

THE CampChuck REVIEWER

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Special 36.1 Edition

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Editor, critic, layout, distribution, and general factotum ...



An Authorized Meryl Streep-to-CampChuck Exclusive

page 9

Meryl Streep's 19 Oscar Nominations

1978	The Deer Hunter	(sup)
1979	<u>Kramer vs. Kramer</u>	(sup)
1981	The French Lieutenant's Woman	
1982	<u>Sophie's Choice</u>	
1983	Silkwood	
1985	Out of Africa	
1987	Ironweed	
1988	A Cry in the Dark	
1990	Postcards from the Edge	
1995	The Bridges of Madison County	
1998	One True Thing	
1999	Music of the Heart	
2002	Adaptation	(sup)
2006	The Devil Wears Prada	
2008	Doubt	
2009	Julie & Julia	
2011	<u>The Iron Lady</u>	
2013	August: Osage County	
2014	Into the Woods	(sup)

(Underlined picture indicates winning the Oscar; "sup" indicates Best Supporting Actress; all other nominations are for Best Actress)

Meryl Streep averages an Academy Award nomination better than every two years, across nearly 40 years. She has strung together back to back years seven times (if you note her one three-in-a-row as two back to backs).

Once, it actually took Meryl five years to get a next nomination, and one other time four years. There is almost an institutionalized quibbling that travels with the widely pronounced and celebrated superlatives. It adds to what amazes that she seems to deflect and otherwise handle the adulation and respect so well.

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The All Meryl Streep Special Edition

The "Manufactured Mailbag" of the 32nd annual "CampChuck Reviewer" published the following letter from "A friend":

Dear Editor,

I've been thinking you were already fairly over the hill when you started this newsletter gig. Don't get me wrong, dude. You've shown your chops now and again, but man, I kinda see you kicking back and tossing out a "Greatest Hits" type issue or two before you, well, you know.

The Editor responded, "Well, someone knows. Meanwhile, issues happen." The meanwhile of that 2011 edition reprised every Manufactured Mailbag item from (then) thirty-two years of newsletters. (<http://startlets.com/images/CampChuck83rd-Oscars2011.pdf>)

In the Oscar edition earlier this year, we saw a letter from Tally Alejef of Pallato, CA: "Meryl Streep. Meryl Streep. You're so into her, why not just do an all Meryl Streep edition?" The Editor responded, "I just might. In fact, I just might have started one already."

Indeed, this special edition of the newsletter draws together all the coverage of Meryl Streep that has appeared in the 36 years of "The CampChuck Reviewer" to date.

My Date with Meryl

[Note: The following is the beginning of a short story I wrote several years ago. While it has nothing to do with the CampChuck newsletter tradition, it fits the Meryl Streep theme of this newsletter.]

"You're a moron."

"That's what I told her."

"You told Meryl Streep she's a moron?"

"No, I told her I was a moron."

"I'm glad you knew it without me telling you. Let me get this straight. Meryl Streep was coming on to you. Meryl Best Actress Ever Streep was making out with you, and you stopped her."

"Well, I don't think she was coming on to me, coming on to me, but yes, I pushed her away, and said 'Ms. Streep, I'm a moron for nipping this incomparable moment, but I've always been faithful to my wife and I can't let this undo that commitment.'"

"Classy. But there's faithful and there's Meryl Sophie's Choice Streep. When did this happen?"

"It was 1990, right after "Postcards from the Edge" (very funny movie and Meryl sings a song at the end that's a knockout). You know, we're the same age. We were both 40 then."

"And any of this happened ... why?"

"Meryl Streep has always done all kinds of charity work. It seemed an odd deal for her to get hooked into, but I sort of lucked into a very expensive opportunity to attend a 'win a date with Meryl Streep' fundraiser."

Meryl in the Manufactured Mailbag

Dear Editor, [from 1982]

We are returning, unopened, the bottle of "Love Me When You're in the Neighborhood" elixir which you were so kind to send to Ms. Streep. Enclosed, find a donation to CampChuck with our hopes that you will decline to pursue the contents of the letter which accompanied the potion.

Edith Standish,
Legal Counsel for Meryl Streep

Dear Ms. Streep c/o Ms. Standish,

Boy, Meryl, is my face red.

Ed.

