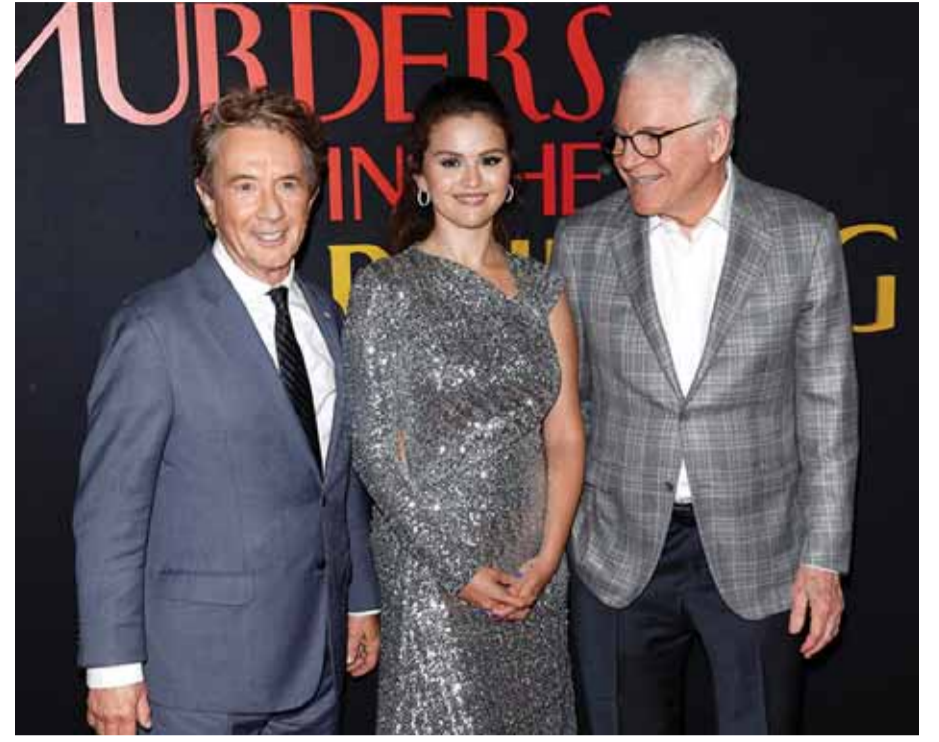




In this file photo Scottish actor Brian Cox (third right), US actor Jeremy Strong (right) and members of the cast from "Succession" pose with the award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series, in the press room during the 28th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Santa Monica, California.— AFP photos



In this file photo, (from left) Canadian actor Martin Short, US actress and singer Selena Gomez and US actor Steve Martin arrive to the premiere of "Only Murders in the Building" season 2 at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles.

'SUCCESION' TOPS EMMY NOMS WITH 25 AS 'SQUID GAME' MAKES HISTORY

HBO's "Succession" topped this year's Emmy nominations, earning 25 nods on Tuesday, as "Squid Game" became the first non-English-language drama series shortlisted for glory for television's equivalent of the Oscars. "Succession," which follows a rich, powerful family vying to inherit a media empire, led the drama nominees, while "Ted Lasso" and "The White Lotus" topped the comedy and limited series categories with 20 nominations each.

Two other comedies-HBO's "Hacks" and Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building"-each racked up 17 nominations for the 74th Emmy Awards, to be handed out at a glitzy ceremony in Los Angeles on September 12. "With production at a historic high, the Academy has received a record number of Emmy submissions this season," said Television Academy CEO Frank Scheraga, praising "this platinum age of television."

Television productions have ramped back up, after being shuttered or scaled back in the first year of the coronavirus pandemic. "Succession" will compete for best drama with "Squid Game," a violent South Korean satire in which society's marginalized compete for cash in fatal versions of children's games-and Netflix's most-watched series ever. "Squid Game" also picked up multiple



In this file photo (from left) South Korean actors Park Hae-soo, O Young-so, Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos and South Korean actor Lee Jung-jae (right) attend Netflix's 'Squid Game' Special Event at Netflix FYSEE at Raleigh Studios in Los Angeles, California.

acting nominations, including best lead actor for Lee Jung-jae, to earn 14 nods in total. The groundbreaking show is hoping to follow in the footsteps of South Korean film "Parasite," which rocked Hollywood in 2020 by becoming the first non-English-language film to win best picture at the Oscars.

