



British actor Rizwan Ahmed (L) and US actress Allison Williams announce the nominees for Best Picture during the 95th Academy Awards nominations announcement at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, California, on January 24, 2023. — AFP photos



British actor Rizwan Ahmed (L) and US actress Allison Williams (C) are welcomed by Janet Yang, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, during the 95th Academy Awards nominations announcement at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater.

# 'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE' TOPS OSCAR NOMS WITH 11

Surreal sci-fi "Everything Everywhere All at Once" topped the Oscar nominations Tuesday with 11, as Hollywood formally kicked off the race to the all-important Academy Awards. It was followed by German anti-war movie "All Quiet on the Western Front" and Irish black comedy "The Banshees of Inisherin," which each received nine nominations from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

As expected, Academy voters also rewarded blockbusters such as Tom Cruise's "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" for helping to bring audiences back to movie theaters after the pandemic. Both were nominated for best picture, Tinseltown's most coveted prize, although another crowd-pleaser—"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"—missed out.

The remaining best picture slots went to rock-and-roll biopic "Elvis," Steven Spielberg's quasi-memoir "The Fabelmans," Cate Blanchett's latest toud-force "Tar," Cannes festival winner "Triangle of Sadness" and literary adaptation "Women Talking."

Absurdist indie film "Everything Everywhere All at Once" portrays a Chinese-American immigrant family undergoing a tax audit, who are quickly drawn into an inter-dimensional battle to save the multiverse from a powerful villain. It became a huge word of mouth hit and has grossed over \$100 million worldwide.

The film earned four acting nominations for its cast, including best supporting actor for Ke Huy Quan—who appeared as a child in "Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom" almost four decades ago—and best lead actress for Michelle Yeoh.

Yeoh becomes just the second Asian woman ever nominated for lead actress in 95 years of Oscars history, and will compete with double Oscar-winner Blanchett for the prize. But there was controversy elsewhere in the lead actress category, as no Black women were nominated, despite Viola Davis ("The Woman King") and Danielle Deadwyler ("Till") having been seen as frontrunners.

Instead the remaining slots went to Ana de Armas ("Blonde"), Michelle Williams ("The Fabelmans") and Andrea Riseborough for tiny indie film "To Leslie," which mounted an unusual, late celebrity-backed campaign for its star.

### International voters

In the other individual categories, Brendan Fraser ("The Whale"), Colin Farrell ("The Banshees of Inisherin") and Austin Butler ("Elvis") are clear favorites for best actor. The remaining nominations went to Paul Mescal in "Aftersun" and Bill

Nighy in "Living." In the best supporting actress category, Angela Bassett became the first star in a Marvel superhero movie to ever earn an Oscar acting nomination with "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Spielberg made the best director short-list, but no women were nominated in the category, sparking quick social media backlash. Speaking before the nominations, Variety senior awards editor Clayton Davis told AFP this was one of the more unpredictable Oscars races, in part due to the recent massive growth in the number of international Academy voters.

Those members have been credited with surprises such as South Korea's "Parasite" winning best picture in 2020. This year they got behind "All Quiet on the Western Front," which is distributed by Netflix. The World War I drama "All Quiet on the Western Front" has built major momentum, scooping a massive 14 nods last week for Britain's BAFTAs.

### 'Saved movies'

Actors Riz Ahmed ("Sound of Metal") and Allison Williams ("Girls") unveiled the Oscar nominations early on Tuesday

morning from Los Angeles. Television ratings for award shows including the Oscars have trended downwards, as Academy voters in recent years have veered toward honoring lesser-known indie hits like "Nomadland" and "CODA."

Many in the industry were hoping for a healthy spread of nominations among 2022's crowd-pleasing sequels, which were sorely needed as giants such as Cineworld, the world's second biggest cinema chain, filed for bankruptcy protection.

## Oscar nominees in main categories

Here are the nominees in key categories for the 95th Academy Awards, to be handed out in Los Angeles on March 12. Multiverse sci-fi smash "Everything Everywhere All at Once" topped the list with 11 nominations, followed by Irish dark comedy "The Banshees of Inisherin" and World War I flick "All Quiet on the Western Front" at nine.

### Best picture

"All Quiet on the Western Front"  
"Avatar: The Way of Water"  
"The Banshees of Inisherin"  
"Elvis"  
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"  
"The Fabelmans"  
"Tar"  
"Top Gun: Maverick"  
"Triangle of Sadness"  
"Women Talking"

### Best director

Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"  
Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"  
Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"  
Todd Field, "Tar"  
Ruben Ostlund, "Triangle of Sadness"

### Best actor

Austin Butler, "Elvis"  
Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"  
Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"  
Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"  
Bill Nighy, "Living"

### Best actress

Cate Blanchett, "Tar"  
Ana de Armas, "Blonde"  
Andrea Riseborough, "To Leslie"  
Michelle Williams, "The Fabelmans"  
Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

### Best supporting actor

Brendan Gleeson, "The Banshees of Inisherin"  
Brian Tyree Henry, "Causeway"  
Judd Hirsch, "The Fabelmans"  
Barry Keoghan, "The Banshees of Inisherin"  
Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

### Best supporting actress

Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"  
Hong Chau, "The Whale"  
Kerry Condon, "The Banshees of Inisherin"  
Jamie Lee Curtis, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"  
Stephanie Hsu, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

