



Hollywood: Her Story February 2024 ENewsletter 2024 Academy Award Nominations

The Academy Award nominations have been announced! The entertainment community and film fans around the world will turn their attention to the 96th Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday, March 10, to learn who will receive the highest honors in filmmaking. How did the women in Hollywood fare this year? According to the Academy, roughly a third of all nominees are women — a three-year high.



The Academy has never had a problem nominating young actresses. In fact, seven of the ten actresses recognized this year for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress are 40 or under. (Compare this with the ten actor nominees who are all over 40, despite worthy contenders.)

The Best Actress Oscar nominees are: *Poor Things*' Emma Stone (5th nomination with one win), *Nyad*'s Annette Bening (5th nomination), *Maestro*'s Carey Mulligan (3rd nomination), and *Anatomy of a Fall*'s Sandra Hüller (1st nomination). Also with her first nomination is Lily Gladstone (*Killers of the Flower Moon*) who is the first Native American acting nominee in Academy Awards history. That means that Greta Lee (*Past Lives*), Fantasia Barrino (*The Color Purple*) and, most notably, Margot Robbie (*Barbie*) despite headlining the biggest blockbuster of 2023, were left off the list in a year that was quite good in terms of roles for women overall.



Best supporting actress has historically been the most diverse of the acting races, and this year has been no different, with actresses of color comprising the majority of the category for the fifth time in Oscar's history, all first-time nominees: *The Color Purple*'s Danielle Brooks, *The Holdovers*' Da'Vine Joy Randolph, and *Barbie*'s America Ferrera -- the first-ever nominee of Honduran descent in any Oscars category. Also nominated for her first Oscar is *Oppenheimer*'s Emily Blunt. *Nyad*'s Jodie Foster (5th nomination with 2 wins) is an LGBTQ actress who played an LGBTQ character. GLAAD issued a statement reminding "the industry at large that queer stories resonate with audiences at large and are worthy of celebration on a global stage." GLAAD also acknowledged Gladstone, who uses she/they pronouns in accordance with many non-gendered Native languages.



Six of the ten movies that are nominated for Best Picture include female producers: *Past Lives* (2 nominations), *Anatomy of a Fall* (5 nominations), *Maestro* (7 nominations), *Barbie* (8 nominations), *Poor Things* (11 nominations), and *Oppenheimer* which is the front-runner with 13 nominations.

For the first time in Oscar history, three of the 10 Best Picture nominees were helmed by women — Justine Triet's *Anatomy of a Fall*, Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*, and Celine Song's *Past Lives* — but only Triet received a nomination for best director. This is the ninth nomination of a woman for Best Director in Oscar's 96 years. With her billion-dollar blockbuster, *Barbie*, Greta Gerwig set a Hollywood record for the highest-grossing movie ever directed by a woman. It was, therefore, surprising that



Gerwig didn't score a Best Director nomination, although she did become the first director to have her first three films earn Best Picture nods. Hillary Clinton wrote on X, "Greta & Margot, while it can sting to win the box office but not take home the gold, your millions of fans love you. You're both so much more than Kenough."



Traditionally women shine in the Best Costume Design category and the Best Makeup and Hairstyling category, which they continued to do this year with five nominations in each. Also a strong category is Production Design with four nominations this year. Animated Feature, Animated Short, and Documentary Feature each had four films with female nominees, followed by three films in the Documentary Short category.



Justine Triet (*Anatomy of a Fall*), Celine Song (*Past Lives*), and Samy Burch (*May December*) had nominations for Writing - Original Screenplay. Only one woman was nominated for the Writing - Adapted Screenplay category - Greta Gerwig for *Barbie*. Although Gerwig wanted to be placed in the Original Screenplay category, *Barbie* was placed in the Adapted Screenplay category because it was based on pre-existing characters - plastic dolls. (Compare this with *Oppenheimer's* Adapted Screenplay nomination whose source material was a 721-page Pulitzer Prize-winning book.)



Two films had female filmmakers in the Live Action Short category. Two women were nominated in the Editing category - Thelma Schoonmaker (*Killers of the Flower Moon*) and Jennifer Lame (*Oppenheimer*). Schoonmaker now has the most film editing nominations of anyone (nine) and if she wins in 2024, she will have the most editing wins (four). We like to watch Diane Warren in the Music - Original Song category. She received her 16th Oscar nomination, and still no wins (although in 2023, she was awarded an Honorary Oscar), with "The Fire Inside" from *Flamin' Hot*. (Maybe this year?) Along with Warren in this category is Billie Eilish for "What Was I Made For?" from *Barbie*.



Women received only one nomination in Music - Original Score and in Visual Effects (as well as Best Director and Writing - Adapted Screenplay). There were no nominations for women in the Cinematography, Sound, and International Feature categories.



Six couples scored his-and-her nominations this year. They included the *Oppenheimer* director Christopher Nolan and his producer wife, Emma Thomas; the *Anatomy of a Fall* director Justine Triet and her partner and co-writer, Arthur Harari; the *May December* co-writers Samy Burch and Alex Mechanik; and Jared and Jerusha Hess, the directors of the animated short *Ninety-Five Senses*. *Barbie* was responsible for the other two pairs, with Gerwig and her husband, Noah Baumbach, nominated in the adapted-screenplay category and Margot Robbie and her husband, Tom Ackerley, earning nominations as the film's producers.

For a complete list of all the women who have been nominated for and who have won Oscars, by year and by category, please go to our website - www.hollywoodherstory.com. You can watch on March 10 to see who takes home the Oscars!

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman,

costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

Jill S. Tietjen and Barbara Bridges

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