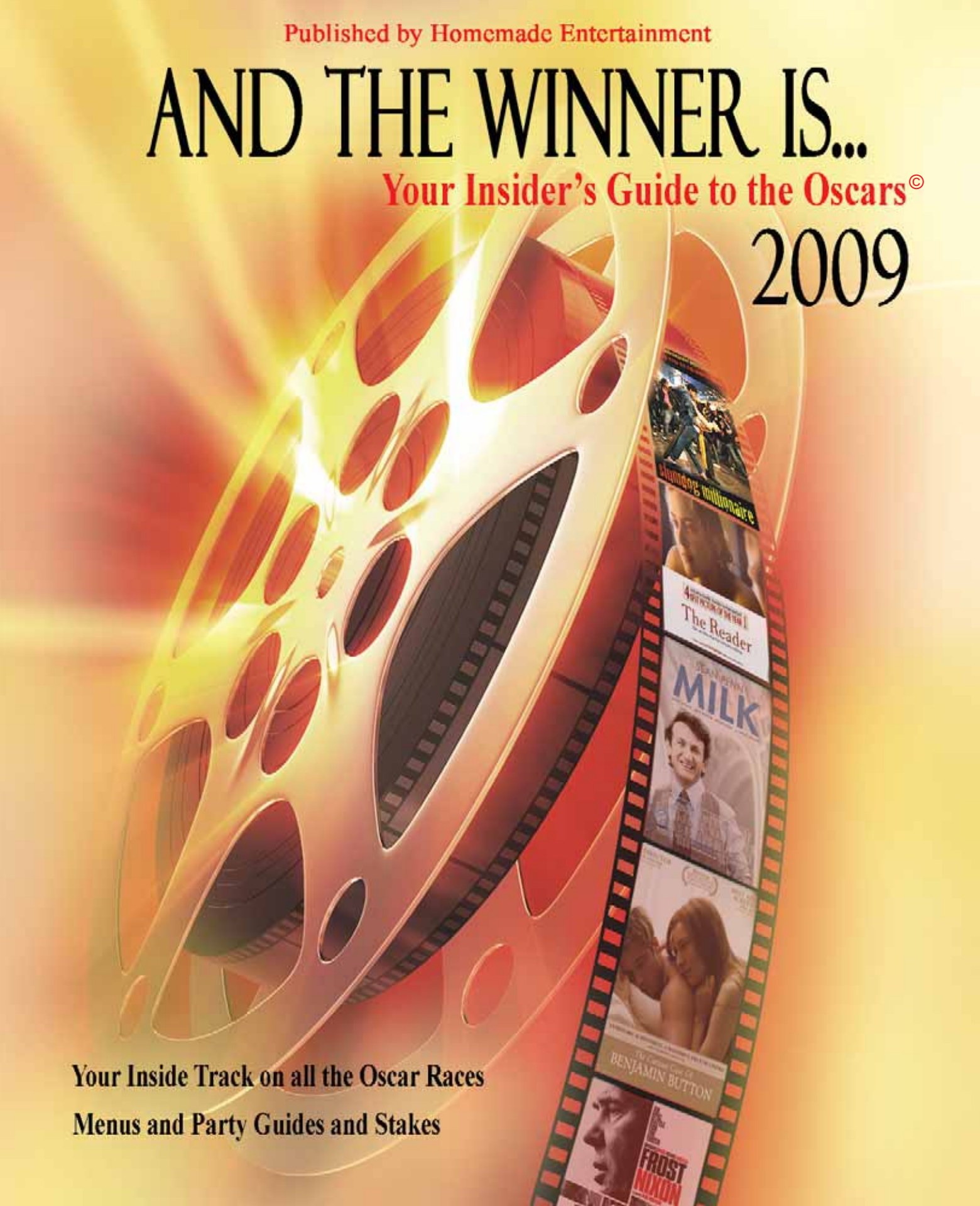


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# AND THE WINNER IS...

Your Insider's Guide to the Oscars<sup>®</sup>

# 2009



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Your Insider's Guide to the Oscars<sup>®</sup>

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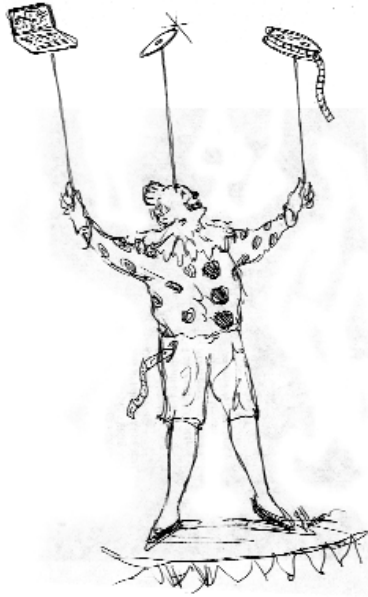
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# THE WELCOME



**W**elcome to AND THE WINNER IS...where we celebrate everything Oscar<sup>®</sup> and everything movie. We launched our magazine in 1988, at Entertainment Data, Inc, (EDI) a company well known in Hollywood for gathering the overnight box office data for the industry and the media. Since we had all the numbers, why not calculate what it all means at the Academy Awards? We were the first to quantify how much money was at stake for best picture winners, and what trends Oscar winners tend to follow. Our analysis, sent out to broadcast and print media, Hollywood insiders and Academy partygoers, is a must for predicting the winners.

The Oscars encourage indulgence in the movies no matter what is going on in the real world. Discover the art of successfully picking the winners and surprise and delight your family and friends with your expertise. As you watch on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 5 pm, pull out our ballot, have the stats at hand, and enter our online contest at [www.andthewinnerismagazine.com](http://www.andthewinnerismagazine.com)

This year there has been much talk in the media over the real characters that actor's portray. We expanded on that theme from the real roles actors portray to real stories in many of the other categories. Be sure to look for the accurate trends on our 'race' pages.

Whatever your Oscar style, we have a party plan for you along with interesting facts and movie stats.

Visit our website at [www.andthewinnerismagazine.com](http://www.andthewinnerismagazine.com) to purchase or download our current and archived issues. Blog with us at <http://redcarpetwinner.blogspot.com>, enter our contest, or contact us online: [contact@andthewinnerismagazine.com](mailto:contact@andthewinnerismagazine.com)

Have fun with the movies, and Happy Handicapping!

The Publishers

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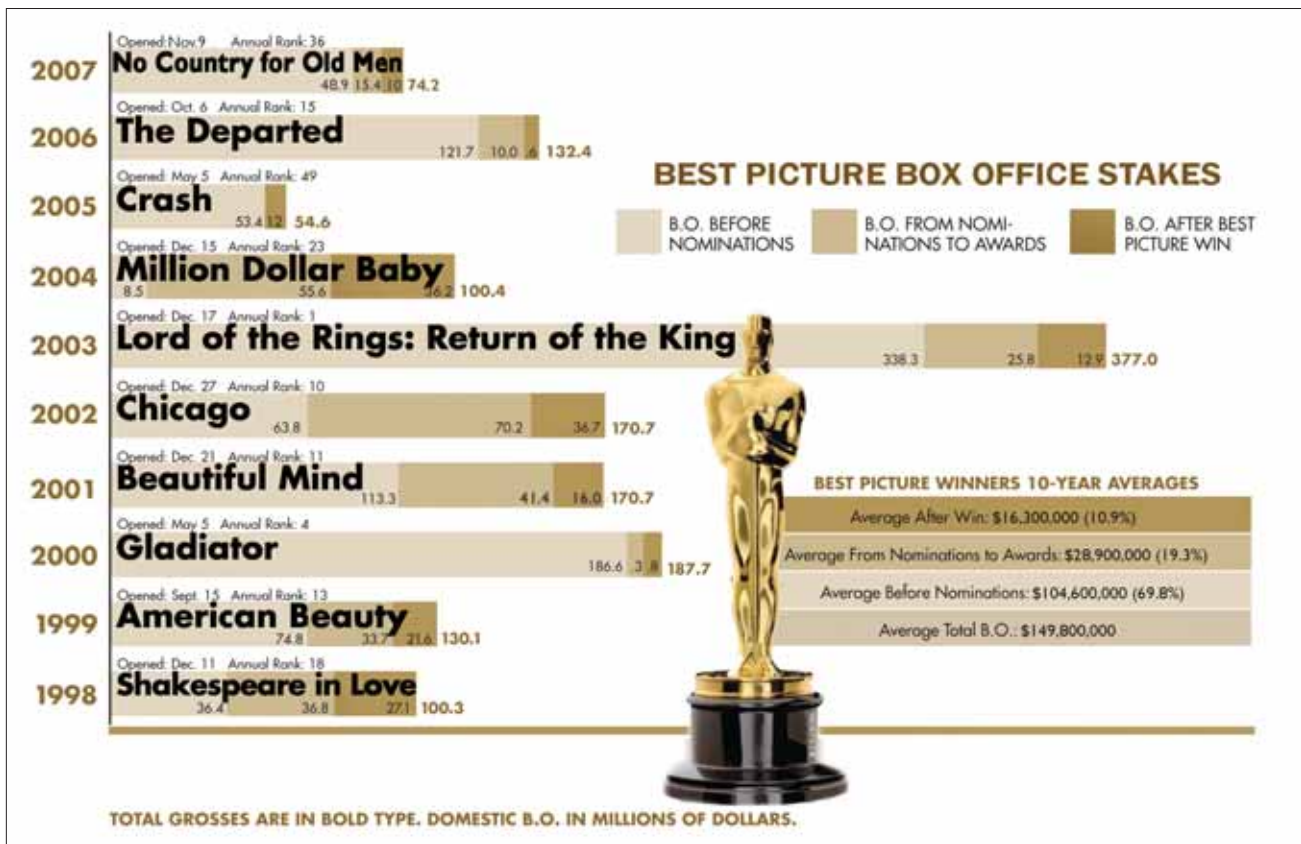
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# THE NUMBERS



by Dan Marks

Can it be true? Is movie going really recession proof? It is true that \$9.7 billion was accumulated in 2008, breaking the high mark of \$9.6 set in 2007. But the sad fact is that ticket price inflation accounted for the new record. Like an iceberg, what you see above the waterline does not give you the true picture. Actual ticket sales have fallen. The highest yearly attendance was six years ago in 2002 when 1.6 billion people bought tickets to the movies. 2007 came in at 1.4. 2008 is estimated at 1.3. The downward spiral needs to be flattened and reversed. Marquee box office numbers are not a bridge over troubled waters.

