

# Real Life Stories Win Big at Oscars

## Explosive race drama 'Crash' best picture

(AP) — For the second year in a row, movies about real people enmeshed in wrenching drama, were the winners at the Academy Awards.

"Crash" won the surprise Oscar for best picture at the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles Sunday. Reese Witherspoon's portrayal of June Carter Cash in "Walk the Line" won her the best actress award and Philip Seymour Hoffman as the glory-hungry writer in "Capote" took home best actor honors. Real life drama also worked last year with Jamie Foxx in "Ray," the story of Ray Charles.

This time around, the Oscars were anything but predictable, however, as the explosive race drama "Crash" denied "Brokeback Mountain" the best-picture Oscar - despite the gay Western love story's front-runner status and its best-director award for Ang Lee.

With six different films dividing up the top six Oscars, the ceremony hosted by first-timer Jon Stewart denied anyone unmitigated bragging rights.

Witherspoon, who joined co-star Joaquin Phoenix as country legend Johnny Cash in singing in the film, gave credit for her performance to her mother and grandmother.

"They taught me a lot and a lot of characteristics that a woman should have in life, and how tough women are and how strong we are," she said backstage. "And I feel like it really helped my performance with June, because I sort of came in with an innate knowledge of who she was as a woman."



'Crash' producers Paul Haggis and Cathy Schulman. (AP photo)

Hoffman's performance captured Capote's charm and the author's self-serving style as he gathered material for his groundbreaking book, "In Cold Blood."

"Crash," featuring an ensemble cast in intersecting story lines over a violent, disturbing 36-hour period in Los Angeles, was lifted by a late surge of praise that carried it over "Brokeback Mountain," which had won most other key Hollywood honors.

"We are humbled by the other nominees in this category. You have made this year one of the most breathtaking and stunning maverick years in American cinema," said "Crash" producer Cathy Schulman.

The film was also honored for original screenplay by the film's director, Paul Haggis, and Bobby Moresco,

and film editing. "Brokeback Mountain" captured best adapted screenplay for Larry McMurtry ("Lonesome Dove") and Diana Ossana, and musical score for Gustavo Santaolalla.

Supporting-performer Oscars on Sunday went to George Clooney in "Syriana" and Rachel Weisz in "The Constant Gardener."

Clooney's win capped an exceptional year in which he made Oscar history by becoming the first person nominated for acting in one movie and directing another. (The Edward R. Murrow tale "Good Night, and Good Luck" earned him directing and writing nominations.)

"Crash," an Oscar rarity that was shot outside the studio system on a meager \$6.5 million budget, became a solid box-office hit, grossing \$55 million domestically.

The cast of "Crash" includes supporting-actor nominee Matt Dillon, Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock, Brendan Fraser, Terrence Howard, Thandie Newton, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Jennifer Esposito and Ryan Phillippe.

## Best of 2006 Awards

**BEST PICTURE:** "Crash"

**ACTOR:**  
Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote"

**ACTRESS:**  
Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line"

**SUPPORTING ACTOR:**  
George Clooney, "Syriana"

**SUPPORTING ACTRESS:**  
Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener"

**DIRECTOR:**  
Ang Lee, "Brokeback Mountain"



Philip Seymour Hoffman accepts an Oscar best actor.

## Rap Group Performs, Wins Best Song



The rap group Three 6 Mafia accept the Oscar for best original song "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" from the motion picture "Hustle & Flow" at the 78th Academy Awards. (AP photo)

### 'Three 6 Mafia' shines in TV telecast

(AP) — Forget the suspense over best movie or actor or actress - the real question on Oscar night was whether Three 6 Mafia could actually perform a cuss-free, non-graphic version of "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp."

In one of the most exciting performances for a best song, usually characterized by bland performances of even blander songs, the Memphis rap group Three 6 Mafia gave a rousing rendition of their song from "Hustle & Flow," then took the Oscar home to boot.

They are probably the only Oscar winners to pick up their trophy wearing throwback jerseys, sneakers and diamond-studded teeth. Though they thanked all the same people Phillip Seymour Hoffman would - their mothers, family, etc. - their euphoric, giddy delivery made the moment even more surreal.

It wasn't exactly something you'd see on the Source Awards, with the "Fame"-like dancers and

choreography. But the performance from the group best known for their raw street-life rhymes stayed true to the gritty essence of the song.

"Hustle" actress Taraji P. Henson, who sang the irresistible hook in the movie, also belted it out on Oscar night (wearing a cocktail dress): "It's hard out here for a pimp, when you tryin' to get the money for the rent, with the Cadillac and gas money spent, you got a whole lot of witches jumpin' ship." Of course, "witches" was not the word used in the movie version. We'll let you guess which word that was.

Still, despite toning down the lyrics, Three 6 Mafia was bleeped once during their performance because ABC censors thought they heard an obscenity (a network spokeswoman said they couldn't be sure what was said). And they got another bleep during their giddy acceptance speech, for the same reason.

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