

List of accolades received by David Lynch

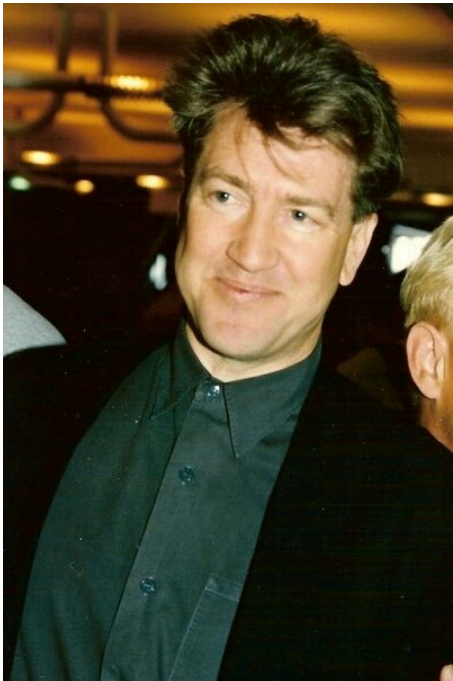
David Lynch (1946–2025) was an American filmmaker, visual artist, musician and actor. Known for his surrealist films, he developed his own unique cinematic style, which has been dubbed "Lynchian",^[1] and which is characterized by its dream imagery and meticulous sound design. Over his career he won the Honorary Academy Award, two prizes from the Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Lion as well as nominations for two BAFTA Awards, eight Primetime Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, and a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Lynch's oeuvre encompasses work in both cinema and television. He received three nominations for the Academy Award for Best Director for his work on the biographical drama *The Elephant Man* (1980), the neo-noir *Blue Velvet* (1986), and his surrealist thriller *Mulholland Drive* (2000). He won the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or for his romance film *Wild at Heart* (1990). He also directed the space opera *Dune* (1984), the drama *The Straight Story* (1999), the surrealist crime drama *Lost Highway* (1997), and the experimental thriller *Inland Empire* (2006).

Lynch whilst his television debut, with the ABC mystery-horror series *Twin Peaks* (1990–1991) which earned five Primetime Emmy Award nominations for its first season. He was nominated for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series and Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series. Lynch made a prequel film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me* (1992) and revival series *Twin Peaks: The Return* (2017). Indeed, the surreal and in many cases violent elements to his films have earned them the reputation that they "disturb, offend or mystify" their audiences.^[2]

In the course of his career, Lynch has received multiple awards and nominations. Amongst these are three Academy Award nominations for Best Director, and a nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay. He received the Academy Honorary Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2019. Lynch has twice won France's César Award for Best Foreign Film, as well as the Palme d'Or and Best Director Prizes at the Cannes Film Festival and a Golden Lion award for lifetime achievement at the Venice Film Festival.

David Lynch awards and nominations



Lynch at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival

Awards and nominations		
Award	Wins	Nominations
<u>Academy Awards</u>	0	4
<u>British Academy Film Awards</u>	0	2
<u>Emmy Awards</u>	0	8
<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	0	4
<u>Screen Actors Guild Awards</u>	0	1
Totals^[a]		
Wins	25	
Nominations	48	
Note		

a. Certain award groups do not simply award one winner. They acknowledge several different recipients, have runners-up, and have third place. Since this is a specific recognition and is different from losing an award, runner-up mentions are considered

The French government has awarded him the Legion of Honour, the country's top civilian distinction, honoring him first as a *Chevalier* in 2002 and then as an *Officier* in 2009; Lynch was also awarded the key to the city of Bydgoszcz, Poland. In 2017, Lynch was awarded The Edward MacDowell Medal by The MacDowell Colony for outstanding contributions to American culture.^[3]

wins in this award tally. For simplification and to avoid errors, each award in this list has been presumed to have had a prior nomination.

Major associations

Academy Awards

Year	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
<u>1980</u>	<u>Best Adapted Screenplay</u>	<i><u>The Elephant Man</u></i>	Nominated	^[4]
			Nominated	
<u>1986</u>	<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>Blue Velvet</u></i>	Nominated	^[5]
<u>2001</u>		<i><u>Mulholland Drive</u></i>	Nominated	^[6]
<u>2019</u>	<u>Academy Honorary Award</u>		Won	^[7]

BAFTA Awards

Year	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
<u>1981</u>	<u>Best Direction</u>	<i><u>The Elephant Man</u></i>	Nominated	^[8]
	<u>Best Screenplay</u>		Nominated	

Emmy Awards

Year	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
<u>1990</u>	<u>Outstanding Drama Series</u>	<i><u>Twin Peaks</u></i> (season one)	Nominated	^[9]
	<u>Outstanding Directing in a Drama Series</u>		Nominated	
	<u>Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series</u>		Nominated	
	<u>Outstanding Achievement in Main Title Theme Music</u>		Nominated	
	<u>Outstanding Achievement in Music and Lyrics</u>		Nominated	
<u>2018</u>	<u>Outstanding Directing for a Limited Series or Movie</u>	<i><u>Twin Peaks: The Return</u></i>	Nominated	^[10]
	<u>Outstanding Writing for a Limited Series or Movie</u>		Nominated	
	<u>Outstanding Single-Camera Editing for a Limited Series</u>		Nominated	
	<u>Outstanding Sound Editing for a Limited Series or Movie</u>		Nominated	