Like the democrats in congress, the "indies" have all but taken over the Academy Awards. The nominations this year reflect that the smaller distributors garnered 60% of the nominated films. In 2008, and for the last four years, the 150 "major" releases accounted for 80% of the domestic total gross. And the major distributors achieve these resounding numbers with just 20 - 25% of all yearly releases! The major distributors gave us

66% of the wide releases in 2008 and those films alone accounted for \$7.5 billion, or 77.4% of the total yearly gross.

Let's take a closer look at the "indie" art film stats. Out of the 616 new films released in 2008, 480 were indies. They contributed only \$730 million to a \$9.785 billion take for the year. That's 7.5% of the gross contributed from 78% of the releases. The top 10 indies grossed an average of \$33.9M. Number 20 in the ranking grossed \$9.5M. Number 50 grossed \$2.9M. And I think we'll stop here because you get the picture.

So you can see, as the globe is warming, Hollywood is cooling. How can the trends be reversed? Look at our soapbox arguments and think about it.

1. Let's try to market to all movie fans. Why not release movies on the same date in all media? Make it as easy as it is in hotels. The over 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's crowd either stuck at home or choosing to be entertained at home might purchase with a vengeance. DVD's and pay per view are plodding: they require large new advertising buys. Why not align

with theatrical openings? If our goal is to keep pace with our public and their lifestyles, shouldn't we allow alternative distribution channels to launch pictures alongside theaters?

2. Piracy, Piracy, Piracy! This is a costly Hollywood problem. Could it dissipate if Hollywood released faster into the globalized world, marketing and releasing their product from day one? This has taken place a few times, and the results were promising. Was piracy less of an issue on those titles?

3. Exhibitors need not tremble in their executive shoes. The digital world holds great promise here also. Yes, attendance is down, so let's start reprogramming the venues! Explore and experiment.

Without losing the regular programming during the prime shank of the evening, let the kids have gaming, and compete live with big screens in India filled with kids the same age! Hollywood remakes their movies all the time. Can't the exhibitors do the same thing with their theatres?

Tell us what you think at:

<http://redcarpetwinner.blogspot.com>.



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# BEST PICTURE RACE

## Pros / Cons



### **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**

Producers: **Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshal and Cean Chaffin** Director: **David Fincher** Screenwriter: **Screenplay: Eric Roth, Screen Story: Eric Roth & Robin Swicord** Distributor: **Paramount and Warner Bros.** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Estimated Budget: **\$150M** Nominated Cast: **Brad Pitt, Taraji P. Henson** Release Date: **12/25/08** Rating: **PG-13** Total Nominations: **13** Genre: **Epic Fantasy** Source Material: **Adaptation** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **7/2**  
Subjective Factor: **Oscar is not curious about this tour de force, just sure.**

Our nomination Kingpin  
Released after Sept.  
Period piece  
Box office Kingpin  
Has acting noms  
Has adapted screenplay nom  
Has director nom

Lacks Golden Globe win



### **FROST/NIXON**

Producers: **Brain Grazer, Ron Howard and Eric Fellner** Director: **Ron Howard** Screenwriter: **Peter Morgan** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$8,888,701** Estimated Budget: **\$35M** Nominated Cast: **Frank Langella** Release Date: **12/05/08** Rating: **R** Total Nominations: **5** Genre: **Drama** Source Material: **Adaptation** Pre-Award Wins: **Las Vegas Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **5/1**

Subjective Factor: **Oscar is fascinated, forgiving and definitely not frosty.**

Released after Sept.  
Period Piece  
Not lowest grossing nom  
Has acting noms  
Has adapted screenplay nom  
Has director nom

Lacks most noms  
Lacks Golden Globe win



### **MILK**

Producers: **Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen** Director: **Gus Van Sant** Screenwriter: **Dustin Lance Black** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Estimated Budget: **\$15M** Nominated Cast: **Sean Penn, Josh Brolin** Release Date: **11/26/08** Rating: **R** Total Nominations: **8** Genre: **Drama** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Pre-Award Wins: **NY Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **10/1**

Subjective Factor: **They really got this one right after so many years...**

Released after Sept.  
Period Piece  
Not lowest grossing nom  
Has acting noms  
Has original screenplay nom  
Has director nom

Lacks most noms  
Lacks Golden Globe win



### **THE READER**

Producers: **Anthony Minghella, Sydney Pollack, Donna Gigliotti, Redmond Morris** Director: **Stephen Daldry** Screenwriter: **David Hare** Distributor: **Weinstein Company** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$8,061,881** Estimated Budget: **\$32M** Nominated Cast: **Kate Winslet** Release Date: **12/10/08** Rating: **R** Total Nominations: **5** Genre: **Drama** Source Material: **Adaptation** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **15/1**  
Subjective Factor: **Spellbinding, humanity at its worst and best...the Weinsteins are finally finding themselves.**

Released after Sept.  
Period piece  
Has acting noms  
Has adapted screenplay nom  
Has director nom

Lacks most noms  
In our box office basement  
Lacks Golden Globe win



### **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**

Producers: **Christian Colson** Director: **Danny Boyle** Screenwriter: **Simon Beaufoy** Distributor: **Fox Searchlight** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$44,711,799** Estimated Budget: **\$15M** Nominated Cast: **none** Release Date: **11/12/08** Rating: **R** Total Nominations: **10** Genre: **Romantic Dramey** Source Material: **Adaptation** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globe, Nat'l. Board of Review, Broadcast Film Critics Boston Society of Film Critics, SAG, PGA** Vegas Odds: **Even** Subjective Factor: **Final Answer? Oscar will not have to phone a friend for this year's nominee with the most heart and soul.**

Released after Sept.  
Not lowest grossing nom  
Has adapted screenplay nom  
Has director nom  
Has Golden Globe win  
Has PGA win

Lacks most noms  
Story set in present day  
Lacks acting noms

**TRENDS FOR:** 21 of 26 Received the most nominations, 18 of 26 Were released after September, 20 of 26 Were DGA winners, 11 of 18 Were PGA winners, 17 of 26 Were period pieces/historical epics

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 0 of 26 Were in the box office basement, 3 of 26 Lacked acting nominations, 1 of 26 lacked a screenplay nomination, 1 of 26 lacked a direction nomination, and 10 of 26 lacked the Golden Globe win

**NOTE: 8 of 26 Winners were based on true stories.**

### **LAST YEAR'S WINNER:**

**No Country for Old Men**  
B.O. after win \$9,992,446  
B.O. Total \$74,283,625



# BEST ACTOR RACE

## Pros / Cons



### RICHARD JENKINS/*The Visitor*

Role: **Prof. Walter Vale, a widowed and burned out college professor**  
 Actor's Age: **61** Nationality: **American** Agency: **The Gersh Agency** Actor's B.O. since **1986 \$1,228,062,547** Early Outing: **On Valentine's Day** Top Grossing Film: **Cheaper by the Dozen \$139M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms**  
 Total Nominations for Film: **1** Release Date: **4/11/08** Director: **Thomas McCarthy** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Overture Films** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$9,427,089** Pre-Award Wins: **Nat'l Board of Review, Satellite Awards** Vegas Odds: **18/1** Subjective Factor: **Oscar loves his beat.**

Has pre-award wins  
 Not lowest grossing nom  
 Not the oldest nom

Lacks Best Picture nom  
 Lacks other noms



### FRANK LANGELLA/*Frost/Nixon*

Role: **Disgraced President Richard Nixon** Actor's Age: **71** Nationality: **American** Agency: **Innovative Artists** Actor's B.O. since **1980 \$588,682,348** Early Outing: **Those Lips, Those Eyes** Top Grossing Film: **Superman Returns \$200M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/5/08** Director: **Ron Howard** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,888,701** Pre-Award Wins: **Las Vegas Film Critics Society** Vegas Odds: **3/1** Subjective Factor: **Incredibly nuanced portrayal, Nixon will find a way to outsmart his age for the Oscar.**

Has pre-award wins  
 Has a Best Picture nom  
 Not lowest grossing nom  
 Film has other noms

Our oldest Nom



### SEAN PENN/*Milk*

Role: **Gay rights icon, Supervisor Harvey Milk** Actor's Age: **48** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since **1981 \$679,178,816** Early Outing: **Taps** Top Grossing Film: **Mystic River \$90M** Oscar Track Record: **4 noms - 1 win; Mystic River, 2003** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Release Date: **11/26/08** Director: **Gus Van Sant** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Pre-Award Wins: **New York Film Critics, Broadcast Film Critics, LA Film Critics, Nat'l Society of Film Critics, SAG** Vegas Odds: **5/2** Subjective Factor: **Sean Penn is Milk to Oscar's cookie.**

Has pre-award wins  
 Has a Best Picture nom  
 Not lowest grossing nom  
 Film has other noms  
 Not the oldest nom  
 Won SAG award



### BRAD PITT/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

Role: **Benjamin Button, a man who ages backwards** Actor's Age: **45** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since **1991 \$1,964,518,424** Early Outing: **Thelma and Louis** Top Grossing Film: **Mr. & Mrs. Smith \$186M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom - 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **13** Release Date: **12/25/08** Director: **David Fincher** Genre: **Epic Fantasy** Distributor: **Paramount** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **8/1** Subjective Factor: **'Nothing lasts'...except for Oscar.**

Has a Best Picture nom  
 Film is the B.O. Kingpin  
 Film is the nomination Kingpin  
 Not the oldest Nom

Lacks pre-award wins



### MICKEY ROURKE/*The Wrestler*

Role: **Randy 'The Ram' Robinson, an over the hill wrestler** Actor's Age: **52** Nationality: **American** Agency: **ICM** Actor's B.O. since **1979 \$484,773,084** Early Outing: **1941** Top Grossing Film: **Man on Fire \$78M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **2** Release Date: **12/17/08** Director: **Darren Aronofsky** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Fox Searchlight** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$5,638,945** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globe, Online Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **2/1** Subjective Factor: **Mr. Comeback broke our hearts and won Oscar's.**

Has pre-award wins including the Golden Globe  
 Film has other noms  
 Not the oldest nom

Lacks Best Picture Nom  
 In our B.O. basement

**TRENDS FOR:** 26 of 26 Had one or more pre-award wins  
 20 of 26 Appeared in a film nominated for Best Picture  
 10 of 14 Also won SAG

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 1 of 26 Appeared in the lowest grossing film of his category, 2 of 26 Were the only nomination for their film, 2 of 26 Were the oldest nominee in their category that year

**NOTE:** 5 of 10 Winners have played a real role.

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Daniel Day Lewis for  
 There Will Be Blood**  
 B.O. after win \$5,109,957  
 B.O. Total \$40,222,514



