



## The Oscars' Road to Perdition

Hollywood just announced its 2014 Oscar nominations for 2013 movies, and we have to say that these are among the most disappointing Oscar nominees in years. 

The vast majority of the nominees are boring, uninspiring, tasteless, elitist, senseless, or politically correct.

For example, in the Best Picture category, Oscar voters senselessly nominated sloppily made, mostly R-rated, and sometimes politically correct, adult dramas; often with disagreeable, unsympathetic characters.

They nominated only two really superb movies, *Gravity* and *Captain Phillips*. *Nebraska* had some uplifting moments, but its director foolishly refused to delete one obscenity from his movie to get a PG-13 rating instead of an R rating.

Also, only one of the Best Picture nominees, *Gravity*, appealed to families. Why couldn't they nominate a couple of animated family movies? [Movieguide](#) liked *Frozen* and *Despicable Me 2* the most, but *The Croods* and *Monsters University* were also very good.

The press keeps talking about the Oscar snub against *The Butler* and the hype surrounding *12 Years a Slave*, but there were two much better movies this year about African Americans: the crowd-pleasing and inspiring *42* and the lesser known *Black Nativity*, one of the most moving films of the entire year.

Unlike *42* and *Black Nativity*, *The Butler* and *12 Years a Slave* contained some politically correct attacks on Christians and conservatives.

For instance, *The Butler* levels some false, anachronistic slanders against President Reagan at the end. The film *12 Years a Slave*, which has a lot of thematic and structural problems, stereotypes Southern Christians during the time of slavery. It also depicts its protagonist as rather less than heroic, more as a cardboard cutout victim than a heroic individual willing to sacrifice himself for others.

The less said about *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the better perhaps. But this shameless, depraved, and painful movie is 20 minutes longer than the *Hobbit* movie!

Speaking of *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*, why not give this exciting, well-structured movie some major kudos? The acting performances in *Smaug*, for instance, are terrific, especially those of Richard Armitage and Martin Freeman.

While we're at it, why not send some love to such blockbuster action movies as *Iron Man 3*, *Man of Steel*, and the second *Hunger Games* movie, *Catching Fire*?

Robert Downey, Jr. continued to astound audiences in *Iron Man 3*. He was supported by Oscar-worthy performances from Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Kingsley.

*Man of Steel*, meanwhile, brings Superman back to full life in a heroic movie worthy of the accolade "super."

And, the script, direction, and editing in *Catching Fire* had a much better screenplay and better editing and direction than Oscar-nominated dramas such as *American Hustle*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Philomena*, and *The Wolf of Wall Street*.



Written by [Alias](#) on February 3, 2014

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Finally, what about Tom Hanks in both *Captain Phillips* and *Saving Mr. Banks* (two of his best performances in years), Emma Thompson and Paul Giamatti in *Saving Mr. Banks*, the great performances in *Black Nativity* (not to mention the fine acting in the small Christian movie *Grace Unplugged*).

Or, what about George Clooney's wonderful performance in *Gravity*, probably his best so far? Or Matthew McConaughey's performance in *Mud*, which was far more interesting than what he did in the obscene *Dallas Buyers Club*.

At least the Oscar voters nominated Sandra Bullock for her tremendous performance in *Gravity*, a real tour de force.

The American public tends to agree with us about all this. The movies listed above that we prefer generally made the most money at the box office.

Also, *American Hustle* garnered a measly "B+" with the audience poll CinemaScore, the same rating that recent flops such as *47 Ronin* and *Grudge Match* received.

Martin Scorsese's *Wolf of Wall Street* is one of the least-liked movies in theaters currently, with a "C" grade on CinemaScore.

*Movieguide* has heard story after story about moviegoers getting disgusted at *Wolf's* first couple of minutes and walking out of the theater. One eyewitness told us he talked with an older couple who walked out of the movie and went to see *Frozen* instead.

Of course, you can find out what were the truly great movies of 2013 by seeing who *Movieguide* nominates for its 22nd Annual Faith & Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry, to be held February 7 at the Universal Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Ultimately, it's movies like *Frozen*, *Gravity*, *Despicable Me 2*, *Iron Man 3*, *Man of Steel*, *Black Nativity*, *Grace Unplugged*, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*, and *42*, which reach audiences with larger-than-life, inspiring messages, that deserve your celebration, acclaim, and entertainment dollars.

*Dr. Ted Baehr is the founder and publisher of [Movieguide](#) and the founder and chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission. Dr. Tom Snyder is the editor of Movieguide.*

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