Oscars Predictions: Best Original Screenplay – 'Judas and the Black Messiah' Waiting in the Wings?

Clayton Davis Oct 29, 2020 12:18am PT

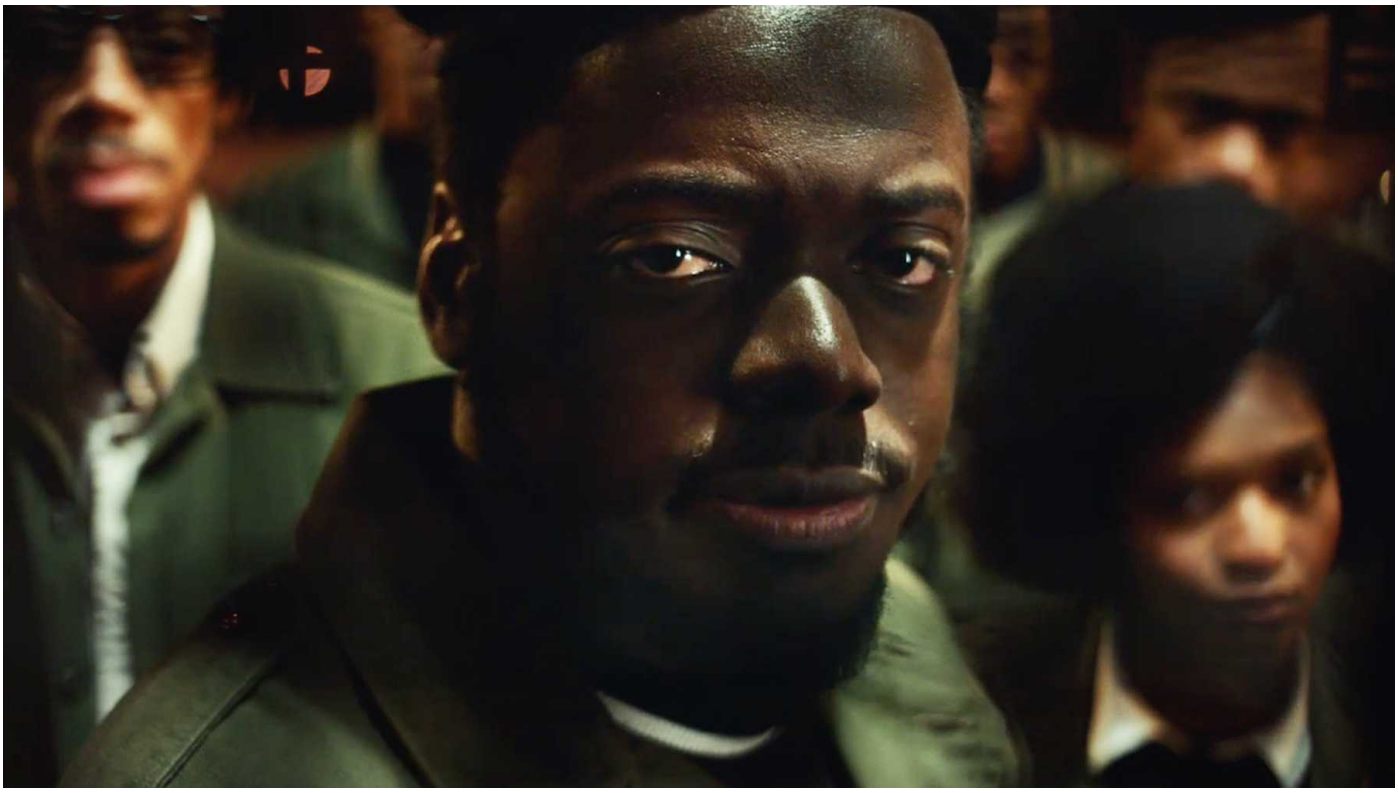


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

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.