# BEST ACTRESS RACE

## Pros / Cons



### ANNE HATHAWAY/*Rachel Getting Married*

Role: **Kym, a drug-addict, liar and all-round manipulator** Actor's Age: **26** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 2001 **\$691,401,040** Early Outing: ***The Princess Diaries*** Top Grossing Film: ***Get Smart* \$130M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **1** Release Date: **10/3/08** Director: **Jonathan Demme** Genre: **Dramedy** Distributor: **Sony Pictures Classics** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$10,792,608** Pre-Award Wins: **Nat'l. Board of Review, Broadcast Film Critics, Chicago Film Critics, Southeastern Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **6/1** Subjective Factor: **Princess Anne grows up, an Oscar will make her queen.**

Has pre-award wins  
Would be a first time winner  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Not the oldest nom

Film lacks other noms  
Lacks SAG award  
Played a fictional character



### ANGELINA JOLIE/*The Changeling*

Role: **Christine Collins, a single mother** Actor's Age: **33** Nationality: **American** Agency: **Media Talent Group** Actor's B.O. since 1995 **\$1,442,807,035** Early Outing: ***Hackers*** Top Grossing Film: ***Kung Fu Panda* \$215M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom - 1 win; *Girl, Interrupted*, 1999.** Total Nominations for Film: **3** Release Date: **11/24/08** Director: **Clint Eastwood** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$35,739,802** Pre-Award Wins: **Satellite Award** Vegas Odds: **8/1** Subjective Factor: **The mother with the most gives us her all.**

Has a pre-award win  
Would be a first time winner (in this category)  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has other noms  
Not the oldest nominee  
Played a real character

Lacks SAG award



### MELISSA LEO/*Frozen River*

Role: **Ray Eddy, trailer mom** Actor's Age: **48** Nationality: **American** Agency: **WMA** Actor's B.O. since 1985 **\$120,951,299** Early Outing: ***Always*** Top Grossing Film: ***Hide & Seek* \$51M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **2** Release Date: **8/1/08** Director: **Courtney Hunt** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Sony Picture Classics** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$2,309,958** Pre-Award Wins: **FL Film Critics Circle** Vegas Odds: **12/1** Subjective Factor: **Was it real or was it 35mm? Only Oscar knows for sure...**

Has a pre-award win  
Would be a first time winner  
Film has other noms  
Not the oldest nominee

Film is in the B.O. Basement  
Lacks SAG award  
Played a fictional character



### MERYL STREEP/*Doubt*

Role: **Sister Aloysius Beauvier, iron-clad principal with unwavering convictions** Actor's Age: **59** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 1977 **\$1,557,896,050** Early Outing: ***Julia*** Top Grossing Film: ***Mamma Mia!* \$144M** Oscar Track Record: **14 noms - 2 wins: *Kramer vs Kramer*, 1979; *Sophie's Choice*, 1982** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **7/18/08** Director: **John Patrick Shanley** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Miramax** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$25,733,443** Pre-Award Wins: **Broadcast Film Critics, SAG** Vegas Odds: **9/5** Subjective Factor: **Nun is better. No doubt the Academy wants to give her another one.**

Has a pre-award win  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has other noms  
Won SAG Award

Trophy case is full - has won before  
Our oldest nominee  
Played a fictional character



### KATE WINSLET/*The Reader*

Role: **Hanna Schmitz, an illiterate train conductor in 1958 Germany** Actor's Age: **33** Nationality: **British** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 1994 **\$983,695,404** Early Outing: ***Heavenly Creatures*** Top Grossing Film: ***Titanic* \$601M** Oscar Track Record: **6 noms - 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/10/08** Director: **Stephen Daldry** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Weinstein Company** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,061,881** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globe, Chicago Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **8/5** Subjective Factor: **Tour de force portrayal, he read to her, and she acted for Oscar.**

Has pre-award wins including Golden Globe  
Would be a first time winner  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has other noms  
Not the oldest nom

Lacks SAG award  
Played a fictional character

**TRENDS FOR:** 25 of 26 had one or more pre-award wins, 22 of 26 were first-time winners in this category, 10 of 14 also won SAG

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 1 of 26 were in the box office basement, 4 of 26 were the film's only nomination, 4 of 26 were the oldest nominee

**NOTE:** 7 of 10 Winners have played a real role.

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Marion Cotillard for *La Vie En Rose***

B.O. after win \$229,406  
Total B.O. \$10,301,706



# BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR RACE

## Pros / Cons



### JOSH BROLIN/*Milk*

Role: **Dan White, San Francisco Board of Supervisors** Actor's Age: **40** Nationality: **American** Agency: **WMA** Actor's B.O. since 1985 **\$514,247,964** Early Outing: **Goonies** Top Grossing Film: **American Gangster \$130M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Release Date: **11/26/08** Director: **Gus Van Sant** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Pre-Award Wins: **NY Film Critics, Nat'l Board of Review** Vegas Odds: **20/1** Subjective Factor: **He made Sean look so good, effortless portrayal of a deeply tortured normal guy.**

Would be a first time winner  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Neither youngest or oldest  
Film has other noms

Film has Best Actor Nom  
Played a real character



### ROBERT DOWNEY JR./*Tropic Thunder*

Role: **Kirk Lazarus, actor** Actor's Age: **43** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 1983 **\$1,214,262,766** Early Outing: **Baby, It's You** Top Grossing Film: **Iron Man \$318M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **1** Release Date: **8/13/08** Director: **Ben Stiller** Genre: **Comedy** Distributor: **Dreamworks/Paramount** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$110,515,313** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **7/2** Subjective Factor: **As seriously funny as Oscar is serious, he will spin black into gold.**

Would be a first time winner  
Played fictional character  
Film lacks Best Actor nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom

Our oldest nom  
Film lacks other noms



### PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN/*Doubt*

Role: **Father Brendan Flynn, a priest suspected of pedophilia** Actor's Age: **41** Nationality: **American** Agency: **Paradigm** Actor's B.O. since 1992 **\$1,348,755,010** Early Outing: **Leap of Faith** Top Grossing Film: **Twister \$242M** Oscar Track Record: **2 noms – 1 win; Capote, 2005** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/12/08** Director: **John Patrick Shanley** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Miramax** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$25,733,443** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **3/1** Subjective Factor: **Oscar has no doubt.**

Played a fictional character  
Film lacks Best Actor nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Neither youngest nor oldest  
Film has other noms

Has won before



### HEATH LEDGER/*The Dark Knight*

Role: **Joker, a psychopathic criminal mastermind** Actor's Age: **28, deac.** Nationality: **Australian** Agency: **n/a** Actor's B.O. since 1999 **\$944,042,069** Early Outing: **10 Things I Hate About You** Top Grossing Film: **The Dark Knight \$531M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Release Date: **7/18/08** Director: **Christopher Nolan** Genre: **Action** Distributor: **Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$531,039,412** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globe, Broadcast Film Critics, LA Film Critics, Boston Society of Film Critics, Chicago Film Critics, FL Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **6/5** Subjective Factor: **We can't let this Golden boy go.**

Would be a first time winner  
Played a fictional character  
Film lacks Best Actor nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has other noms  
Won SAG award

Our youngest nom



### MICHAEL SHANNON/*Revolutionary Road*

Role: **John Givings, mentally ill friend** Actor's Age: **34** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 2001 **\$747,670,366** Early Outing: **Peal Harbor** Top Grossing Film: **Pearl Harbor \$199M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **3** Release Date: **12/26/08** Director: **Sam Mendes** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Paramount Vantage** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$6,412,447** Pre-Award Wins: **Chicago Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **12/1** Subjective Factor: **He shook them to their core.**

Would be a first time winner  
Played a fictional character  
Film lacks Best Actor nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Neither youngest nor oldest  
Film has other noms

Film is in the B.O. Basement

**TRENDS FOR:** 23 of 26 were first time winners, 20 of 26 played fictional characters, 18 of 26 appeared in a film without Best Actor nom, 7 of 14 won the SAG award.

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 5 of 26 were in the B.O. office basement, 0 of 26 were the youngest nominee, 6 of 26 were the oldest nominee, 1 of 26 was the only nom for film.

**NOTE:** 2 of 10 Winners have played a real role.  
In the past 26 years, 15 nominations were given posthumously (2 of which were acting categories) and only 3 were awarded.

## LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Javier Bardem in**  
**No Country for Old Men**  
B.O. after win \$9,992,446  
Total B.O. \$74,283,625



# BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS RACE

## Pros / Cons



### AMY ADAMS/*Doubt*

Role: **Sister James, an inexperienced young nun** Actor's Age: **34** Nationality: **Italian** Agency: **Endeavor** Actor's B.O. since 1999 **\$540,640,242** Early Outing: **Drop Dead Gorgeous** Top Grossing Film: **Catch Me if You Can \$165M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/12/08** Director: **John Patrick Shanley** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Miramax** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$25,733,443** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **10/1** Subjective Factor: **Showed us passionate naiveté at its worst...or best in the case of Oscar.**

Would be a first time winner  
Neither lowest nor highest grossing film

Our youngest nom (only by 4 mo.!)  
Film has Best Actress nom  
Lacks SAG award  
Lacks pre-award wins



### PENELOPE CRUZ/*Vicky Cristina Barcelona*

Role: **Maria Elena, a divorced woman** Actor's Age: **34** Nationality: **Spanish** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 1993 **\$385,751,892** Early Outing: **Jamon Jamon** Top Grossing Film: **Vanilla Sky \$101M** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **1** Release Date: **8/15/08** Director: **Woody Allen** Genre: **Comedy/Drama** Distributor: **MGM** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$23,030,136** Pre-Award Wins: **NY Film Critics, Nat'l Board of Review, LA Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **5/1** Subjective Factor: **She went out with a bang, in one of Woody's bests, to sear the memory for Oscar.**

Would be a first time winner  
Has pre-award wins  
Film lacks Best Actress nom  
Neither lowest nor highest grossing film  
Not the youngest nom...(only by 4 mo!)

