

Oscars: the aftermath

Last week, some of the TechNews staff got together to give you their predictions on who would win some golden statuettes on the night of February 27. It's time to recap who won big last night, and which staff members are better at spotting winners when they see them.

THE KING'S SPEECH

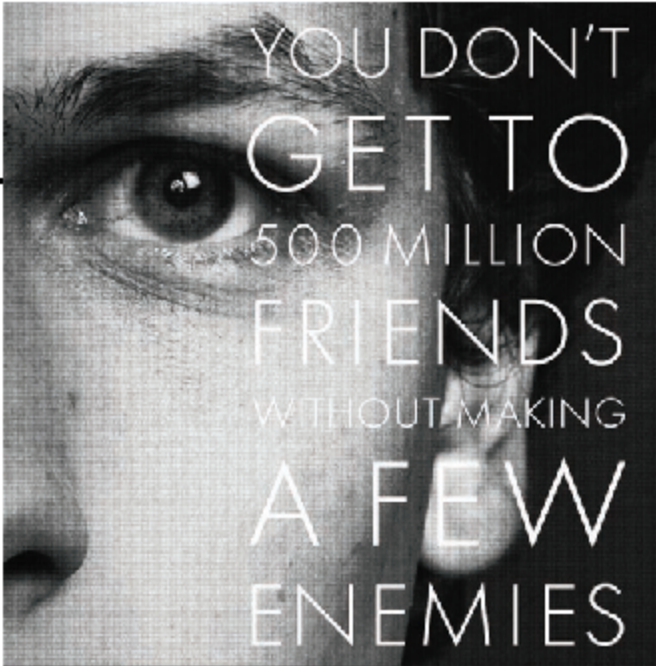
Best Picture
Best Director: Tom Hooper
Best Actor: Colin Firth
Best Original Screenplay: David Seidler



None of us got Best Director right. Our main picks were Darren Aronofsky for *Black Swan* and David Fincher for *The Social Network*. But Ryan cleaned up with Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Screenplay. The rest of the TechNews staff were pretty firmly in the James Franco camp for Best Actor, and were disappointed he didn't get any recognition for *127 Hours*. Our picks for Best Picture were *127 Hours* and *True Grit*.

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

Best Adapted Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin
Best Film Editing: Angus Wall & Kirk Baxter
Best Original Score: Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross



We pretty much agreed that the Best Adapted Screenplay came out of left field. Becca had favored *127 Hours*, Karl was supporting *True Grit*. Film editing was where most of the staff were perplexed. *Inception* had been the staff favorite for this (and, honestly, most of technical awards). But Becca felt that the preview shown for *The Social Network* made it the obvious front-runner. It became especially evident when they played the clip from the Winkleboss's rowing scene with "In the Hall of the Mountain King" playing in the background. For soundtracks, Becca's pick was *127 Hours*, and Karl was in the *Inception* camp (A Hans Zimmer score is always a worthy contender). Both were disappointed. However, Becca concedes that the win made perfect sense, and those who listen to the soundtrack again will understand why.

TOY STORY 3

Best Original Song: Randy Newman, "We Belong Together"
Best Animated Feature: Lee Unkrich

Randy Newman for Best Original Song? We'll allow it. Becca will never understand how they can surpass A.R. Rahman's brilliance. Florence Welch took over Dido's role during the live performance's last night in "If I Rise" - hopefully that wasn't what made them lose it. None of us were particularly surprised by the Best Animated Feature choice, but we were definitely all happy with it!

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Best Costume Design: Colleen Atwood
Best Art Direction: Robert Stromberg & Karen O'Hara

We hadn't made a pick for these two categories, but Alice in Wonderland was a strong contender, so it's tough to argue with the result.

THE NOT-SO-BIG WINNERS

Best Actress: Natalie Portman, *Black Swan*
Ryan, Utsav and Becca were agreed on this one, but our Editor-in-Chief had picked Michelle Williams for her role in *Blue Valentine*. It's OK, he understands.

Best Foreign Language Film: *In a Better World*
This was a tough one. Karl had thought *Biutiful* was the front-runner for this Oscar, but it was a close win, so no hard feelings.

Best Feature Documentary: *Inside Job*
Karl had been a big supporter of *Inside Job*, though we were all curious to see whether Banksy himself would go up to accept the award if *Exit Through the Gift Shop* won.

