

Who will bring home the ‘Best Picture’ Oscar?

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around with Cliff Booth, his easy going best friend and longtime stunt double. Dalton also happens to live next door to Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate, the filmmaker and budding actress whose future will forever be altered by the members of the Manson Family.

This is Tarantino’s ninth film, making him only one film away from retiring from filmmaking, and it really shows that Tarantino has grown up and matured a lot since his starting Indie filmmaker days. This film also acts as a kind of historical revenge fantasy like “Inglorious Basterds,” another of Tarantino’s films.

The film also acts as a beautiful love letter to the old days of Hollywood with call appearances from actors of the time, references and painstakingly recreated sceneries. You can tell they were very proud of the sets they created because shots and transitions tend to drag on for too long and really makes one feel the almost three hour run time. Tarantino is an amazing filmmaker and this film is no exception, but it is not one of his best.

“Parasite” directed by Bong Joon-ho (Oct. 5, 2019) — Tells the story of the Park family, the picture of aspirational wealth, and the Kim family, rich in street smarts, but not much else, as the Kim family soon implants themselves into jobs within the Park family home. Soon, a symbiotic relationship is formed with one family providing services and the other one payment, but when a parasitic interloper threatens the Kims’s newfound comfort, a savage, underhanded battle for dominance breaks out, threatening to destroy the fragile ecosystem between the Kims and the Parks.

This film is from South Korea and is made in the language as well, but if you think that having to read subtitles is a bother or a distraction from a film, then this film will prove you wrong as it has absolutely no trouble relaying its message at all. “Parasite” is a beautifully made critique on the large societal class divide between the upper and lower classes, and it masterfully displays the extreme lengths that people may go to to gain a better life for themselves and their family.

The film starts off as one thing and then mutates into something completely different, new and original. Every step of the way the audience will be on the edge of their seats and never able to guess what will happen next as the film progresses and becomes more and more unnerving and darkly twisted.

“The Irishman” directed by Martin Scorsese (Nov. 17, 2019) — Takes place in the 1950s, and tells the true story of truck driver Frank Sheeran as he gets involved with Russell Bufalino and his Pennsylvania crime family. As Sheeran climbs up the ranks to become a top hit man, he also goes to work for Jimmy Hoffa, a powerful Teamster tied to organized crime.

This film sees the amazing return of many famous people, including Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci and Martin Scorsese to the mobster crime genre that they all help to define in the film industry.

The film works in the special effects of “deaging technology” DeNiro and Pesci throughout a good amount of the film, but, unlike some movies in the past, it doesn’t look bad or distract from the film much at all after getting used to it. Another positive aspect of this film is that it does more than tell a story of the mob while glorifying its activities, but it actually humanizes the characters and works them up to be more three-dimensional than ones in a lot of films in this genre.

“Little Women” directed by Greta Gerwig (Dec. 25, 2019) — Based on Louisa May Alcott’s novel that takes place in the years after the Civil War and tells the story of Jo March who lives in New York and makes her living as a writer, while her sister Amy studies painting

in Paris. Amy has a chance encounter with Theodore, a childhood crush who proposed to Jo but was ultimately rejected. Their oldest sibling, Meg, is married to a schoolteacher, while shy sister Beth develops a devastating illness that brings the family back together.

This film is a light and warm hearted coming of age story and also a very faithful adaptation of the novel. It very much showcases a strong and maybe even too positive bond of siblings and sisterhood. Add in great performances from a few well known actors and you have a possibly timeless film that someone of any age can enjoy.

“Jojo Rabbit” directed by Taika Waititi (Oct. 18, 2019) — Based on the novel “Caging Skies” by Christine Leunens, the film tells the story of Jojo, a lonely German boy in the Hitler Youth program who discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, Jojo must confront his blind nationalism as World War II continues to rage on.

While many people said, and continue to say, that a comedy involving Nazis and Hitler is in bad taste, this film shows that in the proper hands it can be done correctly and very well. And while much of the focus has been on the comedic aspect of the film and how it is being portrayed, the film has a much more serious, deeper and important message by showing that even the most indoctrinated people are capable of a change for the better.

“Marriage Story” directed by Noah Baumbach (Dec. 6, 2019) — Tells the story of a stage director and his actor wife’s struggle through a gruelling, coast to coast divorce while also trying to keep the family somewhat together that pushes them to their personal and creative limits.

This film takes a raw and very emotional look at the events of divorce and portrays them very realistically and impressively. What really helps make this film so vivid and amazing are the powerful performances from Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson in the main roles. This film is sure to bring out a wide range of emotions in anyone watching.

The Oscars will air live Sunday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. on ABC.



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