Lacks SAG award



### VIOLA DAVIS/*Doubt*

Role: **Mrs. Miller, a hardworking mother** Actor's Age: **43** Nationality: **American** Agency: **APA** Actor's B.O. since 2002 **\$227,582,135** Early Outing: **Far from Heaven** Top Grossing Film: **World Trade Center \$70M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/12/08** Director: **John Patrick Shanley** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Miramax** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$25,733,443** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **2/1**

Subjective Factor: **Showed us what it looks like when there is no judgment to a mother's love.**

Would be a first time winner  
Film lacks Best Actress nom  
Not the youngest nom

Lacks pre-award wins  
Lacks SAG award



### TARAJI P. HENSON/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

Role: **Queenie, Benjamin's adoptive mother** Actor's Age: **38** Nationality: **American** Agency: **UTA** Actor's B.O. since 2001 **\$326,755,912** Early Outing: **Baby Boy** Top Grossing Film: **Curious Case of Benjamin Button \$104M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **13** Release Date: **12/25/08** Director: **David Fincher** Genre: **Dramedy** Distributor: **Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Pre-Award Wins: **Austin Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **4/1**

Subjective Factor: **Full of love, wisdom and an instinct for Oscar.**

Would be a first time winner  
Has pre-award wins  
Film lacks Best Actress nom  
Not the youngest nom

Lacks SAG award  
Highest grossing nom



### MARISA TOMEI/*The Wrestler*

Role: **Cassidy, a middle-aged stripper** Actor's Age: **44** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Actor's B.O. since 1984 **\$684,249,472** Early Outing: **The Flamingo Kid** Top Grossing Film: **What Women Want \$183M** Oscar Track Record: **2 noms – 1 win; My Cousin Winnie, 1992.** Total Nominations for Film: **3** Release Date: **12/17/08** Director: **Darren Aronofsky** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Fox Searchlight** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$5,638,945** Pre-award Wins: **FL Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **5/2** Subjective Factor: **What a great body of work, from statuesque to a gold naked statuette.**

Has pre-award wins  
Film lacks Best Actress nom  
Not the youngest nom

Has won before  
Lacks SAG award  
In our B.O. Basement

**TRENDS FOR:** 25 of 26 Were first-time Oscar Winners, 23 of 26 Had one or more pre-award wins, 20 of 26 Appeared in a film without a Best Actress nomination, and 8 of 14 Also won SAG

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 1 of 26 Appeared in the lowest grossing film of her category, 4 of 26 Was the youngest nominee, and 9 of 26 Appeared in the highest grossing film of her category

**NOTE:** 3 of 10 Winners have played a real role.

## LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Tilda Swinton in Michael Clayton**

B.O. after win \$516,021  
Total B.O. \$49,033,882



# BEST DIRECTOR RACE



## DAVID FINCHER/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

DAVID FINCHER/*THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON*  
 Director's Age: **46** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Director's B.O. since 1992 **\$474,384,863** Director's Debut: **Alien 3** Top Grossing Film: **Curious Case of Benjamin Button** \$105M Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **13** Release Date: **12/25/08** Genre: **Epic Fantasy** Distributor: **Paramount and Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Pre-Award Wins: **Nat'l Board of Review** Vegas Odds: **10/1**  
 Subjective Factor: **Benjamin said he only 'saw out his own eyes' but Fincher showed us a turning world through everyone's eyes.**

### Pros / Cons

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 Film has acting noms  
 Helmed nomination Kingpin  
 First-time nom  
 Period piece  
 Not the oldest nom  
 Has a pre-award win

Lacks the DGA award



## RON HOWARD/*Frost/Nixon*

Director's Age: **54** Nationality: **American** Agency: **CAA** Director's B.O. since 1982 **\$1,615,255,472** Director's Debut: **Night Shift** Top Grossing Film: **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** \$260M Oscar Track Record: **2 noms – 2 wins**; **Beautiful Mind, 2001** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Release Date: **12/05/08** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,888,701** Pre-Award Wins: **Las Vegas Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **8/1**

Subjective Factor: **He cracked Frost and Nixon open and revealed the men behind the blind ambition.**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 Film has acting noms  
 Has pre-awards wins  
 Film is a Period Piece  
 Not the oldest nom

Lacks the DGA award  
 Not a first-time nom



## GUS VAN SANT/*Milk*

Director's Age: **56** Nationality: **American** Agency: **WMA** Director's B.O. since 1989 **\$273,887,350** Director's Debut: **Drugstore Cowboy** Top Grossing Film: **Good Will Hunting** \$138M Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Release Date: **11/26/08** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Pre-Award Wins: **Boston Society of Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **25/1**

Subjective Factor: **He recreated the time and we were recruited right along with Harvey.**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 Film has acting noms  
 Has pre-awards wins  
 Film is a Period Piece

Lacks the DGA award  
 Not a first-time nom  
 Our oldest nom



## STEPHEN DALDRY/*The Reader*

Director's Age: **47** Nationality: **British** Agency: **CAA** Director's B.O. since 2000 **\$71,928,968** Director's Debut: **Billy Elliot** Top Grossing Film: **The Hours** \$42M Oscar Track Record: **2 noms – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Release Date: **12/10/08** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Weinstein Company** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,061,881** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Vegas Odds: **10/1**

Subjective Factor: **He read to us like no one ever has—from the affair to the trial. We see humanity revealed in all its confusion.**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 Film has acting noms  
 Film is a Period Piece  
 Not the oldest nom

Lacks the DGA award  
 Lacks a pre-award win  
 Not a first-time nom



## DANNY BOYLE/*Slumdog Millionaire*

Director's Age: **52** Nationality: **British** Agency: **Endeavor** Director's B.O. since 1995 **\$163,425,648** Director's Debut: **Shallow Grave** Top Grossing Film: **Slumdog Millionaire** \$45M Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **10** Release Date: **11/12/08** Genre: **Romantic Dramey** Distributor: **Fox Searchlight** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$44,711,799** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globe, Broadcast Film Critics, LA Film Critics, Chicago Film Critics** Vegas Odds: **4/5** Subjective Factor: **He gave us a vast scope of utter poverty, two brothers on the road, driven by fierce commitment and the will to survive a brutal world, all tied up with a yellow ribbon.**

Won the DGA award  
 Film has a Best Picture nom  
 Won pre-awards including Golden Globe  
 First-time nom  
 Not the oldest nom

Film lacks acting noms  
 Story is set in the present

**TRENDS FOR:** 23 of 26 Also won the DGA award, 25 of 26 Had one or more pre-award wins, 19 of 26 Were the most nominated film, 14 of 26 Were first-time nominees in the Best Directing category, 18 of 26 Directed a period piece/historical epic

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 0 of 26 Were not nominated for the DGA award, 0 of 26 Lacked a Best Picture nomination, 3 of 26 Were the oldest nominee in their category that year, and 3 of 26 Had no acting nominations for their film

**NOTE:** DGA Awards announced 1/31/2009.

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Joel and Ethan Coen for No Country for Old Men**  
 B.O. after win \$9,992,446  
 Total B.O. \$74,283,625





# ACHIEVEMENT IN CINEMATOGRAPHY

## Pros / Cons



### TOM STERN/*The Changeling*

Nationality: **American** Agency: **ICM** Early Outing: **Blood Work** Total Nominations for Film: **3** Top Grossing Film: **Million Dollar Baby \$100M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Release Date: **11/24/08** Director: **Clint Eastwood** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$35,739,802** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Subjective Factor: **Re-created an era and helped Clint break our hearts.**

Period Piece  
Film has Art Direction nom  
Not lowest grossing nom

Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Lacks Best Director nom



### CLAUDIO MIRANDA/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

Nationality: **Chilean** Agency: **Dattner Disposito & Associates** Early Outing: **Failure to Launch** Total Nominations for Film: **13** Top Grossing Film: **Curious Case of Benjamin Button \$104M** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Release Date: **12/25/08** Director: **David Fincher** Genre: **Epic Fantasy** Distributor: **Paramount & Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Subjective Factor: **What atmosphere, what color, what war scenes, what lighting...what else? Oscar!**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
Period Piece  
Film has Art Direction nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has Best Director nom



### WALLY PFISTER/*The Dark Knight*

Nationality: **American** Agency: **ICM** Early Outing: **The Unborn** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Top Grossing Film: **The Dark Knight \$531M** Oscar Track Record: **2 noms – 0 wins** Release Date: **7/18/08** Director: **Christopher Nolan** Genre: **Action** Distributor: **Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$531,039,412** Pre-Award Wins: **Chicago Film Critics, FL Film Critics**

Subjective Factor: **The pfilmer with the pfunny name...made the dark night into the Dark Knight. Perfection doesn't get better than this. He's due.**

Film has Art Direction nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom

Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Story set in present day  
Lacks Best Director nom



### CHRIS MENGES & ROGER DEAKINS/*The Reader*

Nationality: **Both are British** Agency: **Menges, Casarotto Marsh; Deakins, ICM** Early Outing: **Menges, Local Hero; Deakins, 1984** Top Grossing Film: **Menges, The Killing Fields \$35M; Deakins, A Beautiful Mind \$171M** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Oscar Track Record: **Menges, 3 noms – 2 wins; Deakins, 8 noms – 0 wins** Release Date: **12/10/08** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Weinstein Company** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,061,881** Director: **Stephen Daldry** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Subjective Factor: **Created consistency thru decades of change.**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
Period Piece  
Film has Best Director nom

Film lacks Art Direction nom  
Our lowest grossing nom!



### ANTHONY DOD MANTLE/*Slumdog Millionaire*

Nationality: **Both are British** Agency: **Menges, Casarotto Marsh; Deakins, ICM** Early Outing: **Menges, Local Hero; Deakins, 1984** Top Grossing Film: **Menges, The Killing Fields \$35M; Deakins, A Beautiful Mind \$171M** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Oscar Track Record: **Menges, 3 noms – 2 wins; Deakins, 8 noms – 0 wins** Release Date: **12/10/08** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Weinstein Company** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$44,711,799** Director: **Stephen Daldry** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Subjective Factor: **Created consistency thru decades of change.**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
Film has Best Director nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom

Lacks Art Direction nom  
Story set in present day

**TRENDS FOR:** 19 of 26 Also received a Best Picture nomination, 25 of 26 Were period pieces/historical epics, 20 of 26 Also received a Best Art Direction nomination

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 2 of 26 Were the lowest grossing nominees in their category, 8 of 22 (4 of the last 10) Also won the ASC award, 6 of 26 Lacked a Best Director nomination

**NOTE:** ASC winner announced 2/15/09.

## LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Roger Elswit for**

**There Will Be Blood**

B.O. after win \$ 5,109,957

Total B.O. \$40,222,514



# BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY RACE

## Pros / Cons



### COURTNEY HUNT/*Frozen River*

Agency: **WMA** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **2**  
Release Date: **8/1/08** Director: **Courtney Hunt** Genre: **Drama** Distributor:  
**Sony Pictures Classics** B.O. Total thru 1/12/09 **\$2,309,958** Pre-Award  
Wins: **none**

Memorable Quote: **Ray Eddy and son– “I got a friend who might buy that.”  
“It’s not for sale.” “He’s a smuggler. He’ll pay more than it’s worth.”**

Film has acting noms  
Has only one credited writer

Lacks the WGA award  
Lacks pre-award wins  
Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Lacks Best Director nom  
Film is in B.O. Basement  
Not a period piece