### Best international feature film

"All Quiet on the Western Front" (Germany)  
"Argentina, 1985" (Argentina)  
"Close" (Belgium)  
"EO" (Poland)  
"The Quiet Girl" (Ireland)

### Best animated feature

"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"  
"Marcel the Shell With Shoes On"  
"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish"  
"The Sea Beast"  
"Turning Red"

### Best documentary feature

"All That Breathes"  
"All the Beauty and the Bloodshed"  
"Fire of Love"  
"A House Made of Splinters"  
"Navalny"  
Films with seven or more nominations  
"Everything Everywhere All at Once" - 11  
"All Quiet on the Western Front" - 9  
"The Banshees of Inisherin" - 9  
"Elvis" - 8  
"The Fabelmans" - 7. — AFP



US actor Tom Cruise arrives in a helicopter to the world premiere of "Top Gun: Maverick!" aboard the USS Midway in San Diego, California.

James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar: The Way of Water," which sailed past the \$2 billion mark globally last weekend, earned four nominations including best picture, production design, sound and visual effects.

"Top Gun: Maverick," Cruise's long-awaited sequel to his huge 1986 hit which came out in May during highly uncertain times for movie theaters and earned around \$1.5 billion, received six-best picture, editing, song, sound, visual effects and adapted screenplay.

"That's the one that feels like it could actually win best picture," said Davis, before the announcement. "What better story the day after the Oscars air, than that the movie that saved movies was named the best movie? That's a good story to tell." — AFP

## Main line-up at Berlin film festival

The 73rd Berlinale, Europe's first major film festival of the year, starts next month with new movies from around the world screening in the main showcase. Eighteen pictures will vie for the Golden and Silver Bear prizes at the 11-day event beginning on February 16, with a jury led by US actor Kristen Stewart.

Fifteen of the features in the main showcase are world premieres and one is a feature debut. Six of the movies in competition are by women and three of the directors identify as non-binary. The Berlinale Special section features other notable films that will have gala screenings.

Here are their titles, directors and production countries.

### Main competition

"20.000 especies de abejas" (20,000 Species of Bees), Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren (Spain)  
"Bai Ta Zhi Guang" (The Shadowless Tower), Zhang Lu (China)  
"Bis ans Ende der Nacht" (Till the End of the Night), Christoph Hochhausler (Germany)  
"BlackBerry", Matt Johnson (Canada)  
"Disco Boy", Giacomo Abbruzzese with Franz Rogowski (France/Italy/Poland/Belgium)

"Le grand chariot" (The Plough), Philippe Garrel with Louis Garrel, Esther Garrel, Lena Garrel (France/Switzerland)  
"Ingeborg Bachmann - Reise in die Wueste" (Ingeborg Bachmann - Journey into the Desert), Margarethe von Trotta with Vicky Krieps (Switzerland/Austria/Germany/Luxembourg)  
"Irgendwann werden wir uns alles erzahlen" (Someday We'll Tell Each Other Everything), Emily Atef (Germany)  
"Limbo", Ivan Sen with Simon Baker and Rob Collins (Australia)  
"Mal Viver" (Bad Living), Joao Canijo (Portugal/France)

"Manodrome", John Trengove with Jesse Eisenberg, Adrien Brody, Odessa Young (Britain/US)  
"Music", Angela Schanelec (Germany/France/Serbia)  
"Past Lives", Celine Song (US)  
"Roter Himmel" (Afire), Christian Petzold with Thomas Schubert, Paula Beer (Germany)  
"Sur l'Adamant" (On the Adamant), Nicolas Philibert, (France/Japan)  
"The Survival of Kindness", Rolf de Heer (Australia)  
"Suzume", Makoto Shinkai (Japan)  
"Totem", Lila Aviles

(Mexico/Denmark/France)

### Berlinale Special

"Golda", Guy Nattiv with Helen Mirren, Camille Cottin, Liev Schreiber (Britain)  
"Kiss the Future", Nenad Cicin-Sain (US/Ireland)  
"L'ultima notte di Amore" (Last Night of Amore), Andrea Di Stefano (Italy)  
"Seneca" (Seneca - On the Creation of Earthquakes), Robert Schwentke with John Malkovich, Louis Hofmann, Geraldine Chaplin (Germany/Morocco)  
"She Came to Me", Rebecca Miller with Peter Dinklage, Marisa Tomei, Joanna

Kulig, Brian d'Arcy James, Anne Hathaway (US)

"Sonne und Beton" (Sun and Concrete), David Wnendt (Germany)  
"Superpower" Sean Penn, Aaron Kaufman with Sean Penn, Volodymyr Zelensky (US)  
"TAR", Todd Field with Cate Blanchett, Nina Hoss, Noemie Merlant (US)  
Untitled Boris Becker Documentary by Alex Gibney with Boris Becker (Britain/US). — AFP



A craftswoman works on the production of a Berlinale Bear trophy of the upcoming 73rd International Film Festival Berlinale at the Noack foundry in Berlin.



Berlinale Executive Director Mariette Rissenbeek (R), Berlinale Artistic Director Carlo Chatrian (L) and fine art foundry co-leader Hermann Noack (C) pose behind Berlinale Bear trophies of the upcoming 73rd International Film Festival Berlinale that are produced at the Noack foundry in Berlin. — AFP photos