

# 2018 OSCAR NOMINATIONS: 'The Shape of Water' Leads Race with Lucky 13 Nominations

Weinstein, Spacey and Franco conspicuously absent

By Kam Williams

**T**he Shape of Water, Guillermo del Toro's surreal, cross-species love story landed the most Academy Award nominations (13), including for Best Director, Picture and Original screenplay, as well as trio of acting categories. "Dunkirk" (8) was next, followed by "Three Billboards" (7), "Darkest Hour" (6) and "Phantom Thread" (6).

Up for Oscars are some familiar faces, like Denzel Washington ("Roman J. Israel, Jr.") and perennial-nominee Meryl Streep ("The Post"). Meanwhile, conspicuously absent from the roster are a number of disgraced Hollywood icons whose careers went up in flames in the wake of rape allegations.

There's Harvey Weinstein who, for years, had been a fixture on the aisle on Oscar night. But this go-round, The Weinstein Company's entire slate was snubbed, most notably the critically-acclaimed and strategically-released "Wind River."

Just a couple weeks ago, James Franco was the toast of Tinseltown after winning a Golden Globe

for "The Disaster Artist." Since then, several women stepped forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct. Now, it's his career that's a disaster, suffering such a precipitous fall from grace that he didn't even earn an Academy Award nomination.

The voters showed little love to "Baby Driver," this critic's pick for #1 film of the year, giving it only a handful of nominations in technical categories. In this case, you can blame #MeToo casualty Kevin Spacey for torpedoing the summer sleeper's Oscar chances right along with his own.

At least that picture got released. The same can't be said for Louis C.K.'s "I Love You, Daddy," whose premiere was postponed indefinitely after he admitted to some pretty bizarre, unwanted behavior in front of five different women.

For those still in the running, the 90th Academy Awards will air on ABC on Sunday, March 4th. The show will be staged at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood and hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. But don't be surprised if one or two nominees get knocked out of con-

tention for sexual peccadilloes that come to the surface between now and Oscar night.

## Complete List of 2018 Academy Award Nominees

### BEST PICTURE

Call Me by Your Name

Darkest Hour

Dunkirk

Get Out

Lady Bird

Phantom Thread

The Post

The Shape of Water

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

### ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Timothée Chalamet, Call Me by Your Name

Daniel Day-Lewis, Phantom Thread

Daniel Kaluuya, Get Out

Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour

Denzel Washington, Roman J. Israel, Esq.

### ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Willem Dafoe, The Florida Project

Woody Harrelson, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Richard Jenkins, The Shape of Water



Octavia Spencer and Sally Hawkins in 'The Shape of Water'

Christopher Plummer, All the Money in the World

Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

### ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Sally Hawkins, The Shape of Water

Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Margot Robbie, I, Tonya

Meryl Streep, The Post

### ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Mary J. Blige, Mudbound

Allison Janney, I, Tonya

Laurie Metcalf, Lady Bird

Octavia Spencer, The Shape of Water

### BEST DIRECTOR

Dunkirk, Christopher Nolan

Get Out, Jordan Peele

Lady Bird, Greta Gerwig

Phantom Thread, Paul Thomas Anderson

The Shape of Water, Guillermo del Toro

### ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

The Boss Baby

Breadwinner

Coco

Ferdinand

Loving Vincent

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Abacus: Small Enough to Jail

Faces, Places

Icarus

Last Men In Aleppo

Strong Island

### DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Edith+Eddie

Heaven is a Traffic Jam

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script. Although I was obviously very aware of 9/11, I was fascinated by this story which I had never heard about. I thought that these first responders and the way in which they prevailed was not only unique but pretty important. So, I felt that it was awesome to have an opportunity to be a part of turning this little-known story into a movie. Of course, I also jumped at the chance to work with [producer] Jerry Bruckheimer and the terrific cast attached to the project.

**KW:** Yeah, I had no idea we had guys fighting on horseback over in Afghanistan. And they were outnumbered and outgunned by the Taliban equipped with tanks, RPGs and heavy artillery.

**TR:** It was amazing! Those soldiers are heroes, Kam.

**KW:** Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier asks: How did you prepare to play Sergeant First Class Ben Milo?

**TR:** My preparation included speaking to quite a few veterans. They were very open and honest about both their downtime and battle experiences. They shared the good, the bad, and everything in between. We also had Army Ranger training for three or four weeks which was not only educational but very valuable in terms of our bonding as a unit.

**KW:** I assume you didn't work with live ammo.

**TR:** Definitely not. We had a couple guys who didn't know what they were doing, so that would've been scary.

**KW:** Have you had an opportunity to meet the soldier your character's based on?

**TR:** Yeah, just last night at the premiere. He's amazing!

**KW:** Patricia would like to know what you want the audience to learn from the movie.

**TR:** I'd like them to come away with an accurate perspective of what it was like in Afghanistan after 9/11. For instance, I was 11 years old at the time, and I believed all the people over there were bad. But that's obviously not the case, since the only reason why this mission succeeded was because of a lot of help from some locals. Another message is how valuable connectivity, love, honesty and being there for one another are.

**KW:** She was also wondering whether there's a genre out of your comfort zone that you would like to try?

**TR:** To be quite honest, nothing I've encountered thus far is outside of my comfort zone. I hope that every film I do is very different from the previous one. What I'm always looking for as an actor is to be challenged in a new way.

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