

Academy of Motion Picture
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81ST ACADEMY AWARDS® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

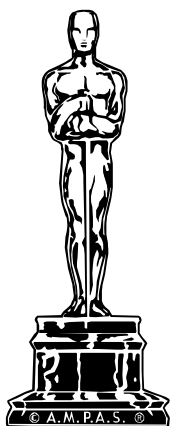
BEVERLY HILLS, CA — Nominations for the 81st Academy Awards were announced today (Thursday, January 22) by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Sid Ganis and Oscar® winner Forest Whitaker.

Ganis and Whitaker, who won an Academy Award® for his lead performance in “The Last King of Scotland” (2006), announced the nominees in 10 of the 24 categories at a 5:38 a.m. PT live news conference attended by more than 400 international media representatives. Lists of nominations in all categories then were distributed to the news media in attendance and via the Internet on the official Academy Awards Web site, www.oscar.com.

Academy members from each of the branches vote to determine the nominees in their respective categories – actors nominate actors, film editors nominate film editors, etc. In the Animated Feature Film and Foreign Language Film categories, nominations are selected by vote of multi-branch screening committees. All voting members are eligible to select the Best Picture nominees.

Nominations ballots were mailed to the 5,810 voting members in late December and were returned directly to Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, the international accounting firm, for tabulation.

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81st
Annual
Academy
Awards®

News

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81st Academy Awards
Nominations Announced
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Official screenings of all motion pictures with one or more nominations will begin for members this weekend at the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater. Screenings also will be held at the Academy's Linwood Dunn Theater in Hollywood and in London, New York and San Francisco.

All active and life members of the Academy are eligible to select the winners in all categories, although in five of them – Animated Short Film, Live Action Short Film, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject and Foreign Language Film – members can vote only if they have seen all of the nominated films in those categories.

Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2008 will be presented on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center®, and televised live by the ABC Television Network. The Oscar presentation also will be televised live in more than 200 countries worldwide.

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About the Academy

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is the world's preeminent movie-related organization, with a membership of more than 6,000 of the most accomplished men and women working in cinema. In addition to the annual Academy Awards – in which the members vote to select the nominees and winners – the Academy presents a diverse year-round slate of public programs, exhibitions and events; provides financial support to a wide range of other movie-related organizations and endeavors; acts as a neutral advocate in the advancement of motion picture technology; and, through its Margaret Herrick Library and Academy Film Archive, collects, preserves, restores and provides access to movies and items related to their history. Through these and other activities the Academy serves students, historians, the entertainment industry and people everywhere who love movies.

- NOMINATIONS BY CATEGORY – 81ST AWARDS -

Performance by an actor in a leading role

Richard Jenkins in “The Visitor” (Overture Films)

Frank Langella in “Frost/Nixon” (Universal)

Sean Penn in “Milk” (Focus Features)

Brad Pitt in “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)

Mickey Rourke in “The Wrestler” (Fox Searchlight)

Performance by an actor in a supporting role

Josh Brolin in “Milk” (Focus Features)

Robert Downey Jr. in “Tropic Thunder” (DreamWorks, Distributed by DreamWorks/Paramount)

Philip Seymour Hoffman in “Doubt” (Miramax)

Heath Ledger in “The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)

Michael Shannon in “Revolutionary Road” (DreamWorks, Distributed by Paramount Vantage)

Performance by an actress in a leading role

Anne Hathaway in “Rachel Getting Married” (Sony Pictures Classics)

Angelina Jolie in “Changeling” (Universal)

Melissa Leo in “Frozen River” (Sony Pictures Classics)

Meryl Streep in “Doubt” (Miramax)

Kate Winslet in “The Reader” (The Weinstein Company)

Performance by an actress in a supporting role

Amy Adams in “Doubt” (Miramax)

Penélope Cruz in “Vicky Cristina Barcelona” (The Weinstein Company)

Viola Davis in “Doubt” (Miramax)

Taraji P. Henson in “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)

Marisa Tomei in “The Wrestler” (Fox Searchlight)

 Best animated feature film of the year

“Bolt” (Walt Disney)	Chris Williams and Byron Howard
“Kung Fu Panda” (DreamWorks Animation, Distributed by Paramount)	John Stevenson and Mark Osborne
“WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Andrew Stanton

 Achievement in art direction

“Changeling” (Universal)	Art Direction:	James J. Murakami
	Set Decoration:	Gary Fettis
“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Art Direction:	Donald Graham Burt
	Set Decoration:	Victor J. Zolfo
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Art Direction:	Nathan Crowley
	Set Decoration:	Peter Lando
“The Duchess” (Paramount Vantage, Pathé and BBC Films)	Art Direction:	Michael Carlin
	Set Decoration:	Rebecca Alleway
“Revolutionary Road” (DreamWorks, Distributed by Paramount Vantage)	Art Direction:	Kristi Zea
	Set Decoration:	Debra Schutt