Dear Editor, [from 1991]

I heard that hanging prominently at CampChuck is a glamorous 8x10 glossy of Meryl Streep. What does your wife have to say about that?

Claudia Myowmek, Brooklyn, NY

Dear Claudia,

My wife alternates between having plenty to say, and what can speak louder, having nothing to say, about my affliction for Ms. Streep. However, if I may blow the nosy, you should know that my wife gave me that glossy photo for a birthday present.

Ed.

Dear Editor, [from 1992]

Hey, moonstruck, how was Meryl Streep in "Defending Your Life"?

Beth Neenerneener, York, PA

Dear Beth,

She still lights up the acting firmament each time out.

Ed.

Dear Editor, [from 1993]

Let me try to put this delicately. Didn't your precious Meryl Streep make a stinky picture last year?

Spanky Caroline, East Weston, AZ

Dear Spanky,

When Meryl decided to have fun making a movie like "Death Becomes Her," she may not have noticed or had control over the "special effects disease" where filmmakers wholly neglect the importance of a decent script.

Ed.

Dear Editor, [from 2010]

You've been doing your movie newsletter for 30 years? Wow. What kinds of things have you learned?

Alma Tahmwiltel, Mobile, AL

Dear Alma,

I've learned that the hook of "The CampChuck Reviewer" may be predicting the Oscars, but it's really about a glad involvement with the movies and a glad tradition in the writing. I've learned there's something fresh in the challenge of creating this newsletter every year. I've learned that, almost certainly, Meryl Streep is not going to call me.

Ed.

Dear Editor, [from 2012]

I know you adore Meryl Streep. Is there an actor you would especially want to see her do a movie with?

Edna Chirl, Bismarck, ND

Dear Edna,

I'd love to see someone write drama and fun for Meryl to evoke with Tom Hanks.

Ed.

Special Shout Out

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shown interest and curiosity in “The CampChuck Reviewer” across 36 years. A wide range of people intersecting with CampChuck have participated in the subscription/donation concept started 24 years ago. Many have done so once to many times, thank you, but I’d like especially to mention by name people who have been near to perennial or otherwise long, frequent supporters.

Geoff Badger	Ki Haden	Joy Sleizer
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Jean & Jay Glassman	Kent Ostby	Lynn Winter
	John Sawyer	Claudia Zornow

thank
you

CampChuck continues as it has **since 1992, matching every subscription dollar for dollar**. All subscriptions – more than \$34,000 plus CampChuck’s 100% match of \$34,000 -- have funneled through CampChuck to RMI and Food Banks. Whether you subscribe at the official \$5 level or the average participation of \$30, think sustainable economic practice and the golden rule. And think access to CampChuck’s newsletters.

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CampChuck continues its encouragement of the fundamental human sharing embodied by the “Food Banking” concept. Since CampChuck resides in Nevada County, CA, please make checks payable to “Food Bank of Nevada County.”

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This nonprofit helps individuals and communities and businesses and governments to make money, yes, make money, by being smart about the environment. By research and science, by education and negotiation, by example, the Rocky Mountain Institute helps us ... and the U.S. ... and the world “us” to make long term economic sense by making long term environmental sense.

Please, send “subscription” donations to
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Grass Valley, CA 95949 ← new address

CampChuck Predictions (track record when Meryl has been nominated)

CampChuck correctly predicted Meryl’s three Oscar wins (“Kramer vs. Kramer,” “Sophie’s Choice,” and “The Iron Lady”). Despite exaggerated affection/affliction for Ms. Streep, CampChuck only predicted incorrectly that Meryl would win for “Julie & Julia” (Sandra Bullock won for “The Blind Side”) and for “Adaptation”/“The Hours” (Catherine Zeta-Jones won for “Chicago”).

There were two other miffed predictions when Meryl was nominated: CampChuck predicted Susan Sarandon would win for “Atlantic City” the year Katharine Hepburn won for “On Golden Pond,” eclipsing Meryl’s “French Lieutenant’s Woman”; CampChuck predicted Holly Hunter would win for “Broadcast News” the year Cher won for “Moonstruck,” shining brighter than Meryl’s “Ironweed.”

In the paper version of “The CampChuck Reviewer” there is a perennial tradition to include a wholly implausible banner headline that cross references a non-existent page 9 of the 8-page Oscar newsletter (or page 5 when it’s been 4 pages). Every banner (except one special edition) since 1999 has referred to Meryl Streep as part of the joke, ha ha.

