





# HITTING THE HEADLINES

Read the following headlines. Complete them with the correct words (some words can be used more than once):

## DIVERSITY / ASIAN / INVISIBLE / OSCARS / HOLLYWOOD / NETFLIX / STEREOTYPES / STUDY

- « Michelle Yeoh Makes History as the First ..... Best Actress Winner at the ..... », The New York Times, by Nicole Sperling March 12, 2023
- « What ..... movies do to perpetuate racial ..... », DW article, by Kira Schacht 02/21/2019
- « Latinos continue to be ..... in ..... and the media, a new report finds », NPR news by Mandalit del Barco October 6, 2022
- « ..... has made 'no progress' in on-screen ..... , report finds », The Guardian, by Sam Levin, Tue 31 Jul 2018
- « Nine years after #..... SoWhite hashtag and movement, a look at what's changed », The Conversation, 14 March 2024
- « ..... Productions Are More Diverse Than Studio Films, ..... Shows », The New York Times, by Nicole Sperling Feb. 26, 2021





# HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

- 1) What do you think is the role of cinema in representing different cultures and ethnicities?
- 2) Can you think of any films or filmmakers that highlight multiculturalism or ethnic diversity? How are they received by audiences?
- 3) Why do you think diversity in front of the camera (actors) is important? What about behind the camera (directors, writers, producers)?
- 4) Do you believe that historically movies have helped promote ethnic diversity and inclusion? On the contrary, do you think the movie industry has lagged behind society's evolution in dealing with multiculturalism?
- 5) Over the past few years which efforts have been made to bring about changes in the film industry? Can you give examples of recent films including people of colour in the leading roles? Speak about the Hollywood movie industry as well as the French film industry.
- 6) Today, are cable television and streaming platforms such as Netflix better at portraying and embracing ethnic diversity? Give examples.
- 7) How do you think the portrayal of Asian characters in Western cinema has changed over the years? What more needs to be done?

# QUIZZ – HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

Read the following multiple-choice questions and choose the correct answer :



**QUESTION 1** Which controversial film released in 1915 glorified the Ku Klux Klan and influenced racism in the U.S.?

- a) Birth of a Nation
- b) The Jazz Singer
- c) Gone with the Wind



**QUESTION 2** In what year did Hattie McDaniel become the first African American to win an Oscar?

- a) 1927
- b) 1940
- c) 1960



# QUIZZ – HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY



**QUESTION 3** What 1973 film starring Bruce Lee marked a shift in the portrayal of Asian men in Hollywood?

- a) The Jazz Singer
- b) Enter the Dragon
- c) Do the Right Thing



**QUESTION 4** What film became the first Black LGBTQ+ movie to win the Best Picture award in 2017?

- a) Black Panther
- b) Do the Right Thing
- c) Moonlight



# QUIZZ – HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY



**QUESTION 5** What was the name of the code, in effect from 1934 to 1966, that condemned interracial relationships in Hollywood films?

- a) The Motion Picture Production Code
- b) The McCarthy Commission
- c) The Hays Code



**QUESTION 6** Which actress, born in Puerto Rico, won an Oscar for her role in the 1962 film “West Side Story”?

- a) Rita Moreno
- b) Natalie Wood
- c) Halle Berry



# QUIZZ – HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY



**QUESTION 7** Which film featured the first interracial kiss in American cinema in 1967?

- a) Guess Who's Coming for Dinner
- b) The Man
- c) Do the Right Thing



**QUESTION 8** Who became the first woman of color to win the Best Director Oscar in 2021?

- a) Chloé Zhao
- b) Lucie Lu
- c) Ang Lee





# HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

## A TIMELINE

**1830's & 1840's** - before the invention of cinema, "**Minstrel shows**" gained popularity, with blackface and white actors representing other ethnicities

**1912** – the **first film with an all-Black cast** is shot by female French filmmaker Alice Guy Blaché, "A Fool and his Money"

