

"The Artist" Tops Golden Globe Awards

Difficulty:

AVERAGE

Date of release:

Monday 23rd January 2012

Discussion activities to be done after completing this EA lesson

Today's report looked at the recent Golden Globe awards in Beverly Hills. Who was there? Who won what? What other "gala events" are there in the film world, and in other spheres?

Extension discussion topics

A. Talking about and going over the specific topic / idea / issue in listening text

Introduction = The 2012 Golden Globe awards.

1. What does the report say about the organization of the Golden Globe awards?
 - an annual gala event in Beverly Hills.
 - organized by the HFPA (Hollywood Foreign Press Association).
 - 90 international entertainment reporters chose (voted for) the winners.
 - there are film category awards, and television program and performance awards.
2. Can you name some of the films and celebrities that won awards, and what they won?
 - *The Artist* - best comedy film.
 - *The Descendants* - best dramatic film.
 - *Midnight In Paris* - best screenplay.
 - *The Adventures of Tin Tin* - best animated feature.
 - *A Separation* - best foreign language film.
 - French actor Jean Dujardin - best lead actor in a comedy film.
 - George Clooney - best lead actor in a drama.
 - Meryl Streep - best actress in a dramatic film.
 - Ludovic Bourque - best musical score composer.
 - Michelle Williams - best actress in a comedy film.
3. What do you remember about the descriptions that were given of some of the films?
 - *The Artist* - a silent, black-and-white story of old Hollywood.
 - *The Descendants* - a bittersweet story of a family in Hawaii.
 - *The Iron Lady* - a dramatic film about former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.
 - *My Week With Marilyn* - a comedy film about the screen legend Marilyn Monroe.

B. Expanding on (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = The films and celebrities that received awards at the 2012 Golden Globe ceremony, and films in general.

1. Did you watch the Golden Globe awards on television? Why? / Why not? Have you watched any extracts on TV or on the Internet since?
2. Have you seen any of the films that received awards? Which one(s)? Tell the group / your teacher more about the story of the film. Did you enjoy it / them? What did you particularly like / dislike?
3. Which one of the films would you most like to see? Why? Will you go to see it when it is on at a cinema near you, or will you watch it on DVD or the Internet?
4. Do you watch a lot of films? About how many per week / per month? What sort of films do you like best? Who is your favorite actor / actress? Why? Which of his / her films is your favorite? Tell the group about it.

OR, Topic = The Golden Globe awards.

Find out all you can about the Golden Globe awards, then present the information to your group or your teacher.

For example, you could start here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award
or here: <http://www.goldenglobes.org/goldenglobeawards/>

C. Extending discussion of (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = Gala events.

1. The Golden Globe awards are "one of the first salvos in the barrage of award shows leading up to Hollywood's top annual honors, the Oscars". Can you explain this sentence? What other film award ceremonies can you think of around the world? (Academy awards - the Oscars; Les Césars in France; Baftas in Great Britain; European Film Academy awards in Berlin and other European cities; Cannes Film Festival; Seville Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival... Others?)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_film_awards
2. Do you like watching these gala events, or do you think they are a waste of time and money? Explain your opinion. Why do you think there are so many film award ceremonies?

3. The various film award ceremonies mentioned are international events. There are many award ceremonies that celebrate success on a national or local level. What other walks of life have gala events to celebrate success in this way? (Nurse of the Year, Chef of the year, Young Plumber of the Year, etc. Others?) Have you been to any such events? If so, describe the experience. Are you happy with the idea of this sort of award? If not, why not?
4. In Great Britain, there are Teacher of the Year awards. What do you think of this? Would you nominate (suggest) any of your teachers for an award? What reasons would you give? The video here might give you some ideas!
http://www.teachingawards.com/about_the_teaching_awards

Audioscript

"Wow, thank you very much, Hollywood Foreign Press. Wow! This is fantastic!"

From Steven Spielberg to Martin Scorsese, George Clooney to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, the "A" list of film celebrities turned out for the gala event in Beverly Hills as the 90 international entertainment reporters in the HFPA spread their awards among a handful of films.

They gave three Golden Globes to the French-made audience favorite *The Artist*. A silent, black-and-white story of old Hollywood, it won best comedy film as well as awards for lead actor Jean Dujardin and musical score composer Ludovic Bourse.

The Descendants, a bittersweet story of a family in Hawaii, won best dramatic film and best lead actor in a drama for the star George Clooney, who accepted the award with a nod to its writer-director.

"And especially, thank you very much to Alexander Payne who makes wonderful films and is a great friend. I thank you very much for this."

Meryl Streep took home the best actress in a dramatic film for playing former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady*. Best actress in a comedy film went to Michelle Williams for her portrayal of a screen legend in *My Week With Marilyn*.

"Thank you to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for putting in my hands the same award that Marilyn Monroe herself won over 50 years ago. I'm honored, thank you."

Woody Allen's *Midnight In Paris* took best screenplay. Scorsese got best director for his ambitious "Hugo." And Spielberg accepted best animated feature for *The Adventures of Tin Tin*.

The Golden Globe for best foreign language film went to the Iranian drama *A Separation*, directed by Asghar Farhadi.

"It's an award that was chosen by critics and critics are not easy people to please. These happenings will most likely cause more audiences to be found for this movie in the world."

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association also gives out awards for television programs and performances, but the film categories get the most attention as one of the first salvos in the barrage of award shows leading up to Hollywood's top annual honors, the Oscars, presented in February.

For VOA News, this is Alan Silverman in Hollywood.