### MIKE LEIGH/*Happy-Go-Lucky*

Agency: **United Artists** Oscar Track Record: **5 noms – 0 wins** Total  
Nominations for Film: **2** Release Date: **10/10/08** Director: **Mike Leigh** Genre:  
**Comedy/Drama** Distributor: **Miramax** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$3,503,531**  
Pre-Award Wins: **LA Film Critics Assoc**

Memorable Quote: **Poppy– “I am happy. I love my life. I’ve got a great job,  
amazing friends. It can be tough at times. That’s part of it!”**

Has pre-award wins  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Has only one credited writer

Lacks the WGA award  
Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Lacks Best Director nom  
Not a period piece  
Film lacks acting noms



### MARTIN McDONAGH /*In Bruges*

Agency: **Rod Hall Agency** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 1 win; Six Shooter,  
2004.** Total Nominations for Film: **1** Release Date: **2/8/08** Director: **Martin  
McDonagh** Genre: **Comedy** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. Total thru  
1/21/09 **\$7,800,824** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Memorable Quote: **Ray– “One gay beer for my gay friend, one normal beer  
for me because I am normal.”**

Not the lowest grossing nom  
Has only one credited writer

Lacks the WGA award  
Lacks pre-award wins  
Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Lacks Best Director nom  
Not a period piece  
Film lacks acting noms



### DUSTIN LANCE BLACK/*Milk*

Agency: **CAA** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **8**  
Release Date: **11/26/08** Director: **Gus Van Sant** Genre: **Drama** Distributor:  
**Focus Features** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Pre-Award Wins:  
**Boston Society of Film Critics**

Memorable Quote: **Harvey Milk– “All men are created equal. No matter how  
hard you try, you can never erase those words.”**

Won the WGA award  
Has Best Picture nom  
Has pre-award wins  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Has only one credited writer  
Period piece  
Film has acting noms

Screenplay is a true story



### ANDREW STANTON & JIM REARDON; Original Story by ANDREW STANTON & PETE DOCTER/*WALL-E*

Agency: **Pixar** Oscar Track Record: **Stanton, 3 noms – 1 win: Finding  
Nemo, 2003; Reardon, 0 noms; Docter, 3 noms – 0 wins.** Total Nominations  
for Film: **6** Release Date: **6/27/08** Director: **Andrew Stanton** Genre:  
**Animated** Distributor: **Disney** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$223,808,164** Pre-  
Award Wins: **Chicago Film Critics**

Memorable Quote: **Captain– ‘Earth is amazing! These are called “farms.”  
Humans who put seeds in the ground pour water on them, and they grow  
food - like, pizza!**

Has pre-award wins  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Period piece

Lacks the WGA award  
Lacks a Best Picture nom  
Lacks Best Director nom  
More than one credited writer  
Film lacks acting noms

## TRENDS FOR:

24 of 26 Also won the WGA award, 22 of 26 Also received a Best Picture nomination, and 21 of 26 Also received a Best Director nomination

## TRENDS AGAINST:

2 of 26 Were the lowest grossing nominees for their category and year, 8 of 26 Had more than one credited writer, 1 of 26 Lacked an acting nomination, 6 of 26 Were period pieces/historical epics

**NOTE: 1 of 26 Were based on true stories. WGA award announced 2/7/09.**

## LAST YEAR’S WINNER:

**Diablo Cody for  
Juno**

B.O. after win \$12,063,317  
Total B.O. \$143,495,265



# BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY RACE

## Pros / Cons



### ERIC ROTH, Screen Story by ERIC ROTH & ROBIN SWICORD/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

Agency: Roth, CAA; Swicord, UTA Oscar Track Record: Roth, 3 noms – 1 win: *Forrest Gump*, 1994, Swicord, 0 noms Source Material: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald Total Nominations for Film: 13 Release Date: 12/25/08 Genre: Epic Fantasy Distributor: Paramount and Warner Bros. B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 \$104,388,850 Pre-Award Wins: Nat'l Board of Review Memorable Quote: Benjamin—"It's a funny thing about comin' home. Looks the same, smells the same, feels the same. You'll realize what's changed is you."

Film has a Best Picture nom  
Film has Best Director nom  
Period piece  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has acting noms  
Film is not a true story

Lacks the WGA award  
More than one credited writer



### JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY/*Doubt*

Agency: CAA Oscar Track Record: 1 nom – 1 win: *Moonstruck*, 1987 Source Material: *Doubt*, a play by John Patrick Shanley Total Nominations for Film: 5 Release Date: 7/18/08 Genre: Drama Distributor: Miramax B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 \$25,733,443 Pre-Award Wins: none Memorable Quote: Sister Aloysius Beauvier—"I will step outside the church if that's what needs to be done, till the door should shut behind me! I will do what needs to be done, though I'm damned to Hell! You should understand that, or you will mistake me."

Period Piece  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has one writer  
Film has acting noms  
Film is not a true story

Lacks the WGA award  
Film lacks a Best Picture nom  
Film lacks Best Director nom



### PETER MORGAN/*Frost/Nixon*

Agency: UTA Oscar Track Record: 1 nom – 0 wins Source Material: *Frost/Nixon*, a play by Peter Morgan Total Nominations for Film: 5 Release Date: 12/05/08 Genre: Drama Distributor: Universal B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 \$8,888,701 Pre-Award Wins: Las Vegas Film Critics

Memorable Quote: Richard Nixon—"Yeah... I let the American people down. And I'm gonna have to carry that burden with me for the rest of my life. My political life is over."

Film has a Best Picture Nom  
Film has Best Director nom  
Period piece  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has one writer

Lacks the WGA award  
Film is a true story



### DAVID HARE/*The Reader*

Agency: Casarotto Ramsay & Associates Oscar Track Record: 1 nom – 0 wins Source Material: *The Reader*, a 1996 novel by Bernhard Schlink Total Nominations for Film: 5 Release Date: 12/10/08 Genre: Drama Distributor: Weinstein Company B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 \$8,061,881 Pre-Award Wins: none

Memorable Quote: Hanna Schmitz—"It doesn't matter what I think. It doesn't matter what I feel. The dead are still dead."

Film has a Best Picture Nom  
Film has Best Director nom  
Period piece  
Film has one writer  
Film is not a true story

Lacks the WGA award  
Film is in our B.O. Basement



### SIMON BEAUFOY/*Slumdog Millionaire*

Agency: Rod Hall Agency Oscar Track Record: 1 nom – 0 wins Source Material: *Q&A*, a novel by Vikas Swarup Total Nominations for Film: 10 Release Date: 11/12/08 Genre: Romantic Comedy Distributor: Fox Searchlight B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 \$44,711,799 Pre-Award Wins: Golden Globe, Broadcast Film Assoc, Chicago Film Critics, Nat'l Board of Review

Memorable Quote: Jamal Malik—"When somebody asks me a question, I tell them the answer."

Won the WGA award  
Film has a Best Picture Nom  
Film has a Best Director nom  
Not the lowest grossing nom  
Film has one writer  
Film is not a true story

Film is set in present day  
Film lacks acting noms

**TRENDS FOR:** 18 of 26 Won the WGA award, 24 of 26 Also received a Best Picture nomination, 20 of 26 Also received a Best Director nomination, and 19 of 26 Were period pieces/historical epics

**TRENDS AGAINST:** 1 of 26 Was the lowest grossing nominee, 7 of 26 Had more than one credited writer, and 2 of 26 Lacked an acting nomination

**NOTE:** 7 of 26 Were base on true stories. WGA awards announced 2/7/2009.

## LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

Joel and Ethan Coen for *No Country for Old Men*

B.O. after win \$9,992, 446  
Total B.O. \$74,283,625



# ACHIEVEMENT IN FILM EDITING

## Pros / Cons



**KIRK BAXTER & ANGUS WALL/*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button***  
 Agency: **Baxter, n/a; Wall, MPE** Early Outing: **Baxter, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, 2008; Wall, *Sunset Strip*, 2000** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms for both** Total Nominations for Film: **13** Genre: **Epic Fantasy** Distributor: **Paramount and Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$104,388,850** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Favorite Scene Edited: **Baxter—"Fincher shot the Paris accident scene for the edit, covering 80 set ups perfectly following Benjamin's voice over. I spent a few weeks tightening it up so each shot spilled into the next without taking a breath until Benjamin finds Daisy in the hospital. That scene was a gift for an editor, pure desert from start to finish."**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 First-time Oscar nominee  
  
 More than one credited editor



**LEE SMITH/*The Dark Knight***  
 Agency: **Gersh Agency** Early Outing: **Communion, 1989** Oscar Track Record: **1 nom – 0 wins** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Genre: **Action** Distributor: **Warner Bros.** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$531,039,412** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Favorite Scene Edited: **"The interrogation of the Joker. In the scene, you get to see three great actors, Christian Bale, Gary Oldman and of course Heath Ledger, playing off of one another and in the end, the Joker bringing Batman down to his crazed level of behavior, a remarkable scene to edit and in the end one of my favorites."**

Only one credited editor  
  
 Lacks a Best Picture nom  
 Not a first-time Oscar nominee



**MIKE HILL & DAN HANLEY/*Frost/Nixon***  
 Agency: **Hill and Hanley, Paradigm** Early Outing: **Hill and Hanley, *Night Shift*, 1982** Oscar Track Record: **Hill and Hanley, 3 noms – 1 win; *Apollo 13*, 1995** Total Nominations for Film: **5** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Universal** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$8,888,701** Pre-Award Wins: **Las Vegas Film Critics** Favorite Scene Edited: **Hanley—"When Frost gets the upper hand on Nixon and gets him to admit he was wrong. It's a pleasure to cut that caliber of performance and direction." Hill—"The phone call where Nixon calls Frost before the final interview. We had a daunting amount of footage but when it comes together like that, it's very gratifying."**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
  
 Not a first-time Oscar nominee  
 Film has more than one credited editor



**ELLIOT GRAHAM/*Milk***  
 Agency: **Paradigm** Early Outing: ***The Last Minute*, 2001** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **8** Genre: **Drama** Distributor: **Focus Features** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$20,655,400** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Favorite Scene Edited: **"Harvey going through the day of the Proposition 6 Vote was quite interesting. Gus and I used real news footage of people in 1978 to set up the day of voting, then intercut several more with Sean as Harvey working nervously to defeat Prop 6. Showing how passionately people felt about the issue on both sides gave the moment a better historical context and the intercutting heightened the tension."**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 First-time Oscar nominee  
 Only one credited editor



**CHRIS DICKENS/*Slumdog Millionaire***  
 Agency: **United Agents** Early Outing: ***Hearts and Minds*, 1996** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms** Total Nominations for Film: **10** Genre: **Romantic Dramedy** Distributor: **Fox Searchlight** B.O. Total thru 1/21/09 **\$44,711,799** Pre-Award Wins: **Boston Society of Film Critics** Favorite Scene Edited: **"When Jamal talks to Latika in the rain after the riot. It is not only beautifully shot and acted but it's also for me the cornerstone of the film. It's at that moment that the two brothers' lives begin to divide and their destinies begin to emerge."**

