

READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT FILM CRITICS

Power to the people



Gemma Payne asks: Who are the best film critics, the experts or the people?

Do you remember the book *The Filmgoers Companion*? It was first published in the 1960s and became the book to read if you were thinking about watching a movie. If like me you were born in the 2000s, you've probably never heard of it, but by the 1980s *The Filmgoers Companion* was very powerful and the opinion of one man, the author Leslie Halliwell, could make or break a movie.

But how do we decide what films to watch today? Many people follow *The Oscars*, and many others read movie review websites like *Rotten Tomatoes*.

We all know that *The Oscars ceremony* is about two things: big films and big glamour. There's no doubt it's a spectacular event. The judges aren't people like you or me, they're industry professionals and film critics, similar to Leslie Halliwell. So the question is, whose opinion is better ... the experts or yours?

Film review websites like *Rotten Tomatoes* have opened film reviewing to the world. Anyone can post their opinion of a film at any time. We can all be critics, reviewing films not just on a specific night of a year like with *The Oscars*, but whenever we watch them. These websites never close.

But the websites aren't without their critics. Reviews can be too simplistic and story lines can be told before people have seen a film. But no one can criticize the fact that now everyone has a chance to give their opinion, not just the experts.

For me, *The Oscars ceremony* is a glamorous occasion I love to read about, but I'm more interested in other people's opinions on films. After all, it's the people who pay to watch them.

1. When did most people use *The Filmgoers Guide*?

- A) 2000s
- B) 1980s
- C) 1960s

2. According to the writer, who are *The Oscars* judges?

- A) Leslie Halliwell.
- B) Industry professionals.
- C) Ordinary people.

3. When does the writer say that people can put reviews on *Rotten Tomatoes*?

- A) At any time.
- B) On a specific night.
- C) Never.

4. What is not a criticism that people make about *Rotten Tomatoes*?

- A) The reviews might expose the plot of a film.
- B) The reviews come from many people.
- C) The reviews don't always give the full details of a film.