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Freelance writer and raconteur

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Posted: February 27, 2011 01:08 PM

Shhh! Here's Your Winning Oscar Ballot

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If you want to win the Oscar pool, why not use my ballot? If you triumph, you can lord it over your friends. If you lose, you can blame me. It's a win-win!

BEST PICTURE -- *The King's Speech* YES

(I'd vote for *Toy Story 3*. Like *The Lord Of The Rings: Return Of The King*, it's a capper to a great trilogy and one of the most successful and acclaimed franchises in Hollywood history. Plus an animated film is long overdue.)

BEST DIRECTOR -- Tom Hooper YES

(An upset, but he won the DGA and this is such

Academy bait compared to *The Social Network*.)

BEST ACTOR -- Colin Firth YES

(I'd vote for Jesse Eisenberg, but am delighted Firth will win.)

BEST ACTRESS -- Natalie Portman YES

(She's lucky *The King's Speech* has no woman in the lead role. I'd vote for Jennifer Lawrence of *Winter's Bone*.)

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR -- Christian Bale YES

(My heart says *The King's Speech* will upset in one or both of the supporting categories as well. With my luck, the winners will be Geoffrey Rush and Melissa Leo. I'd vote for Rush.)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS -- Helena Bonham Carter NOPE: Melissa Leo, as expected.

(Melissa Leo is the smart bet. This category comes early so you can start cursing me right away if my upset doesn't come through. I'd vote for Hailee Steinfeld except she's really the lead so I'd vote for Carter.)

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY -- *The King's Speech*. YES

(F-- yeah!)

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY -- *The Social Network* YES

(I'd vote for *Winter's Bone*, but this is a safe bet.)

BEST ART DIRECTION -- *The King's Speech* NOPE: *Alice in Wonderland* won.

(British estates and castles win every time. I'd vote for *Inception*.)

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY -- *True Grit*. NOPE: Wally Pfister won for *Inception*! Tom Hanks just said Pfister! It's gonna be another bad year for me.

(Long overdue win for Roger Deakins. It would be fun, however, to hear them say Wally Pfister.)

BEST COSTUMES -- *The King's Speech* NOPE. *Alice In Wonderland*.

(See my comment above on Art Direction. Period pieces always have an edge.)

BEST FOREIGN FILM -- *Outside The Law* NOPE: *In A Better World*.

(Always a wild card and difficult to predict. *In A Better World* won the Golden Globe. But *Outside The Law* is such dull, conventional filmmaking I think it has the edge among the people who actually vote in this category.)

BEST SOUND -- *Inception* YES

(Yes.)

BEST SOUND EDITING -- *Inception* YES

(Special effects-heavy movies tend to dominate these tech awards.)

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE -- *Inside Job* YES

(I'd vote for this one ,too.)

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT -- *Strangers No More* YES

(The most uplifting tale of a very weak bunch.)

BEST ANIMATED FILM -- *Toy Story 3* YES! Big deal, everyone picked this.

(My favorite animated film of the year was *The Illusionist* but I'd vote for *Toy Story 3* because the Oscar is not always about the absolute best in a category but one of the best and the one that "deserves" it.)

BEST ANIMATED SHORT -- *Day & Night* NOPE! *The Lost Thing*.

(Another win for Pixar in one of the weakest batches of animated shorts I have ever seen. Some think the all-star British cast of *The Gruffalo* gives it the edge. Having slept through its deadly dull pacing, I don't think so.)

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT -- *Wish 143* NOPE *God of Love* won. I'm glad. It was the most technically accomplished and very good. It's like the SATs -- go with your first instinct, which in my case was indeed *God Of Love*. But I over-thought it.)

(On the other hand, this was one of the best batches of live action shorts I have ever seen for the Oscars.



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Three of them were quite good (*Wish 143*, *The Crush*, and *God Of Love*). One was pretty good (*The Confession*) and only one was very weak (*Na Wewe*.) If you think Oscar will always annoy you, vote for *Na Wewe*. My head says the NYU student film *Gods Of Love* will win (and deservedly so) but my heart keeps leaning towards the cancer patient of *Wish 143*. No clear winner because so many were strong.

BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS *Inception* YES

(Duh.)

BEST EDITING -- *The Social Network* YES

(This would be my vote, too.)

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE -- *The Social Network* YES

(This would be my vote. *The King's Speech* could sweep, but the score here is so distinctive and smart, I think it will triumph.)

BEST ORIGINAL SONG -- "We Belong Together" YES

(I'd pick "I See The Light" from *Tangled*. Not quite sure why the consensus is Randy Newman's ditty. But you don't want to predict too many upsets.)

BEST MAKEUP -- *The Wolfman* YES

Good luck. You can yell at me or thank me later. Probably yell at me.

HOW'D I DO?

17 out of 24.

Terrible! Every year I hope for some surprises and they rarely, rarely come. All the prior awards suck out all the fun, even if like me you ignore them as much as possible. Too bad I blew the tech awards. That's where an Oscar ballot is won. Usually I do better there and worse on the big films. Oh well. C'est la vie.

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of *Showbiz Sandbox*, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available free on iTunes. Visit [Michael Giltz at his website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called *Popsurfing* and also available for free on iTunes. Link to him on [Netflix](#) and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

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