[Note: an asterisk () indicates a special non-Oscar-related edition]*

- 2015 Meryl Advises Hillary, Elizabeth, and Bernie
- 2014 Meryl Streep Agrees to "Sophie's Choice" Sequel
- 2013* First Time Director Streep Makes Othello Starring Woody Allen
- 2013 Meryl Streep Co-signs CampChuck Retirement Villa
- 2012 Streep Says, "No Oscar; No More Acting"
- 2011 Meryl Streep to Head Cast in Manufactured Mailbag Movie
- 2010 Meryl Streep Cooks at CampChuck Banquet

- 2009 Meryl Streep Replacing Hillary Clinton
- 2008 Meryl Streep on the Lamb
- 2007 Meryl Streep Wears Boxer Shorts
- 2006 Woody Allen Beats Meryl Streep in Tennis
- 2005 Meryl Streep's Talent was Digitally Implanted
- 2004 Snowshoeing with Meryl Streep
- 2003 Streep Confesses Lifetime Goal: 25 Nominations; 5 Oscars
- 2003* Skinny Dipping with Meryl Streep in Sierra Back Country
- 2003* CampChuck Discusses World Peace with Pope ← non-Streep banner
- 2002 Sulking Guest, Meryl Streep, Attends a CampChuck Wedding
- 2002* Meryl Streep Plants Flag on Mt. Lassen Summit
- 2002* Poison Oak Rash Shaped Like Meryl Streep
- 2001 Streep to Play Hanks' Role in Cast Away Remake
- 2001* Meryl Streep Wins Utah Leg of CampChuck Bicycle Race
- 2000 Meryl Streep Donates Violin to CampChuck

- 1999 CampChuck Advises Streep on Oscar Winning Script Search

- 1995 Meryl Streep Admits "She-Devil" Dreams about Jodie Foster

- 1993* Car Camping Two Sites Away from Meryl Streep

[Note: The first edition of The CampChuck Reviewer (called "The Unsolicited Movie Newsletter" through 1985) appeared in 1980. The first banner headline in 1984 actually pointed to an article in the newsletter. The page 9 joke began in the 1985 edition and became a regular feature of the newsletter in 1987]

I could have waited for a more auspicious time to produce this special edition. I could have waited until Meryl’s 4th Oscar win solidified more quantitatively her best ever status. I could have waited, at least, until Meryl acquired her 20th Oscar nomination, seemingly more important for being a multiple of 10. I could have waited but I didn’t.

I needn’t have culled and reprinted from CampChuck so much reference to Meryl. I needn’t have integrated so noticeably repeated references to her excellence compared with others and compared with her own excellence and the paradox of her incomparability. I needn’t have but I did. Ed.

“You won a make-out date with Meryl Streep?”

“No, not that kind of date. A lunch date in some fancy restaurant. But aside from the photo op stuff, we had a private conversation, a leisurely, sprawling conversation.”

“And ...”

“I like to think it was me, some combination of my non-gushing, sincere interest in her work and me talking with her like she was a regular person, but more likely she probably just lit on a frivolous notion that this hoo ha fundraiser didn’t rate the concept without a little something extra....”

“So she attacked you in the men’s room.”

“Now who’s the moron? No, she said that to really call this a date we should do something else, something separate from this staged lunch.”

“And ...”

“We actually did go to the rest room, sort of. She had us sneak out a back entrance and head for the garage where my car was parked.”

“She did *not* do this with you. This whole thing is a fantasy lie, isn’t it?”

“Suit yourself. I forgot to say that part of this idea she got in her head might have had something to do with us both being from New Jersey. It came out in conversation that she was raised in Bernardsville, which is pretty close to Maplewood where I grew up. Anyway, when she knew I had a rental car, she suggested we go for a drive, but she didn’t mention til we got into the car that Manhattan is not very far from Bernardsville and Maplewood; why don’t we go there?”

“Geez Louise...”

“That’s her middle name: Meryl, actually Mary, Louise Streep.”

“Shut up. Geez Louise Streep switches to some kind of escape mode, with you on a leash. When did she get to this “you-cute-little-poodle, kissing episode you’ve reconstructed in your dreams?”

