

## TV Feature: 'Mad Men,' 'Modern Family' Top 2011 Emmy Predictions

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on September 15, 2011 - 3:10pm

- [30 Rock](#) [2]
- [Brian Tallerico](#) [3]
- [Dexter](#) [4]
- [Emmys](#) [5]
- [Friday Night Lights](#) [6]
- [Game of Thrones](#) [7]
- [Glee](#) [8]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [9]
- [Jon Hamm](#) [10]
- [Laura Linney](#) [11]
- [Mad Men](#) [12]
- [Modern Family](#) [13]
- [Parks and Recreation](#) [14]
- [Television](#) [15]
- [The Big Bang Theory](#) [16]
- [The Good Wife](#) [17]
- [The Office](#) [18]
- [Theater, TV, DVD & Blu-Ray](#) [19]

CHICAGO – With the Emmy Awards very nearly upon us (Sunday, September 18th, 2011), it seems the right time to take one last look at the Academy's 2011 nominees before they turn into winners and runner-ups. Who will win? Who should win? And who should have been invited to the party?

There are more than a few interesting races this year, most notably in the major drama categories. "Breaking Bad" didn't have an eligible season this year, "Lost" is gone, and two new HBO shows hope to strike gold in their rookie seasons. It's created some intriguing match-ups. Will the Emmys continue or even enhance their love for "Mad Men" or look elsewhere? Will anyone repeat from last year? Will anyone surprise? Here are our well-informed predictions for an awards show that almost always defies well-informed predictions more than a few times. Consider these our best guesses.

### BEST DRAMA

"Boardwalk Empire"

"Dexter"

"Friday Night Lights"

"Game of Thrones"

"The Good Wife"

"Mad Men"

Will Win: "Mad Men"

Should Win: "Game of Thrones"

Should Have Been Nominated: "Justified"



Mad Men

Photo credit: AMC

One of the most interesting categories of the night likely boils down to a heated battle between AMC and HBO as the three-time winner “Mad Men” faces its stiffest competition to date in “Boardwalk Empire.” From 2000-03, “The West Wing” won four in a row and “Mad Men” hopes to match that streak this weekend. This has always been a voting body that has embraced patterns, often awarding the same shows and performers year after year. What breaks that pattern is not typically a great new show but a notable decline in quality for the recurring winner (and, even then, it’s usually a year later when the Emmy wins stop). It’s doubtful that there’s a single voter out there that would argue that “Mad Men” declined in season four, meaning that it should squeak out the win against the new competition. Now, if its quality goes down in season five and “Boardwalk” maintains or even improves, we could see the start of a new era next year. Of course, that is if “Breaking Bad” doesn’t finally win the award it deserves. (For the record, no program in Emmy history has won five years in a row.)

### BEST COMEDY

“The Big Bang Theory”

“Glee”

“Modern Family”

“The Office”

“Parks and Recreation”

“30 Rock”

Will Win: “Modern Family”

Should Win: “Parks and Recreation”

Should Have Been Nominated: “Community”



Modern Family

*Photo credit: ABC*

Once again, we have to go with the familiar with last year’s victor in the heated “Modern Family vs. Glee” battle. And it doesn’t hurt that “Modern Family” delivered a second season arguably as strong as the first while “Glee” has taken a notable dip in quality. “30 Rock” and “The Big Bang Theory” simply didn’t have strong enough seasons to be considered (and both should feel bad they were nominated over superior comedies like “Community”). That would leave the NBC sitcoms “The Office” and “Parks and Recreation” as the only possible competition for ABC’s biggest critical darling. The former had a rollercoaster season and feels like an unlikely choice while the lack of supporting nods for the latter hints at a lack of overall support. I know that the Emmys often throw curveballs but I would be stunned if “Modern Family” didn’t take this prize. It might be the biggest lock of the night (outside of Kate Winslet for “Mildred Pierce”).