**1915** – the film « **Birth of a Nation** » is released. The first major motion picture and super-production, it celebrated the **Ku Klux Klan** and influenced the **growth of racism** in the United States

**1922** - under the leadership of Alvaro Obrador, **Mexico bans Hollywood films** that portray Mexicans in a derogatory way

**1927** – The « **Jazz Singer** », one of the first « talkies » is released with other examples of white actors using **blackface**

**1940 Hattie McDaniel** is the first ever African American to win an Oscar for **Best Actress** in a Supporting Role for « Gone with the Wind »

**1934 to 1966** – The **Hays Code** is adopted and enforced. Among other things, it condemns the **interbreeding** of people who are considered to be of different races or ethnic backgrounds.



# HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

## A TIMELINE

**1962** - Puerto Rican actress **Rita Moreno** becomes the first latina to win an Oscar for **best supporting role** in “West Side Story” in which non-Latina actress Natalie Wood plays the lead role of Maria

**1964** - actor **Sidney Poitier** is the first Black man to take home the **best actor award at the Oscars and the Golden Globes**

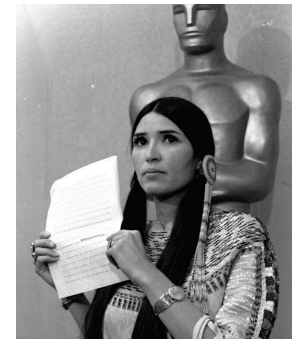
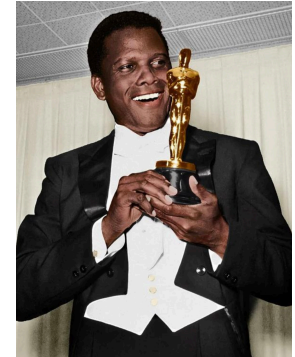
**1967** - The first **interracial kiss** comes to American cinema with the comedy-drama “Guess Who’s Coming For Dinner”. Interracial marriage was made legal just six months before the movie came out.

**1972** - political drama “The Man” stars James Earl Jones as the **first Black president**.

**1973** - **Marlon Brando** shocked millions by boycotting the Oscar ceremony and sending an Apache woman named **Sacheen Littlefeather** to reject his best actor statuette

**1973** - **Bruce Lee**’s first Hollywood film, “Enter the Dragon”, is one of the most profitable films of all time, earning 410 times its original budget. It marked a shift in the **portrayal of Asian men** in the movie industry

**1989** – **Spike Lee** releases “**Do the Right Thing**” and explores simmering racial tension in a Brooklyn neighbourhood



# HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

## A TIMELINE

**2002** – **Ang Lee**'s “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”, a Mandarin-Chinese film is nominated for **best picture**

**2002** - Halle Berry and Denzel Washington win an Oscar

**2012** - Ava du Vernay is the **first Black woman to win Best Director** at Sundance Film Festival

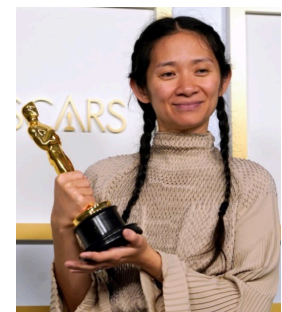
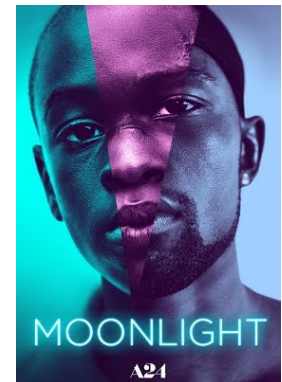
**2013 -2014** - **Alfonso Cuaron and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu** win the directing Oscar for “Gravity” and “Birdman”

**2015-2016** - The **#OscarsSoWhite hashtag and movement** begin as a push to make the Academy Awards more inclusive and racially diverse. It sparks a critical **reexamination for representation** across the media industry, which includes TV, film, Broadway, music, and news.

