

Variety – December 15 – Awards Watch: More Top Tens

I voted on the best films of the year with two very different groups this week, The Alliance of Women Film Journalists and the AFI Awards. One movie that did surprisingly well with both groups was Frozen River, whose stars **Melissa Leo** and Misty Upham and writer-director Courtney Hunt were all singled out for praise.

Soon, I will come up with my own top ten list. Even though I obsessively want to make sure I have seen everything, there's no way I'll be able to catch up with all the films that have slipped through the cracks, among them Gomorra, Chop Shop, Cadillac Records, Foot Fist Way, Ghost Town, and Stronger, Bigger, Faster.

Here's the AFI list. Yes, we left off Slumdog Millionaire--the creators and backers of the film must be primarily American. It's the American Film Institute list. (And they also don't include docs.)

Here's the AFI top ten:

“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”

“The Dark Knight”

“Frost/Nixon”

“Frozen River”

“Gran Torino”

“Iron Man”

“Milk”

“WALL-E”

“Wendy and Lucy”

“The Wrestler”

On this list, the strongest potential Oscar contenders are Benjamin Button, The Dark Knight, Frost/Nixon, and Milk. And you know the other strong Oscar suitor: Slumdog Millionaire. Although Revolutionary Road, Changeling, Rachel Getting Married, Doubt and The Reader did

not make the AFI cut, they all have a shot at some Oscar noms, particularly from the actors branch.

The AWFJ awards are listed on the jump:

Best Film Slumdog Millionaire

Best Direction

Danny Boyle - Slumdog Millionaire

Best Screenplay Original

Wall-E - Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter, Jim Reardon

Best Screenplay Adapted

Frost/Nixon - Peter Morgan

Best Documentary (Tie)

Man On Wire - James Marsh

Trouble The Water - Tia Lessen, Carl Deal

Best Actress (Tie)

Sally Hawkins - Happy-Go-Lucky

Kate Winslet - The Reader and Revolutionary Road

Best Actress In Supporting Role

Viola Davis - Doubt

Best Actor

Sean Penn - Milk

Best Actor in Supporting Role

Heath Ledger - Dark Knight

Best Ensemble Cast

Rachel Getting Married

Best Editing

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button - Kirk Baxter, Angus Wall

Best Foreign Film

Tell No One

EDA FEMALE FOCUS AWARDS

Best Woman Director
Courtney Hunt - Frozen River

Best Woman Screenwriter
Jenny Lumet - Rachel Getting Married

Best Breakthrough Performance
Sally Hawkins - Happy-Go-Lucky

Best Newcomer
Misty Upham - Frozen River

Women's Image Award
Kristin Scott Thomas

Hanging in There Award for Persistence
Melissa Leo - Frozen River

Actress Defying Age and Ageism
Catherine Deneuve - A Christmas Tale

2008 Outstanding Achievement By A Woman In The Film Industry
Sheila Nevins, Producing/Programming at HBO

Lifetime Achievement Award
Catherine Deneuve

AWFJ Award For Humanitarian Activism
All of the Women in Pray The Devil Back To Hell

EDA SPECIAL MENTION AWARDS

AWFJ Hall Of Shame Award
27 Dresses

Actress Most in Need Of A New Agent
Kate Hudson

Movie You Wanted To Love But Just Couldn't (Tie)
Mamma Mia!
The Women

Best Of The Fests
Hunger

Unforgettable Moment Award (Tie)

Dark Knight: Joker's first scene

Slumdog Millionaire: Young Jamal jumps into the poop

Best Depiction Of Nudity or Sexuality (Tie)

Elegy

The Reader

Best Seduction

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Sequel That Shouldn't Have Been Made Award (Tie)

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Saw V

The Remake That Shouldn't Have Been Made Award:

The Women

Cultural Crossover Award

Slumdog Millionaire

Bravest Performance Award

Mickey Rourke - The Wrestler

Best Leap from Actress to Director Award

Helen Hunt - Then She Found Me

Most Egregious Age Difference Between Leading Man and Love Interest

The Wackness - Ben Kingsley and Mary-Kate Olsen