

British director has a blast at Oscars

Ryan Gosling's Kenergy may have stolen the show but *Oppenheimer* swept up in Hollywood, writes **Keiran Southern**

For years Christopher Nolan had, in the eyes of many of his fans, been inexplicably overlooked at the Oscars.

His films had been unique in fusing critical acclaim, daring creative choices and blockbuster success, yet the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had failed to recognise him.

That was until Sunday night, however, when he found the Oscars to be like London buses — you wait around for ages and then two come along at once. The British-American filmmaker won two for *Oppenheimer* while his epic biopic about the creator of the atomic bomb dominated with seven awards, including best picture.

As well as receiving a golden statuette for best picture as a producer, he was named best director, cementing his position among the greats of his, or perhaps any, era in Hollywood.

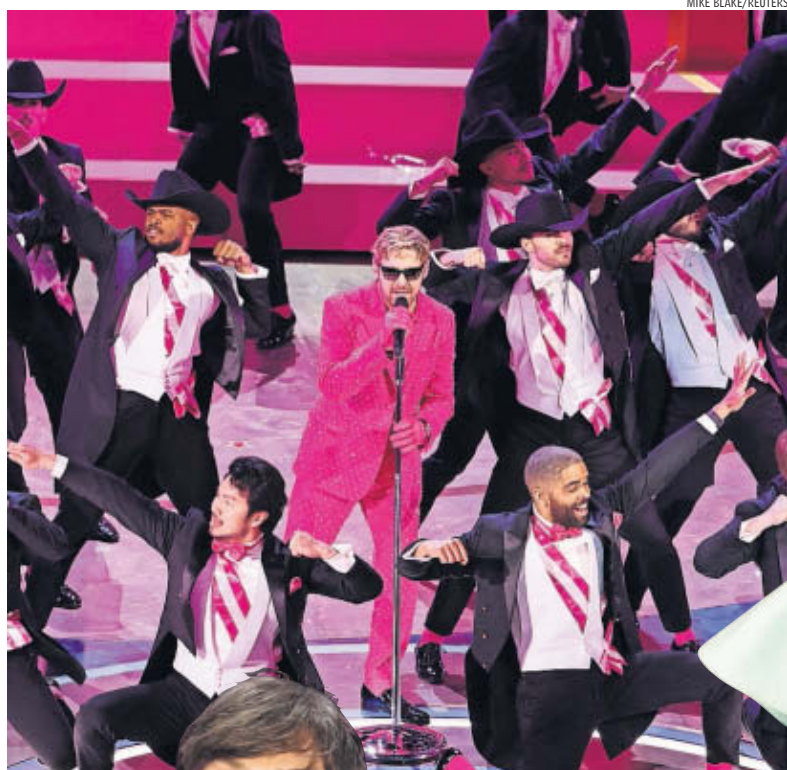
"Movies are just a little over 100 years old," Nolan, 53, said on stage at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. "Imagine being there 100 years into painting or theatre. But to know that you think I am a meaningful part of it means the world to me, so thank you very much."

Speaking to reporters backstage, Nolan joked he could do bicep curls with his Oscars, before thanking his colleagues. "Winning this recognition from my peers is the icing on the cake," he said. "It's very important to me. It's a wonderful finish to what's been an incredible year."

Cillian Murphy's intense portrayal of J Robert Oppenheimer won the Irish star best actor and cemented him as a leading man after years of supporting roles. "This has been a huge, huge moment for me," Murphy, 47, said. "The movie is so special and myself and Chris have such a special relationship that I just feel very privileged to be continuing to work with him."

Robert Downey Jr won best supporting actor for playing a conniving US government official in *Oppenheimer*, completing his own redemption story that brought him from being a drug-addicted has-been to one of Hollywood's favourite sons.

Oppenheimer, a three-hour,



MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Ryan Gosling performed *I'm Just Ken*. Emma Stone, right, won best actress for her role in *Poor Things*. Cillian Murphy, left, got best actor for *Oppenheimer*, which brought best picture and director awards for Emma Thomas and Christopher Nolan, below



Going home with gold

Best picture *Oppenheimer*
Best director Christopher Nolan, *Oppenheimer*
Best leading actor Cillian Murphy, *Oppenheimer*
Best leading actress Emma Stone, *Poor Things*
Best supporting actor Robert Downey Jr, *Oppenheimer*
Best supporting actress Da'Vine Joy Randolph, *The Holdovers*
Best original screenplay *Anatomy of a Fall* (Justine Triet, Arthur Harari)
Best international feature film *The Zone of Interest*

dialogue-heavy epic that many believed could not succeed in Hollywood, defied expectations on its way to grossing almost \$1 billion. Its other Oscar wins included cinematography, editing and original score.

