

Indie Films at the Oscars

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Independent (Indie) films are categorized as films that are made without financial support from film studios or major production companies and are typically funded by the project's producer or director securing the finances independently. Indie films are not limited to any specific genre and generally rely on things like film festivals to gain attention and notoriety.

Over the years, indie films have grown in popularity and become an indicator of up-and-coming filmmakers. They are set apart from mainstream movies due to their small budgets and independence, creating a more intimate feeling. More recently, major motion studios have been acquiring indie production companies creating subsidiary companies to produce studio-financed indies, blurring the line between what is and is not an indie film.

As indie film production has grown, they have also begun to infiltrate major award shows that were typically dominated by major studio productions. This year, indie films were overwhelmingly present at the 2025 Oscars. The highlight of the evening, "Anora," took home

the Oscars for original screenplay, editing, and direction, and Mikey Madison was awarded the Best Actress award. Adrien Brody won the award for Best Actor with his role in “The Brutalist.”

Along with this, an independent animated film, “Flow,” beat out two Disney films in the category of Best Animated Film. This marks five years since the last time Disney took home the award. Other notable indie film wins include “I’m Still Here” receiving Best International Film, “No Other Land” winning Best Documentary, “Emilia Pérez” earned a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Zoe Saldña and an Oscar for Best Original Song, and Kieran Culkin taking home the Best Supporting Actor award for his role in “A Real Pain.”

Sources: [Arc Studio](#), [Vogue](#), [Woodstock Film Festival](#)

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