Best Documentary Short: *Strangers No More*
Best Live-Action Short: *God of Love*
Best Animated Short: *The Lost Thing*
We'll be honest... we didn't see many shorts this past year, but we're sure these were all great.

Best Makeup: Richard Baker & Dave Elsey, *The Wolfman*
Another one we hadn't made a pick for, but it's good to see *The Wolfman* getting some Oscar love.

INCEPTION

Best Sound Editing: Richard King
Best Sound Mixing: Lora Hirschberg, Gary A. Rizzo, & Ed Novick
Best Cinematography: Wally Pfister
Best Visual Effects: Paul Franklin, Chris Corbould, Andrew Lockley, and Peter Bebb



The TechNews staff was almost certain *Inception* would clean up in the technical categories, and we were pretty much right. Given how impressive the movie was in its visual and audio aspects, it was a front-runner for all of these.

THE FIGHTER

Best Supporting Actor: Christian Bale
Best Supporting Actress: Melissa Leo



These two caught all the staff by surprise. Sure, these roles were good, but we'd assumed that Helena Bonham Carter or Hailee Steinfeld would be getting some recognition in this category. Karl had Mark Ruffalo pegged for best actor, too.

Final impressions from the TechNews staff

"I thought this year's Oscars were very cool. I agreed with almost all the award recipients, the musical performances were excellent, and the vast majority of the Oscar winners were gracious and humble in their acceptance speeches. I'm really happy that The King's Speech did so well - it was an excellent movie, and it's great that it's finally getting the attention it deserves. My one real complaint about the night was the hosting done by James Franco and Anne Hathaway. Towards the end of the night, both lost their charm and killed the mood of the night. Another thing I found interesting was the fact that narration from The King's Speech narrated the best picture montage - almost as if the Academy was trying to give us a clue as to who was going to win." - Ryan

"Most of the awards were well deserved, but I hated the lack of attention to 127 Hours. The academy went throughout the whole night without giving the film the time of day. In all of the clips for previews of each movie, the movie got about 4 seconds while The King's Speech was spoken over the whole clipping. I think politically it was a sweep, and they could have been a little bit more modest about it. James Franco's hosting was unimpressive, but I think he may have seen what was coming before anyone else did... Natalie Portman was stunning, and her award was an obvious win. Anne Hathaway was adorable, although the abundant dress change wasn't necessary; she was also a lot more upbeat than James Franco. The Social Network deserved best soundtrack, and if anyone wants it, I can give it to them. Personally I'm sad - 127 Hours should have won at least one award. It was a piece of artwork that went underrated, underestimated, and under-publicized. The academy obviously never saw it. Such a shame..." - Becca

"The hosts could have done a better job (I found them a little nervous), 127 Hours definitely deserved more recognition, even Best Picture, maybe, and the stage performances, especially Rahman's, were Oscar-worthy.

Best Actress obviously wasn't a surprise. It was nice that she acknowledged her beginnings and her competitors.

I was excited to see Sir Francis Ford Coppola get the Lifetime Achievement - I am a huge fan of the Godfather series.

Director: I expected the Black Swan guy [Darren Aronofsky], but I think Tom Hooper winning it makes all the more reason for me to catch the film asap!!

Great to see Inception's technical excellence getting recognized, and Toy Story, Alice in Wonderland, the documentary Karl mentioned in his initial list [Inside Job], all getting their due.

As for how the stars looked, I was very, very happy to see Aishwarya Rai (who you might remember from Pink Panther 2) looking STUNNING." - Utsav

"I may be part of a tiny minority who actually liked the job James Franco and Anne Hathaway did hosting the Oscars - after Ricky Gervais' excessive snark at the Golden Globes and the general over-done nature of most award shows, it was actually refreshing to see them being awkward and geeking out over movies - I don't know, it just felt more earnest. The costume changes were unnecessary, but undeniably impressive.

As far as the awards themselves, I was honestly surprised at how well The Social Network and The King's Speech did. I felt like too many people couldn't separate the former from all the hype surrounding it, and the latter pretty much was just Oscar bait (though a well-done movie, I'll readily admit). Movies I wish had done a little better? Blue Valentine, The Kids Are All Right, and, of course, True Grit. I was really happy with the Inside Job win, though. An award well-deserved." - Karl