

# THE CampChuck REVIEWER

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Forty First ANNUAL EDITION

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



## Meryl Streep Finagles Trump Resignation

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### The 92th ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS Nominations

Oscar Night: Sunday, February 9

#### Best Picture

1917

*Ford v Ferrari*

*Irishman, The*

*Jojo Rabbit*

*Joker*

*Little Women*

*Marriage Story*

*Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood* **Quentin Tarantino**

*Parasite*

#### Best Director

Sam Mendes

Martin Scorsese

Todd Phillips

Quentin Tarantino

Bong Joon Ho

#### Best Actor

Antonio Banderas *Pain and Glory*

Leonardo DiCaprio *Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*

Adam Driver *Marriage Story*

Joaquin Phoenix *Joker*

Jonathan Pryce *The Two Popes*

#### Best Actress

Cynthia Erivo *Harriet*

Scarlett Johansson *Marriage Story*

Saoirse Ronan *Little Women*

Charlize Theron *Bombshell*

Renee Zellweger *Judy*

#### Best Supporting Actor

Tom Hanks *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Anthony Hopkins *The Two Popes*

Al Pacino *The Irishman*

Joe Pesci *The Irishman*

Brad Pitt *Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*

#### Best Supporting Actress

Kathy Bates *Richard Jewell*

Laura Dern *Marriage Story*

Scarlett Johansson *Jojo Rabbit*

Florence Pugh *Little Women*

Margot Robbie *Bombshell*

(Underlined nominees equal CampChuck predictions)

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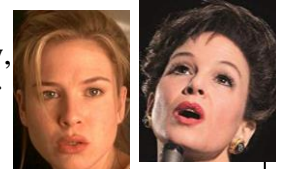
Wild&Scenic Festival Winners 4

## Best Actresses and Actors

Saoirse Ronan (“Little Women”), who contributes to a rousing ensemble effect, falls shy of the individual distinction that queues up the Best Actress list so competitively. In a less blatant ensemble script, Charlize Theron (“Bombshell”) feels too much like just one of 3 bombshells in a news-popping contemporary telling.

Scarlett Johansson nails a tugging role as half of a divorce story that, tellingly, calls itself “Marriage Story.” Scarlett should win, but wait. The humanity and power, the history and symbolism represented by Cynthia Erivo (“Harriet”) makes the winningest impression. As Harriet Tubman, you’re tugged bigger in larger-than-life character and circumstance.

“Judy” waves a double-edged sword for Renee Zellweger. Is she stuck in an overburdened impersonation of the entertainment icon Judy Garland? Or is she triumphant, infusing haunted celebrity in her portrayal of a legendary entertainer? She rides both of these. Unfortunately, Zellweger will be forgiven the former and be granted Oscar for the latter.



Of the 3 bombshells centering the story about Roger Ailes and Fox News, it is Margot Robbie whose acting earns the keenest Supporting Actress appreciation. She does fine enough outshining Scarlett Johansson (“Jojo Rabbit”), Florence Pugh (“Little Women”), and Kathy Bates (“Richard Jewell”). However, it’s Laura Dern

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## Best Picture, Best Director

Several films have no chance of winning Best Picture or Best Director.

“Ford v Ferrari” may be well constructed and entertaining with good chemistry between Matt Damon and special attention-worthy Christian Bale, but it’s essentially an action flick with some nice substance.

“Jojo Rabbit” deserves credit for committing thoroughly to its Hitler-tinged kid’s-eye-view of Nazi Germany, but this satire is too odd and not odd enough for awards. Kudos to Scarlett Johansson for a fine and nominated supporting actress role.

“Joker,” which is so *not* comic book or Batman constrained, is good, but Oscar nodding gets sucked into bowing to Joaquin Phoenix for Best Actor Gold.

The fourth movie version of “Little Women” (not including silent film and TV versions) satisfies thoroughly. It’s familiarity and freshness deserve praise but not Oscars.