Film has a Best Picture nom  
 First-time Oscar nominee  
 Only one credited editor

### TRENDS FOR:

- 22 of 26 Edited a Best Picture nominee
- 20 of 26 Also won the ACE award
- 13 of 26 Were first-time nominees

### TRENDS AGAINST:

- 5 of 26 Had more than one credited editor

**NOTE: ACE award announced 2/15/2009.**

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Christopher Rouse for *The Bourne Ultimatum***  
 B.O. after win: **Not Released**  
 B.O. Total **\$227,471,070**



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# BEST FOREIGN FILM RACE

## Pros / Cons



### **THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX, Germany**

Producer: **Bernd Eichinger** Director: **Uli Edel** Screenwriter: **Stefan Aust, Uli Edel** Release Date: **25 September 2008 (Germany)** U.S. Dist.: **none** U.S. Release: **n/a** U.S. Box Office: **n/a** Genre: **Drama** Running Time: **150 mins** Source Material: **Adaptation** Int'l Awards: **1 nom; no wins**

Subjective Factor: **Rumored to be powerful (hope the producers hired PR because no one has seen it!)**

Period piece  
Originated in Western Europe

Not yet released  
Has the longest running time  
Lacks Golden Globe win  
Based on a true story



### **THE CLASS, France**

Producers: **Caroline Benjo, Carol Scotta** Director: **Laurent Cantet** Screenwriter: **Francois Begaudeau** Release Date: **24 September 2008 (France)** U.S. Dist.: **Sony Pictures Classics** U.S. Release: **19 Dec 2008** U.S. Box Office: **n/a** Genre: **Drama** Running Time: **129 mins** Source Material: **Adaptation** Int'l Awards: **Palm D'Or!**

Subjective Factor: **Shown at the Palm Springs Film Festival. The French Freedom Writers, stars the author of the book, shot documentary style.**

Released prior to balloting  
Originated in Western Europe  
Does not have longest running time

Set in the present day  
Lacks Golden Globe win  
Based on a true story



### **DEPARTURES, Japan**

Producer: **Toshiaki Nakazawa** Director: **Yojiro Takita** Screenwriter: **Kundo Koyama** Release Date: **13 September 2008 (Japan)** U.S. Dist.: **Regent Releasing** U.S. Release: **n/a** U.S. Box Office: **n/a** Genre: **Drama** Running Time: **131 mins** Source Material: **Original** Int'l Awards: **Golden Rooster Award, Audience Award, Hawaii Int'l Film Fest, Grand Prix de Ameriques, Montreal Film Fest**

Subjective Factor: **Audience Award Winner at the Palm Springs Film Fest. Some say best film they've ever seen, but experienced eyes don't agree.**

Does not have longest running time

Not yet released  
Lacks Golden Globe win  
Set in the present day  
Did not originate in Western Europe



### **REVANCHE, Austria**

Producer: **Mathias Forberg** Director: **Gotz Spielmann** Screenwriter: **Gotz Spielmann** Release Date: **12 Feb 2009** U.S. Dist.: **Janus Films** U.S. Release: **March 2009** U.S. Box Office: **n/a** Genre: **Drama** Running Time: **100 mins** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Int'l Awards: **Palm Springs, Norway and Berlin Film Festival Awards, etc.**

Subjective Factor: **Almost like two films in one, Russian mobsters in their element, then moves to countryside with interesting twist.**

Does not have longest running time

Not yet released  
Set in the present day  
Originated outside Western Europe  
Lacks Golden Globe win



### **WALTZ WITH BASHIR, Italy/Germany/France**

Producers: **A. Folman, S. Lalou, Y. Nahlieli, G. Meixner, R Paul** Director: **Ari Folman** Screenwriter: **Ari Folman** Release Date: **12 June 2008** Israel U.S. Dist.: **Sony Pictures Classics** U.S. Release: **25 December 2008** U.S. Box Office: **\$551,146** Genre: **Animated/Documentary** Running Time: **90 mins** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Int'l Awards: **Best Film, National Society of Film Critics**

Subjective Factor: **In theatrical release. The film to beat. About a 20 year old war but so relevant today, interesting animation, lives up to its hype.**

Released prior to balloting  
Our Golden Globe Winner  
Period piece  
Does not have longest running time

Originated outside Western Europe  
Based on a true story

#### TRENDS FOR:

- 19 of 26 Were released in the U.S. prior to final balloting
- 18 of 26 Was a period piece
- 13 of 26 Originated outside of the western Europe Union nations

#### TRENDS AGAINST:

- 8 of 26 Had the longest running time, 4 of 26 were based on true stories

#### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**The Counterfeiters, Austria**

Total B.O. \$ 5,488,570



# BEST ANIMATED FILM RACE

## Pros / Cons



**BOLT/John Lasseter, Clark Spencer, Lisa M. Poole, Makul Wigert**  
 Directors: **Byron Howard, Chris Williams** Screenwriters: **Dan Fogelman, Chris Williams** Cast: **John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton, etc.** Distributor: **Walt Disney Studios B.O. thru 1/21/09 \$112,635,511** Estimated Budget: **\$150M** Total Nominations: **1** Release Date: **11/21/2008** Rating: **PG** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Subjective Factor: **Man's best friend is Oscar's best friend.**

Film is a rescue story  
 Not a love story  
 Not a sequel

Film lacks most noms  
 Lacks the PGA award  
 First-time nominee director



**KUNG FU PANDA/Jonathan Aibel, Glen Berger, Melissa Cobb, Kristina Reed**

Directors: **Mark Osborne, John Stevenson** Screenwriters: **Screenplay: Jonathan Aibel, Glen Berger; Story: Ethan Reiff, Cyrus Voris** Cast: **Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Ian McShane, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, etc.** Distributor: **Paramount** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$215,434,591** Estimated Budget: **\$130M** Total Nominations: **1** Release Date: **6/6/2008** Rating: **PG** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Pre-Award Wins: **none** Subjective Factor: **Oscar loves pandas...**

Not a love story  
 Not a sequel  
 Not a first-time nominee director

Film lacks most noms  
 Lacks the PGA award



**WALL-E/John Lasseter, Jim Morris, Lindsey Collins, Thomas Porter**

Directors: **Andrew Stanton** Screenwriters: **Screenplay: Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon; Story: Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter** Cast: **Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight, Jeff Garlin** Distributor: **Walt Disney Studios** B.O. thru 1/21/09 **\$223,808,164** Estimated Budget: **\$120M** Total Nominations: **6** Release Date: **6/27/2008** Rating: **G** Source Material: **Original Screenplay** Pre-Award Wins: **Golden Globes, NY Film Critics, Boston Society of Film Critics, Broadcast Film Critics, Chicago Film Critics** Subjective Factor: **Topical message Oscar loves, and in such an endearing package!**

Film has most noms  
 Won the PGA award  
 Not a love story  
 Not a sequel  
 Not a first-time nominee director

Not a rescue story

### TRENDS FOR:

5 of 7 Had the most nominations  
 5 of 7 Were rescue stories  
 2 of 3 Also won the PGA award

### TRENDS AGAINST:

1 of 7 Was a love story  
 0 of 7 Were sequels

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

**Ratatouille**  
 B.O. after win: None  
 Total B.O. \$206,445,654



# BEST SONG RACE

## Pros / Cons



**DOWN TO EARTH/WALL-E**

Music by: **Peter Gabriel and Thomas Newman**  
 Music by: **Peter Gabriel and Thomas Newman** Lyrics by: **Peter Gabriel**  
 Performed by: **Peter Gabriel** Music Label: **Walt Disney Records** Genre: **Pop**  
 Oscar Track Record: **Gabriel, 0 noms; Newman, 10 noms – 0 wins** Pre-Award Wins: **none**  
 Subjective Factor: **As cute as the film.**

Lacks the Golden Globe win  
 Film has other noms  
 Film lacks a Best Picture nom

Has previous Oscar noms



**JAI HO/Slumdog Millionaire**

Music by: **A.R. Rahman**  
 Music by: **A.R. Rahman** Lyrics by: **Gulzar** Performed by: **A.R. Rahman** Music Label: **Interscope Records** Genre: **Indian Hip Hop** Oscar Track Record: **Gulzar, 0 noms; Rahman, 0 noms** Pre-Award Wins: **none**

Subjective Factor: **Three 6 Mafia paved the way...**

Has no previous Oscar noms  
 Film has other noms

Lacks the Golden Globe win  
 Film has a Best Picture nom



**O... SAYA/Slumdog Millionaire**

Music by: **A.R. Rahman**  
 Music by: **A.R. Rahman** Lyrics by: **A.R. Rahman and Maya Arulpragasam (M.I.A.)** Performed by: **Maya Arulpragasam (M.I.A.)** Music Label: **Interscope Records** Genre: **Pop** Oscar Track Record: **0 noms for both** Pre-Award Wins: **none**  
 Subjective Factor: **Let's Dance!**

Has no previous Oscar noms  
 Film has other noms

Lacks the Golden Globe win  
 Film has a Best Picture nom

### TRENDS FOR:

6 of 7 Had no previous nominations  
 5 of 7 Were not the sole nominations for their films

### TRENDS AGAINST:

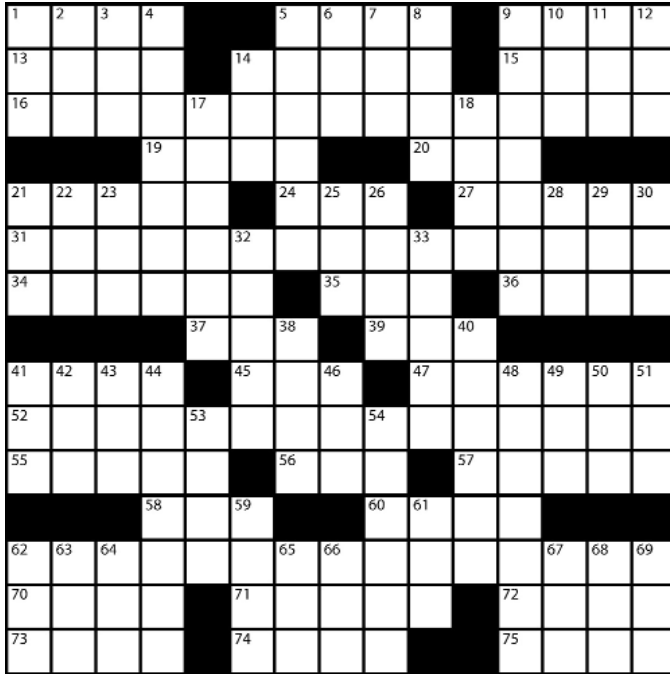
1 of 7 Won the Golden Globe  
 1 of 7 Had a Best Picture nomination