 Achievement in cinematography

“Changeling” (Universal)	Tom Stern
“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Claudio Miranda
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Wally Pfister
“The Reader” (The Weinstein Company)	Chris Menges and Roger Deakins
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Anthony Dod Mantle

 Achievement in costume design

“Australia” (20th Century Fox)	Catherine Martin
“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Jacqueline West
“The Duchess” (Paramount Vantage, Pathé and BBC Films)	Michael O’Connor
“Milk” (Focus Features)	Danny Glicker
“Revolutionary Road” (DreamWorks, Distributed by Paramount Vantage)	Albert Wolsky

Achievement in directing

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	David Fincher
“Frost/Nixon” (Universal)	Ron Howard
“Milk” (Focus Features)	Gus Van Sant
“The Reader” (The Weinstein Company)	Stephen Daldry
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Danny Boyle

Best documentary feature

“The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)” (Cinema Guild) A Pandinlao Films Production	Ellen Kuras and Thavisouk Phrasavath
“Encounters at the End of the World” (THINKFilm and Image Entertainment) A Creative Differences Production	Werner Herzog and Henry Kaiser
“The Garden” A Black Valley Films Production	Scott Hamilton Kennedy
“Man on Wire” (Magnolia Pictures) A Wall to Wall Production	James Marsh and Simon Chinn
“Trouble the Water” (Zeitgeist Films) An Elsewhere Films Production	Tia Lessin and Carl Deal

Best documentary short subject

“The Conscience of Nhem En” A Farallon Films Production	Steven Okazaki
“The Final Inch” Vermillion Films in association with Google.org	Irene Taylor Brodsky and Tom Grant
“Smile Pinki” A Principe Production	Megan Mylan
“The Witness - From the Balcony of Room 306” A Rock Paper Scissors Production	Adam Pertofsky and Margaret Hyde

Achievement in film editing

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Kirk Baxter and Angus Wall
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Lee Smith
“Frost/Nixon” (Universal)	Mike Hill and Dan Hanley
“Milk” (Focus Features)	Elliot Graham
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Chris Dickens

Best foreign language film of the year

“The Baader Meinhof Complex” A Constantin Film Production	Germany
“The Class” (Sony Pictures Classics) A Haut et Court Production	France
“Departures” (Regent Releasing) A Departures Film Partners Production	Japan
“Revanche” (Janus Films) A Prisma Film/Fernseh Production	Austria
“Waltz with Bashir” (Sony Pictures Classics) A Bridgit Folman Film Gang Production	Israel

Achievement in makeup

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Greg Cannom
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	John Caglione, Jr. and Conor O’Sullivan
“Hellboy II: The Golden Army” (Universal)	Mike Elizalde and Thom Floutz

Achievement in music written for motion pictures (Original score)

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Alexandre Desplat
“Defiance” (Paramount Vantage)	James Newton Howard
“Milk” (Focus Features)	Danny Elfman
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	A.R. Rahman
“WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Thomas Newman

Achievement in music written for motion pictures (Original song)

“Down to Earth” from “WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Music by Peter Gabriel and Thomas Newman Lyric by Peter Gabriel
“Jai Ho” from “Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Music by A.R. Rahman Lyric by Gulzar
“O Saya” from “Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Music and Lyric by A.R. Rahman and Maya Arulpragasam

Best motion picture of the year

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.) A Kennedy/Marshall Production	Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall and Ceán Chaffin, Producers
“Frost/Nixon” (Universal) A Universal Pictures, Imagine Entertainment and Working Title Production	Brian Grazer, Ron Howard and Eric Fellner, Producers
“Milk” (Focus Features) A Groundswell and Jinks/Cohen Company Production	Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen, Producers
“The Reader” (The Weinstein Company) A Mirage Enterprises and Neunte Babelsberg Film GmbH Production	Anthony Minghella, Sydney Pollack, Donna Gigliotti and Redmond Morris, Producers
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight) A Celador Films Production	Christian Colson, Producer

Best animated short film

“La Maison en Petits Cubes” A Robot Communications Production	Kunio Kato
“Lavatory - Lovestory” A Melnitsa Animation Studio and CTB Film Company Production	Konstantin Bronzit
“Oktapodi” (Talanta Films) A Gobelins, L'école de l'image Production	Emud Mokhberi and Thierry Marchand
“Presto” (Walt Disney) A Pixar Animation Studios Production	Doug Sweetland
“This Way Up” A Nexus Production	Alan Smith and Adam Foulkes

