

Oscars

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talking to Steven Spielberg or Tom Hanks, who always get great seats, they'll tell you that the best place to watch the show is from your very own couch.

But, if you insist on going out, here are a few suggestions.

The chi-chi-est party that's actually open to the public, albeit at a cost of \$750 a plate, is the Martin Scorsese Film Foundation and Norby Walters' Night of 100 Stars Gala at the Beverly Hills Hotel. It's formal, sit-down affair and guests will watch the awards on several big screens. Good Neighbor Pharmacy is hosting a giant Academy Awards viewing party at the AMC 30 at the Block in Orange. This dress-up event begins at 4 p.m. with a catered pre-party that includes a celebrity look-alike contest. And if you plan to attend, make sure to look your best because guests will be interviewed on the red carpet (yes, there's a red carpet) by students from Chapman University's school of film and television. The actual viewing of the telecast will take place in two of the complex's stadium-style movie theaters, and after the awards guests can either move to Café Tu Tu Tango for a dessert reception or stay at the theater and watch a screening of one of the best picture nominees. The private party for the Oscar oc "Buena Vista Social held at the popular Conga Room (Jimmy ennifer Lopez are cothe downstairs restaudel Conga Room, will e public for an awards ty complete with emceviche bars.

On the Town With Oscar

Shrine Auditorium, 665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. Morton's, 8764 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, (310) 276-5205.

Site of former Pagani restaurant, 8800 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. Directors Guild of America, 7920 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood. DocuDay

information, (310) 284-8422, Ext. 24; tickets, (213) 480-3232.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 8949 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, (310) 247-3000. Web sites: http://www.oscar.org and http://www.oscar.com.

Pacific Design Center, 8687
Melrose Ave., West Hollywood.
Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641
Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills.
Night of 100 Stars tickets, (818) 995-8036.
AMC 30 at the Block, the City Drive, Orange, (714)
769-4AMC. Tickets for Oscar viewing party, (714) 997-6783.
La Boca del Conga Room, 5370 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile area, (323) 938-1696.

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Historical Oscar

If you want to check out the sites of both Oscar past and future, head over to Hollywood Boulevard. First stop would be the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the site of the first Academy Awards on May 16, 1929. You can grab a cocktail at the Cinegrill or a cup of joe in the Grand Central Coffee Shop, both located on the hotel's ground level, and there's a small museum on the mezzanine level.

Cross the street and see a movie at Mann's Chinese Theatre, where the Academy Awards were held from 1944 to 1946, when it was 2002.

Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, 7000 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, (323) 466-7000. Mann's Chinese Theatre, 6925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, (323) 464-8186.

Independent Spirit Award online viewing: http://www.ifctvc.com. Hollywood Stock Exchange: http://www.hsx.com/o2k.

known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Or make like a tourist and put your hands and feet into famous handprints in the courtyard. If you walk east on Hollywood Boulevard toward Highland Avenue, you'll see the future home of Oscar—a 3,300-seat theater which is under construction. The yet-to-be-named venue is part of a

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