### BEST ACTOR, DRAMA

Steve Buscemi, Boardwalk Empire

Kyle Chandler, Friday Night Lights

Michael C. Hall, Dexter

Jon Hamm, Mad Men

Hugh Laurie, House

Timothy Olyphant, Justified

Will Win: Jon Hamm, Mad Men

Should Win: Michael C. Hall, Dexter

Should Have Been Nominated: Jeremy Irons, The Borgias





Jon Hamm in Mad Men

*Photo credit: AMC*

Do you think Michael C. Hall and Jon Hamm called each other with congratulations when they found out that Bryan Cranston wouldn't have an eligible season for this year's awards? It's like when baseball teams find out that the Yankees won't be in the Playoffs. It just gives them a bit more hope for the big win. Cranston won the Emmy for Best Actor the last three years and so his absence leaves us with a lack of history with which to predict a winner here. The overall support and the prediction of a win for "Mad Men" points strongly at a deserving win for Jon Hamm. Just like Drama, the strongest competition for a "Mad Men" win would be Buscemi's work in "Boardwalk Empire," but the reports are that Hamm submitted a stronger episode. It would be stunning to see any of the other four nominees win and I might even go a step further and say whoever wins here — Buscemi vs. Hamm — will tell us the winner for Best Drama later in the broadcast. Both categories couldn't be closer.

**BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA**

Kathy Bates, Harry's Law

Connie Britton, Friday Night Lights

Mireille Enos, The Killing

Mariska Hargitay, Law &amp; Order: SVU

Juliana Margulies, The Good Wife

Elisabeth Moss, Mad Men

Will Win: Juliana Margulies, The Good Wife

Should Win: Connie Britton, Friday Night Lights

Should Have Been Nominated: Katey Sagal, Sons of Anarchy



Juliana Margulies in The Good Wife

*Photo credit: CBS*

Once again, this category disappoints overall with several nominees who I can't imagine winning (although, like most people, I never imagined that Kyra Sedgwick would win last year...and then, in great evidence of the Academy's inconsistency, not even get nominated the next year) — Kathy Bates, Mariska Hargitay, even Elisabeth Moss, who I believe many voters will agree should have been in Supporting (if SHE wins, Hamm & Drama will do so as well in a pure series sweep). That leaves the great Connie Britton, who could be the most lovely surprise of the night, Mireille Enos, who will be hurt by the controversial season finale for her series, and the woman I expected to win last year and so will predict again — Juliana Margulies. There's clearly a lot of love for "The Good Wife" and this talented actress carries the show. I thought she was a lock last year and those wacky Emmy voters proved me wrong, so I guess I can't call her a lock this year. But she's certainly close to one.

**BEST ACTOR, COMEDY**

Alec Baldwin, 30 Rock

Louis C.K., Louie

Steve Carell, The Office

Johnny Galecki, The Big Bang Theory

Matt LeBlanc, Episodes

Jim Parsons, The Big Bang Theory

Will/Should Win: Steve Carell, The Office

Should Have Been Nominated: Joel McHale, Community



Steve Carell in The Office

*Photo credit: NBC*

Steve Carell has never won for the well-liked-by-the-Academy show that has arguably been one of the biggest influences on TV comedy in the last decade. I'll be truly shocked if they don't take the last chance to give him a trophy, especially after the strength of his final episode. It's certainly his to lose. Who could upset? Jim Parsons seems to be the strongest possibility here given his win last year, although I certainly feel that this past season wasn't his best and can't believe I'm alone. There are very few TV actors with the current buzz of Louis C.K. and while the vote is technically for season one, you can't restrain voters from taking into consideration the stellar, just-concluded second season of "Louie." The first installment of that FX hit was good but the second was amazing and if Louis C.K. pulls off the most glorious upset of the evening, it will be more for what just aired than for what did so over a year ago. One final note — if Johnny Galecki wins, we should all boycott the rest of the show and its sponsors. He's not bad on "TBBT" but he's number six here for sure and beat out several more-deserving candidates, most notably Mr. McHale of timeslot-competition "Community." Yes, I'm bitter.

