



THE AGENDA

SOUNDING OFF ON THE MONTH'S BIG NEWS

The Golden Globes don't matter

We should stop pretending the Globes are relevant, says *Empire's* John Nugent

AH, THE GOLDEN Globes. In the film calendar's annual awards season, it's always been the slightly embarrassing, frequently drunk uncle – the one who married into the family and occasionally says things that make everyone else feel uncomfortable. The one who, frankly, we should all stop paying attention to.

This year's 'vintage' was another fine example of Golden Globes contrarianism – never more so than in this year's Best Drama winner, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Currently at 62 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes, it is the worst-reviewed Golden Globe Best Drama winner in over 30 years.

Having likely passed a billion at the box office by the time you read this, *Bohemian Rhapsody's* awards success feels like an attempt to pander to a broad audience – something the Globes has always tried to do. Fine. But if they were looking for a populist, billion-dollar winner, there's a *Black Panther*-shaped hole in their winners' list. Bo-Rap, on the other hand, is a tone-deaf choice for an awards show only 12 months ago singing its woke credentials with a

#TimesUp-themed ceremony. Many in the LGBTQ community felt the Queen biopic had erased the warts-and-all details of Freddie Mercury's life in place of a sanitised, by-the-numbers portrait, while the spectre of credited director Bryan Singer – accused of numerous sexual abuses (which he has repeatedly denied), and fired from production during filming, yet never once mentioned in the awards ceremony – loomed like the elephant in a star-studded room.

Bohemian Rhapsody's triumph is the latest in a long tradition of winners defying the critical consensus and bookies' odds. The small, eccentric pool of voters from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the secretive private consortium of journalists who select the winners, means it is actually not much of a useful or accurate predictor for the Oscars, still the most important film awards. A study by *FiveThirtyEight* suggested the Globes Best Drama winner predicts the Best Picture Oscar winner 48 per cent of the time, compared to 80 per cent for the DGA awards.

At least the Academy and the British Academy attempt to be a rough cross-section of industry representatives. Both are

voted by a group of several thousand actors, filmmakers, producers and crew members. And in recent years the Oscars has made genuine concerted efforts to diversify its voting base after the #OscarsSoWhite fiasco. When you win an Oscar, you have been chosen by your peers in the business. When you win a Golden Globe, you have been chosen by tiny bloc of celebrity-hungry oddballs whose journalistic credentials are not exactly stellar. HFPA's rules only require its members to publish four articles a year. The notoriously secretive membership includes a man who once guest-starred on *Star Trek Voyager* and a former Russian bodybuilder who only joined because, says the *Hollywood Reporter*, he was "just plain curious".

Look, given how predictable awards season can be, it's fine to have a fun 'wild card' show that goes for the unexpected choices. Nobody is asking the drunken uncle to stop drinking. But we all need to stop pretending that it actually means anything, and stop giving the worst awards show with the prestige it craves. Maybe, like a magpie, Hollywood has simply been attracted by shiny things. Perhaps if we started calling them the Rusty Globes, everyone would stop paying attention.



We are the champions?

Rami Malek (centre) flanked by Queen's Brian May (left) and Roger Taylor.

GLOBAL SHOCKS

FIVE MORE GLOBE WINNERS WHO DEFIED THE ODDS

GLENN CLOSE

Lady Gaga was expected to bag the Best Actress (Drama) gong, but *The Wife's* star took it home instead.

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

The Miles Morales origin story beat Disney and Pixar's usual stronghold in the Best Animated Feature category.

GREEN BOOK

Peter Farrelly's road trip comedy-drama beat *Mary Poppins Returns* and *Vice* to the Best Musical/Comedy gong.

FIRST MAN

Justin Hurwitz's original score edged out category favourites *Black Panther* and *Mary Poppins Returns*.

RAMI MALEK

Malek's performance was widely praised, but most had predicted Bradley Cooper to take either Best Actor or Director for *A Star Is Born*. He left empty-handed.