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Oscars Predictions: Best Actress – Does Emily Blunt Finally Have Her Academy Vehicle and Will Queen Meryl Crash the Party?

By Clayton Davis

12



Photo courtesy of Bleecker Street

Variety's Awards Circuit is home to the official predictions for the upcoming Oscars from Film Awards Editor Clayton Davis. Following Academy Awards history, buzz, news, reviews and sources, the Oscar predictions are updated regularly with the current year's contenders in all categories. Variety's Awards Circuit Prediction schedule consists of four phases, running all year long: Draft, Pre-Season, Regular Season and Post Season. Eligibility calendar and dates of awards will determine how long each phase lasts and will be displayed next to revision date.

*To see all the latest predictions, of all the categories, in one place, visit **THE COLLECTIVE**.*

BEST ACTRESS

UPDATED: Oct. 15, 2020 (PRE-SEASON)

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New additions include Emily Blunt (“Wild Mountain Thyme”), Katherine Waterson (“The World to Come”), Meryl Streep (“The Prom”), Ciara Bravo (“Cherry”), Carrie Coon (“The Nest”) and Robin Wright (“Land”).

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New 2021 Oscars Predictions: All Awards Categories

† = *no release date scheduled / could be delayed / may not be eligible*
†† = *could be campaigned in lead or supporting categories / original or adapted screenplay categories*





Quantrell D. Colbert

AND THE PREDICTED NOMINEES ARE:

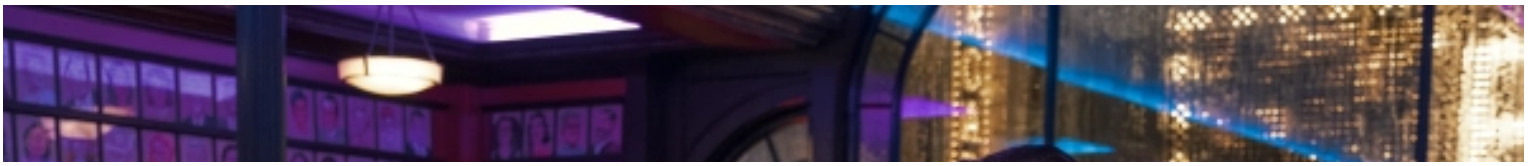
1. **Frances McDormand**
   "Nomadland" (Searchlight Pictures)

2. **Vanessa Kirby**†
   "PIeces of a Woman" (Netflix)

3. **Viola Davis**
   "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" (Netflix)

4. **Carey Mulligan**
   "Promising Young Woman" (Focus Features)

5. **Jennifer Hudson**
   "Respect" (United Artists Releasing)





MELINDA SUE GORDON/NETFLIX

NEXT IN LINE CONTENDERS:

6. **Michelle Pfeiffer**
   "French Exit" (Sony Pictures Classics)

7. **Meryl Streep††**
   "The Prom" (Netflix)

8. **Andra Day**
   "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" (Paramount Pictures)

9. **Rashida Jones**
   "On the Rocks" (Apple TV Plus)

10. **Kate Winslet**
    "Ammonite" (Neon)



Courtesy of Sea Change Media

TOP-TIER AWARDS CONTENDERS:

11. **Julia Garner**
"The Assistant" (Bleecker Street)

12. **Rachel Brosnahan**†
"I'm Your Woman" (Amazon Studios)

13. **Jessie Buckley**
"I'm Thinking of Ending Things" (Netflix)

14. **Sophia Loren**
"The Life Ahead" (Netflix)

15. **Emily Blunt**
"Wild Mountain Thyme" (Bleecker Street)

"Minari" (A24)

17. **Elisabeth Moss**
"Shirley" (Neon)

18. **Amy Adams**
"Hillbilly Elegy" (Netflix)

19. **Ciara Bravo**
"Cherry" (Apple TV Plus)

20. **Katherine Waterston**†
"The World to Come" (Bleecker Street)



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

21. **Sienna Miller**†
"Wander Darkly" (Lionsgate)

22. **Clare Dunne**†
"Herself" (Amazon Studios)

