

The Race for the BAFTAs 2019: Final Predictions

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The BAFTA film awards return once again this weekend to impart their ultimate verdict on the previous year of film. With no more notable awards left to be announced before the ceremony, our model is at last ready to deliver its final predictions on this year's race.

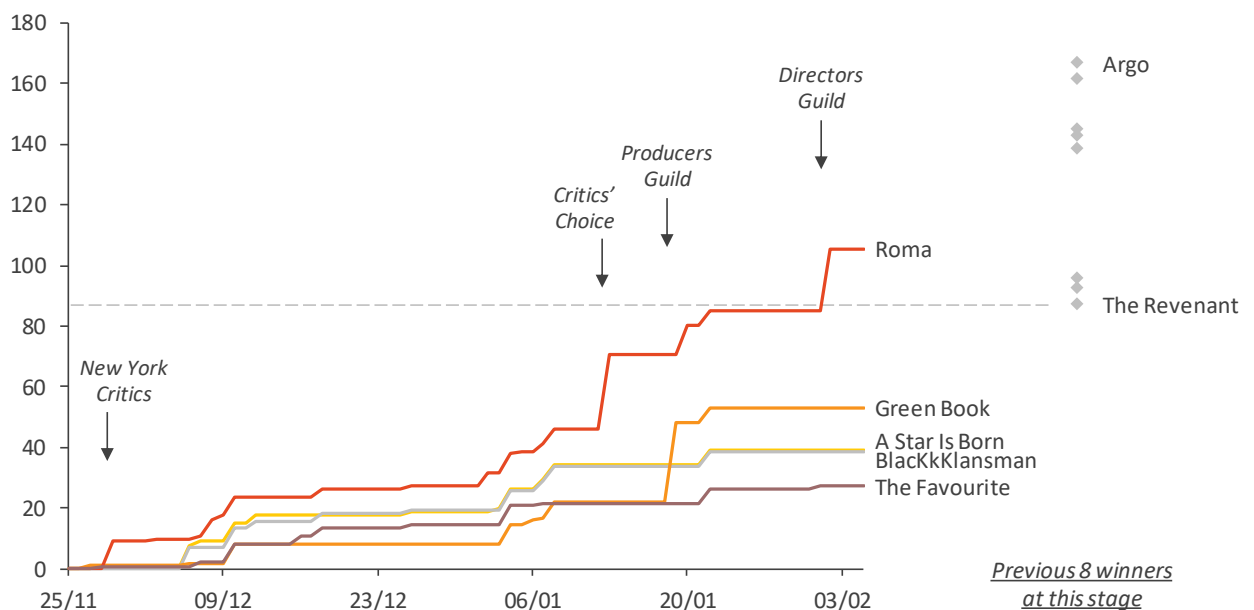
Predicting film awards is notoriously tricky and no strategy is perfect. However, our model has a good track record in recent years by using nominee's performance across the awards season to gauge their potential chances at the BAFTAs via a points-based system (with awards worth more points the more closely they've matched the BAFTAs in the past). For a more detailed description of our methodology, and our earlier predictions at the halfway stage, please read our [previous article](#).

Results throughout the awards season have set the scene for a highly competitive year, especially within the main acting prizes, leaving several categories hanging in the balance until the winners are revealed on Sunday.

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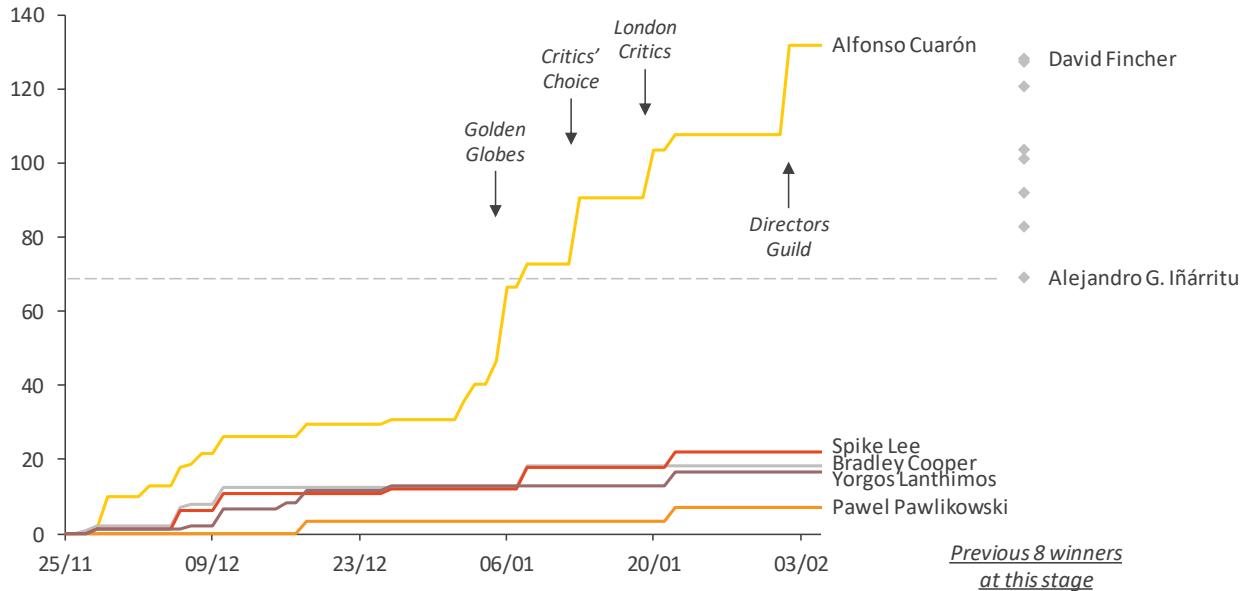
1 Best Film

