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## PGA bestows Golden Laurels as protesters decry winners

BY MARC BERMAN

The Producers Guild of America's Golden Laurel Awards were presented Wednesday night at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

The awards, previously announced (*Daily Variety*, Feb. 27), included lifetime achievement awards to RKO and MGM producer Pandro S. Berman and six-time Emmy winner Fred de Cordova.

Berman, who will be 87 this month, acknowledged the honor, saying, "I don't deserve your applause and hope someday I will."

Producer Ron Bozman accepted the Producer of the Year award for "Silence of the Lambs," which he produced with Edward Saxon and Kenneth Utt.

The most galvanizing acceptance came from producer-writer-director Matty Rich for his film "Straight Out of Brooklyn."

Rich was awarded the Eastman Kodak Nova Award for most promising film producer, and noted that his inspiration had not

been the great Hollywood producers of the past; rather, it had been a response to the bubble-headed, saccharine image of "The Brady Bunch" on TV, and his desire to make a film about family life as he had known it in the Red Hook projects.

The 20-year-old also appealed to the largely silver-haired audience not to prejudge black men by the way they look, walk or talk and not to assume that they "don't have a brain."

PGA president Leonard Stern,  
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### Oscar Watch

Annette Bening, supporting actress nominee last year for "The Grifters" and star of this year's multi-nominated "Bugsy," will be a presenter at the 64th annual Academy Awards, March 30.



# Laurel winners 'Silence,' 'JFK' draw protest

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who hosted the evening with Jack Lemmon, commented on Rich's acceptance speech, saying, "Your impact was tremendous; I found myself teary-eyed."

Earlier, in a more dry-eyed mood, Stern had outlined the PGA's ongoing efforts against soaring production costs and lengthy, gratuitous producer credits, among other concerns.

The evening also occasioned the creation of a PGA Hall of Fame for

television programs.

Hollywood legend Jackie Cooper acknowledged the producers of the inaugural slate of shows, "All in the Family," "The Ed Sullivan Show," "Gunsmoke," "The Hallmark Hall of Fame," "I Love Lucy," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "MASH," "Playhouse 90," "Roots," "60 Minutes," "The Jackie Gleason Show," "The Tonight Show" and "Your Show of Shows" ("Caesar's Hour").

The event took place amid heavy

security over expected Queer Nation protesters.

The protesters, numbering about a dozen, stayed outside the hotel and away from its entrances, where they passed out fliers denouncing Golden Laurel winner Oliver Stone's "JFK" for stereotypical, imbalanced and negative portrayals of gays.

The leaflets asserted, "The Silence of the Lambs' cashes in on fear, hatred and misunderstanding" and posed the question "Why else would audiences nationwide scream 'kill the faggot' in the big

showdown shoot-out finale?"

Their message never penetrated to the ballroom, where one guest was heard to ask, "What are they against? The movies?" to which his female companion responded, "They're against the straights, what else?"

Queer Nation's Judy Sineros said the group will be joined by other gay activist groups from across the country March 30 in planned protests at the Oscars.

She said, "We want Hollywood to stop hateful portrayals of queers. We never see our lives portrayed in any true way, shape or form."