Golden Globe Awards

Year	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
<u>1980</u>	<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>The Elephant Man</u></i>	Nominated	^[11]
<u>1986</u>	<u>Best Screenplay</u>	<i><u>Blue Velvet</u></i>	Nominated	^[11]
<u>2001</u>	<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>Mulholland Drive</u></i>	Nominated	^[11]
	<u>Best Screenplay</u>		Nominated	

Screen Actors Guild Awards

Year	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
<u>2023</u>	<u>Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture</u>	<i><u>The Fabelmans</u></i> (shared with the cast ^[a])	Nominated	^[12]

Industry awards

Year	Association	Category	Project	Result	Ref.
<u>1990</u>	<u>Cannes Film Festival</u>	<u>Palme d'Or</u>	<i><u>Wild at Heart</u></i>	Won	^[13]
<u>1992</u>			<i><u>Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me</u></i>	Nominated	^[14]
<u>1999</u>			<i><u>The Straight Story</u></i>	Nominated	^[15]
<u>2001</u>		<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>Mulholland Drive</u></i>	Nominated	^[16]
				Won	^[13]
<u>1982</u>	<u>César Awards</u>	<u>Best Foreign Film</u>	<i><u>The Elephant Man</u></i>	Won	^[17]
<u>2002</u>		<u>Best Foreign Film</u>	<i><u>Mulholland Drive</u></i>	Won	^[17]
<u>1980</u>	<u>Directors Guild of America Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Directing</u>	<i><u>The Elephant Man</u></i>	Nominated	^[18]
<u>2018</u>	<u>Dorian Awards</u>	TV Drama of the Year	<i><u>Twin Peaks: The Return</u></i>	Nominated	^[19]
<u>1999</u>	<u>European Film Awards</u>	<u>Best Non-European Film</u>	<i><u>The Straight Story</u></i>	Won	^[20]
<u>2018</u>	<u>Golden Reel Awards</u>	Outstanding Sound Editing – Episodic Short Form	<i><u>Twin Peaks: The Return</u></i>	Nominated	^[21]
<u>1987</u>	<u>Independent Spirit Awards</u>	<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>Blue Velvet</u></i>	Nominated	^[22]
		<u>Best Screenplay</u>		Nominated	
<u>2000</u>		<u>Best Director</u>	<i><u>The Straight Story</u></i>	Nominated	^[23]
<u>2007</u>		Special Distinction Award (Won with <u>Laura Dern</u>)		Won	^[24]
<u>1993</u>	<u>Saturn Awards</u>	<u>Best Writing</u>	<i><u>Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me</u></i>	Nominated	
<u>2018</u>		<u>Best Guest Performance in a Television Series</u>	<i><u>Twin Peaks: The Return</u></i>	Won	^[25]

2006	Venice Film Festival	Future Film Festival Digital Award	<i>Inland Empire</i>	Won	[26]
2006		Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement		Won	[27]

Critics awards

Year	Association	Category	Project	Result	Ref.
2002	American Film Institute	Best Director	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	Nominated	[28]
1986	Boston Society of Film Critics	Best Director	<i>Blue Velvet</i>	Won	[29]
2002			<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	Won	[29]
2001	Chicago Film Critics Association	Best Director	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	Won	[30]
1986	Los Angeles Film Critics Association	Best Director	<i>Blue Velvet</i>	Won	[31]
2001			<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	Won	[32]
1986	National Society of Film Critics	Best Director	<i>Blue Velvet</i>	Won	[33]
2006		Best Experimental Film	<i>Inland Empire</i>	Won	[33]
2001	Toronto Film Critics Association	Best Director	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	Won	[34]

Honorary awards

Year	Association	Award	Result	Ref.
1991	American Film Institute	Schnaffer Alumni Medal	Won	[35]
2000	Camerimage	Award for the Director with Special Visual Sensitivity	Won	[36]
		Award for Director–Cinematographer Duo (Won with Fred Elmes)	Won	[36]
2003		Order for the Contribution to Polish Culture	Won	[37]
2012		Lifetime Achievement Award	Won	[38]
2003	Stockholm Film Festival	Lifetime Achievement Award	Won	[39]

Awards and nominations received by Lynch's films

Year	Title	Academy Awards		BAFTA Awards		Golden Globe Awards	
		Nominations	Wins	Nominations	Wins	Nominations	Wins
1980	<i>The Elephant Man</i>	8		7	3	4	
1984	<i>Dune</i>	1					
1986	<i>Blue Velvet</i>	1				2	

1990	<i>Wild at Heart</i>	1		1		1	
1999	<i>The Straight Story</i>	1				2	
2001	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	1		2	1	4	
Total		15		10	4	15	

Special honors

Lynch has also been honored by the French government with induction into the Legion of Honour, first being honored as a *Chevalier* (knight) in 2002,^[40] and again as an *Officier* (officer) in 2009.^[40] In 2012, Lynch was presented with the key to the city of Bydgoszcz, Poland, by the city's mayor Rafał Bruski. The presentation was part of that year's Plus Camerimage festival.^[38]

Notes

- Jeannie Berlin, Paul Dano, Judd Hirsch, Gabriel LaBelle, Seth Rogen and Michelle Williams

Footnotes

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- Lynch and Rodley, p. 245.
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