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# **Movies 2013: A Soaring Year**

Oscar Gets It Right: A Look At The Best Movies Of The Year

# BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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I guess I'm with Oscar. Comparing my list of the 10 best films of 2013 to the 2014 Oscar nominees for Best Picture, we share five entries. Three of the other nominees just missed my top 10 — and I have yet to see "Philomena."

For both narrative films and documentaries, there was a lot of quality cinema to see in 2013.

Here were my highlights:

# 10. 12 YEARS A SLAVE

Steve McQueen's unflinching adaptation of Solomon Northup's 1853 memoir is a haunting piece of cinema that reminds us how casual the slavery system was in its brutality. The depiction of an interrupted lynching is particularly difficult to endure. The film is a demonstration of the power history can have over us and is McQueen's best work yet.

### 9. HER

If you think the idea of falling in love with a computer operating system is ridiculous, you haven't seen "Her." Spike Jonze's look at loneliness and the difficulty of connecting with other human beings in a slightly futuristic world is tender and penetrating at the same time. Yes, you may initially laugh at the goofiness of Joaquin Phoenix's mustache and pants, but you'll probably join him as he falls in love with a computer voiced by Scarlett Johansson.

## 8. SELFISH GIANT

In recent years, British directors such as Shane Meadows, Lynne Ramsay, Andrea Arnold and Ken Loach have given audiences some brilliant, heart-



"Gravity," which starred Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, soared in theaters, at the box office and with critics during 2013. It is also one of the leaders in Academy Award nominations, which were unveiled Thursday.

wrenching films about characters who live in poverty. Now we can add Clio Barnard to that list. "The Selfish Giant" was inspired by Oscar Wilde's short story of the same name, but in this case the film is definitely better than the source material. It follows two boys who collect scrap around the city in order to make money. However, greed soon leads to tragedy.

#### 7. NEBRASKA

Filmed largely in northeast Nebraska and written by Bob Nelson, who has Yankton-area ties, "Nebraska" will likely make you uncomfortable with just how spot on it captures life in this part of the country. Bruce Dern gives the performance of a lifetime as Woody, a cantankerous old man who believes he's won a million dollars. Once again, director Alexander Payne manages to mix humor and drama in a way no other directors are doing today.

## 6. THE HUNT

An elementary teacher played by

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# 'Hustle,' 'Gravity' Lead Oscars With 10 Nods Each BY JAKE COYLE

# AP Film Writer

The Academy Awards appear to be the threehorse race many expected they would be, with "Gravity," "American Hustle" and "12 Years a Slave" all receiving a heap of nominations.

The nominations for the 86th Academy

Awards, announced Thursday morning in Beverly Hills, Calif., were led by the 3-D space odyssey "Gravity" and the con-artist caper "American Hustle," both with 10 nominations. The harrowing historical epic "12 Years a Slave" trailed closely with nine nominations.

All were among the nine films nominated for best picture. The other nominees are "Captain Phillips," "Dallas Buyers Club," "Her," "Nebraska," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Philomena."

The most notable omission by the academy was Tom Hanks, whose lead performance in "Captain Phillips" was widely considered a shoo-in. It was a particularly surprising snub since Hanks is widely beloved by the academy, having been nominated five times previously, winning for "Forest Gump" and "Philadelphia." Robert Redford, expected by many to be nomi-

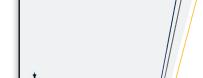
Robert Redford, expected by many to be nominated for the shipwreck drama "All Is Lost," also missed out on a best actor nod. Redford has never won an acting Oscar.

The best actor nominees are Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave"), Bruce Dern ("Nebraska"), Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Wolf of Wall Street"), Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club") and Christian Bale ("American Hustle"). The 77-year-old Dern is an Oscar nominee for

The 77-year-old Dern is an Oscar nominee for the second time, 35 years after his nomination for Hal Ashby's "Coming Home." Few have taken more pleasure in awards season than Dern, revitalized by a film he's happily viewed, he estimates, "approaching the upper 30s."

"I can't see it enough to realize how lucky we all were with the collaboration that went on on this particular movie," said Dern. "I feel somehow

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2:00 PM	Women's Basketball - Midland University - Away
4:00 PM	Men's Basketball - Midland University - Away
TBA	Indoor Track - Dordt University Invite - Away
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
2:30 PM	Center For Active Learner's Open House - Cyber Café
4:00 PM	Mass Peace Chapel
5:15 PM	Bible Study - Roncalli, South Dining Room
	MONDAY, JANUARY 20
9 AM 4120 DM	Bede Art Gallery: Jeff Ballard, "Defining Purpose"
8 AM - 4:30 PM	Community Hour
10:00 AM	PN AND SOPHMORE PLEDGING CEREMONY - BISHOP MARTY MEMORIAL CHAPEL
4:00 PM	I'N AND SOPHMORE I LEDGING CEREMONT - DISHOP MARTI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
	TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
8 AM - 4:30 PM	Bede Art Gallery: Jeff Ballard, "Defining Purpose"
9:30 PM	Rosary - Peace Ch <b>ap</b> el
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
8 AM - 4:30 PM	Bede Art Gallery: Jeff Ballard, "Defining Purpose"
10:00 AM	Community Hour and Mass - Greg Hall
3:00 PM	JV Women's Basketball - Dordt College - Away
3:30 PM	JV Men's Basketball - Dordt College - Away
6:00 PM	Women's Basketball - Dordt College - Away
8:00 PM	Men's Basketball - Dordt College - Away
	THUDEDAY LANULADY 22
0	THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 Bede Art Gallery: Jeff Ballard, "Defining Purpose"
8 AM - 4:30 PM	Mount Marty College Alumni Association Winter Mixer - Papillion, NE
5:30 PM	IV WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - HOME
6:00 PM	JV WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - HOME JV MEN'S BASKETBALL - MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - HOME
7:45 PM	) V WIEN S DASKETBALL - MIORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - HOME
	FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
8 AM - 4:30 PM	Bede Art Gallery: Jeff Ballard, "Defining Purpose"
10:00 AM	Community Hour
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
2:00 PM	Women's Basketball - Doane College - Home
4:00 PM	Men's Basketball - Doane College - Home
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