Golden Globes 2018: How Frances McDormand, Nicole Kidman, and Allison Janney Celebrated

by Rebecca Keegan Julie Miller Nicole Sperling

"What do you want to know? We have some partying to do," Frances McDormand announced to press backstage at the Golden Globes on Sunday evening, shortly after her film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* won best drama.

McDormand had already promised her fellow nominees in the best-actress category, including Meryl Streep, a tequila shot at the bar. And McDormand had every intention of making good on that promise. But first, the actress confessed something: she cares so little about awards that she did not even know whether her husband, Joel Coen, had ever won a Golden Globe until tonight—when, partway through the show, she asked him. Coen informed his wife that yes, he has one, and he won “it the best possible way . . . I got it the year the ceremony was canceled. They just mailed it to me.”

After her obligatory five minutes with press were up, the actress was tequila-bound . . . until realizing that *Lady Bird*’s filmmaker, Greta Gerwig, and Saoirse Ronan were across the Beverly Hilton ballroom. Golden Globe in hand, McDormand marched over to Gerwig and Ronan and embraced both in warm hugs. Moments later, Gerwig revealed that the interaction was a nice bookend for her Golden Globes evening, as she started the night by meeting her childhood crush Justin Timberlake and learning that he gave her loosely biographical film (and its use of his single “Cry Me a River”) two thumbs up.

The evening’s winners collided while waiting to have their trophies engraved at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association viewing and after-party in the Wilshire Garden. Sam Rockwell, watching the awards show on a monitor as the engravers worked, cheered at Laura Dern’s win for *Big Little Lies*. “She’s the best!” Rockwell shouted to the room. Allison Janney bumped into *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* writer-director Martin McDonagh, who began regaling her with how much he loved her film *I, Tonya*. Elisabeth Moss twirled around to show photographers her newly pressed trophy. “It’s got my name!” Moss said. “I had to do this myself last year.”

Though the show unfolding on the monitors was packed with mentions of gender politics, there were only a few signs of the issue du jour at the H.F.P.A. party. When a photographer told *This Is Us* star Sterling K. Brown that party sponsor Fiji was donating money to the A.F.I.’s directing workshop for women, Brown gamely grabbed a bottle and posed, sipping, for a
picture. And during Oprah’s speech, for the first time all the night, the party’s two female bartenders stopped working to watch. Though the feed on the monitors was flickering in and out, they were rapt.

Backstage, Big Little Lies stars Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Zoë Kravitz, Laura Dern, and Shailene Woodley presented a united front with press, where the actresses celebrated more than the show’s four awards. Speaking about the importance of the Time’s Up movement, Witherspoon told press earlier that she has “special friendships with everyone in this cast. For so much of my 27-year career, I never got to work with other women. Seeing more dynamic women in film is just the beginning of making the industry more diverse and inclusive.”

Inside the HBO party, Kidman broke off from the group to reunite with husband Keith Urban and smile for photos with well-wishers. Her television husband Alexander Skarsgard, also a winner Sunday night, dug into his long-awaited dinner while sitting with Jack McBrayer, a table away from Helen Mirren.

Maggie Gyllenhaal and her date, a childhood friend who borrowed Gyllenhaal’s dress for the night, snuggled into a table nearby to eat their own dinner. “We’re starving,” said the Golden Globe nominee, before explaining how excited she is about the Time’s Up Legal Defense Fund and the steps being taken to try and change the culture. “What has to happen is the system has to change,” she added. “The truth is when we start taking this apart, it’s dangerous, it’s layered, and we’ve all been part of it for a very long time. Many women, including myself, have had to fit ourselves into this world. To say that we are not satisfied with it anymore is a big change.”

Four tables down, the mood was a bit lighter. Game of Thrones cast members Emilia Clarke, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, and Gwendoline Christie shared cell-phone photos with each other, while the show’s co-creator David Benioff chatted with Andy Samberg. Nearby, Samberg’s creative partner and frequent director Akiva Schaffer lamented that though he was seated at the same table as The Room director and star—and inspiration for James Franco’s Golden Globe-winning performance—Tommy Wiseau, he didn’t grab a photo with him. Schaffer did call Wiseau “delightful,” and wondered aloud if the eccentric character ever got a chance to meet their other table-mate, the singular Roseanne Barr.

Angelina Jolie and her self-professed admirer Drake were photographed separately inside the same Netflix party, though it’s unclear whether the stars ever crossed paths. Tyrese, Jennifer Aniston, Ewan McGregor, and Pharrell stopped by, as well as The Crown’s Claire Foy and Matt Smith. Stranger Things actress Millie Bobby Brown introduced herself to Master of None creator and star Aziz Ansari.

Upstairs, in the Beverly Hilton hallway, Gary Oldman was besieged by selfie-seeking fans. The Darkest Hour star, who had a Winston Churchill speech folded in his pocket as a good-luck token for the evening, slowly crept his way to the Focus Features party, one obliging
photo op at a time. *The Shape of Water* star Sally Hawkins snuck out of the Fox party early, as *The Handmaid’s Tale* stars Alexis Bledel and Madeline Brewer danced to “Hit the Road Jack” on the dance floor.

Meanwhile, at the *InStyle/ Warner Bros.* party down the hall, Allison Janney enjoyed her first Golden Globe win for her scene-stealing role in *I, Tonya* with a group of well-wishers, while Kerry Washington and Salma Hayek hugged each other vigorously, took a round of selfies, and declared their love for one another. Winner Sam Rockwell was still riding his high from *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*s four Globe statuettes. Embracing every fan that came his way, he and girlfriend Leslie Bibb slowly exited the party, both with wide grins on their faces. Asked what the most surreal part of his night was, Rockwell quickly replied: “Kissing Meryl Streep and Steven Spielberg after we won. Why did I kiss them? I guess I just really wanted to.”