

OSCARS 2021 · THE 93RD ACADEMY AWARDS

REPRESENTATION RUNDOWN

By The Representation Project

Historic firsts made movie lovers and representation activists wonder if the Academy has finally embraced diverse talent in film. Here are the wins that signal progress toward gender parity — and the areas the Oscars still need to improve upon.

01 HISTORY MADE WITH NOMADLAND

2ND

woman ever to win Best Director — and the first woman of color

CHLOÉ ZHAO · NOMADLAND

Thirteen years after Kathryn Bigelow shattered the glass ceiling with *The Hurt Locker* (2008), Zhao becomes the first woman of color to receive the honor. Yet only one in four Best Picture winners have focused on women's experiences — male-centered stories still earn the spotlight.

13 YEARS BETWEEN

2008 · Kathryn Bigelow wins for *The Hurt Locker* — until now, the only woman to win Best Director

2021 · Chloé Zhao wins for *Nomadland* — second woman, first woman of color

02 WOMEN OF COLOR TAKING HOME THE PRIZE

YUH-JUNG YOUN

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS · MINARI

At 73, she stole hearts as *Minari*'s loving, feisty grandmother — the second Asian actress to win the award, and the first since 1957. Her speech went viral after she asked executive producer Brad Pitt where he was while they were filming.

MIA NEAL & JAMIKA NELSON

BEST MAKEUP & HAIRSTYLING · FIRST BLACK WINNERS

The first Black women ever to win the award. "Jamika and I break this glass ceiling with so much excitement for the future," Neal said in a history-making acceptance speech.

> "I CAN PICTURE BLACK TRANS WOMEN STANDING UP HERE, AND ASIAN SISTERS AND OUR LATINA SISTERS AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN — ONE DAY IT WON'T BE UNUSUAL OR GROUNDBREAKING; IT WILL JUST BE NORMAL."
>
> — Mia Neal, acceptance speech

03 STILL WORK TO BE DONE

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Latinx or Asian actresses have won Best Actress in the Oscars' 93-year history

- **Steven Yeun** — the first Korean American nominated for Best Actor, for *Minari*
- **Riz Ahmed** — the first actor of Pakistani descent, and second of South Asian descent, nominated, for *Sound of Metal*
- Two of the three Best Actor nominees were men of color, expanding what a "leading man" looks like — yet the Oscar missed an opportunity to make history.