



Chris Pizzello/Invision

Brian May and Adam Lambert of Queen perform beneath an image of Freddie Mercury.

## 'Green Book' wins best picture award in an upset at the Oscars

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the 91st Academy Awards, delighting those who see the film as a feel-good throwback but disappointing others who ridicule it as an outdated inversion of "Driving Miss Daisy."

In a year when Hollywood could have made history by bestowing its top award on Netflix ("Roma") or Marvel ("Black Panther") for the first time, the motion picture academy instead threw its fullest support Sunday behind a traditional interracial buddy tale that proved as popular as it was divisive. But Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" weathered criticism that it was retrograde and inauthentic to triumph over more acclaimed films and bigger box-office successes.

It was an unexpected finale to a brisk, hostless ceremony that was awash in historic wins for diversity, including Spike Lee's first competitive Oscar. More women and more individual

black nominees won than ever before.

The Oscars otherwise spread awards around for Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation "Black Panther," Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white personal epic "Roma" and the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody."

"Green Book" also won best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best original screenplay.

Lee's win for best adapted screenplay for his white supremacist drama "BlacKkKlansman," an award he shared with three co-writers, gave the ceremony its signature moment. The crowd rose in a standing ovation, Lee leapt into the arms of presenter Samuel L. Jackson and even the backstage press room burst into applause.

One of the biggest surprises of the night was in the best actress category. Olivia Colman won for her Queen Anne in the royal romp "The Favourite," denying Glenn Close her first Oscar. Close remains the most-nominated living actor never to win, with seven nominations.

The night's co-lead nominee "Roma" won best direc-

tor and best cinematography for Cuarón, whose film also notched Mexico's first foreign language film Oscar. Cuarón and his "Three Amigos" countrymen — Alejandro Inarritu and Guillermo del Toro, who presented Cuarón with best picture — have had a stranglehold on the category, winning five of the last six years.

The wins for "Roma" gave Netflix its most significant awards yet, but "Green Book" denied the streaming giant the best picture win it dearly sought. Netflix remains to some a contentious force in Hollywood, since it largely bypasses theaters. The wins for "Black Panther" — along with best animated film winner "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" — meant the first Academy Awards for Marvel, the most consistent blockbuster factory Hollywood has ever seen.

## President Trump sets up abortion obstacles and bars clinic referrals

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and DAVID CRARY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Friday set up new obstacles for women seeking abortions, barring taxpayer-funded family planning clinics from making abortion referrals.

The new policy is certain to be challenged in court. Washington state says it will sue to challenge the policy.

The rule by the Health and Human Services Department also would prohibit federally funded family planning clinics from being housed in the same locations as abortion providers, and require stricter financial separation.

Clinic staff would still be permitted to discuss abortion with clients, along with other options. However, that would no longer be required.

The move is the latest in a series of Trump administration efforts to remake government policy on reproductive health. The American Medical Association warned it could have an impact far beyond abortion, potentially affecting access to health care services now provided to low-income women by the clinics, including birth control, cancer screenings, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. By law, the family planning program does not pay for abortions.

"This is the wrong prescription and threatens to compound a health equity deficit in this nation," AMA president Barbara

L. McAneny said in a statement. "Women should have access to these medical services regardless of where they live, how much money they make, their background, or whether they have health insurance."

It could be some time before women served by the federal family program feel the full impact. Women's groups, organizations representing the clinics, and Democratic-led states are expected to sue to block the policy from going into effect. Administration officials told abortion opponents on a call Friday that they expect legal action, according to a participant.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal laws prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

Planned Parenthood, whose affiliates are major providers of family planning services as well as abortions, said the administration is trying to impose a "gag rule," and launched a full campaign to block it. Congressional supporters of the organization said it receives about \$60 million a year from the federal program.

"I want our patients to know this — we will fight through every avenue so this illegal, unethical rule never goes into effect," said

Planned Parenthood's president, Dr. Leana Wen.

She said the new policy would prevent doctors from referring women for abortions "even if your life depended on it."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., declared: "Republicans must end their relentless assault on women's health care and rights."

Planned Parenthood and other groups representing the clinics say the new requirements for physical separation of facilities would be costly and all but impossible to fulfill. Planned Parenthood said the administration is making another attempt to drive it out of business, after efforts to deny funding failed in Congress.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway scoffed at that argument. "They've been saying for years they don't co-mingle their funds, so this should be easy for them," she told reporters at the White House. "Physically separate and financially separate."

Religious conservatives see the administration's action as a way to break down what they call an indirect taxpayer subsidy of abortion providers.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, called it "a major step toward the ultimate goal of ending taxpayers' forced partnership with the abortion industry."

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