

**81ST ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS®**  
**OSCAR® NOMINATIONS FACT SHEET**

**Best Motion Picture of the Year:**

***The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*** (Paramount and Warner Bros.) [Produced by Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall and Ceán Chaffin.] - This is the sixth nomination in this category for Kathleen Kennedy. Her previous nominations were for *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *The Color Purple* (1985), *The Sixth Sense* (1999), *Seabiscuit* (2003) and *Munich* (2005).

This is the fifth nomination in this category for Frank Marshall. His previous nominations were for *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *The Color Purple* (1985), *The Sixth Sense* (1999) and *Seabiscuit* (2003).

This is the first nomination for Ceán Chaffin.

***Frost/Nixon*** (Universal) [Produced by Brian Grazer, Ron Howard and Eric Fellner.] - This is Brian Grazer's fourth nomination and the third in this category. His other Best Picture nominations were for *Apollo 13* (1995) and the Oscar-winning *A Beautiful Mind* (2001). He received a writing nomination for *Splash* (1984).

This is Ron Howard's fourth nomination and the second in this category. He won Best Picture and Directing Oscars® for *A Beautiful Mind* (2001). He is also nominated in the Directing category this year.

This is the third nomination in this category for Eric Fellner, who was previously nominated for *Elizabeth* (1998) and *Atonement* (2007).

***Milk*** (Focus Features) [Produced by Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen.] - This is the second nomination for both Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen, who won the Best Picture Oscar in 1999 for *American Beauty*.

***The Reader*** (The Weinstein Company) [Nominees to be determined.]

***Slumdog Millionaire*** (Fox Searchlight) [Produced by Christian Colson.] - This is the first nomination for Christian Colson.

**Achievement in Directing:**

***The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*** - **David Fincher** - This is his first nomination.

***Frost/Nixon*** - **Ron Howard** - This is his fourth nomination and the second in this category. He won Best Picture and Directing Oscars for *A Beautiful Mind* (2001). He is also nominated in the Best Picture category this year.

***Milk*** - **Gus Van Sant** - This is his second nomination in this category. His previous nomination was for *Good Will Hunting* (1997).

***The Reader*** - **Stephen Daldry** - This is his third nomination in this category. His other nominations were for *Billy Elliot* (2000) and *The Hours* (2002).

***Slumdog Millionaire*** - **Danny Boyle** - This is his first nomination.

### **Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role:**

**Richard Jenkins** (AWalter@ in *The Visitor*) - This is his first nomination.

**Frank Langella** (ARichard Nixon@ in *Frost/Nixon*) - This is his first nomination.

**Sean Penn** (AHarvey Milk@ in *Milk*) - This is his fifth nomination in this category. He was previously nominated for *Dead Man Walking* (1995), *Sweet and Lowdown* (1999) and *I Am Sam* (2001), and won the award in 2003 for his performance in *Mystic River*.

**Brad Pitt** (ABenjamin Button@ in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) - This is his second nomination and the first in this category. He was nominated in the supporting category for his performance in *12 Monkeys* (1995).

**Mickey Rourke** (ARandy@ in *The Wrestler*) - This is his first nomination.

### **Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role:**

**Josh Brolin** (ADan White@ in *Milk*) - This is his first nomination.

**Robert Downey Jr.** (AKirk Lazarus@ in *Tropic Thunder*) - This is his second nomination and the first in this category. He was nominated for his leading role in *Chaplin* (1992).

**Philip Seymour Hoffman** (AFather Brendan Flynn@ in *Doubt*) - This is his third nomination and the second in this category. He won an Oscar for his leading role in *Capote* (2005) and was nominated last year for his supporting role in *Charlie Wilson's War*.

**Heath Ledger** (AJoker@ in *The Dark Knight*) - This is his second nomination and the first in this category. He was nominated for his leading role in *Brokeback Mountain* (2005). This nomination is posthumous, as he died January 22, 2008.

**Michael Shannon** (AJohn Givings@ in *Revolutionary Road*) - This is his first nomination.

### **Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role:**

**Anne Hathaway** (AKym@ in *Rachel Getting Married*) - This is her first nomination.

**Angelina Jolie** (AChristine Collins@ in *Changeling*) - This is her second nomination and the first in this category. She won an Oscar for her supporting role in *Girl, Interrupted* (1999).

