



Margot Robbie as Queen Elizabeth I in 'Mary Queen of Scots.'

# My Picks for Best Films of 2018

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watch it again. Director Christopher Quinn, working from and extending Jonathan Safran Foer's book of the same name, provides a far-reaching and clear analysis of systemic evil inside the production of meat in the U.S., focusing his gaze on factory farming. Although Quinn doesn't offer any solutions, I wouldn't trust easy solutions in this context. What he does instead is to connect the dots of greed and dishonesty, and to

sight. As someone who knows the world of evangelical Christianity from the inside, I was amazed to watch this film avoid the cheap shots and shortcuts that tend to happen with stories like this one; instead, the story is told with compassion and real insight, and far surpasses other, similar material. And Lukas Hedges in the lead role is an absolute marvel. [Rated R for sexual content including an assault, some language, and brief drug use; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Lead Actor (Lu-

some awards notice, where are the awards for hair and makeup? Nowhere has there ever been this much black beauty shown to full advantage. It must be celebrated! [Rated PG-13 for prolonged sequences of action, violence, and a brief rude gesture; nominated for, and should win, Academy Awards for Costume Design; also nominated for Best Picture, Production Design, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, Original Song ("All the Stars"), and Original Score; deserved nominations for Best Director (Ryan Coogler) and Best Supporting Actor (Michael B. Jordan).]

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Chadwick Boseman in a scene from Black Panther. (Marvel Studios/Disney)

help viewers learn a host of questions we should be asking. (Not rated; deserved an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary Feature.)

9. "Boy Erased" likewise has not received the critical notice that it deserves. Based on a memoir by Gerrard Conley, whose loving Christian parents sent him to conversion therapy when he was a teenager, this film manages a very honest look at how such a horrific thing could happen. It's an exceedingly important story, and also an exceedingly difficult one to tell; director Joel Edgerton co-wrote the screenplay with Conley and they have managed to tell it with compassion and in-

kas Hedges) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Gerrard Conley and Joel Edgerton).]

10. Finally, no list of 2018's best films is complete without "Black Panther," which dazzled with black fierceness and beauty and creativity that put the lie to Hollywood's long years of neglect and racism and delivered an actually interesting superhero story. Although I did wish for more complexity in the portrayal of the film's essential conflict, the film nevertheless realizes a vision of black dominance and power that inspired and that changed the cultural conversation in profound ways ("Not today, colonizer!"). Even though it has garnered

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