[Note: I don’t know when I’ll finish writing this.]

Reprised CampChuck Coverage of Meryl's Oscar Nominations

(including the other nominees in her category and the winner underlined)

1978 *The Deer Hunter* (sup)

Note: Meryl Streep received only one Oscar nomination prior to the CampChuck era (that started with covering 1979 film releases). Consequently, this one nomination has no coverage reprised from CampChuck editions.

Dyan Cannon	<i>Heaven Can Wait</i>
Penelope Milford	<i>Coming Home</i>
<u>Maggie Smith</u>	<i>California Suite</i>
Maureen Stapleton	<i>Interiors</i>



1979 *Kramer vs. Kramer* (sup)

Jane Alexander	<i>Kramer vs. Kramer</i>
Barbara Barrie	<i>Breaking Away</i>
Candice Bergen	<i>Starting Over</i>
Mariel Hemingway	<i>Manhattan</i>

“Meryl Streep is hands down best. After three other demanding support successes in two years, most notably her more strictly demanding role in ‘The Seduction of Joe Tynan’ [along with ‘Julia’ and ‘The Deer Hunter’], Streep is not only in the limelight, but she has demonstrated her ability fabulously in rapid fire.”

1981 *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

<u>Katharine Hepburn</u>	On Golden Pond
Diane Keaton	Reds
Marsha Mason	Only When I Laugh
Susan Sarandon	Atlantic City ←CampChuck predicted

“No one truly distinguishes herself as Best Actress this year.... Diane Keaton and Meryl Streep, both with recent Oscars, are the limelighters. I'm talkin' Newsweek covers – that sort of thing.... As ‘The French Lieutenant's Woman’ this is the first time in four Pictures that Streep has been less than some combination of terrific and exquisite.”



1982 *Sophie's Choice*

Julie Andrews	<i>Victor/Victoria</i>
Jessica Lange	<i>Frances</i>
Sissy Spacek	<i>Missing</i>
DebraWinger	<i>An Officer and a Gentleman</i>

“I could usurp the whole Best Actress space to write of Meryl Streep. She is the clearest Best of all the major categories.”

1983 *Silkwood*

Jane Alexander	<i>Testament</i>
<u>Shirley MacLaine</u>	<i>Terms of Endearment</i>
Julie Walters	<i>Educating Rita</i>
Debra Winger	<i>Terms of Endearment</i>

“Meryl Streep continues to mesmerize me. Perhaps it is my complete adoration and admiration that prompts me to feel that her being typically excellent as she is in her demanding but different role in ‘Silkwood’ is not enough for this incomparable artist. Let others grapple for Oscars. We can wait until Meryl's talent and soul has the opportunity to pour into another role like last year's Oscar winning Sophie.”

1985 *Out of Africa*

Anne Bancroft	<i>Agnes of God</i>
Whoopi Goldberg	<i>The Color Purple</i>
Jessica Lange	<i>Sweet Dreams</i>
<u>Geraldine Page</u>	<i>The Trip to Bountiful</i>

“Streep, terrific again Meryl Streep, who once again proves incomparable in ‘Out of Africa,’ should nonetheless bow respectfully to Geraldine Page in ‘The Trip to Bountiful.’”

1987 *Ironweed*

<u>Cher</u>	<i>Moonstruck</i>
Glenn Close	<i>Fatal Attraction</i>
Holly Hunter	<i>Broadcast News</i> ←CampChuck predicted
Sally Kirkland	<i>Anna</i>

“Neither Streep nor Nicholson turn enough special magic or reality to indelibly uplift this film experience.... She almost deserves a nomination for the way she quivers her chin and for the fantastic bar song she suspended somewhere between reality and fantasy. Both Nicholson and Streep compel a very high standard. With not enough help from the material, neither quite inspires what we should expect.”

Find *The CampChuck Reviewer*
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Email: jaffee@startlets.com
(that's three "t"s" in startlets).

