concern for the marquee pop culture medium's future.

"The theatrical experience is something that's a little bit vulnerable right now," director Joachim Trier told



Chris Pizzello / AP Photos

Jose Antonio Garcia, from left, Florencia Martin, Leonardo DiCaprio, Cassandra Kulukundis, Regina Hall, Shayna McHale, Teyana Taylor, Michael Bauman, Paul Thomas Anderson, Anthony Carlino, Will Weike, Sara Murphy, Chase Infiniti, Christopher Scarabosio, and Andy Jurgensen accept the award for best picture award for "One Battle After Another" during the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



Chris Pizzello

Host Conan O'Brien, dressed as the character Gladys Lilly from "Weapons" is chased by children during the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

reporters backstage after winning best international film for "Sentimental Value." "So I'm very proud that (for) our film ... people have shown up."

POLITICS TURN PERSONAL

Many winners stayed clear of politics. Neither the word "Iran" or the name of President Donald Trump were uttered during the broadcast, though Jimmy Kimmel, a presenter, came close. Before reading the best documentary nominees, Kimmel sarcastically referenced the absence of "Melania."

"Oh, man," Kimmel said. "Is he going to be mad his wife wasn't nominated for this."

But after an awards season that often skirted politics, many were more blunt. Presenter Javier Bardem strode up to the mic and stated forthrightly: "No to war, and free Palestine." While accepting the best documentary Oscar for "Mr. Nobody Against Putin," Pavel Talankin, the schoolteacher in the documentary, said through an interpreter: "In the name of our future, in the name of all of our children, stop all of these wars now."

Jessie Buckley, the best actress winner for her grieving mother in "Hamnet," likewise cast her

eye to children, specifically her eight-month-old daughter Isla "who has absolutely no idea what's going on and is probably dreaming of milk," Buckley said.



Southern Towers BTS II LP proposes to build a 255-foot Self-Support Communications Tower/Structure. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 7101 Eminence Pike, Shelbyville, Shelby County, KY 40065. Lat: 38-18-39.81, Long: -85-11-31.21. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1352234. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS ? Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to Trileaf Corp, Hannah Dell, h.dell@trileaf.com, 1775 The Exchange SE, Suite 525, Atlanta GA 30339, 706-362-1745.



Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

Paul Thomas Anderson, winner of the awards for writing (adapted screenplay), directing, and best picture for "One Battle After Another," poses in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

Michael B. Jordan, left, winner of the award for actor in a leading role for "Sinners," and Ryan Coogler, winner of the award for writing (original screenplay) for "Sinners," pose in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



