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Viktor Prasil, Markus Stemler, Frank Kruse and Lars Ginzler pose with their awards for 'All Quiet on the Western Front' during the BAFTA British Academy Film Awards ceremony. — AFP photos



British former triathlete-turned-writer Lesley Paterson and screenwriter Ian Stokell pose with the award for Best adapted screenplay for 'All Quiet on the Western Front'.

BAFTA RED CARPET ROLLS OUT FOR 'ALL QUIET' AND 'BANSHEES'



German movie director and screenwriter Edward Berger poses with the award for Best director for 'All Quiet on the Western Front'.

A gut-wrenching war movie from Germany and pitch-black Irish comedy were the big winners as British cinema handed out its annual BAFTA awards on Sunday, with less than a month to go to the Oscars. With 14 nods, German director Edward Berger's "All Quiet on the Western Front" started the night as the joint most-nominated foreign-language film in the BAFTA academy's 76-year history.

The Netflix drama triumphed with seven awards, including best film and best director for Berger, as well as original score and cinematography, in the buildup to the Academy Awards on March 12. Berger credited his daughter Matilda for turning his "doubts into trust", after she told him he had to make a movie of Erich Maria Remarque's powerful 1929 novel, which she was reading in school. Producer Malte Grunert said the British



(From left) British movie producers Pete Czernin, Graham Broadbent, Irish actress Kerry Condon and British-Irish screenwriter and movie director Martin McDonagh pose with their awards for 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.

plaudits for a German-language film were "just incredible", and it has also amassed nine Oscar nominations.

With a nod to modern-day conflicts including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he said that the film and novel showed that "war is anything but an adventure". The German movie had tied with Ang Lee's martial arts drama "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon", co-starring Michelle Yeoh, which also earned 14 BAFTA nominations in 2001.

Yeoh was nominated for best actress this year as a worn-down laundromat owner who transforms into a high-kicking heroine, in the wildly inventive "Everything Everywhere All At Once". Yeoh's kung-fu science-fiction film received 10 BAFTA nominations, but only won one, for editing. She lost out to Cate Blanchett for her portrayal of a troubled classical music conductor in "Tar". "This is extraordinary. I didn't prepare anything (to say) because it's been such an extraordinary year for women," the Australian actress said, convinced that the award would go to one of her fellow nominees.

Making sadness fun

Also on 10 nominations, but faring far better in London, was the Irish tragicomedy "The Banshees of Inisherin" co-starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson. Its four wins included best supporting actor for Barry Keoghan and best supporting actress for Kerry Condon—who at first was not given the prize after a miscommunication on stage.

"Banshees" director Martin McDonagh, one of the rare UK nominees for this year's top gongs, did win "best British film" despite the heavily Irish profile of "Banshees", and best original screenplay. "Making a sad film shouldn't be so much fun," he said.

Beating out the favourite Farrell, US actor Austin Butler won the leading actor prize for his all-out portrayal of the king of rock and roll in "Elvis". "This means the world to me," Butler told the ceremony, still using the Presley drawl that he learned for Baz Luhrmann's movie.



German pianist and music composer Volker Bertelmann poses with the award for Original score for 'All Quiet on the Western Front'.



British-Irish screenwriter and movie director Martin McDonagh poses with the award for Best original screenplay for 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.



Casting directors Nikki Barrett and Denise Chamian pose with the awards for Best casting for 'Elvis'.



US-Australian actress Cate Blanchett poses with the award for Best leading actress for her role in 'Tar'.



Irish actress Kerry Condon poses with the award for Best supporting actress for her role in 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.



Mexican movie director Guillermo del Toro (second right), Animated movie director Mark Gustafson (second left), Movie producer Gary Ungar (left) and movie producer Alex Bulky (right) pose with the award for Best animated film for 'Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio'.



Irish actress Kerry Condon poses with the award for Best supporting actress for her role in 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.



British movie directors Tom Berkeley and Ross White pose with the award for Best British short film for 'An Irish Goodbye'.