Reprised CampChuck Coverage of Meryl's Oscar Nominations

(including the other nominees in her category and the winner underlined)

1988 *A Cry in the Dark*

Glenn Close	<i>Dangerous Liaisons</i>
<u>Jodie Foster</u>	<i>The Accused</i>
Melanie Griffith	<i>Working Girl</i>
Sigourney Weaver	<i>Gorillas in the Mist</i>

“Meryl Streep is excellent in ‘A Cry in the Dark,’ but for the unparalleled Ms. Streep, excellence is merely par. As unsettling as ‘A Cry in the Dark’ is and as convincingly centered as Ms. Streep is in her portrayal, her third Oscar win requires a tour de force in a more stunning film as we continue to see her in nominated role after nominated role.”

1990 *Postcards from the Edge*

<u>Kathy Bates</u>	<i>Misery</i>
Anjelica Huston	<i>The Grifters</i>
Julia Roberts	<i>Pretty Woman</i>
Joanne Woodward	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Bridge</i>

“I love opportunities to praise Meryl Streep. The finest actor working today began flexing her comedy gifts in the much maligned ‘She Devil.’ In 1990, besides fitting sharply in the witty screwballing of ‘Postcards from the Edge,’ Streep showcases another grand performing skill. She sings shyly mid-film and belts out a country tune to roll the final credits. (Actually, she sang in ‘Ironweed,’ the best thing about that performance.) Streep is terrific; she’s the best, but I’m objective. [sic] I hail her perennial nominations while waiting for the challenge that she will raise to a third Oscar.”

1995 *The Bridges of Madison County*

<u>Susan Sarandon</u>	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>
Elisabeth Shue	<i>Leaving Las Vegas</i>
Sharon Stone	<i>Casino</i>
Emma Thompson	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>

“Meryl Streep won’t keep Sarandon from Oscar. Arguably the finest actress working, Streep helped to turn one of the most insipid pieces of mega-popular tripe into a good movie. As a book, ‘The Bridges of Madison County’ makes TV look like higher culture than literature. With two Oscars from her ten nominations, no one will advance Streep a third statue for delivering a solidly appealing love interest based on embarrassing material from another medium.”

1998 *One True Thing*

Cate Blanchett	<i>Elizabeth</i>
Fernanda Montenegro	<i>Central Station</i>
<u>Gwyneth Paltrow</u>	<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>
Emily Watson	<i>Hilary and Jackie</i>

“Once again merely excellent, Streep plays a terminally ill wife and mother in ‘One True Thing.’ ... Go ahead; make fun of an actress who gets nominated for an Oscar every 2 or 3 times she makes a film. At 50 years old, ‘One True Thing’ marks Streep’s 11th nomination. She will surpass Katharine Hepburn’s twelve nominations, although it will take scarce scripts to raise Streep’s two Oscars to Hepburn’s elusive four.”

1999 *Music of the Heart*

Annette Bening	<i>American Beauty</i> ← CampChuck predicted
Janet McTeer	<i>Tumbleweeds</i>
Julianne Moore	<i>The End of the Affair</i>
<u>Hilary Swank</u>	<i>Boys Don’t Cry</i>

“Despite the ordinary drama, Streep communicates the strength of heart and the discipline of heart necessary to make a life for oneself and for others. Streep may be the best actress working today, but this solid part does not allow for a best of the best performance.”

2002 *Adaptation* ← CampChuck predicted (sup)

Kathy Bates	<i>About Schmidt</i>
Julianne Moore	<i>The Hours</i>
Queen Latifah	<i>Chicago</i>
<u>Catherine Zeta-Jones</u>	<i>Chicago</i>

[Huge mistake: I actually claimed Meryl was nominated for ‘The Hours’ (and would win). It was also tied for my worst prediction year getting only Best Picture right.]

“Arguably the best actress of all time, Meryl Streep will win her third Oscar.... Streep earned her unrivaled 13th nomination for what amounts to a small leading role in ‘The Hours.’ Voters will surely keep this in mind along with her impressive supporting role in ‘Adaptation.’ People rib Meryl Streep for doing less than Oscar winning work since ‘Sophie’s Choice’ in 1982 even though she receives an Oscar nomination on average every third movie she makes. Channeled through a mere Best Supporting Actress statue, voters will feel less conflicted honoring her with something other than awed respect.”