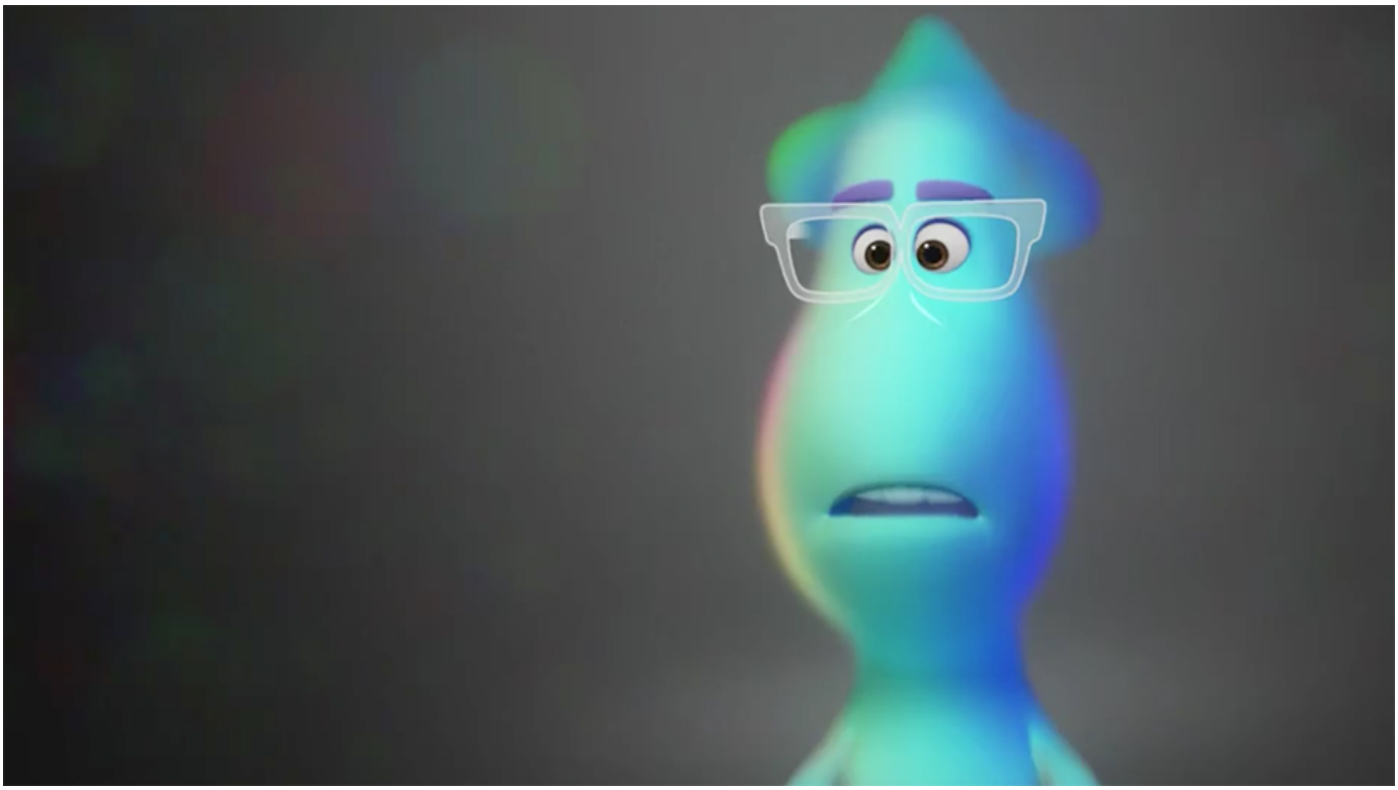
To see all the latest predictions, of all the categories, in one place, visit ***THE COLLECTIVE****.*

2021 OSCARS PREDICTIONS: BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

UPDATED: Oct. 29, 2020 (PRE-SEASON)

"Judas and the Black Messiah" move up on the charts while "Promising Young Woman" and "Palm Springs" hold on strong and hope to find an opening during the season.

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



Courtesy of Disney

AND THE PREDICTED NOMINEES ARE:

1. "**The Trial of the Chicago 7**" (Netflix)

   Aaron Sorkin

2. "**Minari**" (A24)†

   Lee Isaac Chung

3. "**Mank**" (Netflix)†

   Jack Fincher

4. "**Soul**" (Pixar)

   Pete Docter, Mike Jones, Kemp Powers

5. "**Judas and the Black Messiah**" (Warner Bros.)†

   Will Berson and Shaka King (screenplay), Keith Lucas and Kenny Lucas (story by)



Courtesy of Focus Features

NEXT IN LINE CONTENDERS:

6. **"Promising Young Woman"** (Focus Features)†
   Emerald Fennell

7. **"Palm Springs"** (Hulu/Neon)
   Andy Siara

8. **"On the Rocks"** (A24/Apple TV Plus)
   Sofia Coppola

9. **"Never Rarely Sometimes Always"** (Focus Features)
   Eliza Hittman

10. **"Da 5 Bloods"** (Netflix)
    Danny Bilson, Paul De Meo, Kevin Willmott, Spike Lee



