



ARTS & CULTURE

Little-known Actress Keeps Oscar Nomination

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Andrea Riseborough is a respected actress from Britain, but she is not especially famous. She was recently nominated for an Academy Award, or Oscar, for her work in a movie called *To Leslie*.

Many people wondered how she received the nomination over other actresses. *To Leslie* only sold \$27,000 worth of tickets when it came out in 2022.

It turns out that Riseborough has many famous friends who campaigned for her. Famous actors including Kate Winslet, Jennifer Aniston and Gwyneth Paltrow put on events where they showed Riseborough's film. The director of *To Leslie* called Academy Award voters to ask them to support his film.

Other famous actors made posts on social media supporting the movie.

People who follow the Academy Awards wondered if that kind of campaigning was permitted. Bill Kramer is the leader of the organization that gives the awards. He said the group investigated Riseborough's campaign and decided the nomination should not be taken away.

"However," he said, "we did discover some social media and outreach campaigning **tactics** that caused concern." Kramer is having discussions about the campaigning methods with the people behind them.

Movie studios **promote** the movies they think should be considered for the Oscars for many months ahead of voting. But Kramer said the direct communication with voters was concerning.

He said parts of the campaigning rules “must be **clarified**” and the changes will come after this year’s awards. The awards ceremony is on March 12.

Critics said the direct communication with voters is evidence that it is more helpful to be friends with powerful people than to give a possibly winning performance. Some critics believed that two Black actresses – Viola Davis of *The Woman King* and Danielle Deadwyler of *Till* – should have gotten nominations over Riseborough.

Along with Riseborough, the nominees for Best Actress are Cate Blanchett for *Tar*, Michelle Williams for *The Fablemans*, Ana de Armas for *Blonde*, and Michelle Yeoh for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

I’m Dan Friedell.

Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on a report by the Associated Press.

Words in This Story

tactic -n. a plan or strategy

promote -v. to speak positively about an idea

clarify -v. to explain or make clear

We want to hear from you. Do you think Riseborough can win?

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