

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

And the Academy Awards Go to...Independent Movies

Adam Leipzig · Wednesday, January 14th, 2015

Independent films achieved the lion's share of Academy Award nominations, as announced today by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Oscars will be awarded on Sunday, February 22.

This year, the numbers are truly remarkable, and show the amazing strength of independent filmmaking. Seven of the eight Best Picture nominations, all of the Best Directing nominations, 18 of the 20 Best Acting nominations, 9 of the 10 Screenplay nominations and 4 of the 5 Editing and Cinematography nominations went to indies.

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Why? One reason is that as the quantity of studio films has declines, the number of quality indies has increased. Of the 600 movies released each year, about 140 come from studios — a number that has decreased from 200 five years ago. New independent financiers have stepped to the plate, and are bankrolling films with budgets of \$20 million and more, attracting top talent and allowing artists exceptional freedom.

Not all of the nominated indie movies had such lofty budgets, though. *The Grand Budapest Hotel* cost \$31 million and *Birdman* cost \$18 million, but *Boyhood* only cost \$4 million — all the more impressive because its budget was spread over 12 years of filmmaking. *The Imitation Game* and *The Theory of Everything* both cost approximately \$15 million.

For your convenience, indie movie nominees are in **boldface**.

BEST MOTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR

American Sniper

Clint Eastwood, Robert Lorenz, Andrew Lazar, Bradley Cooper and Peter Morgan, Producers

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Alejandro G. Iñárritu, John Lesher and James W. Skotchdopole, Producers

Boyhood

Richard Linklater and Cathleen Sutherland, Producers

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Wes Anderson, Scott Rudin, Steven Rales and Jeremy Dawson, Producers

The Imitation Game

Nora Grossman, Ido Ostrowsky and Teddy Schwarzman, Producers

Selma

Christian Colson, Oprah Winfrey, Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner, Producers

The Theory of Everything

Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Lisa Bruce and Anthony McCarten, Producers

Whiplash

Jason Blum, Helen Estabrook and David Lancaster, Producers

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Steve Carell in Foxcatcher

Bradley Cooper in American Sniper

Benedict Cumberbatch in The Imitation Game

Michael Keaton in Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Eddie Redmayne in The Theory of Everything

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Robert Duvall in The Judge

Ethan Hawke in Boyhood

Edward Norton in Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Mark Ruffalo in Foxcatcher

J.K. Simmons in Whiplash

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Marion Cotillard in Two Days, One Night

Felicity Jones in The Theory of Everything

Julianne Moore in Still Alice

Rosamund Pike in Gone Girl

Reese Witherspoon in Wild

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Patricia Arquette in Boyhood

Laura Dern in Wild

Keira Knightley in The Imitation Game

Emma Stone in Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Meryl Streep in Into the Woods

ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING

Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Richard Linklater, Boyhood

Bennett Miller, Foxcatcher

Wes Anderson, The Grand Budapest Hotel

Morten Tyldum, The Imitation Game

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM OF THE YEAR

Big Hero 6

Don Hall, Chris Williams and Roy Conli

The Boxtrolls

Anthony Stacchi, Graham Annable and Travis Knight

How to Train Your Dragon 2

Dean DeBlois and Bonnie Arnold

Song of the Sea

Tomm Moore and Paul Young

The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya

Isao Takahata and Yoshiaki Nishimura

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM OF THE YEAR

Ida (Poland)

Leviathan (Russia)

Tangerines (Estonia)

Timbuktu (Mauritania)

Wild Tales (Argentina)

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

American Sniper

Written by Jason Hall

The Imitation Game

Written by Graham Moore

Inherent Vice

Written for the screen by Paul Thomas Anderson

The Theory of Everything

Screenplay by Anthony McCarten

Whiplash

Written by Damien Chazelle

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Written by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, Jr. & Armando Bo

Boyhood

Written by Richard Linklater

Foxcatcher

Written by E. Max Frye and Dan Futterman

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Screenplay by Wes Anderson; Story by Wes Anderson & Hugo Guinness