### LAST YEAR'S WINNER:

Music and Lyrics by **Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová** for **"Falling Slowly"** from **Once**



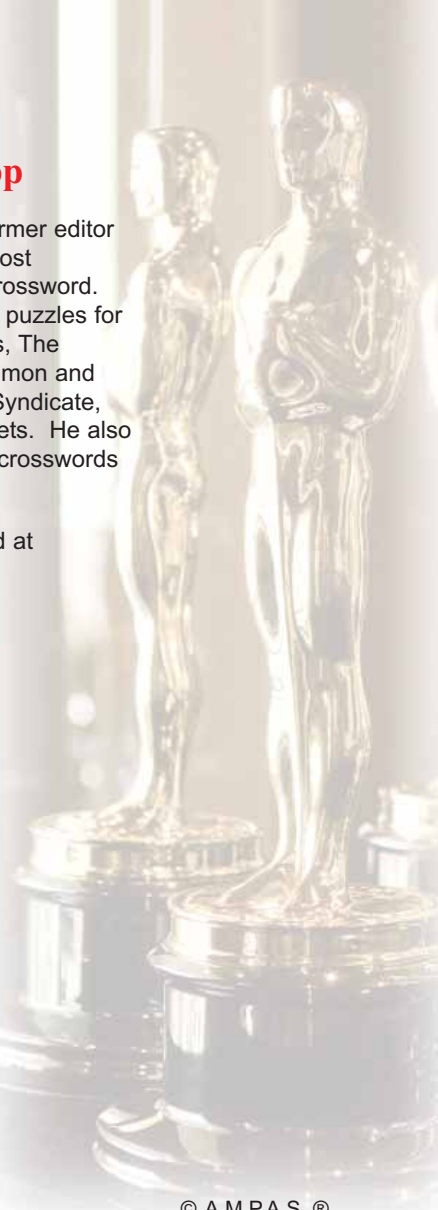
# REAL REELS



by Fred Piscop

FRED PISCOP is former editor of the Washington Post Magazine Sunday crossword. He regularly creates puzzles for The New York Times, The Crosswords Club, Simon and Schuster, Creators Syndicate, and many other outlets. He also creates customized crosswords of all descriptions.

Fred can be reached at [tihzwa@aol.com](mailto:tihzwa@aol.com).



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## Across

- 1 Kind of sax
- 5 Source of syrup
- 9 Aaron surpassed him
- 13 Faint trace
- 14 Crowd number, in a saying
- 15 Home to most Turks
- 16 DiCaprio, and his role
- 19 Lustful god
- 20 Addams Family cousin
- 21 The Beatles' "Any Time \_\_\_"
- 24 Listening-in device
- 27 Main artery
- 31 Cotillard, and her role
- 34 Giorgio of fashion
- 35 Batman and Robin, e.g.
- 36 Rod at a pig roast
- 37 \_\_\_ cone (icy concoction)
- 39 Have a late meal
- 41 Strait-laced
- 45 12/24 or 12/31
- 47 Danes of "Stardust"
- 52 Foxx, and his role
- 55 Hindu master
- 56 Place to graze
- 57 Unloads on eBay
- 58 "... man \_\_\_ mouse?"
- 60 Doll's cry
- 62 Witherspoon, and her role
- 70 Exile isle
- 71 Sky hue
- 72 Strong desire
- 73 Tells a white lie
- 74 The Beatles' meter maid
- 75 Musicians' jobs

## Down

- 1 Hole-punching tool
- 2 Tell a whopper
- 3 General on Chinese menus
- 4 Hamlet's beloved
- 5 Morally pure
- 6 Hockey legend Bobby
- 7 Word before hot or dog
- 8 Radar's soda brand
- 9 Convertibles, slangily
- 10 Work the aisles, informally
- 11 Reason for overtime
- 12 Is afflicted with
- 14 Snake eyes
- 17 "Don't Hang Up" singers the \_\_\_
- 18 One of the Four Corners states
- 21 Org. with a famous journal
- 22 Stuff in a pit
- 23 One of two lines in hangman
- 25 Tack on
- 26 Pope during WWII
- 28 Job for a tailor
- 29 Mai \_\_\_
- 30 Toward the rear
- 32 San Francisco gridded, briefly
- 33 \_\_\_ typist
- 38 Locket shape
- 40 Blood bank supply
- 41 Nightclothes, informally
- 42 Like steak tartare
- 43 "... little teapot ..."
- 44 Brunch quaffs
- 46 Needle feature
- 48 Movable floor covering
- 49 Under the weather

- 50 Family member: Abbr.
- 51 Snaky shape
- 53 Word on Irish stamps
- 54 Device for Funt
- 59 Open a crack
- 61 Part of a royal flush
- 62 Sports "zebra," for short
- 63 Y-sporting collegian
- 64 Period of decline
- 65 Commando's arm
- 66 Bit of trail mix
- 67 Prefix with focal or lateral
- 68 Fabergé collectible
- 69 Hi-\_\_\_ graphics

Solution on page 30.

### 81st ACADEMY AWARDS RULES FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

**QUALIFYING FILMS 2009:** 281 eligible films publicly exhibited prior to 12/31/08 in an L.A. Theatre for 7 consecutive days – In English or with English subtitles on 35mm or 70mm film stock or in a qualifying digital format – Best Picture category is nominated and voted for by all active members.

**BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM:** 67 eligible films – Publicly exhibited in country of origin by 9/30/08 – Identical in form to original version except they will include English subtitles – Only one film per country can be submitted – Voted for by any active/life member who has seen all 5 (video or DVD viewing not allowed)

**OTHER CATEGORIES:** Nominated by members in each branch – voted for by all active/life members

**WHO VOTES:** Voting members 5810 - Actors 1222 – Art Directors 373 – Cinematographers 197 – Directors 375 – Documentary 145 – Executives 436 – Film Editors 227 – Makeup 115 – Members at large 249 – Music 233 – Producers 462 – Public Relations 370 – Short Film & Feature Animation 335 – Sound 411 – Visual Effects 272 – Writers 388



# PRE-AWARD RUNDOWN

The first number (in red), underneath the winner's name, represents the number of times the winner has gone on to win the Oscar.  
The second number (in black) represents the number of years we have tracked the results.

Award	Picture	Actor	Actress	SuppActor	SuppActress	Director	Animated Film
Golden Globes	Slumdog Millionaire 18 for 26	Mickey Rourke + Collin Farrell 15 for 26	Kate Winslet + Sally Hawkins 22 for 26	Heath Ledger 15 for 26	Kate Winslet 13 for 26	Danny Boyle 17 for 26	WALL-E 1 for 2
Los Angeles Film Critics Association	Waltz with Bashir 4 for 26	Sean Penn 12 for 26	Sally Hawkins 9 for 26	Heath Ledger 7 for 26	Penelope Cruz 7 for 26	Danny Boyle 8 for 26	Waltz with Bashir 6 for 7
National Board of Review	Slumdog Millionaire 8 for 26	Clint Eastwood 11 for 26	Anne Hathaway 9 for 26	Josh Brolin 5 for 26	Penelope Cruz 7 for 26	David Fincher 6 for 26	WALL-E 5 for 7
National Society of Film Critics	Waltz with Bashir 3 for 26	Sean Penn 8 for 26	Sally Hawkins 7 for 26	Eddie Marsan 4 for 26	Hanna Schygulla 5 for 26	Mike Leigh 4 for 26	
New York Film Critics Circle	Milk 6 for 26	Sean Penn 8 for 26	Sally Hawkins 8 for 26	Josh Brolin 6 for 26	Penelope Cruz 8 for 26	Mike Leigh 6 for 26	WALL-E 3 for 7
Broadcast Film Critics Association	Slumdog Millionaire 7 for 13	Sean Penn 8 for 13	Anne Hathaway 7 for 13	Heath Ledger 5 for 13	Kate Winslet 6 for 13	Danny Boyle 11 for 13	WALL-E 6 for 7
British Academy of Film and Television Arts	Slumdog Millionaire 7 for 26	Mickey Rourke 11 for 26	Kate Winslet 8 for 26	Heath Ledger 5 for 26	Penelope Cruz 9 for 26	Danny Boyle 5 for 26	WALL-E 2 for 2
Producers Guild of America	Slumdog Millionaire 19 for 26						WALL-E 2 for 3
Screen Actors Guild	BEST ENSEMBLE Slumdog Millionaire 6 for 13	Sean Penn 10 for 14	Meryl Streep 10 for 14	Heath Ledger 7 for 14	Kate Winslet 7 for 14		
Directors Guild of America Jan. 31st						Danny Boyle 23 for 26	
Writers Guild of America Feb. 7th	ADAPTED SCREENPLAY Slumdog Millionaire 16 for 26	ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY Milk 16 for 26		ASC Awards (Feb 15, 2009) 8 for 22	ACE Awards (Feb 15, 2009) 20 for 26	ADG Awards (Feb 14, 2009) 7 for 12	

BEST GUESSES FROM	PUBLISHER	"DEEP VOTE"	BY THE BOOK	COULD SNEAK IN
BEST PICTURE	Slumdog Millionaire	Slumdog Millionaire	Benjamin Button	Milk
BEST ACTOR	Sean Penn	Sean Penn	Sean Penn	Mickey Rourke
BEST ACTRESS	Meryl Streep	Meryl Streep	Kate Winslet	Kate Winslet
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR	Heath Ledger	Heath Ledger	Philip S. Hoffman	Josh Brolin
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS	Viola Davis	Viola Davis	Penelope Cruz	Taraji P. Henson
BEST DIRECTOR	Danny Boyle	Danny Boyle	David Fincher	Gus Van Sant
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY	Anthony D. Mantle	Anthony D. Mantle	Claudio Miranda	Tom Stern
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY	Dustin Lance Black	Dustin Lance Black	Dustin Lance Black	Courtney Hunt
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY	Simon Beaufoy	Simon Beaufoy	Eric Roth & Robin Swicord	John Patrick Shanley
BEST EDITING	Chris Dickens	Chris Dickens	Chris Dickens	Baxter and Wall
BEST FOREIGN FILM	Waltz with Bashir	Waltz with Bashir	Waltz with Bashir	The Class
BEST ANIMATED FILM	WALL-E	WALL-E	WALL-E	WALL-E
BEST ORIGINAL SONG	"Down to Earth"	"Down to Earth"	"Down to Earth"	"O...Saya"