Others in the running for the best drama Emmy include "Euphoria," "Ozark," "Better Call Saul" and "Stranger Things." "Succession" stars Brian Cox and Jeremy Strong will compete with Lee for best actor in a drama series, while former Oscar winner Adrien Brody earned a guest actor nomination.

"I am a huge fan of 'Succession' and am beyond thrilled to have been included in such an extraordinary show," said Brody of the series, which already won best drama in 2020 with its second season. "Euphoria" star and past winner Zendaya, 25, became the youngest acting nominee to be shortlisted twice, for best actress in a drama-a category in which "The Morning Show" actress Jennifer Aniston missed out to co-star Reese Witherspoon.

'Emmy nominated, baby!'

HBO-and its streaming platform HBO Max-won the network nominations battle, earning a combined 140 compared to Netflix's 105. In the comedy categories, past winners Jason Sudeikis ("Ted Lasso"), Bill Hader ("Barry") and Donald Glover ("Atlanta") will battle it out for best actor, as will Jean Smart ("Hacks") and Rachel Brosnahan ("The Marvelous Mrs Maisel") for best actress.

Selena Gomez missed out on an acting nomination for "Only Murders in the Building"-even though her male co-stars Steve Martin and Martin Short earned nods. But she still made history as the second ever Latina nominated as a producer in the category.

"Abbott Elementary," ABC's school-based mockumentary, earned seven nods including acting, writing and come-

dy series nominations for creator Quinta Brunson. "Crying shaking and throwing up has new meaning to me because I real life did all three," Brunson tweeted. "Still speechless... Emmy nominated, baby!"

In the limited series categories, "The White Lotus"-a satirical look at hypocrisy and wealth among the visitors to a luxury Hawaii hotel-scored eight acting nominations for an ensemble cast including Jennifer Coolidge and Murray Bartlett. Elsewhere, A-listers including Colin Firth ("The Staircase"), Andrew Garfield ("Under the Banner of Heaven"), Oscar Isaac ("Scenes From a Marriage") and Michael Keaton ("Dopesick") will vie for best actor in a limited series.—AFP

But there were notable big-name omissions on the short list for best actress in a limited series, including Julia Roberts ("Gaslit") and Jessica Chastain ("Scenes from a Marriage"). Instead, the category will feature Amanda Seyfried ("The Dropout"), Julia Garner ("Inventing Anna") and Sarah Paulson ("Impeachment: American Crime Story") among others. The Emmys will be broadcast in the United States on NBC and Peacock. — AFP

Mattel unveils Jane Goodall Barbie, complete with chimp

American toy manufacturer Mattel has unveiled new specialty Barbie dolls modeled after the famous English primatologist Jane Goodall and her beloved research specimen, a chimpanzee named David Greybeard. The Goodall doll, which Mattel says will be partly made with recycled plastic, sports

the researcher's classic beige collared shirt and shorts, as well as a pair of binoculars and a blue notebook.

David Greybeard was the chimpanzee on whom Goodall wrote her initial research papers, which documented for the first time the species' usage of tools. "I'd been suggesting it for a long time that girls don't want just to be film stars and things like that," said Goodall in a promotional video. "Many of them, like me, want to be in the out in nature studying animals."

The new Barbie is the latest in a series of dolls Mattel has dedicated to feminist or other inspirational icons.

Before Goodall, the toy-maker had produced dolls modeled off tennis star Naomi Osaka, the co-creator of AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine, Sarah Gilbert, and an anonymous female "robotics engineer." "My heroes, my models were Tarzan, Dr. Dolittle," said Goodall. "There weren't women doing the kind of things I wanted to do... so in all my dreams, I was a man." To all the little girls who like her would like to be changemakers, the primatologist recommends to "go for a walk in nature, learn to love it and then protect it."—AFP



In this undated handout image courtesy of the Jane Goodall Institute, famous British primatologist Jane Goodall holds a Barbie doll in her likeness.— AFP photos



