

From Fantasy to Reality

A Look at the 2025 Oscar Nominees

By Mohammad karami

January 2025

Social narratives, each offering unique experiences and insights. These films delve into themes of identity, migration, and societal challenges, as well as tales of mystery and adventure. This article provides an overview of the standout films of the year, highlighting their contributions to the cinematic landscape and their impact on audiences worldwide.

Anora

Anora is a film that beautifully bridges the world of fantasy and psychological issues. With captivating visual design and a complex narrative about identity crises, it immerses the audience in its parallel universe. While the film delves into the emotional aspects of the main character, it could have explored some emotional and psychological details of the characters more deeply. Nonetheless, in its unique world full of mysteries, Anora offers a thought-provoking and mental experience, with its various layers remaining until the end of the film.

The Brutalist

The Brutalist is a work full of symbolism that uses architecture as a metaphor for the inner transformations of its characters. Not only does it address the features of the brutalist architectural style, but it also uses it to create a deep understanding of the relationship between humans and their surroundings. However, for some viewers, the pace of the narrative and the lack of explanation of some human relationships might be confusing. Nevertheless, the film has effectively challenged its philosophical and psychological issues in a unique and innovative space.

A Complete Unknown

A Complete Unknown is a mysterious and complex film that beautifully portrays the tension and inner anxiety of its characters. This work uses the main character's internal struggles to reveal his mental and emotional gaps. However, at times, the film becomes so complex and ambiguous that it might confuse some viewers. Despite this, it effectively depicts human understanding and the search for truth.

Conclave

Conclave is an engaging film set in the heart of religious politics, focusing on the process of electing a new pope. It effectively portrays multi-dimensional characters, each grappling with their own ethical and social dilemmas. While the film makes good use of its confined and mysterious space, its political and religious complexities might be challenging for those unfamiliar with these issues. Nonetheless, Conclave effectively showcases the tense world of religious decision-making.

Dune: Part Two

Dune: Part Two continues the success of the first part, effectively depicting the rich and

complex world of Dune. With stunning visual effects and a story full of political and military transformations, it immerses us in decisive battles. While the film makes good use of its vast world and numerous details, some viewers might feel that the story becomes unnecessarily drawn out in certain parts. Nonetheless, Dune: Part Two is a grand and rich cinematic experience that will surely satisfy fans of this genre.

Emilia Pérez

Emilia Pérez is a film that narrates the story of a female immigrant, effectively portraying the complexities of immigration, personal identity, and social challenges. While it addresses serious and important issues, it might not delve deeply into the topics of immigration and cultural assimilation in some parts. Overall, Emilia Pérez is a human and uplifting film that addresses the challenges of immigrants' lives and conveys a message of hope and change.

I'm Still Here

I'm Still Here is a film with an emotional and human theme that deals with an individual's internal struggles when facing life's challenges. While it effectively conveys the emotions and anxieties of the characters, it might feel repetitive to some viewers. Nonetheless, the core message of hope and resilience in the face of crises is effectively conveyed, making it a suitable choice for those seeking stories with human depth.

Nickel Boys

Nickel Boys, based on a novel by Colson Whitehead, is a profound social drama that addresses issues of racism and corruption in reform systems in 1960s America. With precise and sincere character development, it offers a realistic and heartbreakingly portrayal of life in that era. Nickel Boys effectively challenges the injustices and inequalities of educational and reform systems while narrating an engaging and dynamic story.

The Substance

The Substance is a film that examines the effects of drugs and the social and individual dependencies arising from them. With its philosophical perspective, it attempts to show how substance abuse can impact human relationships and society. While it effectively addresses the issue of drugs, it might become repetitive in some parts. Overall, The Substance is a thought-provoking and social critique that offers a different perspective on the issue of addiction.

Wicked

Wicked narrates the world of Oz from the perspective of its antagonists, effectively showing how circumstances and experiences can shape an individual's behavior. With creative designs and an engaging story, it has successfully attracted fans of the Oz universe. While the film occasionally deviates from its narrative depth, it remains an engaging cinematic experience with its character development and moral messages.

Each of these films is unique in its own domain and has made an impact in various areas, from storytelling to social and human issues.