23. **Cristin Milotti**
"Palm Springs" (Hulu/Neon)

24. **Sidney Flanigan**
"Never Rarely Sometimes Always" (Focus Features)

25. **Nicole Beharie**
"Miss Juneteenth" (Vertical Entertainment)

26. **Elisabeth Moss**
"The Invisible Man" (Universal Pictures)

27. **Rosamund Pike**
"Radioactive" (Amazon Studios)

28. **Lily James**
"Rebecca" (Netflix)

29. **Radha Blank**
"The 40-Year-Old-Version" (Netflix)

30. **Haley Bennett**
"Swallow" (IFC Films)



Photo courtesy of IFC Films

MORE AWARDS CONTENDERS:

31. **Julianne Moore**
"The Glorias" (Roadside Attractions)

32. **Yiefi Liu**
"Mulan" (Disney Plus)

33. **Lesley Manville**
"Ordinary Love" (Bleecker Street)

34. **Zazie Beetz**
"Nine Days" (Sony Pictures Classics)

35. **Annette Bening**
"Hope Gap" (Roadside Attractions)

"The Nest" (IFC Films)

37. **Anya Taylor-Joy**
"Emma." (Focus Features)

38. **Jo Ellen Pellman**
"The Prom" (Netflix)

39. **Eliza Scanlen**
"Babyteeth" (IFC Films)

40. **Robin Wright**†
"Land" (Focus Features)



Military Wives
Toronto Film Festival

- **Cathy Ang,**"Over the Moon" (Netflix)
- **Camila Cabello,**"Cinderella" (Sony Pictures)
- **Jessica Chastain,**"The 355" (Universal Pictures)
- **Hong Chau,**"Driveways" (FilmRise)
- **Elizabeth Debicki,**"The Burnt Orange Heresy" (Bleecker Street)
- **Beanie Feldstein,**"How to Build a Girl" (IFC Films)
- **Tina Fey,**"Soul" (Pixar)
- **Gal Gadot,**"Wonder Woman 1984" (Warner Bros.)†
- **Anne Hathaway,**"The Witches" (HBO Max)
- **Zainab Jah,**"Farewell Amor" (Wavelength Productions)
- **Abbi Jacobson,**"Connected" (Sony Pictures)
- **Riley Keough,**"The Lodge" (Neon)
- **Diane Lane,**"Let Him Go" (Focus Features)
- **Jennifer Lopez,**"Marry Me" (Universal Pictures)
- **Lena Olin,**"The Artist's Wife" (Strand Releasing)
- **Issa Rae,**"The Photograph" (Universal Pictures)
- **Margot Robbie,**"Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)" (Warner Bros.)
- **Keri Russell,**"Antlers" (Searchlight Pictures)
- **Amy Ryan,**"Lost Girls" (Netflix)
- **Kristen Stewart,**"Happiest Season" (Sony Pictures)
- **Meryl Streep,**"Let Them All Talk" (HBO Max)†
- **Charlize Theron,**"The Old Guard" (Netflix)
- **Kristin Scott Thomas,**"Military Wives" (Lionsgate)
- **Jacki Weaver,**"Stage Mother" (Momentum Pictures)
- **Evan Rachel Wood,**"Kajillionaire" (Focus Features)

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The **Academy Awards**, better known as the **Oscars** is Hollywood's most prestigious artistic award in the film industry. The most awarded actress is Katharine Hepburn with four wins over 12 nominations. Meryl Streep holds the record for the most nominations in best actress with 17 individual nominations with two wins for "Sophie's Choice" and "The Iron Lady."

Academy Awards Predictions (All Categories)

- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Picture
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Director

- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Supporting Actor
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Supporting Actress
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Original Screenplay
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Adapted Screenplay
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Animated Feature
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Production Design
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Cinematography
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Costume Design
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Film Editing
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Makeup and Hairstyling
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Sound
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Visual Effects
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Original Score
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Original Song
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Documentary Feature
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best International Feature *[coming soon]*
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Animated Short *[coming soon]*
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Documentary Short *[coming soon]*
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Live-Action Short *[coming soon]*

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