

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

- [Buy Cheap Norton PartitionMagic 8.0](#)
- [Buy Adobe Captivate 5 MAC \(en,de,fr,ja,it,es,ko\)](#)
- [Discount - Autodesk AutoCAD Mechanical 2011](#)
- [Buy Cheap Macpaw CleanMyMac 2](#)
- [Download Ashampoo Burning Studio 7](#)
- [Buy Cheap Ashampoo Powerup 3](#)
- [Buy Adobe Acrobat X Pro Student And Teacher Edition \(en,fr,de,ja\)](#)
- [Download Wincare Memory Booster Gold](#)
- [Download Hazel 3](#)
- [Buy Cheap Photoshop CS4 For Dummies](#)
- [Download Xilisoft Video Converter Ultimate 6 MAC](#)
- [89.95\\$ Adobe Acrobat X Pro Student And Teacher Edition MAC cheap oem](#)



All right, kids, we're on a roll. Two years ago, I correctly predicted 16 out of 24 winners at the annual Oscars ceremony. Last year, I scored 18 right. So this year, let's go out on a limb and suggest that I'm gonna guess accurately in ... I dunno ... 11, 12 categories ... ?

Don't take this as an admission of impending defeat so much as acknowledgment that I can't fathom *what's* gonna happen during this year's presentation of the Academy Awards. A big win for *The King's Speech* seems likely, but just how big will the win be? Are we talking a *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*-style sweep here? (They do share a common royal title, after all.) Do voters admire, but secretly dislike,

The Social Network

as much as many Oscar bloggers would have us believe? Will personal behavior weigh in against Christian Bale's and Melissa Leo's chances? Will sentiment and she's-overdue factors derail

Black Swan

's one serious chance for a trophy? (Not that the recipient, in that case, would be undeserving.)

Will the man who's arguably the world's finest cinematographer finally be able to preface his name with "Oscar winner"? Will

Dogtooth

be the most polarizing movie to ever receive the Best Foreign-Language Film prize? Will

The Wolfman

be the recipient of more Academy Awards than

127 Hours

and

Winter's Bone combined

?

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

Dunno. Let's find out on February 27, shall we? In the meantime, my stabs at this annual cinematic crapshoot are in boldface

BEST PICTURE

Black Swan

The Fighter

Inception

The Kids Are All Right

The King's Speech

127 Hours

The Social Network

Toy Story 3

True Grit

Winter's Bone

For many months, this was *The Social Network's* to lose. And after *King's Speech* victories at the Producers Guild Awards, Directors Guild (DGA) Awards, Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards, and British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards, lose it it shall.

BEST DIRECTOR

Darren Aronofsky, *Black Swan*

Joel Coen & Ethan Coen, *True Grit*

David Fincher, *The Social Network*

Tom Hooper, *The King's Speech*

David O. Russell, *The Fighter*

It is a terrible, terrible idea to bet against Tom Hooper, because only seven times in the DGA's 62-year history has the winner of that group's top prize not gone on to win the Academy Award. But since when have I shied away from terrible, terrible ideas? (Fincher also winning the BAFTA trophy – despite seven citations for *The King's Speech* and Hooper being a born and bred Brit – alleviates my misgivings a little. A *little*.)

BEST ACTOR

Javier Bardem, *Biutiful*

Jeff Bridges, *True Grit*

Jesse Eisenberg, *The Social Network*

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

Colin Firth, *The King's Speech*

James Franco, *127 Hours*

Firth's competitors have long since throne in the towel.

BEST ACTRESS

Annette Bening, *The Kids Are All Right*

Nicole Kidman, *Rabbit Hole*

Jennifer Lawrence, *Winter's Bone*

Natalie Portman, *Black Swan*

Michelle Williams, *Blue Valentine*

My gut is telling me Bening will pull off a surprise victory. But I went with my gut on Melissa Leo for *Frozen River* two years ago, and where the hell did *that* get me?



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Adams, *The Fighter*

Helena Bonham Carter, *The King's Speech*

Melissa Leo, *The Fighter*

Hailee Steinfeld, *True Grit*

Jacki Weaver, *Animal Kingdom*

Meanwhile, I *should* be going with presumed front-runner Leo here, but the actress' recent, independently-financed "Consider ..." ads have been both beyond pushy and beyond tacky. Carter won at BAFTA, and neither her nor Adams' victory would shock me, but a major *True Grit*

award seems both merited and wanted. Besides, it's been 17 years since Anna Paquin won for *The Piano* –

isn't it time for another oh-my-God-how-cute

Oscar recipient? Not counting

March of the Penguins

, of course.

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Christian Bale, *The Fighter*

John Hawkes, *Winter's Bone*

Jeremy Renner, *The Town*

Mark Ruffalo, *The Kids Are All Right*

Geoffrey Rush, *The King's Speech*

The Fighter kind of has to win *something*, and while Rush's victory at BAFTA has shaken my confidence, I don't see how the Academy can ignore Bale's vocal and physical transformation into Dicky Eklund. That standing ovation at the SAG awards has to count for something ... um, *right*
... ?

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Lisa Cholodenko, Stuart Blumberg, *The Kids Are All Right*

Mike Leigh, *Another Year*

Christopher Nolan, *Inception*

David Seidler, *The King's Speech*

Scott Silver, Paul Tamasy, Eric Johnson, Keith Dorrington, *The Fighter*

Seidler suffered from a stammer himself. Had to wait 28 years, until the Queen Mum died, for his script to be produced. Just give him the Oscar *now*.