Best live action short film

“Auf der Strecke (On the Line)” (Hamburg Shortfilmagency) An Academy of Media Arts Cologne Production	Reto Caffi
“Manon on the Asphalt” (La Luna Productions) A La Luna Production	Elizabeth Marre and Olivier Pont
“New Boy” (Network Ireland Television) A Zanzibar Films Production	Steph Green and Tamara Anghie
“The Pig” An M & M Production	Tivi Magnusson and Dorte Høgh
“Spielzeugland (Toyland)” A Mephisto Film Production	Jochen Alexander Freydank

Achievement in sound editing

“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Richard King
“Iron Man” (Paramount and Marvel Entertainment)	Frank Eulner and Christopher Boyes
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Glenn Freemantle and Tom Sayers
“WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Ben Burtt and Matthew Wood
“Wanted” (Universal)	Wylie Stateman

Achievement in sound mixing

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	David Parker, Michael Semanick, Ren Klyce and Mark Weingarten
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Lora Hirschberg, Gary Rizzo and Ed Novick
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Ian Tapp, Richard Pryke and Resul Pookutty
“WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Tom Myers, Michael Semanick and Ben Burtt
“Wanted” (Universal)	Chris Jenkins, Frank A. Montaña and Petr Forejt

Achievement in visual effects

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Eric Barba, Steve Preeg, Burt Dalton and Craig Barron
“The Dark Knight” (Warner Bros.)	Nick Davis, Chris Corbould, Tim Webber and Paul Franklin
“Iron Man” (Paramount and Marvel Entertainment)	John Nelson, Ben Snow, Dan Sudick and Shane Mahan

Adapted screenplay

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (Paramount and Warner Bros.)	Screenplay by Eric Roth Screen story by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord
“Doubt” (Miramax)	Written by John Patrick Shanley
“Frost/Nixon” (Universal)	Screenplay by Peter Morgan
“The Reader” (The Weinstein Company)	Screenplay by David Hare
“Slumdog Millionaire” (Fox Searchlight)	Screenplay by Simon Beaufoy

Original screenplay

“Frozen River” (Sony Pictures Classics)	Written by Courtney Hunt
“Happy-Go-Lucky” (Miramax)	Written by Mike Leigh
“In Bruges” (Focus Features)	Written by Martin McDonagh
“Milk” (Focus Features)	Written by Dustin Lance Black
“WALL-E” (Walt Disney)	Screenplay by Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon Original story by Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter

- MOTION PICTURE NOMINATIONS – 81ST AWARDS –**- NOMINATIONS BY PICTURE -**(This list does not include Short Films or Documentary Short Subjects)

“Australia,” a 20th Century Fox/Bazmark Film 2 Pty Ltd Production (20th Century Fox) Costume design	(1 nomination)
“The Baader Meinhof Complex,” a Constantin Film Production Best foreign language film (Germany)	(1 nomination)
“The Betrayal (Nerakhoon),” a Pandinlao Films Production (Cinema Guild) Documentary feature	(1 nomination)
“Bolt,” a Walt Disney Pictures Production (Walt Disney) Best animated feature film	(1 nomination)
“Changeling,” a Universal Pictures and Imagine Entertainment Production (Universal) Angelina Jolie - Performance by an actress in a leading role Art direction Cinematography	(3 nominations)
“The Class,” a Haut et Court Production (Sony Pictures Classics) Best foreign language film (France)	(1 nomination)
“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” a Kennedy/Marshall Production (Paramount and Warner Bros.) Brad Pitt - Performance by an actor in a leading role Taraji P. Henson - Performance by an actress in a supporting role Art direction Cinematography Costume design Directing Film editing Makeup Original score Best picture Sound mixing Visual effects Adapted screenplay	(13 nominations)
“The Dark Knight,” a Cape Road Limited Production (Warner Bros.) Heath Ledger - Performance by an actor in a supporting role Art direction Cinematography Film editing Makeup Sound editing Sound mixing Visual effects	(8 nominations)
“Defiance,” a Grosvenor Park/Bedford Falls Production (Paramount Vantage) Original score	(1 nomination)
“Departures,” a Departures Film Partners Production (Regent Releasing) Best foreign language film (Japan)	(1 nomination)

