

"Argo" Fête Yourself: 2013 Oscar Predictions

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 13 February 2013 06:00

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As I only predicted 15 out of 24 categories correctly for the previous Academy Awards, obviously I have some making up to do for my prognostic abilities to again be taken seriously.

Of all freakin' times to attempt a comeback ... !

Seriously, this is one of those wacky, anomalous years in which nearly anything could happen at the annual Oscar ceremony. (This year's is scheduled to air locally on ABC's WQAD-TV affiliate on Sunday, February 24, beginning at 7 p.m.). *Argo* could win the big prize despite its lack of a Best Director nod, or it could be shut out entirely. (I'm guessing the former.)

Lincoln

could sweep, or it could be relegated to one lone win from 12 nominations. (Sadly, I'm guessing the latter.)

Silver Linings Playbook

could score in numerous categories because – like 2011's

The Artist

and 2010's

The King's Speech –

it has producer and legendary Oscar hunter Harvey Weinstein on its side, or it

Hmm. Maybe I should've given the Weinstein thing more consideration before making these

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predictions.

Alas, the predictions have been made, and in boldface no less, so I guess there's no turning back now. I urge you to employ caution if you're planning to use them for your office's annual Oscar pool. And you may as well flip a coin on Best Supporting Actor. Preferably a five-sided coin.

BEST PICTURE

Amour

Argo

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Django Unchained

Les Misérables

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Silver Linings Playbook

Zero Dark Thirty

At present, Ben Affleck is so beloved in the industry that he probably could've directed that tacky, sci-fi script-within-the-script version of *Argo* and it *still* would've won Best Picture.

BEST DIRECTOR

Michael Haneke, *Amour*

Ang Lee, *Life of Pi*

David O. Russell, *Silver Linings Playbook*

Steven Spielberg, *Lincoln*

Benh Zeitlin, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*

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Though if, through some miracle, this award's presenter exclaims, "And the Oscar goes to ... *Ben Affleck*!", I won't be the least bit surprised.



BEST ACTOR

Bradley Cooper, *Silver Linings Playbook*

Daniel Day-Lewis, *Lincoln*

Hugh Jackman, *Les Misérables*

Joaquin Phoenix, *The Master*

Denzel Washington, *Flight*

Hail to the chief.

BEST ACTRESS

Jessica Chastain, *Zero Dark Thirty*

Jennifer Lawrence, *Silver Linings Playbook*

Emmanuelle Riva, *Amour*

Quvenzhané Wallis, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*

Naomi Watts, *The Impossible*

"Gee ... Emmanuelle turns 86 on February 24 We really should get her something *nice* this year"

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Alan Arkin, *Argo*

Robert De Niro, *Silver Linings Playbook*

Philip Seymour Hoffman, *The Master*

Tommy Lee Jones, *Lincoln*

Christoph Waltz, *Django Unchained*

And if this happens, De Niro will have beaten Day-Lewis to a third Oscar by at least an hour. Take *that*, Brits! *USA! USA!*



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Adams, *The Master*

Sally Field, *Lincoln*

Anne Hathaway, *Les Misérables*

Helen Hunt, *The Sessions*

Jacki Weaver, *Silver Linings Playbook*

One song plus one unbroken take equals one Oscar.

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

***Amour*, Michael Haneke**

Django Unchained, Quentin Tarantino

Flight, John Gatins

Moonrise Kingdom, Wes Anderson, Roman Coppola

Zero Dark Thirty, Mark Boal

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After big wins from Critics Choice Award (CCA), Golden Globe, and British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA) voters, Tarantino should be the no-contest choice here. But *Amour's* unexpectedly powerful showing in numerous Oscar categories makes me think otherwise. Take *that*

, Americans!

Aus-tri-a! Aus-tri-a!

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

***Argo*, Chris Terrio**

Beasts of the Southern Wild, Lucy Alibar, Benh Zeitlin

Life of Pi, David Magee

Lincoln, Tony Kushner

Silver Linings Playbook, David O. Russell

Kushner's script, I'm convinced, is a thing of genius, and Russell, despite heavy competition, recently won the BAFTA prize in this category. But *Argo* is about hostages who are rescued, in part, by a screenplay titled *Argo*.

Academy voters should just give Terrio's script the Oscar

and

miniature tights and a cape.



BEST ANIMATED FEATURE

Brave

Frankenweenie

ParaNorman

The Pirates! Band of Misfits

Wreck-It Ralph

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Frankenweenie would be welcome, long-delayed acknowledgment of Tim Burton, and *Wreck-It Ralph* w

ould be a relatively hip option for a generally unhip Academy.

