



Director Sam Mendes (second left) poses with cast and crew in the press room with the awards for Best Motion Picture - Drama and Best Director - Motion Picture during the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday at The Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP photos



US actress Awkwafina poses in the press room with the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy.



US actress Renee Zellweger poses in the press room with the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Drama.

'1917' stuns Golden Globes as Tarantino bags most prizes

War epic "1917" shocked the Golden Globes on Sunday by claiming the top prize for best drama film, while Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" won the most honors, massively boosting their prospects for next month's Oscars. "Once Upon a Time..." - a homage to 1960s Tinseltown - won three prizes including best comedy, but Martin Scorsese's much-vaunted Netflix crime saga "The Irishman" went home empty-handed.

The Globes are the first major awards gala of the year, in a packed season that ends with the Academy Awards in just over a month's time, so Sunday's winners will hope to capitalize on some much-needed momentum. "1917" follows two British soldiers through the trenches in World War I, and is filmed to look like one continuous, two-hour-long shot.

"Goodness me, that is a big surprise," said stunned filmmaker Sam Mendes, who bested Scorsese and Tarantino in the crowded best director category. Dedicating the film to his grandfather who signed up to fight aged just 17, Mendes added: "I hope he's looking down on us and I fervently hope it never happens again."

The film's lead actor George MacKay - a 27-year-old relative unknown in Hollywood - told AFP he was "just thrilled, proper thrilled" when the announcement was made. "It's a wonderful thing. It's truly just so brilliant for the film and everyone involved. It's the biggest team effort ever." Tarantino won the best screenplay award, and Brad Pitt took home best supporting actor honors for his role as a loyal stuntman to Leonardo DiCaprio's character in "Once Upon a Time..." "I also have to thank my partner in crime, LDC," said Pitt. "I wouldn't be here without you, man... I would have shared the raft, though," he added, referring to the closing scene of "Titanic."

Phoenix, Zellweger win big

"Rocketman," the Elton John musical biopic, was the other big winner on the night, scooping best actor for



Actor Taron Egerton poses in the press room with the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy.



US film director Quentin Tarantino (center) and actors Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio pose with other members of the cast and crew in the press room after winning the award for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy.

Taron Egerton and best original song for John, who was heavily involved in the movie. "I'm overjoyed - it's incredible," Egerton told AFP. "It's been the best experience of my life, and winning this is just such a lovely crystallization of all of that." The top films clearly resonated with the 90-odd members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which doles out the prizes, but front-runners in the acting categories also made their mark.

Joaquin Phoenix cemented his Oscar favorite status by winning the best drama actor prize for his radical turn in "Joker", a dark and controversial take on the comic book super-villain. He thanked director Todd Phillips, saying: "You convinced me to do this movie and you encouraged me to give everything and to be sincere. And I'm such a pain in the a**."

Like several A-listers, Phoenix also used his speech to address climate change and the Australian wildfires. Renee Zellweger burnished her Oscar credentials with an expected win for biopic "Judy," portraying Judy Garland in her later years. South Korean black comedy "Parasite" bagged the award for best foreign language film, as widely expected, while Awkwafina became the first actress of Asian descent to win the best comedy actress prize for "The Farewell". Oscar nominations voting is



US actor Brad Pitt poses in the press room with the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture.



US actress Laura Dern poses in the press room with the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture.



South Korean film director Bong Joon Ho poses in the press room with the award for Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language.



US actor Joaquin Phoenix poses in the press room after winning the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama.