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Bloggers' Freelance writer and raconteur Become a Posted: June 24, 2009 01:44 PM Index Next Year's Oscars Will Have Ten **Best Picture Nominees** SH **II □ 9 ♥ ■ 1 6 < 3** Read More: Academy Awards, Movies, Oscars, The Dark **Knight, Entertainment News** Google™ Custom Search The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Be the First to plecom **b** Buzz up! and ABC announced today that the Oscars will Submit This Story to Digg expand its Best Picture list to 10 films for next



year's ceremony. They're pitching it as a return to tradition but in fact the last time 10 films were nominated for Best Picture was in 1943 when Casablanca won the top prize. (Hmm, since that one triumphed, maybe it's not such a bad idea.)

Obviously, they're still smarting from last year's ceremony when critically acclaimed and wildly popular movies like The Dark Knight and WALL-

E weren't in the running. But what do you think? Is this going to cheapen the prestige of being nominated for Best Picture? Or will it broaden the appeal of the Oscars and let the list of nominees actually reflect the range of good movies shown throughout the year?

To refresh your memory, the five nominees for Best Picture from 2008 were:

The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button

Frost/Nixon

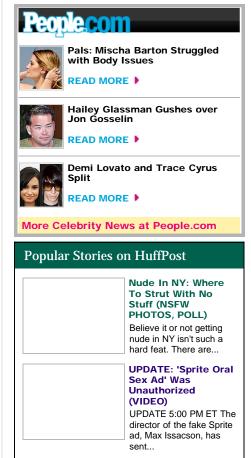
Milk

The Reader

Slumdog Millionare

With of course, Slumdog becoming top dog. Now based strictly on total number of nominations in every category, if the top nominees became the top picks for Best Picture, the list last year might have been:

The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button Changeling The Dark Knight



SEARCH

Doubt Frost/Nixon Milk The Reader Revolutionary Road Slumdog Millionaire WALL-E

Is that a more exciting list? Of course, nominations don't mean you will automatically make it on the list for Best Picture. Other acclaimed films that might have made it onto the Best Picture list include:

Happy-Go-Lucky Iron Man Waltz With Bashir The Wrestler

If the list means popular and acclaimed films like WALL-E and The Dark Knight are in the mix, it'll be a success. If it just means more art house films like Doubt and Revolutionary Road, the list will rightly be seen as more of the same. Next year, if UP is not nominated for Best Picture, there will rightly be an outcry. Almost as loud an outcry if something commercially successful but godawful like Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen does make it.

So what do you think about this radical change by the Oscars?

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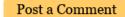
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A 10-movie field sure came in handy in 1939. These were the nominees:

Dark Victory

Gone With the Wind

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Love Affair

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Ninotchka

Of Mice and Men

Stagecoach

The Wizard of Oz

Wuthering Heights

Of course, not every year is 1939. there were a few years in the '80s when it was tough to scrape up 5 worthy nominees

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Given this year's questionable slate, I doubt this will play out well.

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I think it's a great idea, and I like your list. I'd switch out Revolutionary Road for The Wrestler though. I love the actors and the director, but RR was not better than The Wrestler. I kept thinking, just move back to New York, you morons.

My own, laughably unrealistic, list:

The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button

Changeling

The Dark Knight

The Fall

Frozen River

In Bruge

Milk

Slumdog Millionaire

Tropic Thunder (I know I know, I *said* it was unrealistic)

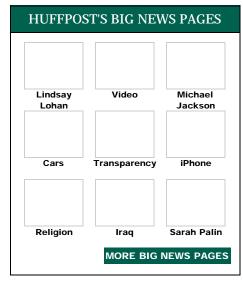
WALL-E

The Wrestler

I know that list has some iffy titles. Tropic Thunder is not "better" than Doubt, which is a very good movie and deserved its nomination. It's just that I enjoyed TT more. I'm glad Robert Downey Jr. got nominated and I wasn't upset that the movie itself didn't get nominated. The Fall is not a great movie, but it did have the best performance by an actress, and was the most visually stunning movie of the past several years.

In other threads, people are saying there weren't enough good movies. That's crazy talk. I saw 170 movies in the theater last year and STILL missed some excellent movies I wish I had seen (like Snow

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