2017: Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour)
2016: Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)
2015: Leonardo DiCaprio (The Revenant)
2014: Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything)
2013: Matthew McConaughey (Dallas Buyers Club)
2012: Daniel Day-Lewis (Lincoln)
2011: Jean Dujardin (The Artist)
2010: Colin Firth (The King’s Speech)
2009: Jeff Bridges “Crazy Heart”
2008: Sean Penn (Milk)
2007: Daniel Day-Lewis “There Will Be Blood”
2006: Forest Whitaker (The Last King of Scotland)
2005: Philip Seymour Hoffman (Capote)
2004: Jamie Foxx (Ray)
2003: Sean Penn (Mystic River)
2002: Adrien Brody (The Pianist)
2001: Denzel Washington (Training Day)

2000: Russell Crowe (Gladiator)
1999: Kevin Spacey (American Beauty)
1998: Roberto Benigni (Life Is Beautiful)
1997: Jack Nicholson (As Good as It Gets)
1996: Geoffrey Rush (Shine)
1995: Nicolas Cage (Leaving Las Vegas)
1994: Tom Hanks (Forrest Gump)
1993: Tom Hanks (Philadelphia)
1992: Al Pacino (Scent of a Woman)
1991: Anthony Hopkins (The Silence of the Lambs)
1990: Jeremy Irons (Reversal of Fortune)

1989: Daniel Day-Lewis (My Left Foot)
1988: Dustin Hoffman (Rain Man)
1987: Michael Douglas (Wall Street)
1986: Paul Newman (The Color of Money)
1985: William Hurt (Kiss of the Spider Woman)
1984: F. Murray Abraham (Amadeus)
1983: Robert Duvall (Tender Mercies)

1982: Ben Kingsley (Gandhi)
1981: Henry Fonda (On Golden Pond)
1980: Robert De Niro (Raging Bull)
1979: Dustin Hoffman (Kramer vs. Kramer)
1978: Jon Voight (Coming Home)
1977: Richard Dreyfuss (The Goodbye Girl)
1976: Peter Finch (Network)
1975: Jack Nicholson (One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest)

1974: Art Carney (Harry and Tonto)
1973: Jack Lemmon (Save the Tiger)
1972: Marlon Brando (The Godfather)
1971: Gene Hackman (The French Connection)
1970: George C. Scott (Patton)
1969: John Wayne (True Grit)
1968: Cliff Robertson (Charly)
1967: Rod Steiger (In the Heat of the Night)
1966: Paul Scofield (A Man for All Seasons)
1965: Lee Marvin (Cat Ballou)
1964: Rex Harrison (My Fair Lady)
1963: Sidney Poitier (Lilies of the Field)

1962: Gregory Peck (To Kill a Mockingbird)

1961: Maximilian Schell (Judgment at Nuremberg)

1960: Burt Lancaster (Elmer Gantry)

1959: Charlton Heston (Ben-Hur)

1958: David Niven (Separate Tables)

1957: Alec Guinness (The Bridge on the River Kwai)

1956: Yul Brynner (The King and I)

1955: Ernest Borgnine (Marty)

1954: Marlon Brando (On the Waterfront)

1953: William Holden (Stalag 17)

1952: Gary Cooper (High Noon)

1951: Humphrey Bogart (The African Queen)

1950: José Ferrer (Cyrano de Bergerac)

1949: Broderick Crawford (All the King's Men)

1948: Laurence Olivier (Hamlet)

1947: Ronald Colman (A Double Life)

1946: Fredric March (The Best Years of Our Lives)

1945: Ray Milland (The Lost Weekend)

1944: Bing Crosby (Going My Way)

1943: Paul Lukas (Watch on the Rhine)

1942: James Cagney (Yankee Doodle Dandy)

1941: Gary Cooper (Sergeant York)

1940: James Stewart (The Philadelphia Story)

1939: Robert Donat (Goodbye, Mr. Chips)

1938: Spencer Tracy (Boys Town)

1937: Spencer Tracy (Captains Courageous)

1936: Paul Muni (The Story of Louis Pasteur)

1935: Victor McLaglen (The Informer)

1934: Clark Gable (It Happened One Night)

1932/33: Charles Laughton (The Private Life of Henry VIII)

1931/32: Wallace Beery (The Champ), Fredric March (Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde) TIE

1930/31: Lionel Barrymore (A Free Soul)

1929/30: George Arliss (Disraeli)

1928/29: Warner Baxter (In Old Arizona)

1927/28: Emil Jannings (The Last Command, The Way of All Flesh)