**Melissa Leo** (ARay Eddy@ in *Frozen River*) - This is her first nomination.

**Meryl Streep** (ASister Aloysius Beauvier@ in *Doubt*) - This is her fifteenth Academy Award® nomination and the twelfth in this category. Her other leading role nominations were for *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981), *Sophie's Choice* (1982), for which she won the Oscar, *Silkwood* (1983), *Out of Africa* (1985), *Ironweed* (1987), *A Cry in the Dark* (1988), *Postcards from the Edge* (1990), *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995), *One True Thing* (1998), *Music of the Heart* (1999) and *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006). Her supporting role nominations were for *The Deer Hunter* (1978), *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), for which she took home the Oscar, and *Adaptation* (2002).

**Kate Winslet** (AHanna Schmitz@ in *The Reader*) - This is her sixth nomination and the fourth in this category. Her other leading role nominations were for *Titanic* (1997), *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004) and *Little Children* (2006). Her supporting role nominations were for *Sense and Sensibility* (1995) and *Iris* (2001).

### **Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role:**

**Amy Adams** (ASister James@ in *Doubt*) - This is her second nomination in this category. She was previously nominated for *Junebug* (2005).

**Penélope Cruz** (AMaria Elena@ in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*) - This is her second nomination and the first in this category. She was nominated for her leading role in *Volver* (2006).

**Viola Davis** (AMrs. Miller@ in *Doubt*) - This is her first nomination.

**Taraji P. Henson** (AQueenie@ in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) - This is her first nomination.

**Marisa Tomei** (ACassidy@ in *The Wrestler*) - This is her third nomination in this category. Her previous nominations were for *My Cousin Vinny* (1992), for which she won the Oscar, and *In the Bedroom* (2001).

### **Achievement in Writing (Adapted Screenplay):**

*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* - Screenplay by **Eric Roth**. Screen Story by **Eric Roth** and **Robin Swicord** (from the short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald). - This is the fourth nomination for Eric Roth in this category. He won the Oscar in 1994 for writing *Forrest Gump*. He was also nominated for *The Insider* (1999) and *Munich* (2005). This is the first nomination for Robin Swicord.

*Doubt* - Written by **John Patrick Shanley** (based on his play). - This is his second nomination in this category. He won the Oscar for his original screenplay for *Moonstruck* (1987).

*Frost/Nixon* - Screenplay by **Peter Morgan** (based on his stage play). - This is his second nomination in this category. He was previously nominated for *The Queen* (2006).

*The Reader* - Screenplay by **David Hare** (based on the book *Der Vorleser* by Bernhard Schlink). - This is his second nomination in this category. He was previously nominated for *The Hours* (2002).

*Slumdog Millionaire* - Screenplay by **Simon Beaufoy** (based on the novel *Q&A* by Vikas Swarup). - This is his second nomination in this category. He was previously nominated for *The Full Monty* (1997).

### **Achievement in Writing (Original Screenplay):**

*Frozen River* - Written by **Courtney Hunt**. - This is her first nomination.

*Happy-Go-Lucky* - Written by **Mike Leigh**. - This is his sixth nomination and the fourth in this category. He was nominated for his original screenplays for *Secrets & Lies* (1996), *Topsy-Turvy* (1999) and *Vera Drake* (2004). He was also nominated for directing *Secrets & Lies* and *Vera Drake*.

*In Bruges* - Written by **Martin McDonagh**. - This is his second nomination and the first in this category. He won the Oscar in the Live Action Short Film category for *Six Shooter* (2005).

*Milk* - Written by **Dustin Lance Black**. - This is his first nomination.

*WALL-E* - Screenplay by **Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon**. Story by **Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter**. - This is the fifth nomination for Andrew Stanton and the third in this category. He won the Oscar in the Animated Feature Film category for *Finding Nemo* (2003) and was nominated in the Original Screenplay category for *Toy Story* (1995) and *Finding Nemo*. He is also nominated in the Animated Feature Film.

This is the first nomination for Jim Reardon.

This is the fourth nomination for Pete Docter. He was nominated in the Original Screenplay category for *Toy Story* (1995), the Animated Feature Film category for *Monsters, Inc.* (2001), and the Animated Short Film category for *Mike's New Car* (2002).

