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PRESS RELEASE

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***An Afternoon with Oscar* • (Saturday, February 28, 2:00 p.m.) • Main Library**

The fourth annual *Afternoon with Oscar* panel discussion will take place at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, on Saturday, February 28, 2:00 p.m. The panel will include *Cincinnati Enquirer* movie reviewer Margaret McGurk, *City Beat's* Steve Ramos, College Hill Branch Reference Librarian Heidi Bullard, freelance film critic T. T. Clinkscales, and Northern Kentucky University professor Tom Zaniello. Fun facts and trivia about 76th Annual Academy Awards will be discussed, and those who attend will be eligible for free movie tickets for answering Oscar trivia questions. (This year's Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, February 29 at 8:00 p.m.)

When the first Academy Awards were handed out on May 16, 1929, movies had just begun to talk. That first ceremony took place during a banquet held in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The attendance was 250 and tickets cost \$10.

Unlike today's ceremony, suspense was in short supply. Back then, the winners were known prior to the banquet. Results were given in advance to the newspapers for publication at 11:00 p.m. on the night of the Awards. In 1940, guests arriving for the affair could actually buy the 8:45 p.m. edition of the *Los Angeles Times* and read the winners. As a result, the sealed-envelope system was adopted the next year and remains in use today.

Academy Awards Trivia:

- The Oscars were first broadcast in color in 1966. From 1971 through 1975 NBC carried the Awards. ABC has televised the show since 1976 and is under contract through 2008.
- The first 15 award presentations were banquet affairs held first in the Blossom Room, then at the Ambassador and Biltmore hotels. After 1942, increased attendance and World War II made banquets impractical, and the Awards moved to theaters, where they've been held since.

- In the first year, Janet Gaynor was the lone woman among 15 award winners. In the second year, only seven awards were given — two for acting and one each for Best Picture, Directing, Writing, Cinematography and Art Direction. Since then, the Awards have grown slowly and steadily in both the size of its audience and the fields of achievement covered.
- Attendance at the Annual Academy Awards is by invitation only. No tickets are put on public sale.
- The scheduled Awards ceremony has been interrupted three times. The first was in 1938 when floods all but washed out Los Angeles and delayed the ceremonies one week. The Awards ceremony was postponed two days in 1968 out of respect for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose funeral was held on April 8, the day set for the Awards. And the Awards were postponed for 24 hours in 1981 due to the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.
- The Special Effects category was added in 1939 and was first won by THE RAINS CAME.
- In 1934, a write-in campaign was launched to nominate Bette Davis for her performance in OF HUMAN BONDAGE. The Academy now forbids write-ins on the final ballot. Pricewaterhouse (now known as PricewaterhouseCoopers) signed with the Academy that year and has been employed ever since to tabulate and ensure the secrecy of the results.
- Walt Disney has won the most Academy Awards, with 26 to his name, including three Special Awards and the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.

✓ **Interpreter for the hearing impaired available upon request. Please call the ADA Coordinator at 513-369-4406 (TDD 513-369-4409) at least one week before program.**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**