

## News

## Hollywood's 'gold knight' on guard in Oscar poster



2002 Academy Awards poster

### Poster

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Davis, a fan of graphic novels, approached Ross when the phrase "the gold knight returns" slipped into his head. The phrase echoes the landmark 1986 Batman graphic novel "The Dark Knight Returns" and seemed appropriate because the awards are being held in Hollywood for the first time since 1960.

"We didn't want him swinging the sword over his head," Davis said of the guidelines he gave Ross. "This is the first time we've ever made any kind of variation from the way the statue actually looks, and I think it's a terrifically energetic pose."

Added Ross: "The concept utilizes the character as a heroic fig-

By Borys Kit

Watch out, evildoers: Hollywood's golden hero is coming home.

That is the theme of the 2002 Academy Awards commemorative poster, unveiled Wednesday at Hollywood & Highland by Bruce Davis, executive director of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Alex Ross, the poster's illustrator. Ross is the critically acclaimed comic graphic novel artist of such works as "Marvels" and "Kingdom Come."

The poster features Oscar perched atop the First National Bank building as he surveys Hollywood while klieg lights streak the sky.

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ure, almost there to defend Hollywood. It's not a great stretch with Oscar, given that he's essentially a half-naked gold man with a sword — not too different than what I'm normally working with."

Ross, who paints in a photorealistic way and works with models, got to have fun on the project when the Academy loaned him an actual statuette.

"For the period of about a week that I had it, I not only put it to use as a reference item, I also got a chance to photograph family and friends as if they were accepting an Oscar," he said, laughing.

The poster will be used in a nationwide promotional campaign and can be purchased until April 9 at the Academy's Web site, [www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org). □