

# THE CampChuck REVIEWER

*A nonprofit subsidiary of CampChuck*

Fortieth ANNUAL EDITION

<http://www.startlets.com>

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



## Meryl Streep Taking Over CampChuck Reviewer Production page 9

### The 91th ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS Nominations

Oscar Night: Sunday, February 24

#### **Best Picture**      **Best Director**

<u>Black Panther</u>	
<i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	Spike Lee
<i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>	
<i>Cold War</i> (Best Director only)	Pawel Pawlikowski
<i>The Favourite</i>	Yorgos Lanthimos
<i>Green Book</i>	
<i>Roma</i>	<u>Alfonso Cuaron</u>
<i>A Star Is Born</i>	
<i>Vice</i>	Adam McKay

#### **Best Actor**

Christian Bale	<i>Vice</i>
Bradley Cooper	<i>A Star Is Born</i>
Willem Dafoe	<i>At Eternity's Gate</i>
<u>Rami Malek</u>	<i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>
Viggo Mortensen	<i>Green Book</i>

#### **Best Actress**

Yalitza Aparicio	<i>Roma</i>
<u>Glenn Close</u>	<i>The Wife</i>
Olivia Colman	<i>The Favourite</i>
Lady Gaga	<i>A Star Is Born</i>
Melissa McCarthy	<i>Can You Ever Forgive Me</i>

#### **Best Supporting Actor**

<u>Mahershala Ali</u>	<i>Green Book</i>
Adam Driver	<i>BlacKkKlansman</i>
Sam Elliott	<i>A Star Is Born</i>
Richard E. Grant	<i>Can You Ever Forgive Me</i>
Sam Rockwell	<i>Vice</i>

#### **Best Supporting Actress**

Amy Adams	<i>Vice</i>
Marina de Tavira	<i>Roma</i>
<u>Regina King</u>	<i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>
Emma Stone	<i>The Favourite</i>
Rachel Weisz	<i>The Favourite</i>

(Underlined nominees equal CampChuck predictions)

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### Oscar Newsletter, 6 Months Late

The reason no one received the 40<sup>th</sup> annual CampChuck Reviewer: I was still in the hospital 7 weeks after my operation January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 16-hour marathon first surgery removed a fist sized "olfactory neuroblastoma."

It's tempting to call this a brain tumor, butted up against my brain and optic nerve, but it was a rare tumor occupying most of my sinus cavities. Whatever complications could happen happened. Up through my 6th operation January 23 plus a week more, I don't remember anything.

I was able to watch the Oscar broadcast February 24 from my hospital bed. The underlined choices on this page represent what I WOULD HAVE PREDICTED BEFORE Oscar night. You'll just have to believe me.

My success rate was 4 right in the 6 major categories. "Green Book" won Best Picture, not "Black Panther." Olivia Colman won Best Actress for "The Favourite," not Glenn Close for "The Wife." "Green Book" was a somewhat surprising win. Olivia Colman, not really surprising.

I had seen all the nominees. I expected to be out the hospital in a week with time during recovery weeks to not miss my first Oscar newsletter in 40 years. Oh, well.

## Nominated Film Notes

For 30 major awards, 13 films were represented. I wonder. The Oscars came and went. Which of these 13 pictures have you seen? Which did you see after the Oscars?

### At Eternity's Gate:

Best Actor (Dafoe) ...

As Vincent Van Gogh, Dafoe captures the painter's driving passion. The film weaves in the significance of place that grounds him.

### Black Panther: Best Picture ...

A massive blockbuster that can be appreciated for its character richness and thoughtfulness in addition to its popping action and visuals.

### BlacKkKlansman:

Best Picture, Director (Spike Lee), Supporting Actor (Driver) ... A bit cluttered with too much thrown in, but an effective, genuine, peculiar film that cracks inside race.