ParaNorman

, meanwhile, would just be

my

choice, so obviously

that's

not gonna happen. (Nor will

The Pirates!

) Let's go with the Golden Globe and BAFTA winner in this category – maybe not a brave prediction, but a

Brave

prediction nonetheless.

BEST ORIGINAL SONG

"Before My Time," *Chasing Ice*

"Everybody Needs a Best Friend," *Ted*

"Pi's Lullaby," *Life of Pi*

"Skyfall," *Skyfall*

"Suddenly," *Les Misérables*

I wonder if Adele's new Grammy is looking for a dance partner ... ?

BEST FOREIGN-LANGUAGE FILM

***Amour*, Austria**

Kon-Tiki, Norway

No, Chile

A Royal Affair, Denmark

War Witch, Canada

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"Amour" is French for "love." What's French for "such a done deal that there's no point discussing it"?



BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

5 Broken Cameras

The Gatekeepers

How to Survive a Plague

The Invisible War

Searching for Sugar Man

For the first time ever, I've seen all five nominees in this category prior to the ceremony, and am thinking my favorite will actually be the Academy's favorite, too. Wow. Maybe that *does* happen on occasion.

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE

Anna Karenina

Argo

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Skyfall

Anna Karenina's Dario Marianelli previously won for 2007's *Atonement*. *Lincoln's* John Williams has won, like, a *million* of these things.

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Argo

's Alexandre Desplat and

Skyfall

's Thomas Newman are overdue for Oscar recognition. (The latter

ridiculously

so.) But thanks in large part to composer Mychael Danna,

Life of Pi

sounds as good as it looks, and it looks

amazing

.

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Anna Karenina

Django Unchained

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Skyfall

Have I mentioned that *Life of Pi* looks amazing?

BEST FILM EDITING

Argo

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Silver Linings Playbook

Zero Dark Thirty

Generally speaking, the Best Picture winner also wins Best Film Editing. It just didn't last year ... or the year before that *Damn* that boldface!

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BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

Anna Karenina

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Les Misérables

Life of Pi

Lincoln

I should probably be going with *Les Mis* or *Life of Pi* on this – or, quite frankly, *The Hobbit* or *Lincoln* –

but that theatre set that magically transformed into

an entire bloody Tolstoy novel

is just too jaw-dropping not to predict.

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

Anna Karenina

Les Misérables

Lincoln

Mirror Mirror

Snow White & the Huntsman

Fun as it is to imagine a battle royale between dueling Snow Whites, I'm pretty certain another fictional lady has this one in the bag.

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BEST SOUND EDITING

Argo

Django Unchained

Life of Pi

Skyfall

Zero Dark Thirty

A hunch based solely on the presumption that three Oscars for *Argo* won't be deemed enough.

BEST SOUND MIXING

Argo

Les Misérables

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Skyfall

Nominated musicals almost always win this category, and will likely continue to even though I know the *Les Mis* songs by heart and *still* couldn't comprehend all the lyrics to that opening number.



BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Life of Pi

Marvel's The Avengers

Prometheus

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Snow White & the Huntsman

Tony the tiger. I mean, *Oscar* the tiger.

BEST MAKEUP & HAIRSTYLING

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Hitchcock

Les Misérables

The Hobbit feels too "been there, awarded that." Anthony Hopkins looked less like Hitch than like a marshmallow with eyes. *Les Mis* it is, then.

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Inocente

Kings Point

Mondays at Racine

Open Heart

Redemption

Missing teens, dying seniors, cancer patients, surgery in Rwanda, America's economic crisis ... welcome to the Academy Awards' annual happy-fun-time category! What say we go with missing teens this year?

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BEST LIVE-ACTION SHORT

Asad

Buzkashi Boys

Curfew

Death of a Shadow (Dood van een Schaduw)

Henry

A hunch based solely on *Curfew* being the category's one English-language nominee. Hey, if I can be lazy, Oscar voters can, too!



BEST ANIMATED SHORT

Adam & Dog

Fresh Guacamole

Head Over Heels

Maggie Simpson in "The Longest Daycare"

Paperman

Disney's charming black-and-white entry will likely take it, and *Adam & Dog* totally deserves it. But if, through some miracle, this award's presenter exclaims, "And the Oscar goes to ...

Ben Affleck

!", I won't be the least bit surprised.

For an analysis of the tricky Best Picture, Director, Actress, and Supporting Actor races, visit "[Oscar-a-a-ziness](#)

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