

# 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 Jacobone, 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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