**2017** - « Moonlight » is the **first Black LGBTQ+ film** to win award for Best Picture

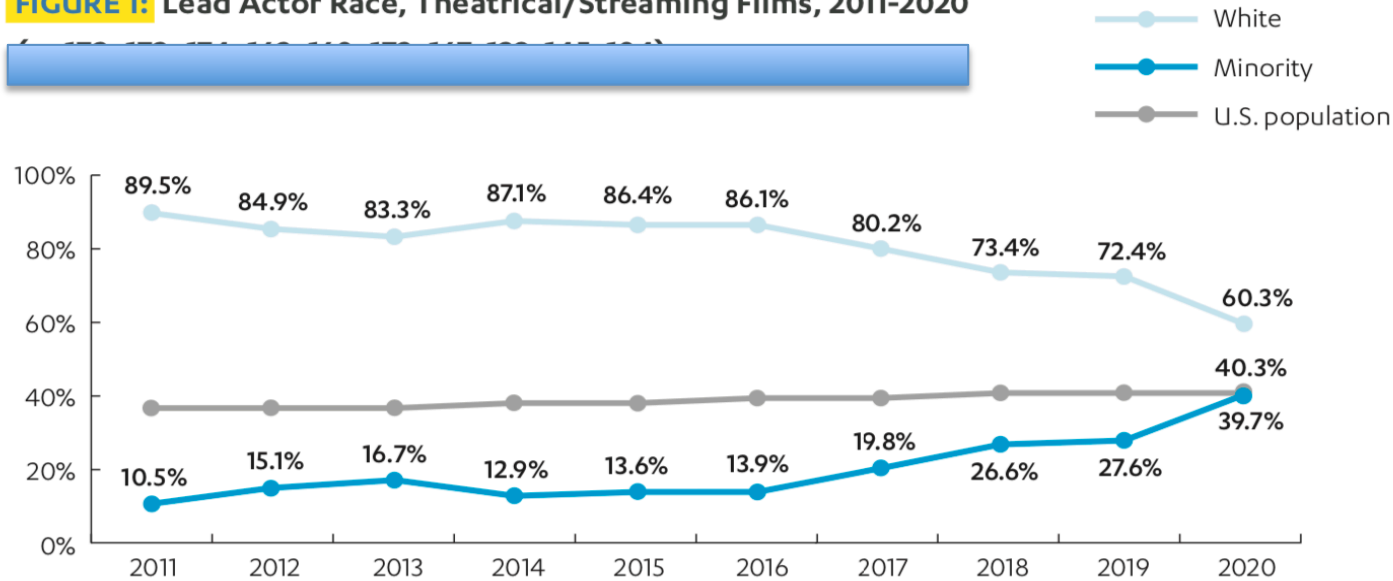
**2018** - « **Black Panther** » is the first ever **Black Marvel superhero film** to be released / Jordan Peele is the first Black screenwriter to win an award

**2021** – **Chinese filmmaker Chloé Zhao** wins the **best director award** at the 93rd annual Academy Awards for « Nomadland », becoming the first woman of colour to win the Oscar



# HOLLYWOOD DIVERSITY

**FIGURE 1:** Lead Actor Race, Theatrical/Streaming Films, 2011-2020



▲ People of color accounted for 39.7 percent of the leads in top films for 2020, the highest share on record. At 40.3 percent of the U.S. population in 2020, people of color were for the first time just a hair short of proportionate representation among film leads that year. Indeed, the group has made tremendous progress among film leads over the course of this report series: its 2020 share was nearly quadruple its 2011 share (10.5 percent) and more than a 12-percentage-point increase over the 2019 share the group posted in the previous report (27.6 percent).



About **4 out of 10** lead actors in film are people of color

**Inclusion report**  
from the  
University of  
California Los  
Angeles

**For full report:**

<https://socialsciences.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UCLA-Hollywood-Diversity-Report-2021-Film-4-22-2021.pdf>