

Monday • March 9, 1998

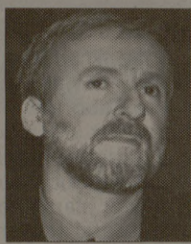
Titanic director receives critical award for film

NEW YORK (AP) — James Cameron was named best director of 1997 Saturday night by the Directors Guild of America at its 50th annual awards dinner. Cameron won for his film *Titanic*. Cameron, in voting by the union of Hollywood filmmakers, defeated the makers of L.A. Confidential, Amistad, Good Will Hunting, and As Good As It Gets.

"Wow," Cameron said in accepting the award. "This is one of the proudest moments of my life. It's tremendous."

Cameron spent \$200 million making *Titanic*, the most expensive movie ever. Its worldwide theatrical sales could exceed \$1.2 billion.

"It's not like we thought anything like



Cameron

this would even remotely happen," he said. "I thought the film would break even."

Titanic is nominated for 14 Academy Awards, tying the record for the most ever. Cameron is up for best director, and the film — poised to become the all-time top-grossing movie — is nominated for best picture.

The Oscars will be presented on March 23.

The DGA award is considered a precursor to the Oscars, and the guild held simultaneous bicoastal ceremonies for

the announcement.

Only four times since 1949 has a DGA winner in the best feature-film director category not received an Oscar. The last time that happened was in 1995, when Ron Howard, who was not even nominated for an Academy Award, won the DGA award for *Apollo 13*.

For the dramatics specials category, John Herzfeld won for *Don King: Only in America* on HBO.

In the category of nighttime dramatic series, Barbara Kopple won for the

episode "The Documentary" on "Homicide: Life on the Street" on NBC.

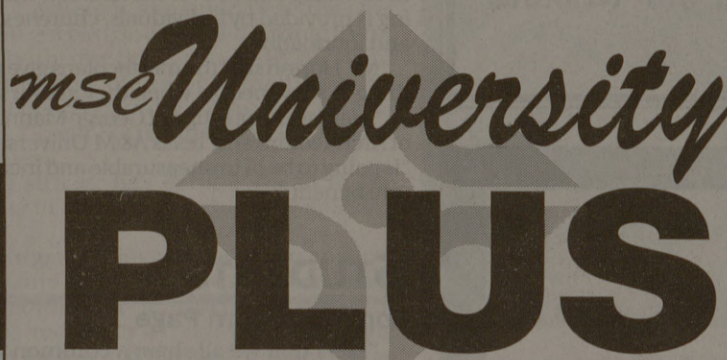
And for comedy series, Andy Ackerman won for the "Seinfeld" episode "The Betrayal," also on NBC.

Al Pacino presented Francis Ford Coppola with the D.W. Griffith Award, the guild's highest honor, which recognizes distinguished career achievement in motion picture directing.

The Directors Guild of America represents more than 10,000 members working in U.S. cities and abroad.

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- spaces left -

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