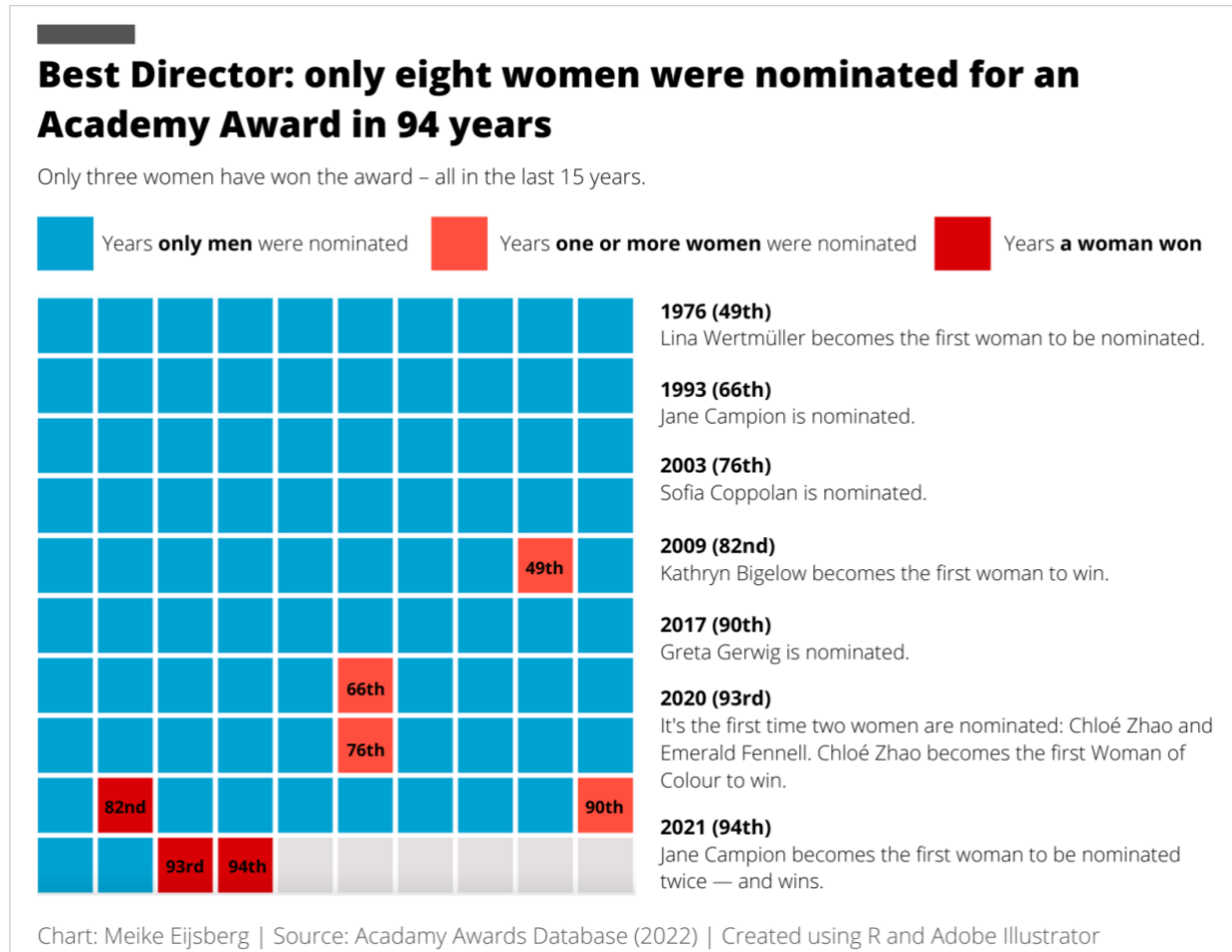


# The Oscars are won by men and drama

The 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards were a historic win for women, but it was a man who hijacked the headlines.

