



Minnesota-Made A SERIOUS MAN Nominated for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay

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MINNEAPOLIS, February 3, 2010 - A SERIOUS MAN, produced, directed and written by Joel Coen & Ethan Coen, received Oscar nominations today from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay.

"We are very happy to have received these nominations and would like to thank the Academy and everyone that made this film possible," the Coens said in a statement following the announcement of the nominations. "A special thanks to Focus Features and Working Title Films."

A SERIOUS MAN shot for 44 days during the fall of 2008 in locations throughout the Twin Cities metro, including Bloomington, Edina, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Roseville. The production brought just over \$6 million to the local economy and employed 130 Minnesotans in crew positions. Hundreds of Minnesotan actors played key roles or worked as extras in the film about suburban Minnesota in 1967.

"The Coens' two Oscar nominations are well-deserved recognition from the Academy for the caliber of their writing and directing skills in telling this very personal story," said Minnesota Film & TV Board Executive Director Lucinda Winter.

Minnesota actor Sari Lennick, who portrayed Judith Gopnik in the film, was delighted by the news of the nominations. "I am thrilled that the Coen brothers are getting recognized for this awesome collaboration," Lennick said. "I fell in love with the script when I read it – it's such a great example of their ability to write a great story, in this case about a world that they know."

To date, the film has received numerous awards, including the Robert Altman Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, Best Screenplay from the National Society of Film Critics, Best Original Screenplay from the Writers Guild of America and was named one of the year's best pictures by the American Film Institute.

The feature marked the first professional return of the Coens to their home state since FARGO (1996), which was nominated for Best Picture. Frances McDormand won an Oscar for Best Actress In a Leading Role for her portrayal of Marge Gunderson in the film and the Coens won Oscars for Best Original Screenplay.

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