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COULD THIS YEAR'S EE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS INDICATE LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S FATE AT THE ACADEMY AWARDS?

UKTV WILL BE BROADCASTING THE EE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS ON FEBRUARY 15 FROM 8.30PM



Leonardo DiCaprio



Eddie Redmayne



Cate Blanchett

The Awards season is now in full swing, and next up are the 69th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) premiering on UKTV express from the UK on Monday February 15. Red carpet coverage will start from 8.30pm and ceremony coverage from 9.00pm.

All eyes will be fixed on Hollywood's underdog **Leonardo DiCaprio** this year as he goes head-to-head with **Eddie Redmayne** for the second year in row. Nominated for a Leading Actor award for his role in *The Revenant*, Leonardo has previously missed out on a string of accolades, including four BAFTAs and five Oscar-awards.

The BAFTAs recognise the talents of the world's most eminent artists across film and are regarded as an important indicator of the frontrunners for the Academy Awards©.

Hosted by British actor and writer Stephen Fry, the awards recognise the stellar year in film with titles like *Bridge of Spies* and *Carol* receiving nine nominations, *The Revenant* eight and *Mad Max* seven nominations.

Australian powerhouse **Cate Blanchett** is nominated for her leading role in *Carol*. This nomination will be her sixth BAFTA-nomination having previously won Lead Actress for her roles in *Elizabeth* and *Blue Jasmine*.

Contenders for Best Film include: *The Big Short* – the story of three separate but parallel stories of the U.S mortgage housing crisis from 2005 starring **Ryan Gosling** and **Christian Bale**; *Bridge of Spies* – a biographical thriller telling the story of the release and exchange of a CIA U-2 spy-plane pilot

starring **Tom Hanks** and **Mark Rylance**; *Spotlight* – the true story of the child molestation scandal and cover-up within the local catholic archdiocese starring **Mark Ruffalo** and **Rachel McAdams**; *Carol* – a 1950s love story between two women and the world around them starring Aussie favourite, **Cate Blanchett**; and *The Revenant* – an adventure survival film starring **Leonardo DiCaprio** as a frontiersman on a fur trading expedition.

An expert panel featuring UK film critics Xan Brookes, Rhianna Dhillon and Jason Solomons, discuss this year's BAFTA nominations [here](#).

Rhianna Dhillon, BBC Radio 1's film critic says, "Why no Mad Max in Best Film? That's what I'm upset about. I really thought BAFTA was going to be brave and go for something younger, a really dystopian film, I thought that would really kind of raise the bar."

Xan Brookes, host of the weekly Guardian Film Show says, "Well you've got two obvious front-runners. *Carol* and *Bridge of Spies*, these two very solid 50s-set American films. Both of them, I think deserved winners. Maybe *Carol* is slightly the classier option if I had to kind of choose at this point. I think BAFTA is probably more likely to go with *Carol* than say the Oscar voters or the Golden Globes voters. But either one, I think is decent."

Jason Solomons, one of the UK's best-known film critics says, "I would love to have seen a British film get into the Best Film category. ... Not one of them deemed good enough to battle with the big boys if you like."

UKTV will be broadcasting the EE British Academy Film Awards on February 15 with red-carpet coverage starting at 8.30pm and ceremony coverage starting at 9.00pm.

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