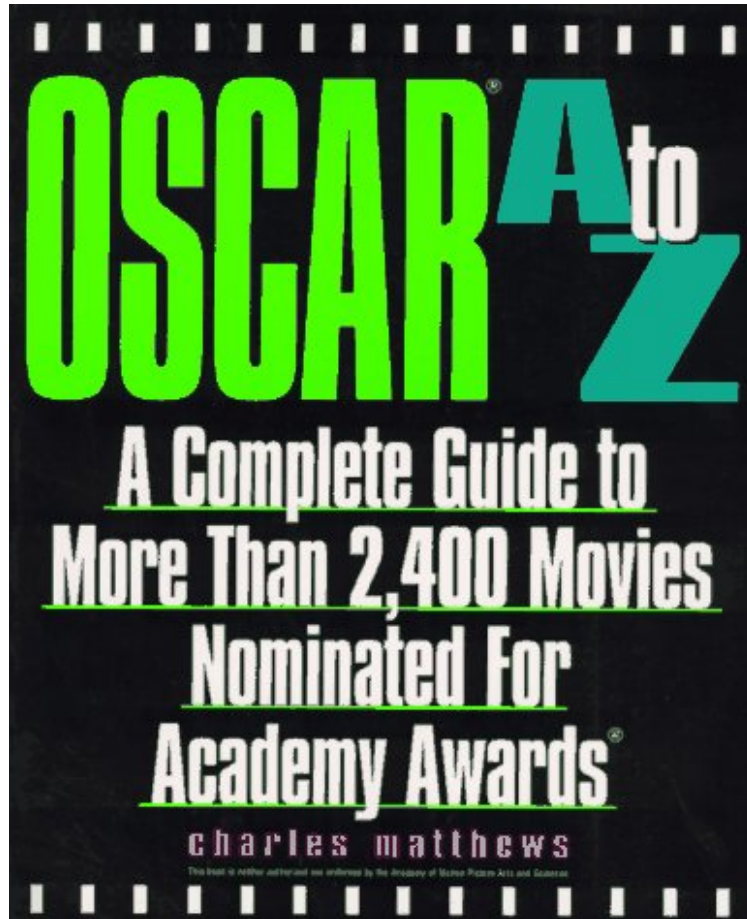


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## Oscar A to Z

*Charles Mathews*

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**Charles Mathews : Oscar A to Z** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oscar A to Z:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must own resourceBy Brian NivenExcellent histories of many aspects of Hollywood moviemaking! This is more than just a list of movies and their nominations. It has interesting analysis and history and how the movies factored into the race. When you see a movie with a page or more of writing you will get so much information it's just an invaluable resource.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Oscar resourceBy A CustomerAn excellent guide to the Oscar nominees and winners from 1927 through 1994. Though more regular updates would be nice, what is in the book will make any film/Oscar buff's cerebrum tingle. Mathews has done exhaustive research on every film nominated for an Oscar (excluding documentary/short film nominees), and though there are some minor errors (e.g., his footnote on actors who direct themselves to Oscar nominations omits Charles Chaplin, and he neglects to note that the first best picture winner without a corresponding director nomination was, in fact, 1927-28 winner "Wings."), in the main the book is a reliable compendium of Oscar minutiae and trivia. Particularly convenient are the book's cross-references and comprehensive index, which allow one

to quickly skim through a particular nominee's full list of Academy laurels. Due to space, he does not single out every nominated individual for a bio sketch, but does cover the majority of actors, directors and writers in Oscar's annals. Matthews also displays a nice tone of needling disbelief in addressing some of Oscar's more ridiculed choices ("Gandhi" over "E.T.," to cite one). This is more of a straight reference guide to the Oscars than, say, "Inside Oscar," which pads its nominations/wins lists with juicy anecdotes on every ceremony, but it is an essential addition to any serious film scholar's library.

An encyclopedic listing of more than 2,400 feature films in which a performer, director, designer, or composer was nominated for or received an Academy Award offers detailed and insightful synopses of each film and behind-the-scenes gossip.

From Library Journal A quarter century ago only a handful of titles offered information devoted to the Academy Awards. Now there are paperbacks, deluxe or bargain-priced coffee-table surveys, and even Danny Peary's *Alternate Oscars* (Delacorte, 1993), which discusses movies that "should" have won. While Roy Pickard's *The Oscar Movies* (Facts on File, 1994) may have been the first to arrange winning films alphabetically, journalist Matthews has put together an up-to-date source (through 1994), and he offers more detailed analysis of every film ever nominated. Plots, background, and historical context are provided, as are cross references to other films for which an actor or technician was nominated. Appendixes list nominees and awards by year. The very reasonable price should find this guide a home in most libraries as the primary resource or at least as a complement to Mason Wiley and Damien Bona's chronologically arranged *Inside Oscar* (Ballantine, 1992. rev. ed.) or Robert Osborne's *Sixty-Five Years of the Oscar* (LJ 4/15/94). Kim Holston, American Inst. for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters, Malvern, Pa. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist From *A Nous la Liberte* to *Zorba the Greek*, this book describes and analyzes every film that has been nominated for an Academy Award since its inception in 1927 to the latest ceremony in 1995. Entries are in alphabetical order by film title and numbered. Each entry includes the production company, film studio, and date of release, followed by a list of awards received and nominations. A synopsis of the plot is included, as well as occasional biographical information and critical remarks by the author. There are cross-references to other films (by number) both in the entry and in a list at the end of the entry. The author also tells which films actually won the awards for which the film described was nominated. The entries range from less than 100 words (*Captain Fury*) to more than a page (*West Side Story*). An alphabetical index of all persons nominated for awards cites the entry numbers for the films, with references to awards received in boldface type. It includes winners of the Irving G. Thalberg, Jean Hersholt, and other special or honorary awards. A second appendix lists all the nominees and awards by year. This appendix has extensive footnotes about the history of categories and judging. Matthews, a professional film critic, has an obvious love of movies. Although there is a disclaimer on the cover that this work "is neither authorized nor endorsed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences," he did extensive research in its library. The critical and analytical information is engaging reading for the movie enthusiast. Several other books treat Academy Award-winning films. The *Academy Awards Index* [RBB F 1 94] lists nominees and winners by year and by award. The *Oscar Movies* [RBB Ap 1 94] is similar to *Oscar A to Z* but includes only the 600 films that won awards. Public libraries that need another book on this perennially popular topic will want to purchase *Oscar A to Z*.