<p>“Doubt,” a Scott Rudin Production (Miramax) Philip Seymour Hoffman - Performance by an actor in a supporting role Meryl Streep - Performance by an actress in a leading role Amy Adams - Performance by an actress in a supporting role Viola Davis - Performance by an actress in a supporting role Adapted screenplay</p>	(5 nominations)
<p>“The Duchess,” a Qwerty Films/Magnolia Mae Films in association with Pathé Renn and BIM Distribuzione Production (Paramount Vantage, Pathé and BBC Films) Art direction Costume design</p>	(2 nominations)
<p>“Encounters at the End of the World,” a Creative Differences Production (THINKFilm and Image Entertainment) Documentary feature</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Frost/Nixon,” a Universal Pictures, Imagine Entertainment and Working Title Production (Universal) Frank Langella - Performance by an actor in a leading role Directing Film editing Best picture Adapted screenplay</p>	(5 nominations)
<p>“Frozen River,” a Harwood Hunt Production (Sony Pictures Classics) Melissa Leo - Performance by an actress in a leading role Original screenplay</p>	(2 nominations)
<p>“The Garden,” a Black Valley Films Production Documentary feature</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Happy-Go-Lucky,” a Thin Man Films/Simon Channing Williams Production (Miramax) Original screenplay</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Hellboy II: The Golden Army,” a Universal Pictures Production (Universal) Makeup</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“In Bruges,” a Blueprint Pictures Production (Focus Features) Original screenplay</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Iron Man,” a Marvel Studios Production (Paramount and Marvel Entertainment) Sound editing Visual effects</p>	(2 nominations)
<p>“Kung Fu Panda,” a DreamWorks Animation LLC Production (DreamWorks Animation, Distributed by Paramount) Best animated feature film</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Man on Wire,” a Wall to Wall in association with Red Box Films Production (Magnolia Pictures) Documentary feature</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Milk,” a Groundswell and Jinks/Cohen Company Production (Focus Features) Sean Penn - Performance by an actor in a leading role Josh Brolin - Performance by an actor in a supporting role Costume design Directing Film editing Original score Best picture</p>	(8 nominations)

Original screenplay

<p>“Rachel Getting Married,” a Clinica Estetico Production (Sony Pictures Classics) Anne Hathaway - Performance by an actress in a leading role</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“The Reader,” a Mirage Enterprises and Neunte Babelsberg Film GmbH Production (The Weinstein Company) Kate Winslet - Performance by an actress in a leading role Cinematography Directing Best picture Adapted screenplay</p>	(5 nominations)
<p>“Revanche,” a Prisma Film/Fernseh Production (Janus Films) Best foreign language film (Austria)</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Revolutionary Road,” an Evamere Entertainment, BBC Films and Neal Street Production (DreamWorks, Distributed by Paramount Vantage) Michael Shannon - Performance by an actor in a supporting role Art direction Costume design</p>	(3 nominations)
<p>“Slumdog Millionaire,” a Celador Films Production (Fox Searchlight) Cinematography Directing Film editing Original score Original song - “Jai Ho” Original song - “O Saya” Best picture Sound editing Sound mixing Adapted screenplay</p>	(10 nominations)
<p>“Tropic Thunder,” a Red Hour Production (DreamWorks, Distributed by DreamWorks/Paramount) Robert Downey Jr. - Performance by an actor in a supporting role</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Trouble the Water,” an Elsewhere Films Production (Zeitgeist Films) Documentary feature</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Vicky Cristina Barcelona,” a Weinstein Company Production (The Weinstein Company) Penélope Cruz - Performance by an actress in a supporting role</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“The Visitor,” a Groundswell, Participant, Next Wednesday Production (Overture Films) Richard Jenkins - Performance by an actor in a leading role</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“WALL-E,” a Pixar Animation Studios Production (Walt Disney) Best animated feature film Original score Original song - “Down to Earth” Sound editing Sound mixing Original screenplay</p>	(6 nominations)
<p>“Waltz with Bashir,” a Bridgit Folman Film Gang Production (Sony Pictures Classics) Best foreign language film (Israel)</p>	(1 nomination)
<p>“Wanted,” a Universal Pictures and Spyglass Entertainment Production (Universal) Sound editing</p>	(2 nominations)

Sound mixing

“The Wrestler,” a Protozoa Pictures/Wild Bunch Production (Fox Searchlight)

(2 nominations)

Mickey Rourke - Performance by an actor in a leading role

Marisa Tomei - Performance by an actress in a supporting role

- MOTION PICTURE NOMINATIONS – 81ST AWARDS -**- FEATURE FILMS WITH TWO OR MORE NOMINATIONS -**

(This list does not include Short Films
or Documentary Short Subjects.)

<u>Picture</u>	<u>Distribution Company</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"	Paramount and Warner Bros.	13
"Slumdog Millionaire"	Fox Searchlight	10
"The Dark Knight"	Warner Bros.	8
"Milk"	Focus Features	8
"WALL-E"	Walt Disney	6
"Doubt"	Miramax	5
"Frost/Nixon"	Universal	5
"The Reader"	The Weinstein Company	5
"Changeling"	Universal	3
"Revolutionary Road"	DreamWorks, Distributed by Paramount Vantage	3
"The Duchess"	Paramount Vantage, Pathé and BBC Films	2
"Frozen River"	Sony Pictures Classics	2
"Iron Man"	Paramount and Marvel Entertainment	2
"Wanted"	Universal	2
"The Wrestler"	Fox Searchlight	2