



Oscar 2020 nominations

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While there are many worthy and prestigious awards that are given out at the Oscars by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the most coveted and sought after of all these awards is the Academy Award for Best Picture. All of the films that are nominated are fascinating, interesting and very deserving of the awards they are nominated for. The films that are nominated are:

“1917” directed by Sam Mendes (Dec. 4, 2019) — Taking place during World War I, two British soldiers have received orders to cross into enemy territory to deliver a message of an ambush that could possibly save the lives of 1,600 of their comrades, including one of the soldiers’ own brother.

The scenes of the film were done in one-shot takes without taking breaks and the camera cutting between images, and the film is even edited to make the audience think and feel as if the entire film was done in one single take without cutting or switching between scenes at all. There also isn’t much dialogue in the film as well, much of the exposition comes when the soldiers get their orders and the rest of the film relies on physical and visual storytelling with sparse dialogue throughout. This combined with the one take style makes the audience feel as if they are really with the soldiers.

Something the film does is that instead of giving a clear and visible enemy for the soldiers, it instead makes their enemy more represented by time, nature and the environment. What is also great about the film is that there aren’t a lot of films that take place in or are about World War I, and this film does a very good job of portraying it in a realistic and exhilarating way.

“Ford v Ferrari” directed by James Mangold (Aug. 30, 2019) — Based on the true story of American automotive designer Carroll Shelby and British race car driver Ken Miles as they battle corporate interference, the laws of physics and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary vehicle for the Ford Motor Company. Together, they plan to compete against the race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.

The film essentially represents the basic and stereotypical set up of the basic conventional sports film setup and plot. Miles is the maverick driver wanting to push the car and himself to the limit to be the best, and Shellby is stuck in the middle trying to appease the people at Ford and control Miles. This, in a way, makes the film somewhat predictable and at times the audience can lose interest.

But the racing and car scenes are shot amazingly and give the feel of really being fast paced and exhilarating. This is great also because there aren’t a whole lot of racing movies, and the ones that do exist don’t fully execute the racing and car scenes very well, but this film does a great job portraying the feel of watching a fast paced race and also being in the car with the driver.

“Joker” directed by Todd Phillips (Oct. 4, 2019) — Failed comedian Arthur Fleck wears two masks: the one he paints for his day job as a clown, and the guise he projects in a futile attempt to feel like he’s part of the world around him. Isolated, bullied and disregarded by society, Fleck begins a slow descent into madness as he transforms into the criminal mastermind known as the Joker.

This film, in a way, transcends to be more than just a comic book movie and almost acts as a character study and holds up a mirror to society, but the added DC Comics elements make it more entertaining and interesting for fans. The film does an amazing job of making the Joker as realistic as possible by combining mental health and the treatment from society as justifiable reasoning for why Fleck does what he does and why he becomes what he becomes.

At times the film can be intense and very guttural which can upset many people or make them feel uncomfortable, but it is not done without reasoning or for gratuitous reasons. Joaquin Phoenix does an amazing job at portraying the character in such a captivating and engrossing way which makes the film that much better.

“Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” directed by Quentin Tarantino (July 26, 2019) — Actor Rick Dalton gained fame and fortune by starring in a 1950s television Western, but he’s now struggling to find meaningful work in a Hollywood that he doesn’t recognize anymore. He spends most of his time drinking and palling

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Stills from four Best Picture nominees: from left to right, “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,” “Jojo Rabbit,” “Joker” and “The Irishman.”

Photo from Den of Geek!