Three men charged in plot to sell stolen Eagles notes

Manhattan's district attorney on Tuesday charged three people with conspiring to illegally possess and sell some 100 pages of handwritten notes and lyrics for the Eagles album "Hotel California." Glenn Horowitz, Craig Inciardi and Edward Kosinski allegedly knew the documents-collectively valued at

over \$1 million-were stolen, but conspired to sell them anyway. According to court documents, the men manufactured false provenance and lied to auction houses, potential buyers and law enforcement about how they acquired the notes by Don Henley, which included lyrics to the hits "Hotel California" and "Life in the Fast Lane." A biographer for the band originally stole the manuscripts in the late 1970s, according to the legal filing, eventually selling them to Horowitz, who in turn sold them to Inciardi and Kosinski.

Court documents say Eagles founding-member Henley filed police reports upon learning that Inciardi and Kosinski had the pages, allegations the duo fought for

years. "New York is a world-class hub for art and culture, and those who deal cultural artifacts must scrupulously follow the law," said Manhattan prosecutor Alvin Bragg.

"These defendants attempted to keep and sell these unique and valuable manuscripts, despite knowing they had no right to do so. They made up stories about the origin of the documents and their right to possess them so they could turn a profit." Inciardi, 58, is an "employee with curator responsibilities" at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, the museum confirmed to AFP.—AFP

Emmy nominations: Five takeaways

"Succession" led the way in Tuesday's Emmy nominations, which saw the Television Academy's 20,000 voters sift through record submissions as production ramped back up from the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Here are five takeaways from the announcement of the nominees for the 74th Emmy Awards:

No love for 'Yellowstone'

Soapy neo-Western "Yellowstone" stars Kevin Costner, racked up a whopping 11 million views for its fourth season premiere... and yet failed to land a single Emmy nomination. In fact, it has only ever earned one Emmy nomination, for a minor technical category last year. Academy voters appear to have been put off by the show's slot on Paramount's relatively small cable network, or its ostensible conservative leanings-though "Yellowstone" has recently soared in popularity along the liberal US coasts too.

Chappelle gets nod despite controversy

Comedian Dave Chappelle has attracted controversy over jokes criticized as transphobic, notably in last year's Netflix special "The Closer." Protesters gathered outside the streaming giant's Los Angeles premises in October, accusing Netflix of profiting from hate speech with the show, in which Chappelle asserts that "gender is a fact."

In May, Chappelle was attacked onstage by an audience member while finishing a set during the "Netflix Is A Joke" comedy festival at the Hollywood Bowl. None of that dissuaded Emmy voters, who nominated "The Closer" for best pre-recorded variety special.

Women make gains

Tuesday's nominations saw gains for women, who have traditionally been under-represented in directing, writing and technical fields at the Emmys and other entertainment award galas. Almost half of the directors nominated in scripted categories were women, including Amy

Poehler for documentary "Lucy and Desi," and "Succession" helmer Lorene Scafaria in the best drama category. Women received almost 40 percent of scripted writing nominations.

Posthumous nods for Boseman, Walter

"Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman died in August 2020 after battling colon cancer-a diagnosis he never publicly discussed. Last year, he narrowly missed out to Anthony Hopkins on a posthumous Oscar, for best actor in blues drama "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

This year's Emmys likely represent a final chance at awards glory for the late star, who earned a nomination for voicing a version of his "Black Panther" character in Marvel's animated series "What If...?" Former "Arrested Development" star Jessica Walter also earned a posthumous nomination for her voice-over work in "Archer."

Obama v Abdul-Jabbar?

Award shows frequently find creative ways to nominate big names from beyond the traditional entertainment ranks, and this year's best narrator Emmy category is no exception. It includes veteran naturalist David Attenborough ("The Mating Game") and Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o ("Serengeti II.")

More unusually, it pits basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ("Black Patriots: Heroes Of The Civil War") against former US president Barack Obama ("Our Great National Parks.") Obama will find out in September if he can add an Emmy to his Nobel Peace Prize... and two Grammy Awards. — AFP



File photo shows an Emmy statuette at the 70th Emmy Awards Governors Ball press preview at the LA Live Event Deck in Los Angeles, California.— AFP