After those 4 films, pinpointing the Oscar winner gets tough.

“The Irishman” is too long, too much work for not enough. Director Martin Scorsese puts his excellent stamp on yet another gangster film, but it is “yet another.” They may Oscar him as director for making his last one of these, but “Goodfellas” is better.

“Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood” – ugh – could win Best Picture and/or Director. Tarantino is an insider darling, in part because he has fun referring to movies in his movies and in part because he’s so enthusiastic. He’s good. You can see it in many of the scenes. He’s not as good as he thinks he is. You see that in the movie as a whole.

“Parasite” – hm – could win Best Picture and/or Director for, but it’s also nominated Best International Feature Film. This will push it aside from Best Picture and give it Gold in that foreign language film category. Bong Joon Ho could then still win for directing such a creative, imaginative, an uncomfortably violent film about lower class workers in an upper crust world.

“Marriage Story,” a deserving Best Picture choice, drops in the odds because its director, Noah Baumbach, wasn’t nominated. Also, it’s a small story, a small family story (without the smooth, focused gravitas that “Kramer vs. Kramer” had). Unlike “Irishman,” “Once upon a Time...,” and “1917,” “Marriage Story” hits on all cylinders and shouldn’t be dinged for being a smaller film.

“1917” has the award-winning advantage of size. It’s an epic

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

## Manufactured Mailbag

Dear Editor,

Last year you let on that your 40<sup>th</sup> annual CampChuck Reviewer could have been your last, in fact might not have happened at all. If we see a 41<sup>st</sup> annual issue, am I right to guess you might as well go on to a nice round 50 years?

Jess Kippontruhkin, San Fran, CA

Dear Jess,

Now in CampChuck’s 5<sup>th</sup> decade, I can only say we shall see.

Ed.

Dear Editor,

Are you gonna milk this tumor, surgery, recovery thing, man. It fogs your film stuff, dude. The CampChuck donation rants are bad enough.

A friend, Los Angeles

Dear friend,

Many people continue to recall it and repeat their concern even a year later. Despite declarations of being in a normal range of health, I do still struggle with stamina below my pre-ordeal levels.

Interesting question: is the struggle because full recovery takes more than a year or because I’ve not been diligent enough working at it? How about now that I’m, coincidentally, 70 (spelled o l d ), the ordeal just set me down a peg? Another MRI monitoring in February. A cataract surgery in March. I guess my medical story doth continue.

Ed.

## Vote. Get Other People to Vote

(written before the Senate trial of Trump ended)

It's two thousand twenty. The bells ring twenty twenty. Our vision is correctable to twenty twenty, correctable for twenty twenty. Donald J. Trump has been impeached. Donald J. Trump is impeached. Impeachment carries clear, heavy meaning that carries more votes away from Trump than to Trump.

The Senate failed to convict Trump. They did not remove him from office. Nonetheless, the House of Representatives' case against Trump is clear and resounding. The case should be revisited, referred to, repeated throughout this election year. Display Trump's impeachment throughout this election year. Removal from office aside, recount throughout this election year Trump's character, behavior, business dealings, his spoken and written words, his lying, lying, lying.

Remember the substantive non-impeachment issues. Regard Trump's stance, orders, and actions in matters of climate change and environment, health care, equality, foreign affairs, immigration, student debt, gun control, and so much more.

Vote. Get other people to vote. Get others to vote who live in electoral-college-sensitive states, states with Congressional races up for grabs. Get young adults to vote and get them to talk up voting with their peers. Turnout matters. Though 2020 will be tiring, worrying, wearying, troublesome, we must sustain an active hand in assuring that the biggest-ever aberration in American leadership is squashed. Vote for the people. Vote for America.

Meanwhile, CampChuck continues as it has **since 1992, matching every subscription dollar for dollar**. All subscriptions – close to 39,000 plus CampChuck's 100% match of \$39,000 -- 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.