Reprised CampChuck Coverage of Meryl's Oscar Nominations

2006 *The Devil Wears Prada*

Penelope Cruz	<i>Volver</i>
Judi Dench	<i>Notes on a Scandal</i>
<u>Helen Mirren</u>	<i>The Queen</i>
Kate Winslet	<i>Little Children</i>

“Stand aside for a couple of Dames. Such are the titles, in the United Kingdom, bestowed on Dame Helen Mirren and Dame Judi Dench. The other three nominees for Best Actress are clear also-rans – even Meryl Streep. If the United States proffered such titles, surely Meryl Streep would be the Damest of the Dames. Streep’s 14th Academy Award nomination comes with a perfect rendering in “The Devil Wears Prada.”

As the icy tyrant commanding a powerful fashion magazine, she sets the tone two ways. First, Streep’s character is so annoyingly on top of her game, she fuels the need to gawk at the ludicrous world of fashion portrayed. More to the acting point, she skillfully assures that the story dynamics are driven by the other big roles in this thoroughly entertaining film. Perhaps these are the exact characteristics that deserve the Oscar statue.”

2008 *Doubt*

Anne Hathaway	<i>Rachel Getting Married</i>
Angelina Jolie	<i>Changeling</i>
Melissa Leo	<i>Frozen River</i>
<u>Kate Winslet</u>	<i>The Reader</i>

“Obses Respectfully Keeping Track

Acting is not a competition. That said, Meryl Streep crushes the competition as the best movie actor (man or woman) ever. Awards, most notably the Oscars, make acting seem like a competition. Acting is not a competition. Nonetheless, Streep earned Oscar nomination 15 for the movie, “Doubt.” Katharine Hepburn received her 12th Oscar nomination 48 years after her 1st, at age 74. Streep’s 15th nomination, at age 59, came only 30 years after her first. She averages an Oscar nod every 2 years!

There is, however, an estimable cloud over this Oscar-measured “best ever” thing. Hepburn won four Oscars. Streep has won only two. Could it be that Meryl Streep ever thinks, “I have two more years before I’m the same age Hepburn was when she won her 3rd Oscar, but hey, she went 34 years between her 1st and 2nd Oscars”? I should have waited to write this until Meryl wins her 3rd Oscar (probably not this year), but I couldn’t help myself.

Although the cloud will remain in her sky when she wins her 3rd Oscar, it will dispatch Jack Nicholson (12 nominations, 3 wins) from challenging Meryl’s best-ever positioning. Acting is not a competition, but Meryl, you’re the best living actor (and the best ever).

My fancy for Meryl Streep is no secret. I’m ready for her to receive her third Oscar. In “Doubt” she adds a new accent to her famous ability to do accents. Purposely overstated, the New York drawl matches the essence of a domineering nun, a Catholic school principal. The accent shoves through stares and body language that evince another stellar Streep offering.

For her 15th Oscar nomination, Streep can be set aside as this year’s Best Actress. Why? Because, her role is a bit blunt, and it’s in a film not quite special enough for this best-ever movie actor.”

Match the numbered film (1234, left) with the appropriate lettered role by Oscar-nominated Meryl Streep (ABCD, right). Send to jaffee@startlets.com. The winner will get 2 tickets.

1) The Deer Hunter **	excellence-freak fashion executive (A
2) Kramer vs. Kramer **	a futureless drunkard (B
3) The French Lieutenant’s Woman **	spell wielding witch (C
4) Sophie’s Choice **	trouble-magnet nuclear-plant worker (D
5) Silkwood **	author involved with her lead source (E
6) Out of Africa **	holocaust survivor’s wrenching life (F
7) Ironweed **	home town friend of Viet Nam war vets (G
8) A Cry in the Dark **	domineering nun / school principal (H
9) Postcards from the Edge **	media-fueled murder suspect (I
10) The Bridges of Madison County **	iconic chef (J
11) One True Thing **	special program school teacher (K
12) Music of the Heart **	widow/mom stokes family tension (L
13) Adaptation **	writer telling about her adopted land (M
14) The Devil Wears Prada **	long-serving head of state (N
15) Doubt **	forbidden love by an actress & in her role (O
16) Julie & Julia **	unfaithful once with the love of her life (P
17) The Iron Lady **	actress with drug & mom problems (Q
18) August: Osage County **	wife/mother dying of cancer (R
19) Into the Woods **	woman who left her husband & child (S

Reprised CampChuck Coverage of Meryl's Oscar Nominations

2009 *Julie & Julia* ←CampChuck predicted

<u>Sandra Bullock</u>	<i>The Blind Side</i>
Helen Mirren	<i>The Last Station</i>
Carey Mulligan	<i>An Education</i>
Gabourey Sidibe	<i>Precious</i>

“Meryl Streep, often mentioned as the best actor ever, seems to be evaluated on a separate chart. She is so routinely excellent that, when a role seems not to measure against her own best work, she receives an Oscar nomination but is denied her third Oscar win. The most Oscar-nominated actor ever (16) is the all-time Oscar also-ran (14). Look for the hail of the season when an actor averaging an Oscar nomination every other year makes a “comeback” to Oscar Gold after 26 years.