Netflix's *Roma* remains the favourite for Best Film after winning at both the London Critics Circle and Directors Guild of America awards. The film has continually bucked the typical characteristics of an award winner, and will do so again at the BAFTAs if it triumphs, potentially being both the first foreign language film to win since *Jean de Florette* in 1988 and the first winner ever to be distributed by a streaming service. Though *Roma* is the only nominee with a similar points total to recent BAFTA winners, it is by no means a runaway certainty – *Green Book* in particular saw its forecast chances improved after its recent success at the Producers Guild of America awards; usually a decent indicator for Best Film at the BAFTAs. *The Favourite* is currently seen by bookmakers as a more-or-less equal frontrunner with *Roma*; though its cause will be boosted by its British talent and material, its performance across the season suggests that it's too far off the pace to be considered a likely winner.



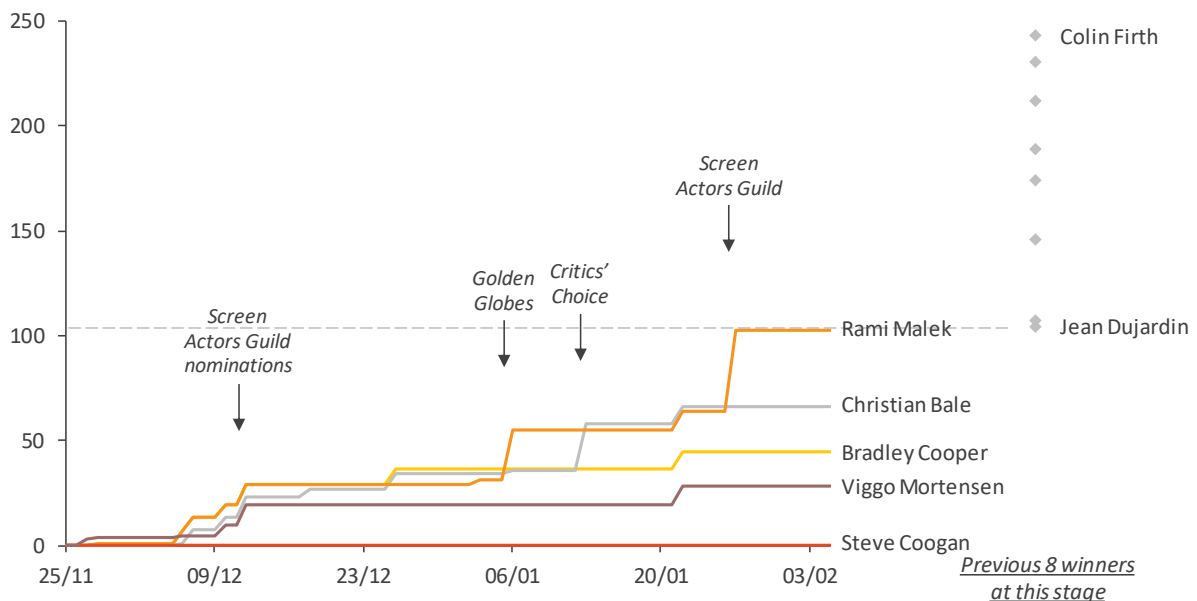
2 Best Director

Alfonso Cuarón continued his sweep of Best Director awards for his work on *Roma* at the London Critics Circle and Directors Guild of America awards making him the clear favourite for the BAFTAs too. At this final stage, our model gives him more points than any previous winner at the BAFTAs in the past eight years – it would be a major shock if any other name was pulled out of the envelope this weekend.