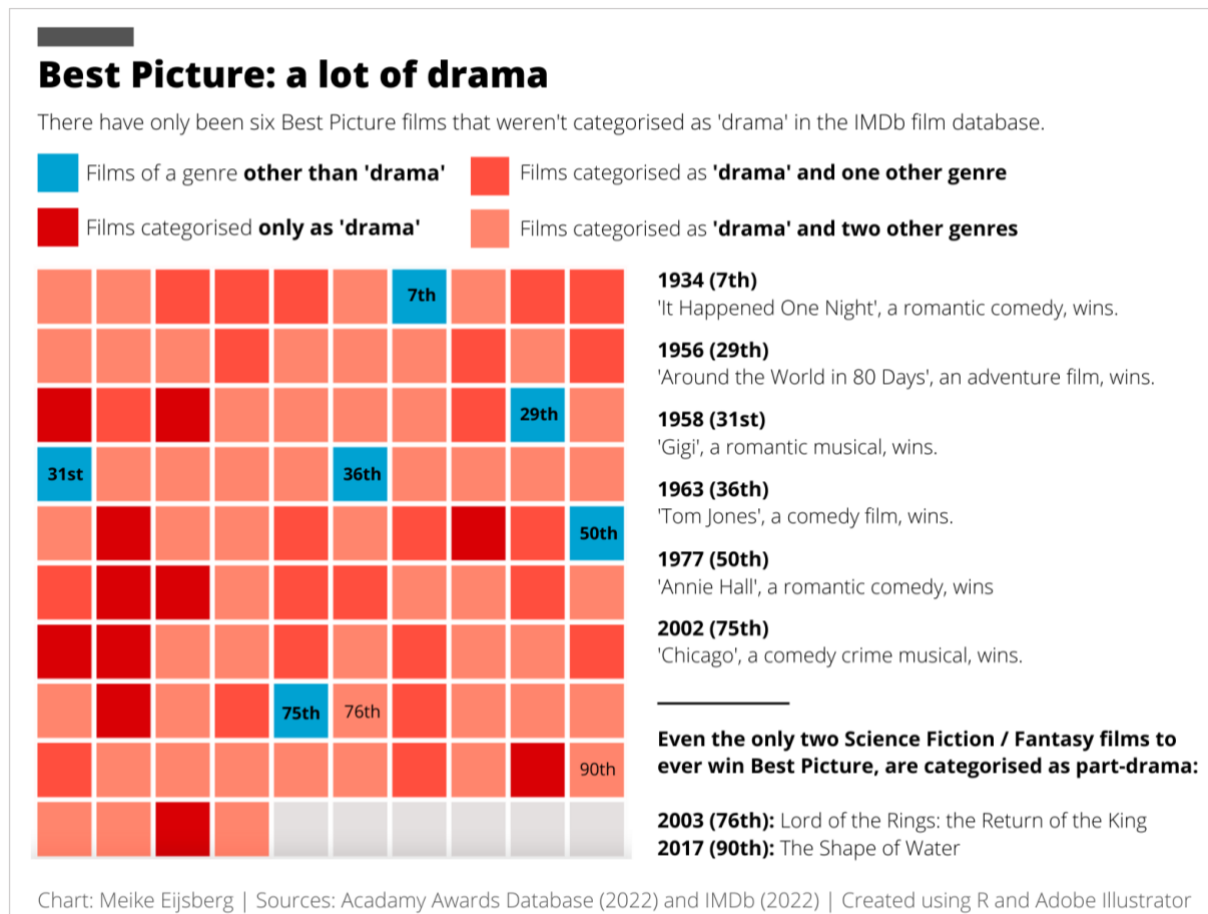


Most people will remember the 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards as the night Will Smith slapped Chris Rock on stage. But this incident took away the attention from the real achievements that were supposed to be celebrated that evening.

One such achievement was that of Jane Campion, a New Zealand director, screenwriter, and producer, who became the third female filmmaker to win the Oscar for Best Director. This is a big deal since, in the history of the Academy Awards, only eight women have ever been nominated for Best Director. In fact, there are more men who won Best Director more than twice than there are women who were nominated.

The film that wins Best Director often wins Best Picture too. But this year, it was 'CODA', a coming-of-age drama film directed by Sian Heder, that took home Best Picture. This made Heder the third female filmmaker to direct a Best Picture winning film.

There have only been [18 Best Picture nominees](#) that were directed by women. The first to win was Kathryn Bigelow's 'The Hurt Locker' in 2010. It was followed by Chloe Zhao's 'Nomadland' in 2020.



But it's not just the Best Director award that lacks diversity – so do the Best Picture wins. Since the start of the Oscars, there have only been six Best Picture films that weren't categorised as a drama in the IMDb film database.

Until 2009, the Academy only allowed five nominees for the Best Picture category, thereby limiting the range of films that could win the award. Up to ten films can now be nominated, allowing many blockbusters such as *Black Panther*, *Joker*, and *Dune* to make the cut. But even these films lost the award to dramas nominated in their respective ceremonies.