BEST SCREENPLAY ADAPTATION

Michael Arndt, John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton, Lee Unkrich, *Toy Story 3*

Danny Boyle, Simon Beaufoy, *127 Hours*

Joel Coen, Ethan Coen, *True Grit*

Debra Granik, Anne Rosellini, *Winter's Bone*

Aaron Sorkin, *The Social Network*□

Will I be upset with Academy members if Sorkin doesn't win this? No. I'll hire the *Sopranos* to beat the *shit*
out of them with a

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

hammer

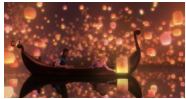
BEST ANIMATED FEATURE

How to Train Your Dragon

The Illusionist

Toy Story 3

It'll have a friend in lots and *lots* of people.



BEST ORIGINAL SONG

"Coming Home," *Country Strong*

"I See the Light," *Tangled*

"If I Rise," *127 Hours*

"We Belong Together," *Toy Story 3*

A last-minute switch from my planned *Toy Story 3* prediction, as a way of acknowledging perhaps the single most beautiful scene in an animated movie last year. Still kinda hoping for an "If I Rise" upset, though

BEST FOREIGN-LANGUAGE FILM

Biutiful, Mexico

Dogtooth, Greece

***In a Better World*, Denmark**

Incendies, Canada

Outside the Law, Algeria

Always, always, *always* go with InContention.com's Kris Tapley in this category, who correctly predicted the widely-
del Sus Ojos *unpredicted El Secreto*
last year, and

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

Departures

the year before that. He's going with

In a Better World, I'm

going with

In a Better World.

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Exit Through the Gift Shop

Gasland

Inside Job

Restrepo

Waste Land

I know the winners in this category are supposed to display more "gravitas" than *Exit Through the Gift Shop*'s insider look at the bohemian art scene. But seriously: Isn't everyone just dying to see who might show up to accept Banksy's prize?

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE

How to Train Your Dragon

Inception

The King's Speech

127 Hours

The Social Network

Truth be told, I really don't remember this film's score. But I *do* remember the scores that the thus-far-Oscar-less Alexandre Desplat composed for *The Queen*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and the latest Harry Potter, so I'm totally on-board with this win.

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Black Swan

Inception

The King's Speech

The Social Network

True Grit

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

Will I be upset with Academy members if eternal Oscar bridesmaid Roger Deakins, on his ninth attempt at this prize, gets shafted? No. I'll hire the *Sopranos* to Wait. Wrong movie. Right sentiment, though.



BEST FILM EDITING

Black Swan

The Fighter

The King's Speech

127 Hours

The Social Network □

Yeah, I'm predicting that the film will win Best Director, Best Screenplay Adaptation, and Best Film Editing, and will *still* lose Best Picture. Just like when *Traffic* won all these (*and* Best Supporting Actor) and lost out to *Gladiator*. Hey, I don't make the rules.

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

Alice in Wonderland

I Am Love

The King's Speech

The Tempest

True Grit

An early victory here for *The King's Speech* would definitely indicate a major sweep. But after four years of winning royals with *Marie Antoinette*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *The Duchess*, and *The Young Victoria*, didn't the Queen Mum's frocks, in comparison, seem a little ... *bleh*? But look at that! There's actually *another*

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

queen played by Helena Bonham Carter that the Academy can honor! The streak continues!

BEST ART DIRECTION

Alice in Wonderland

Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: Part I

Inception

The King's Speech

True Grit

I think, though, we can all agree that it would be kind of embarrassing if *Alice in Wonderland* was actually rewarded

twice

... .



BEST SOUND EDITING

Inception

Toy Story 3

Tron Legacy

True Grit

Unstoppable

BEST SOUND MIXING

Inception

The King's Speech

Salt

The Social Network

True Grit

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Alice in Wonderland

Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: Part I

Hereafter

Inception

Iron Man 2

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

No embarrassment *here*, though. Hell, let's let *Inception* win *three* times!



BEST MAKEUP

Barney's Version

The Way Back

The Wolfman

The Wolfman would certainly win for most *obvious* makeup. But since the category's creation in 1982, voters have steadfastly avoided giving the statuette to a generally decreed *awful*

movie, and

The Wolfman

is little if not generally-decreed-awful. Let's go with

The Way Back

, then, if for no other reason than to add another Oscar-winning film to Peter Weir's résumé, and increase the chances that the man will receive his *way-*

long-overdue Best Director acknowledgment soon.

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Killing in the Name

Poster Girl

Strangers No More

Sun Come Up

The Warriors of Qiugang

The story of a twentysomething Iraq War veteran suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, who finds a measure of solace by turning her experience into art. I swear, I got teary-eyed just reading the film's *synopsis*.

BEST LIVE-ACTION SHORT

"King's" for the Day: 2011 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 05:59

The Confession

The Crush

God of Love

Na Wewe

Wish 143

As usual, I've been criminally negligent about catching the nominees in this category. But the aforementioned Oscar guru Tapley is behind this choice, as is the *New York Times*' A.O. Scott, who calls Na

Wewe

"the best of the [nominated] five, by far." The voice of anyone who, in his review of *The Simpsons Movie*

, said he'd watch the film "20 or 30 more times" is a voice I trust *implicitly*

.



BEST ANIMATED SHORT

Day & Night

The Gruffalo

Let's Pollute

The Lost Thing

Madagascar, carnet de voyage (Madagascar, A Journey Diary)□

Hey, Dreamworks' *Madagascar* movies ain't never gonna win no Oscars, so

For a closeup at moments of greatness in this year's Best Picture category, visit ["Oscar Snapshots: Unforgettable Moments Among the 2011 Best Picture Contenders."](#)