Courtesy Toronto Film Festival

TOP-TIER AWARDS CONTENDERS:

11. **"The Forty-Year-Old Version"** (Netflix)
    Radha Blank

12. **"Supernova"** (Bleecker Street)
    Harry Mcqueen

13. **"Tenet"** (Warner Bros.)
    Christopher Nolan

14. **"Ammonite"** (Neon)
    Francis Lee

15. **"Miss Juneteenth"** (Vertical Entertainment)
    Channing Godfrey Peoples

16. **"Sound of Metal"** (Amazon Studios)

    Abraham Marder, Darius Marder (screenplay), Derek Cianfrance (story by)

17. **"Over the Moon"** (Netflix)

    Jennifer Yee McDevitt, Audrey Wells

18. **"Herself"** (Amazon Studios)†

    Malcolm Campbell, Clare Dunne

19. **"Pieces of a Woman"** (Netflix)†

    Kata Wéber

20. **"Nine Days"** (Sony Pictures Classics)

    Edson Oda



ALSO IN CONTENTION:

21. "**The Assistant**" (Bleecker Street)
    Kitty Green

22. "**I'm Your Woman**" (Amazon Studios)†
    Julia Hart, Jordan Horowitz

23. "**The Climb**" (Sony Pictures Classics)
    Michael Angelo Covino, Kyle Marvin

24. "**The World to Come**" (Bleecker Street)†
    Ron Hansen (screenplay by), Jim Shepard (screenplay and written by)

25. "**The King of Staten Island**" (Universal Pictures)
    Judd Apatow

26. "**The Invisible Man**" (Universal Pictures)
    Leigh Whannell

27. "**Wander Darkly**" (Lionsgate)†
    Tara Miele

28. "**Babyteeth**" (IFC Films)
    Rita Kalnejais

29. "**Wolfwalkers**" (Apple TV Plus)
    Jericca Cleland, Will Collins, Tomm Moore, Ross Stewart

30. "**Onward**" (Pixar)
    Dan Scanlon, Jason Headley, Keith Bunin (screenplay and

original story by)



Courtesy of Entertainment One/Joss Barratt

MORE AWARDS CONTENDERS:

31. **"Connected"** (Sony Pictures)†

    Michael Rianda, Jeff Rowe

32. **"Ordinary Love"** (Bleecker Street)

    Owen McCafferty

33. **"Kajillionaire"** (Focus Features)

    Miranda July

34. **"Sorry We Missed You"** (IFC Films)

    Paul Laverty

35. "**She Dies Tomorrow**" (Neon)

    Amy Seimetz

36. "**Military Wives**" (Bleecker Street)

    Rosanne Flynn, Rachel Tunnard

37. "**Happiest Season**" (Hulu)

    Clea DuVall, Mary Holland

38. "**The Nest**" (IFC Films)

    Sean Durkin

39. "**Bad Hair**" (Hulu)

    Justin Simien

40. "**Good Joe Bell**" (Solstice Studios)

    Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana

41. "**Palmer**" (Apple TV Plus)

    Cheryl Guerriero



Courtesy of Tobin Yellan/Hulu

UNRANKED AWARDS CONTENDERS:

- **"All my Life"** (Universal Pictures) – Todd Rosenberg
- **"Free Guy"** (20th Century Studios) – Matt Lieberman, Zak Penn†
- **"The Gentleman"** (STX Entertainment) – Guy Ritchie (screenplay and story by), Ivan Atkinson and Marn Davies (story by)
- **"Let Them All Talk"** (HBO Max) – Deborah Eisenberg†
- **"Standing Up, Falling Down"** (Shout! Factory) – Peter Hoare
- **"Swallow"** (IFC Films) – Carlo Mirabella-Davis
- **"Voyagers"** (Lionsgate) – Neil Burger
- **"The Way Back"** (Warner Bros.) – Brad Inglesby
- **"The Wretched"** (IFC Midnight) – The Pierce Brothers

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The **Academy Awards**, better known as the **Oscars** is Hollywood's most prestigious artistic award in the film industry. Since 1927, nominees and winners are selected by members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). 17 branches are represented within the near 10,000 person membership. The branches are actors, associates, casting directors, cinematographers, costume designers, directors, documentary, executives, film editors, makeup and hairstylists, marketing and public relations, members-at-large, members-at-large (artists' representatives), music, producers, production design, short films and feature animation, sound, visual effects and writers.

Academy Awards Predictions (All Categories)

- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Picture
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Director
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Actor
- 2021 Oscar Predictions: Best Actress
- 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]***