**BEST ACTRESS, COMEDY**

Edie Falco, Nurse Jackie

Tina Fey, 30 Rock

Laura Linney, The Big C

Melissa McCarthy, Mike &amp; Molly

Martha Plimpton, Raising Hope

Amy Poehler, Parks and Recreation

Will Win: Laura Linney, The Big C

Should Win: Amy Poehler, Parks and Recreation

Should Have Been Nominated: Toni Collette, United States of Tara





Laura Linney in The Big C

*Photo credit: Showtime*

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. The Academy has given this prize to a Showtime actress two years running now, awarding Toni Collette and Edie Falco, back-to-back. Falco could take it again — I really wouldn't be surprised at all — but I suspect that the darker, more dramatic turn by Academy Award nominee Laura Linney will be too enticing to avoid. This is the kind of win that people who haven't even seen the show vote for on their ballot. "Ooh, Laura Linney, I love her." And I don't mean that to suggest she doesn't deserve it. She's great. However, Amy Poehler and Martha Plimpton are better — and if either win, you'll hear an audible scream of joy on the north side of Chicago. I'm sure Linney will give a great speech.

Click on to page two for the supporting predictions...

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, DRAMA**

Andre Braugher, Men of a Certain Age

Josh Charles, The Good Wife

Alan Cumming, The Good Wife

Peter Dinklage, Game of Thrones

Walton Goggins, Justified

John Slattery, Mad Men

Will/Should Win: Peter Dinklage, Game of Thrones

Should Have Been Nominated: John Noble, Fringe



Peter Dinklage in Game of Thrones

*Photo credit: HBO*

Throw a dart. Supporting categories are often where most of the surprises come into play for the Academy and last year's winner Aaron Paul isn't at the party this year. That leaves John Slattery as the likely veteran along with four new nominees and the beloved Andre Braugher. It's unlikely there's enough support for Braugher, especially given the sad news about the cancellation of that underrated show, and I could easily see the two "Good Wife" candidates splitting the vote. That leaves Dinklage, Goggins, and Slattery. The silver-haired gentleman from "Mad Men" is the favorite — and, if you're keeping track, could be a part of a MAJOR sweep in all four acting categories and series — but I'm going to guess that HBO gets thrown a bone here and the stellar first season of "Game of Thrones" gets its only major recognition in this category. At least that's what should happen.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS, DRAMA**

Christine Baranski, *The Good Wife*

Michelle Forbes, *The Killing*

Christina Hendricks, *Mad Men*

Kelly Macdonald, *Boardwalk Empire*

Margo Martindale, *Justified*

Archie Panjabi, *The Good Wife*

Will/Should Win: Margo Martindale, *Justified*

Should Have Been Nominated: Debra Winger, *In Treatment*



Margo Martindale in *Justified*

*Photo credit: FX*

Once again, your guess is nearly as good as mine. Predicting Emmy nominees isn't nearly as difficult as predicting the winners, as proven by Archie Panjabi's surprise win here last year. This is a category in which they like to spread the wealth and I don't see Panjabi making it two years in a row (the splitting the vote dilemma is present here as well with fellow nominee Baranski). Is this where they give "Boardwalk" its potential sole acting win? I wouldn't be stunned. Certainly not as much as I would be if Forbes walked off with it. Does this leave Hendricks by elimination? Possibly, but I think the overall support for "Justified" (four acting nominations if you include Jeremy Davies in guest) will give this prize to Margo Martindale...well-deserved.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, COMEDY**

Ty Burrell, *Modern Family*

Chris Colfer, *Glee*

Jon Cryer, *Two and a Half Men*

Jesse Tyler Ferguson, *Modern Family*

Ed O'Neill, *Modern Family*

Eric Stonestreet, *Modern Family*

Will Win: Chris Colfer, *Glee*

Should Win: Ed O'Neill, *Modern Family*

Should Have Been Nominated: Garrett Dillahunt, *Raising Hope*





Chris Colfer in Glee

*Photo credit: FOX*

Isn't it hard to fathom how the "Modern Family" guys won't cancel each other out? Even in my group of friends, there's disagreement as to who is the best male actor on the show. Consensus among Emmy pundits seems to be leaning toward Ty Burrell based on his episode submission, but O'Neill had the strongest overall season of anyone on TV in my opinion. He was incredible. If either of them win, I won't be surprised. If Jon Cryer wins, I'll be stunned. And I'll be laughing as Charlie Sheen rushes the stage to 'Kanye' his award. In all seriousness, if I'm leaning toward a "Modern Family" split vote and don't think Cryer has a chance, well, that leaves one, deserving nominee — the best thing about the second season of "Glee." Many people thought Chris Colfer might steal it from Stonestreet last season. I think he has a better shot this time.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS, COMEDY**