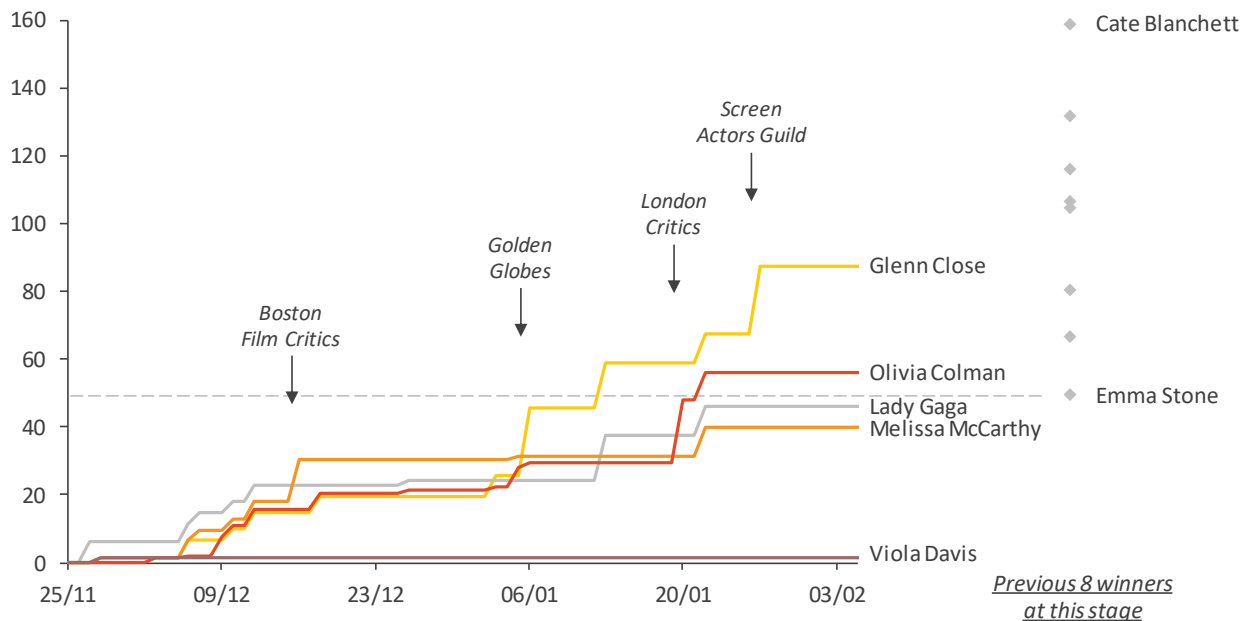
3 Best Actor

In a complete contrast to Best Director, all of the nominees for Best Actor currently have a points total below any of the previous eight winners at this stage, thus making this race very difficult to call. This is partly due to the success of Ethan Hawke, who missed out on a BAFTA nomination, across critical awards. Rami Malek's victory at the influential Screen Actors Guild of America awards puts him out in front as the most likely to win – his performance as a British icon in *Bohemian Rhapsody* should increase his chances among British voters, though he may yet be hindered by the last-minute re-emergence of controversy surrounding Bryan Singer's involvement in the film. Christian Bale looks like the next most likely contender given his success at the Critics' Choice awards, though given the low points totals it's tricky to rule any of the nominees out completely.



4 Best Actress

Best Actress has also remained highly competitive, though it increasingly looks like a direct race between Glenn Close and Olivia Colman. Glenn Close bolstered her chances by winning at the Screen Actors Guild of America awards, however Olivia Colman's triumph at the London Critics Circle awards perhaps signals the intention of British voters. Olivia Colman's chances may also be slightly downplayed by our model as she often competed in awards for comedic films, and these do not usually mirror the BAFTAs particularly well (this was also the case for Emma Stone in 2017). Lady Gaga and Melissa McCarthy remain close behind these two, so should certainly not be ruled out, but both of their campaigns seem to have lost momentum after they each won significant awards earlier in the season.



5 Outstanding British Film

As per our previous article, we've assessed the chances of Outstanding British Film nominees based on nominations in the five major categories (Film, Director, Actor, Actress and Screenplay) across the season due to the lack of comparable awards. *The Favourite* added four Oscar nods (for Best Film, Director, Actress and Original Screenplay) to its already large number of nominations, as it's also the only nominee to be nominated for Best Film it should be considered the clear frontrunner for Outstanding British Film. *Bohemian Rhapsody* picked up two Oscar nominations, for Best Film and, again, Best Actor for Rami Malek's performance, but it remains quite far behind *The Favourite*.