SHELBY CIRCUIT COURT
NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE
By virtue of orders of the Shelby Circuit Court in the below listed actions, I shall proceed to offer for sale, at public auction, the real estate described herein to the highest and best bidder at the Shelby County Judicial Center, Shelbyville, Kentucky, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M., EDT, which real estate is located in Shelby County, Kentucky, to-wit:
SALE NO. 1 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. V. JANE E. ROTH-STEIN, ET. AL., Civil Action No. 25-CI-00694, 510 McCormack Road, Waddy, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer to Deed Book 505, Page 319, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No.: 082-00-018)
Plaintiff's Attorney: Nathan R. Duvelius
SALE NO. 2 BG48, LLC V. SONIA ASHBY ROBINS, ET. AL., Civil Action No. 24-CI-00544, 1033 Union Street, Shelbyville, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer to Deed Book 273, Page 139, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No.: S5-16-004).
Plaintiff's Attorney: R. Eric Craig
SALE NO. 3 STOKTON MORTGAGE CORPORATION V. WILLIAM C. ROBINSON, ET. AL., Civil Action No. 25-CI-00609, 2057 Osprey CV, Shelbyville, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer to Deed Book 616, Page 244, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No.: 051A-01-035)
Plaintiff's Attorney: Crystl L. Saresky
SALE NO. 4 PLANET HOME LENDING LLC V. MERIDETH L. YOUNG AND SHELBY COUNTY, Civil Action 25-CI-00651, 669 Gina Drive, Shelbyville, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer to Deed Book 676, Page 462, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No.: S13-05-007)
Plaintiff's Attorney: Claire T. Morgan
Each of the foregoing parcels of real estate shall be sold on terms of cash deposit, cashier's check, certified check or personal check in the amount of the purchase price, or 10% down at the time of sale and the balance thereof due the entire purchase price, the Master Commissioner shall take from the purchaser the sum of 10% down and a good and sufficient bond WITH SURETY ACCEPTABLE TO THE MASTER COMMISSIONER for the balance of said purchase price and bearing interest from date of sale as stated in the court order until paid in full.
SALE NO. 1 The Plaintiff is granted an in Personam judgment in the total amount of \$77,087.04, as of January 23, 2026, plus, sums advanced in payment of ad valorem taxes, insurance premiums, winterization, or in preservation of the real estate, and other such sums recoverable under the terms of the note.
SALE NO. 2 The Plaintiff is awarded an in rem Default Judgment in the total amount of \$8,838.19.
SALE NO. 3 The Plaintiff is granted an in-personam judgment for the total amount of \$143,456.46, plus interest at the current rate of 3.625% per year (\$13.15 per diem) from October 27, 2025, until paid plus further advances for taxes and insurance premiums and its costs expended herein, any additional reasonable attorney fees and for any other fees expended for services performed in connection with Defendant(s) default and for protecting Plaintiff's interest in the real property and its rights under the Mortgage.
SALE NO. 4 The Plaintiff is granted judgment for the unpaid principal sum of \$160,138.53 from May 1, 2025; with interest thereon from April 1, 2024 in the amount of \$3,951.54 as of December 15, 2025 accruing thereon at the rate of 3.5000% per annum (\$15.36 per diem); as well as late charges, amounts advanced by Plaintiff for taxes and insurance, and other charges and costs, including Plaintiff's attorney fees and costs incurred and accruing in this civil action, all in the grand total amount of no less than \$167,549.93 as of December 15, 2025, with post-judgment interest thereon to accrue at the rate of 3.5000% per annum until paid. Any amounts incurred and accrued after December 15, 2025, for sums advanced by Plaintiff for taxes and insurance and other charges and costs, including Plaintiff's attorney fees and costs incurred, may be awarded through Supplemental Judgment upon proper Motion.
MASTER COMMISSIONER'S NOTES
All prospective purchasers are advised to fully understand and consider the following:
1. All properties are sold strictly "as is with no warranties expressed or implied". Properties shall be sold at the Judicial Center. No prior inspections are arranged by the Court or the Commissioner in that properties are often occupied as of the day of sale.
2. Risk of loss to improvements to real estate shifts to purchaser as of the date of sale. Insurance should be placed immediately by successful bidder.
3. All properties sold for less than two-thirds the appraised value are subject to current owner statutory right of redemption pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes.
4. Rights of possession given to purchaser with deed, but hold-over occupants of real estate may require additional Court action by purchaser to obtain actual possession.
5. Master Commissioner's deed warrants title only so far as authorized by the judgment, order, and proceedings of the Court, but no further. Independent title examination by successful purchaser is recommended prior to confirmation of sale.
6. If the successful purchaser is an LLC, a certificate of good standing must be presented with a resolution allowing member to sign.
7. Third Party Surety must be presented at sale. Any questions about the surety must be directed to the Master Commissioner prior to sales date.
CHARLES S. TICHENOR, MASTER COMMISSIONER
SHELBY CIRCUIT COURT
P.O. BOX 509
TAYLORSVILLE, KY 40071
PHONE (502) 477-6412/ FAX (502) 477-2169



PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Shelbyville, 315 Washington Street, Shelbyville, KY 40065, hereby declares intention to apply for an Entertainment Destination Center (EDC) license through the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, subject to the provisions of KRS 243.020 and regulations set out in 804 KAR 4:370.

The geographic boundary of the EDC common area is proposed as follows: Beginning at the northern-most corner for the entrance to the Shelbyville Conference and Welcome Center parking lot on 7th Street and continuing east to the rear of that parking lot corner, then south to the rear parking lot edge of Wakefield Scarce (Science Hill), then east to the corner lot-line for Science Hill, turning south to Washington Street, then east to 5th Street, turning south to Henry Clay Street, then west slightly beyond 8th Street to include the Blue-Gables property, then north (parallel to 8th Street) to Main Street, then west on Main Street to 9th Street, then north on 9th Street to Washington Street, then east to 7th Street, then north on 7th Street and terminating at the starting point at the parking lot entrance to the conference center. (See map)

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601, within 30 days (KRS 243.430) of the date of this legal publication.



Shelbyville Entertainment Destination Center (EDC) Proposed Boundaries