### Bohemian Rhapsody:

Best Picture, Actor (Malek, won) ... Not only a rousing best of Queen's hits, it's a tense, effecting look at Freddie Mercury's stardom and persona and demons.



### Can You Ever Forgive Me:

Best Actress (McCarthy) & Supporting Actor (Grant) ... Watching McCarthy in this serious role makes this picture. She's really not a likable person but you root for her anyway and more so with Grant as her cohort.

**Cold War:** A bit surprising that this foreign language film crossed over to the mainstream list (Director nom), but it is effective airing this unlikely affair across a bunch of years.

**Favourite, The:** Best Picture, Director (Lanthimos), Actress (Colman, won) & two Supporting Actress (Stone & Weisz) ...



A historical drama, it hits its chords in a style all its own. Colman, Stone, and Weisz, each carries a tone and rhythm that stands alone and integrates very well.

**Green Book:** Best Picture (won), Actor (Mortensen) & Supporting Actor (Ali, won)

... A formula pic that could have blown it many ways along the way but didn't.



Indeed, it stays fresh and crisp throughout, more so being based on a true story.

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## Manufactured Mailbag

Dear Editor,

This is CampChuck's 40<sup>th</sup> year? You've been doing the Oscar newsletter for 40 years? Wow. You're not running out of steam yet?

Tina Long, Silver Springs, MD

Dear Tina,

Strange enough to say, medical pressures caused this newsletter to happen, albeit delayed. Before getting a cancer diagnosis, I was considering not doing the newsletter anymore. I'm pretty sure I still would have done a finale newsletter to properly punctuate stopping the tradition. Will this be the last year? We shall see.

Ed.

Dear Editor,

Hey, Man, can you get me Meryl Streep's address ... the real thing, not the fanboy address? I think she and me would get a lot from the kind of correspondence you and I have.

A friend, Los Angeles

Dear friend,

You mistake my knowing about Ms. Streep with my knowing Ms. Streep. I think that if I had Ms. Streep's address, she would be appreciative that you should not be given it by me.

Ed.

Find *The CampChuck Reviewer* at <http://www.startlets.com>.  
Email: [jaffee@startlets.com](mailto:jaffee@startlets.com)  
(that's three "t's" in startlets).

## Voting, Impeaching, Meanwhile ... Giving

Vote. Get other people to vote. Get other people to vote who live in vulnerable states (spelled electoral-college-sensitive states, states with Congressional races up for grabs, states with gerrymandered margins that influence results). Get young adults to vote and get them to talk up voting with their peers. Turnout matters. Yes, the election is more than a year away, but getting out the vote is especially important this time around and worth being a stirred up intention throughout the endless campaigning.

What about impeachment? One position warns “Don’t stoke sentiment that could help Trump rally his way back into the White House” (after the Senate doesn’t convict him of impeachment). We don’t know what action will rally which results. Just do the right thing, right from the US Constitution. Convict him or not, politics notwithstanding, the debasement of the office of President, the lies, the high crimes and misdemeanors deserve formal accounting as we vet the American values that guide this country.

Meanwhile, CampChuck continues as it has **since 1992, matching every subscription dollar for dollar**. All subscriptions – close to 38,000 plus CampChuck’s 100% match of \$38,000 -- 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.

Warning: complacency won’t wear well; anxiety won’t shake the room. Though the coming year-plus is tiring, wearying, though it’s troublesome, worrying, we must sustain an active hand in assuring that the biggest aberration in American leadership is squashed.

**To CampChuck subscribers / donors, note the new third option.  
It may seem to you a ripe time to select [FuturesWithoutViolence.org](http://FuturesWithoutViolence.org)  
(and its 100% CampChuck match, same as with the two long standing options).**

### What’s Left Is Right

What we are left with  
isn’t left vs. right.  
It’s right vs. wrong;

What’s right is what’s  
“Good, proper, just,”  
...”in conformity with  
facts, reason, truth, or  
some standard or  
principle. “

Make it  
politically official:  
tell Congress to  
impeach; promote the  
vote; turnout matters.