Nightcrawler

Written by Dan Gilroy

ACHIEVEMENT IN CINEMATOGRAPHY

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Emmanuel Lubezki

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Robert Yeoman

Ida

Lukasz Zal and Ryszard Lenczewski

Mr. Turner

Dick Pope

Unbroken

Roger Deakins

ACHIEVEMENT IN COSTUME DESIGN**The Grand Budapest Hotel****Milena Canonero****Inherent Vice****Mark Bridges****Into The Woods****Colleen Atwood****Maleficent****Anna B. Sheppard and Jane Clive****Mr. Turner****Jacqueline Durran****BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE****CitizenFour****Laura Poitras, Mathilde Bonnefoy and Dirk Wilutzky****Finding Vivian Maier****John Maloof and Charlie Siskel****Last Days in Vietnam****Rory Kennedy and Keven McAlester****The Salt of the Earth****Wim Wenders, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and David Rosier****Virunga****Orlando von Einsiedel and Joanna Natasegara****BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT****Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1****Ellen Goosenberg Kent and Dana Perry****Joanna****Aneta Kopacz****Our Curse****Tomasz Sliwinski and Maciej Slesicki****The Reaper (La Parka)****Gabriel Serra Arguello****White Earth****J. Christian Jensen****ACHIEVEMENT IN FILM EDITING****American Sniper****Joel Cox and Gary D. Roach****Boyhood****Sandra Adair****The Grand Budapest Hotel****Barney Pilling****The Imitation Game****William Goldenberg****Whiplash****Tom Cross****ACHIEVEMENT IN MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING**

Foxcatcher**Bill Corso and Dennis Liddiard****The Grand Budapest Hotel****Frances Hannon and Mark Coulier**

Guardians of the Galaxy

Elizabeth Yianni-Georgiou and David White

ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC WRITTEN FOR MOTION PICTURES (ORIGINAL SCORE)**The Grand Budapest Hotel****Alexandre Desplat****The Imitation Game****Alexandre Desplat**

Interstellar

Hans Zimmer

Mr. Turner**Gary Yershon****The Theory of Everything****Jóhann Jóhannsson****ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC WRITTEN FOR MOTION PICTURES (ORIGINAL SONG)**

“Everything Is Awesome” from The Lego Movie

Music and Lyric by Shawn Patterson

“Glory” from Selma**Music and Lyric by John Stephens and Lonnie Lynn**

“Grateful” from Beyond the Lights

Music and Lyric by Diane Warren

“I’m Not Gonna Miss You” from Glen Campbell...I’ll Be Me**Music and Lyric by Glen Campbell and Julian Raymond****“Lost Stars” from Begin Again****Music and Lyric by Gregg Alexander and Danielle Brisebois****ACHIEVEMENT IN PRODUCTION DESIGN****The Grand Budapest Hotel****Production Design: Adam Stockhausen; Set Decoration: Anna Pinnock****The Imitation Game****Production Design: Maria Djurkovic; Set Decoration: Tatiana Macdonald**

Interstellar

Production Design: Nathan Crowley; Set Decoration: Gary Fettis

Into the Woods

Production Design: Dennis Gassner; Set Decoration: Anna Pinnock

Mr. Turner**Production Design: Suzie Davies; Set Decoration: Charlotte Watts****BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM****The Bigger Picture****Daisy Jacobs and Christopher Hees****The Dam Keeper****Robert Kondo and Dice Tsutsumi****Feast**

Patrick Osborne and Kristina Reed
Me and My Moulton
Torill Kove
A Single Life
Joris Oprins

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

Aya
Oded Binnun and Mihal Brezis
Boogaloo and Graham
Michael Lennox and Ronan Blaney
Butter Lamp (La Lampe Au Beurre De Yak)
Hu Wei and Julien Féret
Parvaneh
Talkhon Hamzavi and Stefan Eichenberger
The Phone Call
Mat Kirkby and James Lucas

ACHIEVEMENT IN SOUND EDITING

American Sniper
Alan Robert Murray and Bub Asman
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
Martín Hernández and Aaron Glascock
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Brent Burge and Jason Canovas
Interstellar
Richard King
Unbroken
Becky Sullivan and Andrew DeCristofaro

ACHIEVEMENT IN SOUND MIXING

American Sniper
John Reitz, Gregg Rudloff and Walt Martin
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
Jon Taylor, Frank A. Montaña and Thomas Varga
Interstellar
Gary A. Rizzo, Gregg Landaker and Mark Weingarten
Unbroken
Jon Taylor, Frank A. Montaña and David Lee
Whiplash
Craig Mann, Ben Wilkins and Thomas Curley

ACHIEVEMENT IN VISUAL EFFECTS

Captain America: The Winter Soldier
Dan DeLeeuw, Russell Earl, Bryan Grill and Dan Sudick
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
Joe Letteri, Dan Lemmon, Daniel Barrett and Erik Winquist
Guardians of the Galaxy
Stephane Ceretti, Nicolas Aithadi, Jonathan Fawkner and Paul Corbould

Interstellar

Paul Franklin, Andrew Lockley, Ian Hunter and Scott Fisher

X-Men: Days of Future Past

Richard Stammers, Lou Pecora, Tim Crosbie and Cameron Waldbauer

Top image: 'Boyhood,' directed by Richard Linklater and starring Ellar Coltrane, was made on a budget of \$2.4 million. Photo courtesy IFC Films.

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