### Good, Good, Good Good Vibrations

Many Republicans will be too embarrassed to go with Trump this time. (Don't worry about his 30-40% base.)

Many Independents will be too disappointed to go with Trump this time.

Many, many, many Democrats will stoke big voter turnout against Trump this time.

Still, pump worry into voter turnout and good vibes.

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...

### 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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## Actors, Actresses



who will grab the Oscar. Dern registers a fresher acting mark in “Marriage Story” where she plays one of the lawyers. She offers a great, catalyzing support to the marriage/divorce complications.

The challenging subtlety in the Antonio Banderas role as a filmmaker (“Pain and Glory”) could sneak in as the choice for the Best Actor Oscar, but being a foreign language film will hold him back. Though compelling, Jonathan Pryce (“The Two Popes”) is too straightforward. Leonardo DiCaprio (“Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood”) is wrapped up in his whole film’s too-full-of-itself insufficiencies.

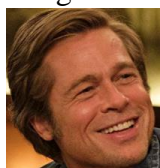
Adam Driver (“Marriage Story”), like his co-lead Scarlett Johansson, lacks award-winning oomph because he feels too much like a man in ordinary strife. Joaquin Phoenix holds the extraordinary card in “Joker.” His vulnerability and craziness on fire shouts Best Actor Oscar.



Both appearing in “The Irishman,” Al Pacino and Joe Pesci siphon Best Supporting Actor votes from each other. Besides that, Robert DeNiro -- not nominated -- was better in his gangster turn than those two. Anthony Hopkins, one of “The Two Popes,” fairs much like Jonathan Pryce playing the other pope. The content and personalities engage, but the acting doesn’t seem especially demanding.

Tom Hanks in “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” is noteworthy and likable playing Mr. Rogers. Though it’s a big supporting role and does much to deliver the story of the journalist writing about him, it’s sort of a nodding, resume item for the versatile Mr. Hanks.

Brad Pitt in “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood” checks lots of boxes for Best Supporting Actor. It’s a big Best-Actor-ish part. It’s more subtle than



Leonardo di Caprio’s companion part. Pitt rises above an overrated script. He puts the cool in the film that Tarentino had intended to be everywhere in the film.

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## Best Picture, Best Director

World War I story. It’s a big telling while retaining an intimate showcase for its hero. The tension of wartime is boosted by the focus on 2 men charged with delivering a battalion-saving message into enemy territory.



The visuals benefit from long, complicated takes. A filming sequence might last seven minutes and the whole film seems to run like one continuously unfolding capture of a war landscape. Look for a Cinematography Oscar for Richard Deakins as well as Best Picture and Best Director for Sam Mendes.

### Honeyland

The film “Honeyland” makes a curious triple splash on the movie scene. Notice below that it won the “Best of Fest” at CampChuck’s hometown 18<sup>th</sup> Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Besides this small splash, “Honeyland” also received two (2) Academy Awards nominations: one for Best Documentary; the other for the higher profile Best International Feature Film. (Last year this Oscar category was called Best Foreign Language Film.)

“Honeyland,” in old-world Macedonia outside the new-world city, spends time with a woman with wonderful human qualities as she tends to her bees, her invalid mother, and her next-door neighbors.

### 18th Wild & Scenic Film Festival Awards:

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

(Here are the 2020 award-winning films.)

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| “Artifishal”                       | jury award                            |
| “The Condor & the Eagle”           | honorable mention                     |
| “Honeyland”                        | <b>best of fest</b>                   |
| “Maxima”                           | honorable mention                     |
| “Mossville”                        | <b>spirit of activism award</b>       |
| “The River and the Wall”           | <b>most inspiring adventure award</b> |
| “The Sacramento, at Current Speed” | people’s choice award                 |
| “Sea of Shadows”                   | jury award                            |
| “Take Back the Harbor”             | best in theme (Regeneration)          |
| “Tigerland”                        | honorable mention                     |
| “Where Life Begins”                | best short                            |