Please, send “subscription” donations to CampChuck at 16669 Patricia Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949

make checks payable to...

### **Food Bank of Nevada County**

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.”

make checks payable to...

### **Rocky Mountain Institute**

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.

make checks payable to...

### **new→Futures Without Violence**

(one of its notable programs is  
**Workplaces Respond**)

The TimesUpNow.org website points to this as a trusted 30-year-old organization. It provides resources, training, and technical assistance to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, violence, and more. It helps increase the safety and economic security of vulnerable workers by building innovative partnerships between anti-violence advocates & service providers; and companies, unions & worker associations.

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## Nominated Film Notes

### If Beale Street Could Talk:

Best Supporting Actress (King, won) ... This Barry Jenkins film doesn't have the story or cinematic edge that his Oscar winning "Moonlight" had, but it does carry excellent richness of content and human/family relations.



**Roma:** Best Picture, Director (Cuaron, won), Actress (Aparicio) & Supporting Actress (de Tavira) ...

"Roma" is not only ambitiously modest movie making, it's a foreign language film – very unusual for a foreign film to crossover to Best Director attention (indeed, to win). This is winning storytelling and style about a servant and a family.



**Star Is Born, A:** Best Picture, Actor (Cooper), Actress (Lady Gaga), Supporting Actor (Elliott) ... Lady Gaga is great not only for her singing and her acting but also for the "plainness" and vulnerability contrary to her performer personality. Cooper is great not only for his singer/songwriter efforts and his acting, but also for co-writing and directing. It's an appealing contemporary version of a film done 3 times before.

**Vice:** Best Picture, Director (McKay), Actor (Bale), Supporting Actor (Rockwell) & Supporting Actress (Adams) ... Though Pence as President could be a horrid force for evil, he's been fairly innocuous as VP. Dick Cheney as GW Bush's Vice President was a scary puppet master. This film takes you inside this reality cringingly.

**Wife, The:** Best Actress (Close) ... This is a good picture with a good women's issue strength concentrated into one woman's unusual life circumstance. It's all about Glenn Close's performance, and it's surprising that she didn't get the Oscar, especially considering that she's been nominated six times before and has never won.

## Health Status

People quickly, sincerely ask how I'm doing. Fair enough. It was nearly-died bad. It was can't-remember-January bad.

February, in the hospital, improvement milestones like being able to eat. April, May, improvement milestones like being able to walk (at all), like being able to walk stairs, like being able to walk a half mile and a mile.

June, July, stamina is still the core measure. I've got to rest after walking a mile, two, three most days, after physical therapy sessions, even after social engagements. I'm basically leaving all of 2019 before worrying about full stamina, full recovery. Meanwhile, I frequently regard how far I've come and satisfaction with accumulating small milestones.

August, I've been bicycling. This represents not only a standard-bearing activity. It's a great method and measure of improving physicality. Next MRI in November to see if the cancer is coming back.

By the way, I can breathe through my nose again. You want nuisances. My nose, lip, and teeth still tingle. My blood pressure needs pill boosts to be high enough. My blurry left eye will likely stay that way because of a damaged optic nerve. Such is so no big deal everything considered.

### 2019 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Awards:

Festival info at [wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org)

(My surgeries also caused me to entirely miss this festival.

Nonetheless, here are the award-winning films.)

"Blue Heart"	honorable mention
"Climbing Out of Disaster"	best short
"The Dawn Wall"	<b>most inspiring adventure</b> award
"The Dawn Wall"	people's choice award
"Ghost Fleet"	<b>spirit of activism</b> award
"The New Environmentalists"	persistent vision award
"RJ Ripper"	jury award
"The Serengeti Rules"	jury award
"The Silver Branch"	honorable mention
"The Weight of Water"	honorable mention
"When Lambs Become Lions"	<b>best of fest</b>