Julie Bowen, Modern Family

Jane Krakowski, 30 Rock

Jane Lynch, Glee

Sofia Vergara, Modern Family

Betty White, Hot in Cleveland

Kristen Wiig, Saturday Night Live

Will Win: Betty White, Hot in Cleveland

Should Win: Sofia Vergara, Modern Family

Should Have Been Nominated: Alison Brie, Community



Betty White in Hot in Cleveland  
Photo credit: TV Land

The prediction for which I most hope I'm incorrect. Hey, I'm down with America's love affair with Betty White, but "Hot in Cleveland" should not be an Emmy winner in any way. Remember that the Academy is often a few months or even a year behind a trend. Remember how much the WORLD was in love with Betty White a year ago. She's your most-likely winner. It helps that "Glee" had a down season and Lynch reportedly didn't have that strong of a submission episode. Krakowski and Wiig have absolutely no shot and are basically just category fillers (a fact that should piss off fans of "Parks and Rec" and "Community," two shows with MUCH stronger choices). That leaves the "Modern Family" ladies and Betty. Please. Let's pick one of the "Family" ladies and not have a split vote there. Everyone — vote for Sofia Vergara. She had an inspired season and she just gets funnier and funnier. Yes, the same could be said for the great Bowen. Could they tie?

#### OTHER CATEGORIES:

##### BEST MOVIE/MINI-SERIES

Will/Should Win: Mildred Pierce

##### BEST ACTOR, MOVIE/MINI-SERIES

Will Win: Laurence Fishburne, Thurgood

Should Win: Edgar Ramirez, Carlos

##### BEST ACTRESS, MOVIE/MINI-SERIES

Will/Should Win: Kate Winslet, Mildred Pierce

##### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, MOVIE/MINI-SERIES

Will/Should Win: Guy Pearce, Mildred Pierce

##### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS, MOVIE/MINI-SERIES

Will/Should Win: Evan Rachel Wood, Mildred Pierce

##### BEST VARIETY, MUSIC OR COMEDY SERIES

Will/Should Win: The Daily Show with Jon Stewart

##### BEST REALITY COMPETITION SERIES

Will/Should Win: Top Chef

##### BEST HOST FOR A REALITY PROGRAM

Will Win: Tom Bergeron, Dancing With the Stars

Should Win: Jeff Probst, Survivor



[20]

By [BRIAN TALLERICO](#) [21]

Content Director

HollywoodChicago.com

[brian@hollywoodchicago.com](mailto:brian@hollywoodchicago.com) [20]

Source URL (retrieved on **Mar 28 2024 - 9:51am**):

<http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/15618/tv-feature-mad-men-modern-family-top-2011-emmy-predictions>

#### Links:

[1] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/users/briantt>



- [2] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/30-rock>
- [3] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/brian-tallerico>
- [4] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/dexter>
- [5] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/emmys>
- [6] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/friday-night-lights>
- [7] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/game-of-thrones>
- [8] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/glee>
- [9] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hollywoodchicagodotcom-content>
- [10] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/jon-hamm>
- [11] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/laura-linney>
- [12] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/mad-men>
- [13] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/modern-family>
- [14] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/parks-and-recreation>
- [15] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/television>
- [16] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/the-big-bang-theory>
- [17] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/the-good-wife>
- [18] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/the-office>
- [19] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/dvd-theater-tv-news>
- [20] <mailto:brian@hollywoodchicago.com>
- [21] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/about#BRIAN>