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# BALLOT 2009

## ACTOR, LEADING

- Richard Jenkins in "The Visitor"
- Frank Langella in "Frost/Nixon"
- Sean Penn in "Milk"
- Brad Pitt in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- Mickey Rourke in "The Wrestler"

## ACTOR, SUPPORTING

- Josh Brolin in "Milk"
- Robert Downey Jr. in "Tropic Thunder"
- Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Doubt"
- Heath Ledger in "The Dark Knight"
- Michael Shannon in "Revolutionary Road"

## ACTRESS, LEADING

- Anne Hathaway in "Rachel Getting Married"
- Angelina Jolie in "Changeling"
- Melissa Leo in "Frozen River"
- Meryl Streep in "Doubt"
- Kate Winslet in "The Reader"

## ACTRESS, SUPPORTING

- Amy Adams in "Doubt"
- Penélope Cruz in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
- Viola Davis in "Doubt"
- Taraji P. Henson in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- Marisa Tomei in "The Wrestler"

## ANIMATED FEATURE

- "Bolt"
- "Kung-Fu Panda"
- "WALL-E"

## ART DIRECTION

- "Changeling"
- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "The Duchess"
- "Revolutionary Road"

## CINEMATOGRAPHY

- "Changeling"
- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "The Reader"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"

## COSTUME DESIGN

- "Australia"
- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Duchess"
- "Milk"
- "Revolutionary Road"

## DIRECTING

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "Frost/Nixon"
- "Milk"
- "The Reader"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

- "The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)"
- "Encounters at the End of the World"
- "The Garden"
- "Man on Wire"
- "Trouble the Water"

## DOCUMENTARY SHORT

- "The Conscience of Nhem En"
- "The Final Inch"
- "Smile Pinki"
- "The Witness - From the Balcony of Room 306"

## FILM EDITING

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "Frost/Nixon"
- "Milk"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

- "The Baader Meinhof Complex"
- "The Class"
- "Departures"
- "Revanche"
- "Waltz with Bashir"

## MAKEUP

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "Hellboy II: The Golden Army"

## ORIGINAL SCORE

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "Defiance"
- "Milk"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"
- "WALL-E"

## ORIGINAL SONG

- "Down to Earth" from "WALL-E"
- "Jai Ho" from "Slumdog Millionaire"
- "O Saya" from "Slumdog Millionaire"

## BEST PICTURE

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "Frost/Nixon"
- "Milk"
- "The Reader"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"

## SHORT FILM, ANIMATED

- "La Maison en Petits Cubes"
- "Lavatory - Lovestory"
- "Oktapodi"
- "Presto"
- "This Way Up"

## SHORT FILM, LIVE ACTION

- "Auf der Strecke (On the Line)"
- "Manon on the Asphalt"
- "New Boy"
- "The Pig"
- "Spielzeugland (Toyland)"

## SOUND EDITING

- "The Dark Knight"
- "Iron Man"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"
- "WALL-E"
- "Wanted"

## SOUND MIXING

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"
- "WALL-E"
- "Wanted"

## VISUAL EFFECTS

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "The Dark Knight"
- "Iron Man"

## SCREENPLAY, ADAPTED

- "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- "Doubt"
- "Frost/Nixon"
- "The Reader"
- "Slumdog Millionaire"

## SCREENPLAY, ORIGINAL

- "Frozen River"
- "Happy-Go-Lucky"
- "In Bruges"
- "Milk"
- "WALL-E"

# OSCAR NIGHT MENUS

By **Betty Goodwin**

Author of *CHASEN'S Where Hollywood Dined -- Recipes and Memories*

**S**o the Academy's Governors Ball and Vanity Fair both omitted your name from their guest lists? If you're considering holding your own Oscar night bash instead, just thinking about the food choices inspired by this year's five nominated films – from German ("The Reader") to something sublime from San Francisco "(Milk)" – would make for one complicated buffet.

Instead, we consulted restaurants, past and present, to help you streamline your choices, and came up with three delicious menus, Hollywood style.

## The "Frost/Nixon" Affair

Though Ronald Reagan got all the publicity there, former President Richard Nixon was also a regular at Chasen's, the shuttered Los Angeles dining landmark. As chief executives go, they were both in good company. Starting in 1945, every American president except Franklin D. Roosevelt (but including First Lady Eleanor) dined on Chasen's fare until 1995 when the restaurant closed. Nixon partook when he was in residence at the Western White House in San Clemente. He liked to stop in with his banker friend Bebe Rebozo after a Rams football game. Sometimes, he was in the company of his advisor Henry Kissinger. When researching my book, "Chasen's: Where Hollywood Dined, Recipes and Memories" (Angel City Press), I also learned that Chasen's was the target of its one and only bomb threat a half hour after Kissinger finished his dinner one night in 1972. The ultimate restaurateur, owner Dave Chasen installed a hot line to the White House in his office during Nixon's presidency. The restaurant also catered lunch for the dedication of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda. Obviously a red meat kind of guy, Nixon favored Hobo Steak, a rich, salt-encrusted sirloin finished at the table. Though it was never listed on the menu, people in the know would order it. Serve it with a platter



The Elizabeth Taylor Martini



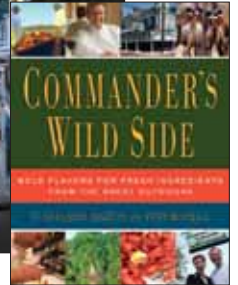
Braised Duck



Leek Souffle



Commander's Palace Restaurant, New Orleans



of chilled seafood first and Coupe Snowball for dessert, two of the restaurant's signature dishes. The latter is simply a scoop of vanilla ice cream sprinkled with toasted, shredded coconut and drizzled in Hershey's chocolate syrup, the topping favored by the Chasen's kitchen.

### For the "Curious" Diner

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" set in New Orleans' garden district leads straight to Commander's Palace, one of the city's top restaurants and a landmark since 1880. A New Orleans-style party is hard to beat. "We take food very seriously here. Everybody cooks at home, and we all love great food," says Commander's Palace owner Lally Brennan. The restaurant's French "haute Creole" cuisine relies on local ingredients - from produce to game - with Spanish, American Indian and African influences. "Being in California, y'all dine a little lighter than we do here," allows Brennan, who recommends a meal fashioned around coffee-crusted pork loin with figs and served with a spinach salad with roasted pecans. A loin can be sliced and served on a buffet table with the salad when guests arrive. As a first course, she recommends Creole lobster bisque, served in demitasse cups or old fashioned glasses

– both ways are done in New Orleans -- and eaten around the television set. For dessert, a classic bread pudding – made in a pan and served warm in a chafing dish – should be served with coffee and chicory, a local blend used since the Civil War and available at <http://french-marketcoffee.intelliporthosting.com/Portals/FrenchMarketCoffee/Cart/?skinid=5>. No New Orleans party is complete without cocktails, itself a local invention. Brennan points out that the word cocktail is derived from the French coquetiere, or egg cup, in which a Sazerac, originally an elixir made with French cognac and bitters concocted by a local pharmacy, was served. Sazeracs remain a standby, now shaken (never stirred) and poured into an old fashioned glass. Adds Brennan, "My cousin likes to start the evening with one, and I like to finish the evening with one." Another beverage idea perhaps more consistent with the movie theme: An "Elizabeth Taylor" cocktail, so-named for its lavender color that suggests the legendary actress's eyes. All recipes can be found in Brennan's cookbooks, "In the Land of Cocktails" and "Commander's Wild Side: Bold Flavors for Fresh Ingredients from The Great Outdoors" (Harper Collins).

### Eat Like a "Millionaire"

Inspired by the rags to riches story of "Slumdog Millionaire," Nikki Sood, owner with her father Sudesh of Tanzore in Beverly Hills, an award-winning Indian restaurant, recommends serving an Indian meal that combines both street foods and dishes that would please a maharajah. Begin with a refreshing lassi, a traditional yogurt drink flavored with mango or plain – either sweet or salty. Pass appetizers like those sold by vendors in the streets of India, such as samosas, chicken tikka and padri chaat. Mix it up with one of Tanzore's modern takes on an appetizer, a seared ahi tuna canapé with avocado, a dollop of yogurt and Indian spices. Since Indian food is usually served family style, it suits a large crowd. For dinner, serve a buffet of yellow dal (lentils), saag paneer (spinach and cheese), chicken makhni (butter sauce chicken curry) and lamb biryani, a traditional rice dish with raita (yogurt) and spicy tandoori shrimp. Garlic or plain naan (tandori bread) is also a must. "People can get up and just grab their plates," says Sood. Finish the meal with kulfi, a traditional ice cream with pistachios. Then cheer for your favorite Slumdog!

# THE GREENROOM



The Greenroom sketch 2009



Stephen Shadley



The Greenroom 2008

by **Betty Goodwin**

**S**tephen Shadley is a natural when it comes to indulging the creature comforts of the Hollywood elite. He's designed six houses for Diane Keaton, an apartment for Woody Allen, Jennifer Anniston's newest house in Beverly Hills, and a home and offices for director Robert Altman. So he found himself perfectly typecast when he was asked to design the Architectural Digest Greenroom, where industry heavyweights congregate to calm their pre-show jitters, for the 81st Annual Academy Awards.

Shadley, whose career began as a scenic artist at Fox Studios, says the '70s-era lounge, with a requisite built-in bar, grew out of a project he recently completed for an A-list movie star, a dramatic house in Trousdale Estates with a jaw-dropping view. Indeed, the focal point of Shadley's greenroom is a large photo backdrop showing a panoramic view of the city from the hills, framed by stone columns. Ironically, he adds, the backdrop was provided by J.C. Backings, the company he worked for on the Fox lot. "Greenrooms are confined spaces, so I wanted a sense of looking out," says Shadley, who has also designed two greenrooms for the Emmy Awards. He enlisted Baker Furniture to produce the main seating element, a retro, 11-foot long sofa in dark cotton with wood arms loaded with throw pillows. L.A.'s vintage furniture dealers were the source for side tables, including some he found from Baker, and a set of '70s, Brazilian rosewood-and-red leather chairs for the "garden room," actually a retreat for smokers over the Kodak Theatre's loading docks. The garden area also evokes the indoor-outdoor

feature of L.A.'s modernist, one-level houses.

"It's very understated. There's a dark wood floor. I thought it was important to keep the color palette monochromatic and neutral because the glamour and color will come from the people and their clothes," says Shadley.

"I love historic homes, including '20s Spanish Colonials, but I also love the whole west coast lifestyle and the simplicity of modern design, including 1950s Case Study Houses," says the designer, who is now based in New York. "And I was always a huge fan of 'North by Northwest' with that modernist house above Mt. Rushmore."

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