



Sonny and Ludvina Nevarez (SDFF founding patrons), Vicky Carlson (SDFF board chair), Dr. Howard and Barbara Milstein (honorary chairs), Tonya Mantooth (SDFF CEO), Gina and John Daley (hosts/homeowners)



Jenica McClure, Don and Kathryn Vaughn, Sharon Rose, Amy Myers, Merridee Book (SDFF development VP)



Heather Salter, Patti Judd and Bob Salt, with SDFF ambassadors Jen Schmidt, Diana Shapiro and Lisa Sullivan

Hollywood at the Ranch

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S.D. FILM FOUNDATION OSCAR NIGHT PARTY

On Hollywood's biggest night of the year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presents its Academy Awards. When the tradition began in 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, 15 statuettes were given to artists, directors and other film-industry participants in a ceremony lasting just 15 minutes. About 270 attended — there might have been more, if guest tickets for the ceremony hadn't cost a whopping \$5. (Remember, that was 1929. The price equates to more than \$70 in today's dollars.)

The statuettes, termed "Academy Awards of Merit," soon became affectionately known as "Oscars" — nobody seems to quite know how, but there are several competing theories. The Academy officially adopted the name in 1939.

Initially, awardees were announced to the media in advance, but that changed after the Los Angeles Times announced the winners before the ceremony began. Since 1941, sealed envelopes have been used to maintain secrecy until the presentation.

In our time, "Oscar Night" has become a popular affair, televised to an audience of millions — and a great excuse for big social gatherings. It's also very important for film enthusiasts, including the San Diego Film Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to support the art of filmmaking by developing film-related events throughout the year. SDFF hosts the annual San

Diego Film Festival (October 10-14; see <http://sdfilmfest.com>). The 2017 festival premiered two of 2018's Best Picture contenders, and the event grows bigger every year.

Gina and John Daley hosted SDFF's Oscar Night party last Sunday at their Hacienda Del Corazon Rancho Santa Fe estate. The spacious entertainment-oriented spread was like a classic Hollywood western movie set, with life-size bronze cowboy sculptures, a saloon with saddle-topped barstools, pistol-handle doorknobs, leather upholstery, a stage and theater, and much more. Honorary chairs Barbara and Dr. Howard Milstein — and 250 guests dressed to the nines — enjoyed a red carpet entry (complete with paparazzi), huge silent auction, specialty cocktails, a galloping gamut of gourmet grub courtesy of seven premiere celebrity chefs, and even a custom Oscars cake. There was so much to see and do that the Oscars telecast — on dozens of large TV screens — seemed a mere distraction. As in Hollywood, departing guests received intriguing "swag bags."

Event proceeds will benefit SDFF's Focus on Impact film tour, which brings films and filmmakers to area high schools. The educational program stimulates thought about complex issues impacting us, and about the experiences and challenges of others.



Dominic Purpura (sponsor), Sharon Paglieri, Ben Kaufman, Karen Fox, Lynne and Dr. Steve Wheeler



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