

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- ▶ Kathy Bates (*Richard Jewell*)
- ▶ Laura Dern (*Marriage Story*)
- ▶ Scarlett Johansson (*Jojo Rabbit*)
- ▶ Florence Pugh (*Little Women*)
- ▶ Margot Robbie (*Bombshell*)

SNUBBED: I know a lot of folks think Jennifer Lopez got snubbed here, but this is one time where I'm glad the Academy ignored the hype and left her out. She can be a good, even great, actress at times, but I didn't care for *Hustlers*, and didn't think her work was award-worthy. Robbie doesn't belong here for *Bombshell*; she should've been nominated for *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood* (where she speaks plenty of dialogue, thank you very much). I would've dropped Kathy Bates for Taylor Russell in *Waves*.

Laura Dern was my year-end pick in this category, and she's going to win.

SHOULD AND WILL WIN: Dern

BEST DIRECTOR

- ▶ Martin Scorsese (*The Irishman*)
- ▶ Todd Phillips (*Joker*)
- ▶ Sam Mendes (*1917*)
- ▶ Quentin Tarantino (*Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*)
- ▶ Bong Joon Ho (*Parasite*)

SNUBS: So, there's a lot of talk out there that Greta Gerwig was snubbed for *Little Women*, and that female directors were snubbed in general. I really liked what Gerwig did with *Little Women*, but I do think it ultimately didn't come together as a masterpiece. (A lot of that had to do with the confusing time jump choice.) It was a little sloppy to my eye but, undoubtedly, a highly entertaining and original take on a classic.

As for other women directors, I can only speak here for my personal take on the year in film, and the first female director to show up on my Top 10 was Marielle Heller at number eight with *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, followed by Alma Har'el at number nine with *Honey Boy*. Gerwig, LuLu Wang (*The Farewell*) and Oliva Wilde (*Booksmart*) were at 16, 18 and 19. All very good movies, all very good work, but the top seven films, in my opinion, were by dudes, and there are only five nominees in this category.

The nine films nominated for Best Picture do not match my personal list. This is how I rank the top 5 nominated films: 1. *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood* 2. *Marriage Story* 3.

1917 4. *The Irishman* and 5. *Ford v Ferrari*. So, Gerwig doesn't crack my top 5 either.

The director should be awarded with the producers of the Best Picture winner, and this category should be dropped. Actually, when a picture wins, the award should be presented to the person who directed it, not the one who bankrolled it. Also, all of those women I just mentioned should've been nominated before Todd Phillips (*Joker*) and Bong Joon Ho (*Parasite*) because their movies were better.

There have been years when a woman deserved a nomination and got snubbed. Kathryn Bigelow—who is, in fact, the only woman to ever win the award, for *The Hurt Locker*—should've been nominated for *Zero Dark Thirty* in 2013. Ava DuVernay getting snubbed in 2014 for *Selma* was a travesty.

What do you want me to say? The

Oscars suck, and they've always sucked.

The only thing keeping this award out of Tarantino's hands is his big mouth. He tends to rankle some of the voting elders. If Tarantino loses, it probably goes to Sam Mendes.

SHOULD AND WILL WIN: Tarantino

OTHER PREDICTIONS:

- ▶ Animated Film: *Toy Story 4*
- ▶ Cinematography: *1917*
- ▶ Costume Design: *Little Women*
- ▶ Documentary (Feature): *American Factory*
- ▶ Documentary (Short): *In the Absence*
- ▶ Film Editing: *Parasite*
- ▶ International Feature Film: *Parasite*
- ▶ Makeup and Hairstyling: *Bombshell*
- ▶ Music (Original Score): *Marriage Story*
- ▶ Music (Original Song): "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from *Rocketman*
- ▶ Production Design: *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*
- ▶ Short Film (Animated): *Memorable*
- ▶ Short Film (Live Action): *A Sister*
- ▶ Sound Editing: *1917*
- ▶ Sound Mixing: *1917*
- ▶ Visual Effects: *1917*
- ▶ Adapted Screenplay: *Little Women*
- ▶ Original Screenplay: *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? THE OSCARS SUCK. AND THEY'VE ALWAYS SUCKED.

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