

Winfrey seen as potential president after awards battle cry

Rory Carroll Los Angeles

Women in Hollywood have urged Oprah Winfrey to run for US president in 2020 after she electrified the Golden Globes with a speech that helped transform the awards show into a newly minted platform for women's rights and social justice.

The entertainment mogul reaped praise and pleas to enter politics yesterday after bringing the audience in Los Angeles to tears and to its feet on Sunday night with a call to arms against sexual abuse and racial discrimination. "So I want tonight to express gratitude to all the women who have endured years of abuse and assault because they, like my mother, had children to feed and bills to pay and dreams to pursue," said Winfrey, 63.

She blended her story of rags to wealth and fame into exhortations for press freedom, justice for sexual assault victims and the contributions and sacrifices of maids, farm workers and others ordinary people. "So I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon," Meryl Streep and other celebrities urged Winfrey to run and CNN quoted two close friends saying that she was actively considering seeking the Democratic

party nomination for president; a contest that will begin in earnest after mid-term elections in November.

Television talk shows bubbled with speculation about "President Winfrey" and CNN's unnamed confidantes said she had not yet decided whether to run.

Winfrey's speech accepting the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award capped a night of feminist battle cries and symbolism that rendered the 75th Golden Globes almost unrecognizable from an event previously known as a boozy start to Hollywood's awards season. Barbara Streisand chastised the Globes, which are awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, for not having nominated a woman best director since her trophy in 1984. In presenting the award for best drama film director, Natalie Portman made a pointed, off-script reference to the "all-male" nominees. Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon appeared on stage together in a Thelma & Louise reunion.

Elizabeth Moss, who won an award for her performance in *The Handmaid's Tale*, quoted from Margaret Atwood's novel about a dystopian, patriarchal future. Almost lost in the tumult were the night's official winners: the drama *Three*

Billboards. Outside Ebbing, Missouri, directed by Martin McDonagh and starring Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson, scooped four top awards.

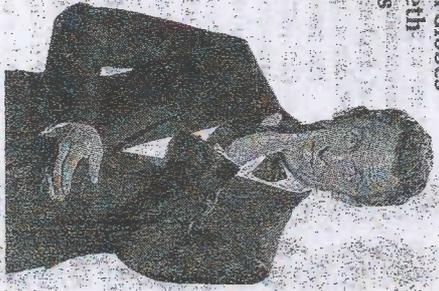
Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*, Steven Spielberg's *The Post* and Ridley Scott's *All the Money in the World* left disappointed. In the television categories, *Big Little Lies* won best limited series and *The Handmaid's Tale* won best drama, locking out *Game of Thrones*, *The Crown* and *Stranger Things*.

The host, Seth Meyers, won plaudits for channeling the mood of righteous anger and catharsis, weaving in traditional self-deprecating industry jokes. Male hosts of impending awards shows, he said, no doubt were watching him "like the first dog they shot into outer space."

He took jabs at Harvey Weinstein, the once-powerful producer who fell into disgrace last October after being accused of sexual misconduct against dozens of women. He has denied non-consensual sex. The allegations triggered accusations against other powerful figures in Hollywood, such as Kevin Spacey and Brett Ratner, and in other fields, and galvanized the #MeToo movement of victims. "It's time to address the elephant not in

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It's been years since a white man in Hollywood was this nervous' Golden Globes host Seth Meyers



the room... Harvey Weinstein," said Meyers. "He'll be back in 20 years when he becomes the first person booted in memoir." The audience in the Beverly Hilton hotel didn't wait that long to erupt in boos. "It's been years since a white man has been this nervous in Hollywood," Meyers said. "For the male nominees in the room tonight, this will be the first time in three months it won't be terrifying to hear your name read out loud."

Last week 300 women in Hollywood announced the Time's Up campaign to highlight sexual misconduct and help victims hit back, asking Globe attendees to wear black. Almost all did, creating what Streep called a "thick black line" along the red carpet. Instead of questions about designers and accessories, the media asked about solidarity and empowerment.

Some stars invited activists as guests. Michelle Williams brought Tarana Burke, the #MeToo hashtag creator, and Emma Stone invited Billie Jean King, whom she plays in the film *Battle of the Sexes*. Sterling K. Brown became the first black man to win the award for best actor in a TV drama (for *This is Us*), while Aziz Ansari became the first Asian man to win best actor in a TV comedy (for *Master of None*).