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Home > Spotlight > Inside the Golden Globes

## Inside the Golden Globes

📆 January 23rd, 2009 by Adrienne Papp

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What a difference a year can make. After the writer's strike had closed down the annual **Golden Globes** last year, this year's event kicked off with the celebration and surprises that everyone had hoped for in a glamorous Hollywood setting.

The worldwide televised event held plenty of surprises, including a Lifetime Achievement award for one of Hollywood's favourite sons, Steven Spielberg, and a Best Actor award for one of its forgotten sons, Mickey Rourke, who made a remarkable comeback. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a group of 83 journalists who vote on the prizes, made the night one of the very best in years.

Hollywood royalty roamed the red carpet in dazzling displays of old-fashioned high glamour, exemplified by the everstunning Susan Sarandon. The reigning couple, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, were

on hand, while style points went to Eva Mendes, Drew Barrymore, Maggie Gyllenhall, Marisa Tomei, Jessica Lang, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Sandra Bullock, Jennifer Lopez, Debra Messing and Renée Zellweger for their stunning gowns and sparkling sophistication. Also striking in the sea of strapless gowns were Beyoncé, Kyra Sedgwick and Pénelope Cruz.

The Golden Globes are so very different from the Academy Awards, as nominees sit around dinner tables, chat and mingle. This year's nominations were nothing short of extraordinary. The irrepressible Robert Downey Jr. (above) was nominated alongside Heath Ledger (nominated yesterday for an Oscar in the category of Best Supporting Actor), whose legacy alone overshadowed Downey's chances. Downey nonetheless had a big year with his hugely successful *Iron Man* and his nominated performance in the comedy hit *Tropic Thunder*. He is without a doubt the most talented actor of his peer group, with or without a prize.

Kate Winslet became a dual winner, taking home the awards for Best Actress in a Drama for *Revolutionary Road* and her supporting role in *The Reader*, a film which has also earned her a nomination for Best Actress in the upcoming Oscars. *Shumdog Millionaire* scored a win for Best Drama, *30 Rock* produced major awards for Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey, and Colin Farrell took the best actor award for the dark comedy *In Bruges*.

In addition to Ledger, the other sentimental favourite at this year's show was Mickey Rourke, who took the award for Best Actor in *The Wrestler*. Rourke's struggles have been well-documented, but all seemed forgiven when his award was announced. He may not be an eloquent speaker, but the win has made him one of the front runners for the Oscar.

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