



**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

February 22, 2006

***An Afternoon with Oscar* – (Saturday, March 4, 2:00 p.m.) –Main Library**

Spend an *Afternoon with Oscar* at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, on Saturday, March 4, 2:00 p.m. For the fifth year in a row, a panel of local will discuss the 77-year history of the annual Academy Awards show. The panel includes *City Beat's* Steve Ramos, *CinWeekly's* Tabari McCoy, Kerry Terrana of the *U. C. News Record*, and freelance film critic T. T. Clinkscales.

Fun facts and trivia about the 78th Annual Academy Awards will be discussed, and those who attend will be eligible for free movie tickets for correctly answering Oscar trivia questions. (This year's Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, March 5, 8:00 p.m.)

Some Academy Awards Trivia:

About The Oscar



- It's been called "the Academy statuette," "the golden trophy," and "the statue of merit." Born in 1928, the Academy Award of Merit —known today as simply "the Oscar" — depicts a knight holding a crusader's sword, standing on a reel of film with five spokes, signifying the original branches of the Academy: Actors, Writers, Directors, Producers and Technicians.
- Specifications: 8.5 pounds and 13.5 inches tall. MGM's chief art director Cedric Gibbons designed the statuette, and Frederic Hope, Gibbons' assistant, created the original Belgian black marble base. Artist George Stanley sculpted the design, and the California Bronze Foundry hand cast the first statuette in bronze plated with 24-karat gold.
- The Origin of the Oscar Name: A popular but unsubstantiated story has been that the moniker caught on after Academy librarian and eventual executive director Margaret Herrick said that the statuette resembled her Uncle

Oscar. Its first documented mention came after the sixth Awards Presentation in 1934 when Hollywood columnist Sidney Skolsky used it in reference to Katharine Hepburn's first Best Actress win. The Academy itself didn't use the nickname officially until 1939.

Oscar has changed his look on occasion. From the 1930s through the 50's, juvenile players received miniature replicas of the statuette; ventriloquist Edgar Bergen was presented with a wooden statuette with a movable mouth; and Walt Disney was honored

with one full-size and seven miniature statuettes on behalf of his animated feature *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. In support of the World War II effort between 1942 and 1944, Oscars were made of plaster, to be traded in for golden statuettes after the war. Additionally, the base was raised and changed from marble to metal in 1945. And in 1949, Academy Award statuettes began to be numbered, starting with No. 501.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

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