Emma Thomas, Nolan's wife, is a co-producer and has worked on all his films. Accepting the best picture Oscar, she said: "Any of us who make movies know that you dream of this moment. You know you do, right? I could deny it but I have been dreaming about this moment for so long but it seemed unlikely it would ever actually happen."

Barbie, the other half of the "Barbenheimer" phenomenon that saved the Hollywood box office last year, won the financial battle after making \$1.5 billion but fell short at the Oscars. It won best song for Billie Eilish's *What Was I Made For?* Ryan Gosling, a best supporting actor nominee, electrified the ceremony with his performance of *I'm Just Ken*, with the guitarist Slash making a surprise appearance.

Poor Things, the absurdist spin on the Frankenstein story, won four awards, including for its British crew members in the make-up and hairstyling, production design and costume design categories. Emma Stone, its star, won her second best actress Oscar. She beat Lily Gladstone of *Killers of the Flower Moon* in what experts believe was a close race.

For the first time the UK won an Oscar for best international film for *The Zone of Interest*, a Holocaust movie set next to Auschwitz. Jonathan Glazer, the director, used his acceptance speech to decry the war in Gaza. It also won best sound for its British engineers Tarn Willers and Johnnie Burn.

Christopher Nolan, a master of popular film-making, leading article, page 27
 Inside the hottest Oscar party, Times2

Fancy a brew, madame? Fine diners can drink tea by the bottle

Adam Sage Paris

The bottle is described as full-bodied with a complexity and varied aromatic notes that are said to go particularly well with scallops.

But diners expecting a fine French wine are in for a surprise. The 2022 Meung may look like a burgundy, but it is in fact a rich black tea from the Bokeo region of northern Laos.

The bottle is among a range of cold teas produced by Grands Jardins, a business based in Paris that supplies some of France's most lauded and expensive restaurants.

Chefs are trying to meet demand from customers who are increasingly unwilling to accompany their meals with the traditional glass of wine but

decline plain water. Anne-Sophie Pic, the eminent French chef, recommends geisha coffee from Ethiopia with Hereford beef fillet. Thomas Lorival, another well-known chef, has come up with a grilled shallot water that he says complements his cabbage and fera fish tart with pike egg sauce.

As France explores this newfound interest in alcohol-free gastronomy, led by a trend for healthy living, tea has emerged as the No 1 option. Grands Jardins was launched only a year ago but is already selling its bottles in 50 or so upmarket restaurants in France and has plans to export to countries including Britain. Its teas, from countries such as Vietnam, India, Nepal and Malawi, are infused in cold spring water for anywhere between 90 minutes and



Grands Jardins tea is offered as "happy sobriety" instead of boring plain water

24 hours. They are then placed in bottles designed to resemble those that contain burgundy wine, right down to the labels. Only the corks are different: they are made of glass. A 75cl bottle of

Grands Jardins tea costs between €17.50 and €24.90, about £15 to £20.

"We have chosen the clothes of Burgundy because we love wine and because tea needs to be anchored in a great culture to express all its power," Edouard Malbois, Grands Jardins' co-founder, said. He said his aim was to offer "happy sobriety" to gastronomes.

At Chenapan, a Parisian restaurant, Florentin Fraillon, 35, the sommelier, said he had started serving Grands Jardins tea because he had no wish to treat diners wanting an alcohol-free meal "like children", with their wine glasses removed and only water on offer. "We wanted to ensure that whether you drink wine or not, you participate in the same experience," he said.

Fraillon said connoisseurs liked to

admire the robe, or colour, of the tea, inhale its bouquet and taste it as they would a claret. Among the pairings he proposes is a dish of scallops with chantrelle mushroom juice and Noilly Prat sabayon washed down by a 2022 Meung tea, which is said to have notes of honey, tamarind and prune, and aromas of cocoa, waxed wood and leather.

The restaurant's acclaimed Provence wheat dessert is accompanied by a 2022 Satemwa, a smoked black tea from the highlands of Malawi with a "malty, woody aroma" said to be reminiscent of whisky. On the menu is an €89 five-course meal that can be enjoyed with a glass of wine for each course for an additional €50, or five glasses of tea for €30. By Parisian standards the tea is value for money, critics say.