### **Best Foreign Language Film:**

*The Baader Meinhof Complex* (**Germany**) [Directed by Uli Edel.] - This is the eighth nomination for Germany. Previous nominations were for *The Nasty Girl* (1990), *Schtonk!* (1992), *Beyond Silence* (1997), *Nowhere in Africa* (2002) which won the Oscar, *Downfall* (2004), *Sophie Scholl - The Final Days* (2005) and *The Lives of Others*, which won the Oscar in 2006. Prior to reunification in 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany received a total of eight Academy Award nominations. They were *The Captain of Kopenick* (1956), *The Devil Came at Night* (1957), *Arms and the Man* (1958), *The Bridge* (1959), *The Pedestrian* (1973), *The Glass Cell* (1978), *The Tin Drum* (1979) which won the Oscar, and *Angry Harvest* (1985). Also prior to reunification, the German Democratic Republic received one Academy Award nomination: *Jacob, the Liar* (1976).

*The Class* (**France**) [Directed by Laurent Cantet.] - This is the thirty-fifth nomination for France, the record in the category (Italy is second with twenty-seven nominations). It has taken home nine Oscars for *My Uncle* (1958), *Black Orpheus* (1959), *Sundays and Cybele* (1962), *A Man and a Woman* (1966), *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* (1972), *Day for Night* (1973), *Madame Rosa* (1977), *Get Out Your Handkerchiefs* (1978) and *Indochine* (1992). Additionally, France received three Special/Honorary Awards prior to the establishment of Foreign Language Film as a regular category in 1956: *Monsieur Vincent* (1948), *The Walls of Malapaga* (1950) [shared with Italy] and *Forbidden Games* (1952). Other nominations were for *Gervaise* (1956), *Gates of Paris* (1957), *La Vérité* (1960), *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), *Live for Life* (1967), *Stolen Kisses* (1968), *My Night at Maud's* (1969), *Hoa-Binh* (1970), *Lacombe, Lucien* (1974), *Cousin, Cousine* (1976), *A Simple Story* (1979), *The Last Metro* (1980), *Coup de Torchon* ("Clean Slate") (1982), *Entre Nous* (1983), *Three Men and a Cradle* (1985), *Betty Blue* (1986), *Au Revoir Les Enfants* (Goodbye, Children) (1987), *Camille Claudel* (1989), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1990), *Ridicule* (1996), *East-West* (1999), *The Taste of Others* (2000), *Amélie* (2001), *The Chorus* (*Les Choristes*) (2004) and *Joyeux Noël* (2005).

*Departures* (**Japan**) [Directed by Yojiro Takita.] - This is twelfth nomination for Japan. Previous nominations were for *Harp of Burma* (1956), *Immortal Love* (1961), *Twin Sisters of Kyoto* (1963), *Woman in the Dunes* (1964), *Kwaidan* (1965), *Portrait of Chieko* (1967), *Dodes'ka-Den* (1971), *Sandakan No. 8* (1975), *Kagemusha (The Shadow Warrior)* (1980), *Muddy River* (1981) and *The Twilight Samurai* (2003). Additionally, Japan received three Special/Honorary Awards prior to the establishment of Foreign Language Film as a regular category in 1956: *Rashomon* (1951), *Gate of Hell* (1954) and *Samurai, The Legend of Musashi* (1955).

*Revanche* (**Austria**) [Directed by Götz Spielmann.] - This is the third nomination for Austria. Previous nominations were for "38" (1986) and *The Counterfeiters*, which won the award last year.

*Waltz with Bashir* (**Israel**) [Directed by Ari Folman.] - This is the eighth nomination for Israel. Previous nominations were for *Sallah* (1964), *The Policeman* (1971), *I Love You Rosa* (1972), *The House on Chelouche Street* (1973), *Operation Thunderbolt* (1977), *Beyond the Walls* (1984) and *Beaufort* (2007).

### **Best Animated Feature Film:**

*Bolt* (Walt Disney) - **Chris Williams** and **Byron Howard** - This is the first nomination for both.

*Kung Fu Panda* (DreamWorks Animation, Distributed by Paramount) - **John Stevenson** and **Mark Osborne** - This is the first nomination for John Stevenson. This is the second nomination for Mark Osborne and the first in this category. He was nominated in the Animated Short Film category for *More* (1998).

*WALL-E* (Walt Disney) - **Andrew Stanton** - This is his fifth nomination and the second in this category. He won the Oscar in the Animated Feature Film category for *Finding Nemo* (2003) and was nominated in the Original Screenplay category for *Toy Story* (1995) and *Finding Nemo*. He is also nominated in the Original Screenplay category this year.