

Golden SHUFFLE

It's the hottest ticket in town, but what happens when two celebrities don't want to be in the same room together? Welcome to the Golden Globes!

LIVE FROM THE RED CARPET: THE 2017 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS LIVE Monday January 9 at 10am, **ENCORE** at 6.30pm on **E!** [125] available in the **ENTERTAINMENT PLUS** pack **74TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS LIVE** Monday January 9 at 12pm, **ENCORE** at 8.30pm on **FOX8** [108] part of the **ENTERTAINMENT** pack

Think *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, but on steroids. When the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards organisers start planning the celebrity seating for the glitzy event it's about making sure Brad Pitt doesn't run into his ex Angelina Jolie and that neither are sitting close to his first wife, Jennifer Aniston.

But the jigsaw puzzle of seating is the tip of the iceberg when putting on an elite Hollywood gathering. Who's taken to the stage a bit tipsy and which stars started a romance at the Globes?

With the countdown on, *Foxtel* magazine speaks to those in the know about what goes into the iconic event.

FOUR MONTHS OUT

The entry system goes live, inviting film and television studios to submit for Golden Globe award consideration.

THREE MONTHS OUT

Remember *The Martian* winning for Best Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical? Rules have been tightened and this is when the Hollywood Foreign Press Association members review entries and decide if the category fits.

TWO MONTHS OUT

Organisers begin booking presenters, starting with last year's winners. "We lock-in the biggest stars early," shares

talent liaison Elisabeth Sereda. "But we wait until nominees are announced to choose the rest of them."

ONE MONTH OUT

Nominations are officially announced on December 12 and organisers have only 27 days to arrange seating, tickets and parking for the 1300-odd guests.

THREE WEEKS OUT

Each studio submits its wish list for tickets. "It's like the wedding from hell," reveals seating coordinator Silvia Bizio. "We try to have as many faces at each table as possible because it's a TV show, too."

TWO WEEKS OUT

Seating is finalised as the organisers grapple with awkward scenarios. The year after Aniston and Pitt split, both were in the room along with Jolie and had to be seated at opposite ends. "We have to be mindful of who shouldn't bump into who," Bizio adds. Last year, one major television actor refused to sit at the same table as another actor whose politics he disagreed with. But there's been matchmaking on the night, too. Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel had obvious chemistry while sitting at a presenters' table in 2007. While in 2002 Harrison Ford spilt a drink on Calista Flockhart when she sat at the table next to him - now they're married.



Above from top: Fey at the 2015 awards. Fey co-hosted with friend Amy Poehler in 2013, 2014 and 2015; presenters Ryan Gosling (left) and Pitt. Opposite: Leonardo DiCaprio accepts the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama last year for work in *The Revenant*

EVE OF THE EVENT

Full rehearsal takes place at the Beverly Hilton. Production crew pose as winners and presenters to run through camera movements based on the seating chart.

AWARDS DAY

2pm Red carpet opens.

3.30pm A three-course meal is served to guests so plates can be cleared before the broadcast starts.

4pm The Golden Globes is one of the few award shows that offers an open bar. Comedian Ricky Gervais hosted the show three times with a glass of beer in hand, and as Tina Fey explains: "Get a bunch of people in a room who don't eat much, give them one drink - it gets good fast." Some who have over imbibed include Elizabeth Taylor in 2001 and more recently in 2014, Jacqueline Bisset. **5pm** Broadcast starts. Many actors who missed dinner because they were out on the red carpet head to an adjacent room to grab a snack or entry to the balcony for a cigarette. It's also a great place to mingle with the big stars. **8pm** Broadcast ends. Guests collect their AUD\$600 gift bag on the way out and then head to one of the extravagant afterparties.

8.15pm The afterparties begin and what a sight they are. In the HBO knees-up each nominee has their own table with seats for 10 friends. There is a gourmet buffet and drinks flow. **E**

WORDS: JENNY COONEY CARRILLO. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



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