

# News

## Oscars

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utes. But he always cuts such a mesmerizing presence that he could have just as easily been nominated for Hidden Figures, Kicks or Free State of Jones.

### Best Supporting Actress

Will Win: Viola Davis ("Fences")

Deserves to Win: Viola Davis

Overlooked: Greta Gerwig ("20th Century Women") and Janelle Monae ("Moonlight")

Comment: Viola Davis finally gets the Oscar she deserved for "The Help." This go-round, she strategically avoided a head-to-head showdown with Meryl Streep by downsizing her starring role into a support performance.

### Best Original Screenplay

Will Win: "La La Land"

Deserves to Win: "La La Land"

Overlooked: "Loving"

Comment: "La La Land" manages to squeak by "Manchester by the Sea," a critical win on an historic night.

### Best Adapted Screenplay

Will Win: "Moonlight"

Deserves to Win: "Moonlight"

Overlooked: "Deadpool"

Question: Why was "Moonlight" nominated for the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, but nominated in



Kam predicts 'La La Land' to win Best Picture

the Best Original Screenplay category by both the British Academy and the Writers Guild of America?

### Predictions for the Balance of the Categories

Animated Feature: "Zootopia"

Foreign Language Film: "Toni Erdmann"

Documentary Feature: "13th"

Cinematography: "La La Land"

Costume Design: "La La Land"

Production Design: "La La Land"

Film Editing: "La La Land"

Makeup and Hairstyling: "Star Trek Beyond"

Original Score: "La La Land"

Best Song: "La La Land" ("City of Stars")

Sound Editing: "La La Land"

Sound Mixing: "La La Land"

Visual Effects: "The Jungle Book"

Animated Short: "Piper"

Documentary Short: "Extremis"

Live-Action Short: "Ennemis Intérieurs"

# FILM REVIEW: Temperamental Teacher Challenges Nerdy Colleague to Duel in 'Fist Fight'

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

**D**o you remember how, when you were growing up, if a couple of classmates came to blows on the schoolyard, they would be quickly separated to the suggestion that they settle their differences off campus at the end of the day? That was the point of departure of "Three O'Clock High," a 1987 comedy about a bully with a short fuse who challenges a mild-mannered milquetoast to a duel after school.

Ostensibly inspired by that teensploitation classic, "Fist Fight" is a slight variation on the theme which flips the script by having a couple of teachers squaring-off instead of students. Otherwise, the basic idea remains intact.

The movie co-stars Ice Cube and Charlie Day as Ron Strickland and Andy Campbell, respectively, colleagues at Roosevelt High. Intimidating history teacher Ron cuts a sharp contrast to nerdy English teacher Andy, and much of the humor revolves around their difference in temperament.

The action unfolds on the last day of school



Tracy Morgan in 'Fist Fight'

which is when we find seniors running a muck and pulling a variety of outrageous pranks like kicking the spout off a water cooler and rocking the ineffective security guard's (Kumail Nanjiani) golf cart while he's still sitting in it. Despite the insanity, the faculty is doing its best to maintain decorum.

Nevertheless, Mr. Campbell's lesson on why words matter is interrupted by the antics of class clowns. He's able to handle the disruption far better than Mr. Strickland who proceeds to blow his cork.

The plight thickens when both teachers are summoned to Principal Tyler's (Dean Norris) office to explain why Ron chopped a disrespectful pupil's desk in half with an ax. The upshot of the

meeting is that Ron loses his job because of Andy, so he challenges him to a fight after school. Consequently, fraidy cat Campbell spends the rest of the afternoon trying to find a way to avoid the confrontation.

Too bad, the ensuing buildup to the big showdown between the adversaries proves to be less entertaining than the promising premise. For, the two share few funny moments following the setup. Luckily, this kitchen sink comedy continues to deliver courtesy of such student stunts as hiring a mariachi band to follow the principal around the halls.

The movie marks the feature film debut of actor-turned-director Richie Keen, who also makes a cameo appearance as a computer store employee. And the support cast includes the scene-stealing Tracy Morgan, whose quirky trademark mannerisms are put on full display.

Note, "Fist Fight" is a relentlessly-profane romp which might have set a record for the use of the F-word. Since the closing tableau sets up the sequel, might I suggest that the next installment cut down on the curses in favor of more jokes.

Good ★★

Rated R for sexuality, nudity, drug use and pervasive profanity

Running time: 91 min.

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see a trailer for *Fist Fight*, go to [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com).



View movie trailers at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

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Lisa Newman, MD, MPH,  
Henry Ford Health System, Detroit MI



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