Playing the quintessential television chef, Julia Child, in *Julie & Julia*, Streep takes another marvelous turn, and once again extends her variety of acting challenges. She and her story about Julia are so good, the Julie half of the movie drags the total down some (still satisfying though). It's fair to suggest this Julia Child part is merely a jaunty impersonation, but Streep puts wonderful humanity into a beloved figure. Whether it rates an Oscar for this particular role or not, it's time to say to Meryl Streep, “Bon Appetit,” for her just desserts.”

2011 *The Iron Lady*



Glenn Close	<i>Albert Nobbs</i>
Viola Davis	<i>The Help</i>
Rooney Mara	<i>The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i>
Michelle Williams	<i>My Week with Marilyn</i>

“Even though she's the Best Actor in movie history, and she has 17 Oscar nominations to support that declaration, it wracks the nerves to know that her two Oscar wins were 29 and 32 years ago. Hey, Katharine Hepburn acted 34 super-heralded years between her first and second Oscars, and Hepburn earned the next most Oscar nominations with 12.

Meryl Streep, she's so widely embraced as the best of the best that she suffers at least two ways. She's almost too good, too highly respected to use up Oscars that can better bulwark other careers. Then there's that recurrent dilemma. She's Meryl Streep, fgahdsakes. Was this performance a good enough Meryl Streep performance?

As Margaret Thatcher in “The Iron Lady,” yes, Streep nails the conviction and authority of the longest serving British Prime Minister in the twentieth century. More than doubling the effect, she lends incredible nuance, through tons of makeup, as the same woman plagued in later years by dementia.”

2013 *August: Osage County*

Amy Adams	<i>American Hustle</i>
<u>Cate Blanchett</u>	<i>Blue Jasmine</i>
Sandra Bullock	<i>Gravity</i>
Judi Dench	<i>Philomena</i>

“Even when you're clearly the best actor ever, the diva is in the details. Although Meryl Streep carries her 18 Oscar nominations with grace and humor, here's the rub: Katharine Hepburn is the only actor sporting four Academy Awards for acting. Five others besides Streep possess three acting statuettes. Although Hepburn's 2nd place with 12 nominations sits at the foot of Streep's pedestal, Meryl needs at least one more Oscar win to quash the quibbling. (Tidbit: Jack Nicholson also has 12 nominations.)

Playing a mom in “August: Osage County” who is, shall we say, a bit chafing, Streep deserves the Oscar. Mom too often pops too many pills. Pills or not, she is way too often sharply unkind. Her three daughters and other family gather around her after her husband goes away and gets dead. Streep challenges herself with yet another accent of human being. She dominates the Oklahoma home ground without diminishing the rubbery knockabout of ensemble acting that bounces off the floor, walls, and ceiling. Ever measured against her acting excellence in other triumphs, this one rates high. Streep is fresh, bold, and effective, a rich, exhausting characterization. Alas, measured against one of the other four nominees this time around, Streep will have to find yet another juicy role to claim that fourth Oscar.”

2014 *Into the Woods* (sup)

<u>Patricia Arquette</u>	<i>Boyhood</i>
Laura Dern	<i>Wild</i>
Keira Knightley	<i>The Imitation Game</i>
Emma Stone	<i>Birdman</i>

Sorry, Meryl Streep. You'll not land your 4th Oscar from your nineteenth (19!) nomination. It's still remarkable watching Meryl show off her range yet again. It's fun to see her make the over-the-top most of playing the witch in “Into the Woods.” It's satisfying to watch her have fun in this less than satisfying musical. Although she's sung in films a few times before (especially “Postcards from the Edge,” 1990), it's swell to watch her belt out the witch's big song.”